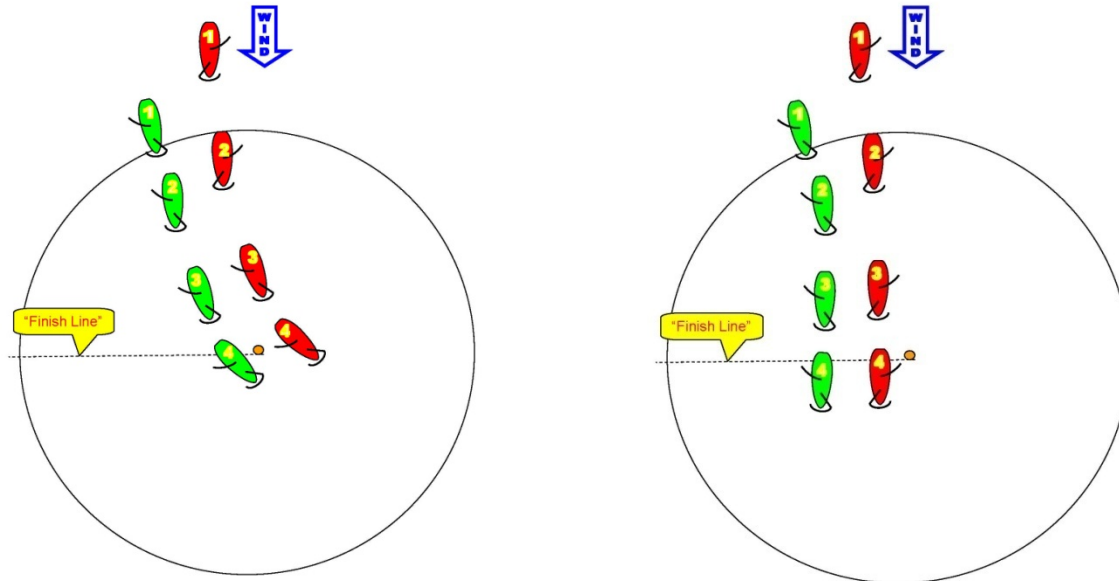


## New Mark-Room Definition Part 1

Over the next few weeks, I will attempt to explain the changes to the definition of Mark-Room. Part 1 covers a problem with the old definition between two boats at the finish line mark.



One of the problems with the old definition is shown in the above graphics. This situation comes up at the finish line where a boat entitled to Mark-Room could force a ROW boat to sail to the wrong side of the finish line.

In graphic one, Green, on Port tack, has reached the 4 boat zone clear ahead of Red, on Starboard tack, sailing to the finish line at position one. Green as the clear ahead boat is now entitled to Mark-Room and Red must continue to provide Mark-Room to Green even though Red is on Starboard and Green is on Port. At position 2 Red has overlapped Green and is now the ROW boat and Green must keep clear of Red, Rule 10, and Red's ROW limitation is to continue to provide Mark-Room to Green, Rule 18.2b.

The old definition of Mark-Room "**Room for a boat to sail to the mark**" allowed Green to sail to the mark and force Red to jibe and miss the mark.

The new definition of Mark-Room "**Room for a boat to leave a mark on the required side. Also,**

**(a) room to sail to the mark when her proper course is to sail close to it**". Because At position 2 Red is the ROW Starboard tack boat, Green's proper course includes the requirement for her to keep clear of the Starboard Red tack boat and , in this finish line situation, to pass the mark on the correct side, "her Proper Course", to finish line. Green's Mark-Room only allows her to sail "to the mark" when it is her "Proper Course" to do so. Since it is not Green's "Proper Course" to sail "Close to the Mark", her Mark-Room only allows her to sail pass the mark on the correct side. Section A rules are not

turned off just because boats are in the zone. Green as the port tack boat must keep clear of Red the starboard tack boat as shown in Graphic two.

This definition was changed because many sailors believed that the port tack Green boat was allowed too much power over the ROW Red boat at a finish mark.

### **New Mark-Room definition**

**Mark-Room** Room for a boat to leave a mark on the required side. Also, (a) room to sail to the mark when her proper course is to sail close to it, and

(b) room to round the mark as necessary to sail the course.

However, mark-room for a boat does not include room to tack unless she is overlapped inside and to windward of the boat required to give mark-room and she would be fetching the mark after her tack.

### **Old Mark-Room definition**

**Mark-Room** Room for a boat to sail to the mark, and then room to sail her proper course while at the mark. However, mark-room does not include room to tack unless the boat is overlapped to windward and on the inside of the boat required to give mark-room.

## **18.2 Giving Mark-Room**

(a) When boats are overlapped the outside boat shall give the inside boat mark-room, unless rule 18.2(b) applies.

(b) If boats are overlapped when the first of them reaches the zone, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat mark-room. If a boat is clear ahead when she reaches the zone, the boat clear astern at that moment shall thereafter give her mark-room.

(c) When a boat is required to give mark-room by rule 18.2(b), she shall continue to do so even if later an overlap is broken or a new overlap begins. However, if either boat passes head to wind or if the boat entitled to mark-room leaves the zone, rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply.

(d) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an overlap in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.