World Sailing
Test Rules 2016 for Match Racing

17.4.2016
Michael Röllich
Objective

• **Simplify** some of the RRS

• **Improve consistency** of umpiring decisions

• Make racing more **spectator friendly**
Background

• **Derived from the rules of**
  – America’s Cup 34th, 35th
  – WMRT (World Match Racing Tour)

• **Joint effort, working group ➔** World Sailing Test Rules 2016
  – MRC (Match Racing Committee)
  – RRC (Racing Rules Committee)
  – IUSC (International Umpires Sub-Committee)

• Will be included in 2017-2020 *Racing Rules of Sailing*
What changes

• **New RRS 7** - Last point of certainty

• Change **definition of Mark-Room**

• **New RRS 18** - Delete RRS 18, C2.6, C2.7

• New rule C2.14 ➔ **Rule 17 deleted**

**NOTE!** Changes from the 2015 Test Rules in RED
Add new RRS 7 to Part 1:

7 LAST POINT OF CERTAINTY

The umpires will assume that the state of a boat, or her relationship to another boat, has not changed, until they are certain that it has changed.
C. Change definition of Mark-Room to:

**Mark-Room**

*Room* for a boat to sail her *proper course* to round or pass the *mark* on the required side. If *room* includes a change of *tack*, such tack or gybe shall be done no quicker than a tack or gybe to sail her *proper course*.

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.
B. Delete RRS 18, C2.6 and C2.7 and replace with:

18 MARK ROOM

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies
Rule 18 applies between 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 between a boat approaching a mark and one leaving it.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room
(a) When the first boat reaches the zone,
   (1) if boats are overlapped, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat mark-room.
   (2) if boats are not overlapped, the boat that has not reached the zone shall thereafter give mark-room.
(b) If the boat entitled to mark-room leaves the zone, the entitlement to mark-room ceases and rule 18.2(a) is applied again if required based on the relationship of the boats considered at the time rule 18.2(a) is re-applied.
(c) If a boat obtained an inside overlap and, from the time the overlap began, the outside boat is unable to give mark-room, she is not required to give it.

18.3 Tacking or Gybing
When an inside overlapped right-of-way boat must change tack at a mark to sail her proper course, until she changes tack she shall sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.3 does not apply at a gate mark or a finishing mark and a boat shall not be penalized for breaking this rule unless the course of another boat was affected by the breach of this rule.

Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap
One boat is clear astern of another when her hull and equipment in normal position are behind a line abeam from the aftermost point of the other boat’s hull and equipment in normal position. The other boat is clear ahead. They overlap when neither is clear astern. However, they also overlap when a boat between them overlaps both. These terms always apply to boats on the same tack. They do not apply to boats on opposite tacks unless rule 18 applies or both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.
At a windward mark

Yellow reaches the zone first and is not overlapped with Blue.
Blue must give Yellow mark-room.

Yellow reaches the zone first and is not overlapped with Blue.
Blue must give Yellow mark-room.

When Yellow reaches the zone she has an inside overlap with Blue.
Blue must give Yellow mark-room.
Note: Rule 18.3 applies to Yellow.
Windward mark cont.

When Blue reaches the zone, Yellow has an inside overlap with Blue.
Blue must give Yellow mark-room.

The boats end up above the windward mark.
When Yellow reaches the zone she has an inside overlap with Blue.
Blue must give Yellow mark-room.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At a leeward mark</th>
</tr>
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| Yellow reaches the zone first and is not overlapped with Blue.  
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Leeward mark cont.

When Blue reaches the zone, Yellow has an inside overlap with Blue.
Blue must give Yellow mark-room.

The boats end up below the leeward mark.
Yellow reaches the zone first and is not overlapped with Blue.
Blue must give Yellow mark-room.
180° Leeward to Windward

This example shows a leeward mark scenario where Yellow is entitled to mark-room.

Rotate the example to become a windward mark example, Yellow remains entitled to mark-room.
180° Leeward to Windward

This example shows a leeward mark scenario where Yellow is entitled to mark-room and gets room to gybe twice in order to round the mark.

