

Racing Rules of Sailing

Definition *On a Beat to Windward* and Rule 18.1

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose or Objective

Competitors and race officials should not have to consult *The Case Book* to access a definition that is crucial for the understanding of the rules in Part 2. The proposal moves an important definition from its current location in Case 132 into Definitions.

Proposal

1. Add the following new definition to Definitions:

On a Beat to Windward A boat is *on a beat to windward* when, after her starting signal,

- (a) the course she would choose in order to *sail the course* and *finish* as soon as possible in the absence of all other boats is close-hauled or above, or
- (b) she is overstanding a close-hauled layline to the next *mark*.

2. Change rule 18.1 as follows:

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between **two** boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However, it does not apply

- (a) **if they are** ~~between boats~~ on opposite tacks ***on a beat to windward*** ~~on a beat to windward,~~
- (b) **if they are** ~~between boats~~ on opposite tacks **and when** the *proper course* at the *mark* for one but not both of them is to tack,
- (c) **if one of them is** ~~between a boat~~ approaching **the** ~~a~~ *mark* and **the other is** ~~one~~ leaving it, or
- (d) if the *mark* is a continuing *obstruction*, in which case rule 19 applies.

Rule 18 no longer applies between **the** boats when *mark-room* has been given.

Clean Copy of Rule 18.1

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between two boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However, it does not apply

- (a) if they are on opposite *tacks on a beat to windward*,
- (b) if they are on opposite *tacks* and the *proper course* at the *mark* for one but not both of them is to tack,
- (c) if one of them is approaching the *mark* and the other is leaving it, or
- (d) if the *mark* is a continuing *obstruction*, in which case rule 19 applies.

Rule 18 no longer applies between the boats when *mark-room* has been given.

Consequential Changes

1. Change rule 16.2 as follows:

16.2 In addition, **when two boats on opposite tacks are on a beat to windward** ~~on a beat to windward and the~~ ~~when a~~ *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass to leeward of **the** ~~a~~ *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not bear away if as a result the *port-tack* boat must change course immediately to continue *keeping clear*.

2. In Appendix F, rule F2, change rule 16.2 as follows:

16.2 In addition, **when two kiteboards on opposite tacks are on a beat to windward** ~~on a beat to windward and the~~ ~~when a~~ *port-tack* kiteboard is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass to leeward of **the** ~~a~~ *starboard-tack* kiteboard, the *starboard-tack* kiteboard shall not bear away if as a result the *port-tack* kiteboard must change course immediately to continue *keeping clear*.

Current Position

As above. However, the definition *On a Beat to Windward* is new.

Reasons

1. Reasons for adding the definition *On a Beat to Windward* to Definitions: The Definitions in the RRS are 'rules' (see the definition *Rule*). World Sailing Regulation 28.3 states that cases in *The Case Book* are 'authoritative interpretations or explanations of the rules,' and that a case may 'significantly clarify an important meaning of a rule.' Case 132 goes beyond the limits imposed by Regulation 28.3 because it defines the phrase 'on a beat to windward', which is crucial for understanding rules 18.1(a) and 16.2.

The words or phrases defined in Definitions are used with a meaning that is specifically worded for the rules of our sport. For example, if a boat on *starboard tack* has luffed up to head to wind, her '*windward side*' is still her starboard side and she is still, for the purposes of the RRS, on *starboard tack*. Case 132 goes beyond explaining when boats are 'on a beat to windward'. Part (2) of Case 132's definition of 'on a beat to windward' states that two boats are on a beat to windward when 'one or both of them 'are overstanding a close-hauled layline to their next mark'. That interpretation goes beyond the 'nautical or general use' of the phrase 'on a beat to windward' and is, therefore, not consistent with the final sentence of Terminology in the Introduction to the RRS.

Competitors and race officials should not be required to search *The Case Book* for a definition that is important for understanding the rules in Part 2. Proposal 1 corrects this situation by adding the new definition *On a Beat to Windward* to Definitions.

2. Here is how the new definition *On a Beat to Windward* applies to the situations shown in the diagrams in Case 132.

- In Situations 1, 5 and 7B, part (a) of the new definition applies to both boats, and therefore they are both on a beat to windward.
- In Situation 4, part (b) of the new definition applies to both S and P, and therefore they are both on a beat to windward.
- In Situations 2, 6, and 7A, part (b) of the new definition applies to P and part (a) to S, and therefore they are both on a beat to windward.
- In Situations 3 and 7C, part (b) of the new definition applies to S and part (a) applies to P, and therefore they are both on a beat to windward.

Under the new definition, in all those situations, S and P boats are on opposite tacks on a beat to windward, and therefore the new definition does not introduce any 'game changes', under either rule 18.1(a) or rule 16.2, in any of those situations.

3. Reason for adding 'two' in the first line of rule 18.1: Each of the rights and obligations given by both rule 18 and rule 19 apply between two boats. The 'two' in the first line of rule 19.1 clearly alerts readers that rule 19 applies between two boats. Adding 'two' in the first line of rule 18.1 provides the same helpful alert for readers of rule 18.

4. Reasons for the other changes in rule 18.1:

- In 18.1(a), the italics for 'on a beat to windward' are necessary because that phrase is, as a result of Proposal 1, defined in Definitions.
 - The other changes proposed for rules 18.1(a), 18.1(b) and 18.1(c) are intended to make it easier for the reader to follow each of these rules.
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