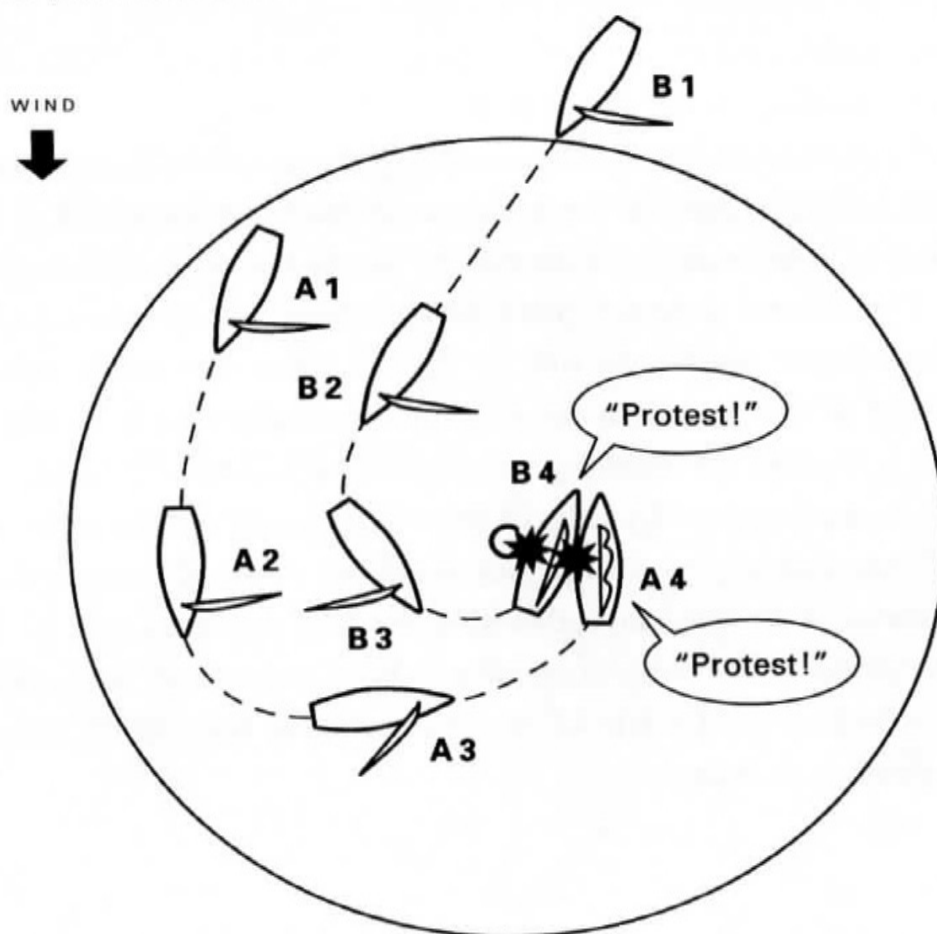


Quiz 41

Boats A and B are approaching a leeward mark to be left to port. The next leg is a windward leg. A is clear ahead of B when she reaches the zone. A swings wide and gybes. When she is on a beam reach angle she is approximately one boat length to leeward of the mark. B sails into the space between A and the mark, and A immediately luffs up to head to wind to close the door. B is unable to keep clear of A and unable to avoid touching the mark. There is contact with no damage or injury. Both boats protest. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



Answers to Dave Perry's 100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes are based on The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021–2024. For a comprehensive explanation of the rules, read Dave Perry's Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing through 2024, which is available from US Sailing: 1 (800) 877-2451 or ussailing.org. Permission to reprint this quiz for non-commercial use is granted by the author.

ANSWER TO QUIZ 41

Boat A is penalized for breaking rule 16.1, Changing Course. Boat B breaks rules 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped, and 31, Touching a Mark, but is exonerated by rule 43.1(b), Exoneration. B does not break rule 14 (Avoiding Contact).

When A reaches the zone clear ahead of B, she is the right-of-way boat under rule 12, On the Same Tack, Not Overlapped, and she is also entitled to mark-room by rule 18.2(b), Giving Mark-Room. Mark-room is the space A needs to sail to and around the mark on the required side in a seamanlike way as needed to sail the course. The sailing angle on the next leg was a close-hauled course on port tack. Furthermore, when B becomes overlapped inside of A, A additionally becomes entitled to room to sail her proper course by rule 18.2(c)(2), which is also a close-hauled course on port tack.

When A continues to luff (changes course) above a close-hauled course, she is no longer sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled. B is unable to keep clear of A without breaking rule 31 due to her position between A and the mark. Therefore A does not give B room to keep clear under rule 16.1 (see the definition Room); she breaks rule 16.1 and is not exonerated by rule 43.1(b). As B is sailing within the room she is entitled to under rule 16.1, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b) for breaking rules 11 and 13 (While Tacking).

Both boats are required by rule 14 to avoid contact if reasonably possible. B responds immediately to A's luff but is unable to avoid contact due to her position between A and the mark; therefore she does not break rule 14. A clearly breaks rule 14; but as she is the right-of-way boat at the time, she is exonerated for her breach of rule 14 by rule 43.1(c), Exoneration, because the contact does not cause damage or injury.