Rotate the example to become a windward mark example, Yellow remains entitled to mark-room and gets room to tack twice in order to round the mark.
Change to call. Suggested answer:

Answer 1:
• When Yellow enters the zone, rule 18.2(a)(2) applies until Yellow has rounded and passed the mark.
• At position 6 Yellow has not yet passed the mark.
• If Yellow cannot sail her proper course around the mark, Blue breaks rule 18.2(a)(2).
• Penalize Blue and exonerate Yellow under rule 21(a).
• If Yellow is able to sail her proper course around the mark, display the green and white flag.
MR Call E3

Change to call. Suggested answer:

Answer 2: Penalize Blue. See Answer 1. (See Test Rules Call 2)
MR CALL E7

Change to call
- This call is silent on the relationship of the boats at the time the first boat entered the zone.
- For the purposes of this package of test rules it is assumed that Blue was overlapped inside Yellow when the first boat reached the zone.

Answer 1:
- Yellow must give Blue mark-room from the time Rule 18 applies to when Blue has rounded or passed the mark.
- Blue is an inside overlapped right-of-way boat and therefore has an obligation to sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail her proper course until she tacks (Rule 18.3).

Answers 2 and 3: Refer Answer 1. (See Test Rules Call 4)
Q & A No 2
Yellow and Blue are fetching the mark on port tack. Yellow is clear astern of Blue at position 1. At position 2 Yellow has created an overlap from clear astern within two boats from Blue.

Question
Can Yellow luff before the mark inside the zone?

Answer
• When Yellow in position 2 creates an overlap from clear astern within two boats from Yellow becomes the right away boat and Rule 15 then Rule 16 applies.
• When the first boat arrives at the zone Rule 18 applies. Yellow is the right-of-way overlapped inside boat with mark-room.
• When Yellow luffs in position 4 she must give Blue room to keep clear under Rule 16, which she does.
• Green and White flag
Mark-room decision tree

1. Are you entitled to mark-room?
   - Yes
   - No

2. Did you reach to zone first?
   - Yes
   - No

3. Were you overlapped with another boat when they reached the zone?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Were you the inside boat when the other boat reached the zone?
   - Yes
   - No

5. No mark-room
   - You must give the other boat room to sail their proper course around the mark

6. Were you overlapped with another boat when you reached the zone?
   - Yes
   - No

7. Were you the inside boat when you reached the zone?
   - Yes
   - No

8. Yes mark-room
   - You are entitled to room to sail your proper course around the mark
When can rule 18.3 apply?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark Type</th>
<th>Can Apply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single windward mark</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single leeward mark</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windward gate mark</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeward gate mark</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finishing mark</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changing tack

A change of tack is to go from one tack to another. This is different to “tacking” or “gybing” (as described in rules 13.1 and 13.2).

The definitions that apply are:

“Tack, Starboard or Port A boat is on the tack, starboard or port, corresponding to her windward side.”

“Leeward and Windward A boat’s leeward side is the side that is or, when she is head to wind, was away from the wind. However, when sailing by the lee or directly downwind, her leeward side is the side on which her mainsail lies. The other side is her windward side. When two boats on the same tack overlap, the one on the leeward side of the other is the leeward boat. The other is the windward boat.”

Therefore at a mark, a boat does not have to complete a tack (get to a close hauled course) or gybe for the limitations of rule 18.3 to cease; it only must have changed tack (gone through head to wind/acquired a new windward side). Note: such a maneuver may result in the boat becoming the keep-clear boat under rule 13.1.
Who does rule 18.3 apply to?

This limitation only applies to the inside, overlapped, right-of-way boat who must change tack at a mark to sail her proper course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Right of way and overlapped</th>
<th>Entitled to room</th>
<th>Rule 18.3 applies?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
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18.3 Tacking or Gybing
When an inside overlapped right-of-way boat must change tack at a mark to sail her proper course, until she changes tack she shall sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.3 does not apply at a gate mark or a finishing mark and a boat shall not be penalized for breaking this rule unless the course of another boat was affected by the breach of this rule.
At a windward mark

Yellow is an inside overlapped right-of-way boat that has to tack to sail her proper course.

