

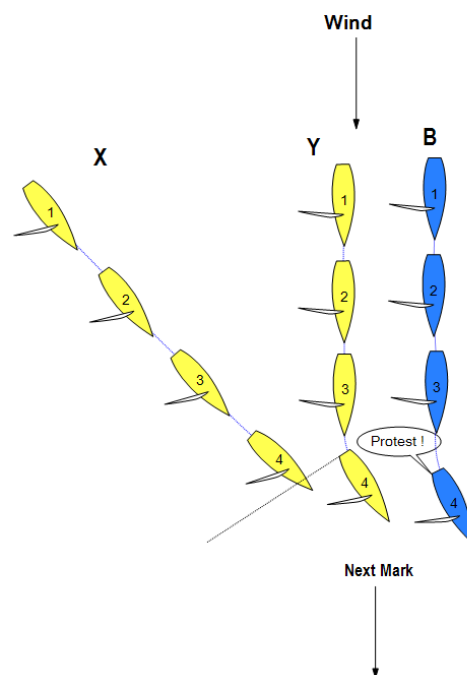
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Three Boat Luff

Question

Three boats are sailing towards a leeward mark directly downwind of B and Y. X and Y are on the same team. Y is overlapped to leeward of B and subject to rule 17. At position 1, X becomes overlapped to leeward of Y outside of two boat lengths and is sailing above her proper course. At position 4, Y luffs to keep clear of X. B responds promptly and keeps clear of Y. B Protests. What should the call be?



Answer

No penalty.

While rule 17 does not apply between X and Y or X and B, rule 11 requires Y to keep clear of X. Rule 17 applies between Y and B and Y shall not sail above her proper course. The Definition Proper Course refers to Y's course in the absence of B, the other boat referred to in the rule, but not X. Therefore, Y is not sailing above her proper course.