

IASF Rule Changes for RRS 2013 – 2016

Rule 18 Changes

Old Rule 18.2c

(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 the boat entitled to mark-room passes head to wind or leaves the zone, rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply.

New Rule 18.2c

(c) When a boat is required to give mark-room by rule 18.2(b),

(1) she shall continue to do so even if later an overlap is broken or a new overlap begins;

(2) if she becomes overlapped inside the boat entitled to mark-room, **she shall also give that boat room to sail her proper course while they remain overlapped.**

However, if the boat entitled to mark-room passes head to wind, or leaves the zone, rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply.

Discussion

Rule 18.2c has been changed by adding 2 sub paragraphs. The text change, which is underlined, requires that a boat required to give Mark-Room by Rule 18.2b must provide room for the boat entitled to Mark-Room to sail her proper course while at least one of the boats is in the zone.

Remember that Section A rules still apply with any limitations in sections B, C or D.

Rule 18.3 Tacking in the Zone

Old Rule 18.3

If two boats were **approaching** a mark on opposite tacks and one of them changes tack, and as a result is subject to rule 13 in the zone when the other is fetching the mark, rule 18.2 does not thereafter apply. The boat that changed tack

- (a) shall not cause the other boat to sail above close-hauled to avoid her or prevent the other boat from passing the mark on the required side, and
- (b) shall give mark-room if the other boat becomes overlapped inside her

New Rule 18.3

If a boat in the **zone** passes head to wind and is then on the same tack as a boat that is fetching the mark, rule 18.2 does not thereafter apply between them. The boat that changed tack

- (a) shall not cause the other boat to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact or prevent the other boat from passing the mark on the required side, and
- (b) shall give mark-room if the other boat becomes overlapped inside her.

Discussion

The old rule 18.3 contained the word “approaching” in it. Many sailors believed this implied that once the boat has passed the mark, only Section A rules would apply. After many discussions with both US Sailing and IASF officers, they all agree that the intent of the original Rule 18.3 was that the rule is not turned off by the boat passing the mark. By changing the word “approaching” to “zone” the rule does imply that Rule 18.3 applies until Rule 18.1 no longer applies.

18.5 Exoneration

Old Rule 18.5

When a boat is taking mark-room to which she is entitled, she shall be exonerated

- (a) if as result of the other boat failing to give her mark-room, she breaks a rule of Section A, or
- (b) if, by rounding the mark on her proper course, she breaks a rule of Section A or rule 15 or 16.

Discussion

Rule 18.5 has been deleted. Rule 18.5 provided for a boat to be exonerated as a result of the other boat failing to give her Mark-Room. This exoneration only applied to Section A rules or Rule 15 or 16. If the boat entitled to Mark-Room also hit the mark, she would be breaking Rule 31 and Rule 31 was not covered in Rule 18.5. To be exonerated for breaking Rule 31, Rule 64.1c would have to be used to exonerate the boat entitled to Mark-Room.

A new Rule was added to Part 2, Section C to handle this situation. Rule 21 now covers all of Section C Rules. (Rule 18, 19, 20) Notice also that Rule 21 now covers a boat entitled to **Room or Mark-Room**, not just Mark-Room as the old 18.5 covered.

New Rule 21 EXONERATION

When a boat is sailing within the **room or mark-room** to which she is entitled under a rule of Section C, she shall be exonerated if, in an incident with a boat required to give her that room or mark-room,

- (a) she breaks a rule of Section A, rule 15 or rule 16, or
- (b) she is compelled to break rule 31.