Rule 18.3 applies to Yellow.

Yellow is an inside overlapped right-of-way boat that is rounding a mark.
Yellow does not need to tack in order to sail her proper course.
Rule 18.3 does not apply to Yellow.
Windward mark cont.

Yellow is an inside overlapped boat that is rounding a mark.
Yellow needs to tack in order to sail her proper course.
However, Yellow is a keep-clear boat under rule 11.
Rule 18.3 does not apply as Yellow is not a right-of-way boat.

Yellow is an inside overlapped right-of-way boat that is rounding a mark.
Yellow needs to tack (twice) in order to sail her proper course.
If Yellow sails farther from the mark on port, she will not be penalized for a breach of rule 18.3, as the course of Blue cannot be affected by the breach. Blue has to give Yellow mark-room, and to do that Blue needs to tack.
When Yellow is on starboard tack; see the example above.
At a leeward mark

Yellow is an inside overlapped right-of-way boat that has to gybe at the mark to sail her proper course around the mark.

Rule 18.3 applies to Yellow.

Yellow reaches the zone first and is not overlapped with Blue. Blue must give Yellow mark-room.

Rule 18.3 does not apply to Yellow.
Sailing no farther from the mark

Rule 18.3 limitation

Yellow has not sailed farther from the mark than needed before she tacked.

Yellow has sailed farther from the mark than needed before she tacked.
Change to call.

Answer 1 changed to:
• At position 2 Yellow is in the zone and is the right of way, inside boat that must tack at the mark to sail her proper course.
• Under rule 18.3, until she tacks, Yellow is required to sail no farther from the mark than needed to sail her proper course.
• By bearing away at position 3 Yellow is no longer sailing her proper course.
• Penalize Yellow.
EUROSAF Match Racing, *Open European* Championship, 2015
Sails of White Nights - the National Congress Palace Cup -
Official Event of the World Match Racing Tour
ISAF Grade 2 Match Racing Regatta
St-Petersburg, 3rd – 7th June 2015

**Q & A No 1**
Blue enters the zone first on port at the windward mark. Yellow is approaching the zone on starboard.

**Question**
If Blue boat voluntarily tacks to port before Yellow arrives to the layline, can Yellow continue straight forward without breaking any rule?

**Answer**
• When Blue enters the zone on port, Rule 18 applies.
• Yellow is right-of-way on starboard, overlapped inside Blue.
• Mark-room for Yellow. Yellow is restricted by Rule 18.3 not to sail farther from the mark than needed to sail her proper course.
• Blue then tacks clear ahead of Yellow and continues on starboard.
• If Blue protests, Yellow is not breaking any rule since Yellow becomes keep clear boat under rule 11 inside overlapped.
• Green and White flag
MATCH RACE GERMANY Q&A 01

Question
How do the umpires interpret the rules, in particular RRS 18.3, in regards to the following examples?

Answer
For the purpose of RRS 18.3, a tack is to go through head to wind (change tack) and get to a close-hauled course.
"When Yellow passes head to wind Blue becomes the right of way boat and has to tack."

For the purpose of RRS 18.3, a tack is to go through head to wind (change tack/ acquire a new windward side)

"When Yellow passes head to wind Blue becomes the right of way boat and has to tack."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue is entitled to mark-room.</td>
<td>Blue must keep clear of Yellow (RRS 11) but gets exoneration if</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>she is satisfying the definition of mark-room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blue is NOT required to tack.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue is entitled to mark-room.</td>
<td>Yellow has changed tacks to port and is tacking boat (RRS 13.1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yellow must keep clear of Blue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When Yellow becomes port tack boat Blue is required to tack.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example 3</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue is entitled to mark-room.</td>
<td>Blue has changed tacks to port and is tacking boat. Blue must</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>keep clear of Yellow (RRS 13) but gets exoneration if she is</td>
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<td>satisfying the definition of mark-room.</td>
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<th>Example 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue is entitled to mark-room.</td>
<td>Both boats are tacking (subject to RRS 13.1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When Yellow becomes port tack boat (both boats tacking) Blue is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>required to tack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If two boats are subject to rule 13.1 at the same time, the one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on the other’s port side or the one astern shall keep clear.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**For the purpose of RRS 18.3**, a tack is to go through head to wind (change tack/acquire a new windward side)

