

Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2022.001

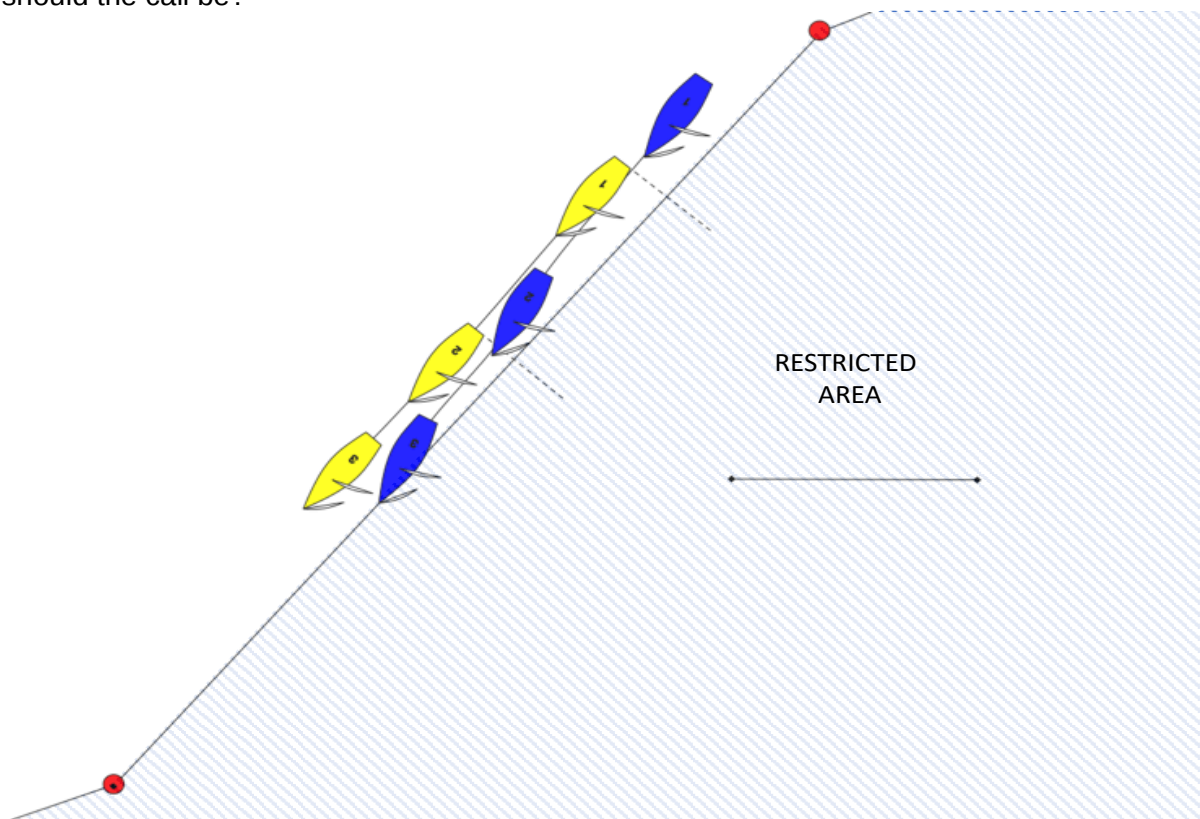
Definition Rule 19.2

Obstruction Giving Room at an Obstruction

The sailing instructions state that no part of a boat's hull may cross the imaginary line between two adjacent buoys, and if a boat does so it is an umpire-initiated penalty under C8.2 and not open to protest by a boat. In addition, the lines are defined as "obstructions" and the limit of safe pilotage.

Question 1:

Before the starting signal, Yellow and Blue are on a broad reach on starboard tack sailing parallel to the obstruction with Yellow clear ahead of Blue. Yellow sails a straight course with less than a boat width between her hull and the obstruction. Blue establishes an overlap to leeward of Yellow. Yellow holds her course. Blue bears away to avoid Yellow. In doing so Blue's hull crosses the line designated as an obstruction. Both boats display a Y flag. What should the call be?



Answer 1:

Display the green and white flag, and then penalize Blue.

The lines designated as obstructions are continuing obstructions for the purpose of rule 19.2(c).

At position 1, Blue was clear astern and required to keep clear of Yellow. At position 2, Blue became overlapped to leeward of Yellow. At the moment the overlap began (position 2), if Yellow is 'frozen' in that position, there is not room for Blue to pass between Yellow and the obstruction; i.e. the space Blue needs, while maneuvering in a seamanlike way in the existing conditions, to sail past Yellow (in Yellow's 'frozen' position) and the obstruction without either

crossing into the restricted area or making contact with Yellow. Accordingly, rule 19.2(c)(2) requires Blue to keep clear of Yellow while they remain overlapped and while rule 19 applies. Blue keeps clear of Yellow.

At position 3, Blue has broken the sailing instruction which prohibits the crossing of the imaginary line by her hull, and there is no rule that exonerates Blue for this. The umpires are certain Blue broke the sailing instruction so they should penalize Blue.

Question 2:

Would the answer to Question 1 be the same if there is more than a boat width from Yellow's hull to the obstruction, but there is less than a boat width between the end of Yellow's boom and the obstruction?

Answer 2:

Yes. At the time the overlap began, if Yellow was 'frozen', there was not room for Blue to avoid the boom of Yellow and the obstruction when sailing between them and passing Yellow in her 'frozen' position (position 2).

Question 3:

The situation is similar as in Question 1 except that the boats are sailing along a concrete seawall instead of an imaginary line and there is no rule prohibiting boats from hitting the obstruction. After Blue establishes the overlap, Yellow maintains her course and Blue bears away to avoid Yellow. In doing so, she hits the seawall. Yellow's course is not affected. Blue displays a Y flag. What should the call be?

Answer 3:

Display the green and white flag.

See Answer 1. The type of obstruction does not change the application of rule 19.2.

Question 4:

The situation is similar as in Question 1 except that after Blue creates the overlap, Yellow luffs in order to avoid a collision with Blue. Yellow displays a Y flag. What should the call be?

Answer 4:

Penalize Blue.

As there was not room for Blue at the moment the overlap began to pass between Yellow and the obstruction, Blue remained the keep clear boat, now under rule 19.2(c)(2), while the boats remained overlapped and while rule 19 applied. As Yellow had to change course to avoid Blue, Blue failed to keep clear and broke rule 19.2(c)(2).