

New Mark-Room Definition Part 3

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

As you read the new and old definition of Mark-Room, another big change is in paragraph (b). In the old definition, the boat entitled to Mark-Room could sail "to the mark" and then sail her "Proper Course" while at the mark. This created another situation where a boat entitled to Mark-Room had, what some sailors believe, too much authority over a ROW boat.

For decades before 2009, an inside *keep clear* boat entitled to *mark-room* was only entitled to space for a seamanlike rounding and not a proper-course or a "tactical" rounding. Only an inside, right-of-way boat was entitled to take more space than needed for a seamanlike rounding. That changed when the 2009-2012 rules gave all inside boats the right to sail their *proper course* while at the *mark*. Initially, many sailors did not spot this change. Later, when they finally did, they did not like it. They felt the 2009 definition gave too much power to the boat entitled to *mark-room*. The new definition restores the pre-2009 balance of powers by entitling an inside *keep clear* boat only to space for a seamanlike rounding. "Dick Rose" Racing Rules Working Party

The seamanlike rounding generally means to round the mark to a close-hauled course. After rounding the mark, the boat is subject to any Part 2 rules that apply.