**Example 5**

- Blue is entitled to mark-room.
- Yellow must keep clear of Blue (RRS 11).
- Blue does NOT have to tack to round the mark.

**Example 6**

- Blue is entitled to mark-room.
- Yellow has changed tack (to starboard). Yellow must keep clear of Blue (RRS 13.1).
- Blue does NOT have to tack to round the mark.

**Example**

- Blue is entitled to mark-room.
- Yellow and Blue have changed tack (to starboard) and Yellow must keep clear of Blue (RRS 13.1). Blue is the inside overlapped right-of-way boat that has to tack to sail her proper course.
- Blue is required to tack.
No penalty for a breach of rule 18.3
When does rule 18 cease to apply?

C7.2 (c) A boat completes a leg of the course when her bow crosses the extension of the line from the previous mark through the mark she is rounding, or on the last leg when she finishes.
Blue and Yellow approach the windward mark on port tack. After passing the mark, Blue immediately gybes onto starboard tack. How far beyond the mark may Blue sail before gybing and still be entitled to mark-room?

Answer:
- Blue is entitled to sail her proper course to round or pass the mark on the required side.
- At position 3 Yellow has given Blue mark-room as required by rule 18.2(a)(2) and rule 21 no longer applies.
- If Blue gybes after this point, she will be subject to rule 13.2 and then to rules 15 and 16.1
D. Add the following new rule:

C2.14  Rule 17 is deleted

However, these still apply!

15  **Acquiring right of way**
    When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat *room to keep clear*, unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat’s actions.

16  **Changing course**
    When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boats *room to keep clear*. 
Development

WS Test Rules 2016 ➔ Match Racing ➔
Feedback ➔ competitions@isaf.com ➔
Development
Changes and corrections made by World Sailing in the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2013 - 2016

Rule change #3
This rule change is in force from 1 January 2015

Appendix C – Match Racing Rules
C2.9 Rule 22.3 is deleted. changed to: ‘A boat moving astern through the water shall keep clear of one that is not.’
Appendix C – Match Racing Rules

This rule change is in force from 1 January 2015

Rule C2.9 is changed = delete Rule 22.3 about moving astern

Dave Perry
Blue had been moving forward when she had the Dial Up with Yellow. When Blue begins to move astern, she “changes course,” so rule 16.1, Changing Course, applies. (see MR Call B7)

If the umpires decide that Yellow could have continued to keep clear after Blue began moving astern, penalize Yellow.

If the umpires decide that Yellow did not have “room” to keep clear, even if she had taken some avoiding action, penalize Blue.
January & June, 2015 ISAF
Standard NOR and SI revised

If rule 31 has been changed in the sailing instructions, no protest.

As of January 1, 2015, the ISAF standard NOR and sailing instructions have been revised to include the following sailing instruction language:

2015 January 2015
1.4 RRS 31 is changed to ‘While racing, neither the crew nor any part of a boat’s hull shall touch a starting mark before starting, a mark that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a finishing mark after finishing.

2015 June 2015
1.4 RRS 31 is changed to ‘While racing, neither the crew nor any part of a boat’s hull shall touch a starting mark before starting, a mark that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a finishing mark after finishing. In addition, while racing, a boat shall not touch a race committee vessel that is also a mark.’

Yellow has not broken rule 31, Touching a Mark.
Resources

- www.matchracing.net
- www.njk.fi/sailingcenter/materials
- Youtube - MatchRaceVideoDotCom