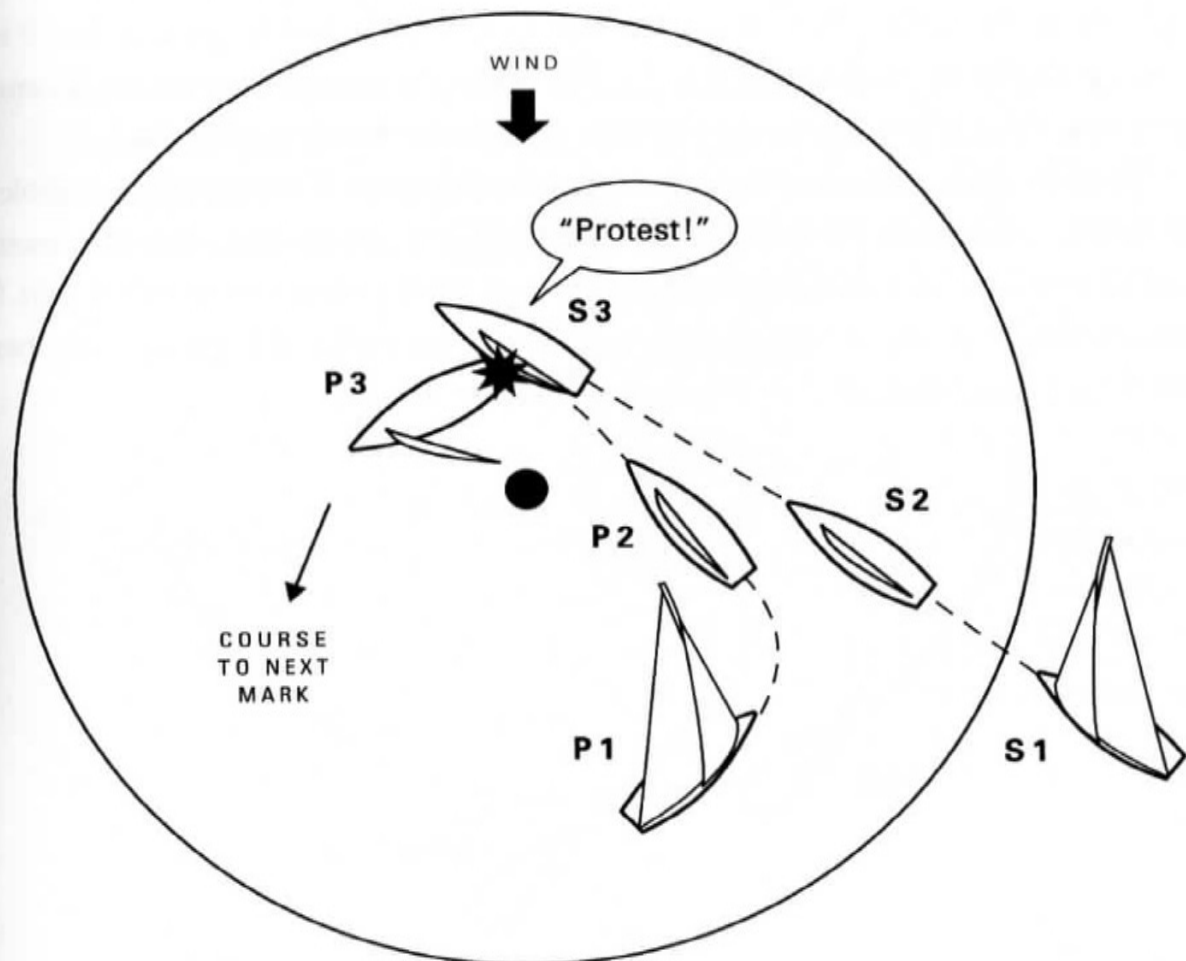


## Quiz 42

Boats P (on port tack) and S (on starboard tack) are approaching a windward mark to be left to port. P tacks in the zone and is about a quarter of a length to leeward and about half a length ahead of S when she completes her tack. At no time during or after P's tack does S change course. P bears away sharply around the mark and her stern swings up and makes contact with S's port side approximately amidships. S is unable to keep clear due to the sharpness of P's course change. There is damage to S. S protests. P claims that rule 16.1, Changing Course, does not apply because she is an inside boat rounding the mark. 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](http://ussailing.org). Permission to reprint this quiz for non-commercial use is granted by the author.*

## ANSWER TO QUIZ 42

Penalize P for breaking rule 16.1, Changing Course, and rule 14, Avoiding Contact. S is exonerated by rule 43.1(b), Exoneration, for breaking rule 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped. While P is tacking, she keeps clear of S under rule 13, While Tacking. After she reaches a close-hauled course, P is the leeward right-of-way boat under rule 11. As such, she is required to initially give S room to keep clear under rule 15, Acquiring Right of Way, which she does.

However, because P passes head to wind in the zone and is then fetching the mark, and because S has been on starboard tack since entering the zone, rule 18.3, Passing Head to Wind in the Zone, also applies in this incident and requires P to not cause S to sail above close-hauled to avoid her, which P complies with. However, when rule 18.3 applies, rule 18.2, Giving Mark-Room, does not (see rule 18.3). Therefore P is the right-of-way boat and S must keep clear. But P is not entitled to mark-room by rule 18.2(b) while she is rounding the mark, and as a result she is not exonerated by rule 43.1(b) for breaking rule 16.1.

Both boats are required by rule 14 to avoid contact if reasonably possible. P clearly breaks rule 14, and she is penalized for breaking that rule. However, the interval of time from when P bears away until contact is so short that S does not have room to keep clear; therefore it is not reasonably possible for her to avoid the contact, and so she does not break rule 14.