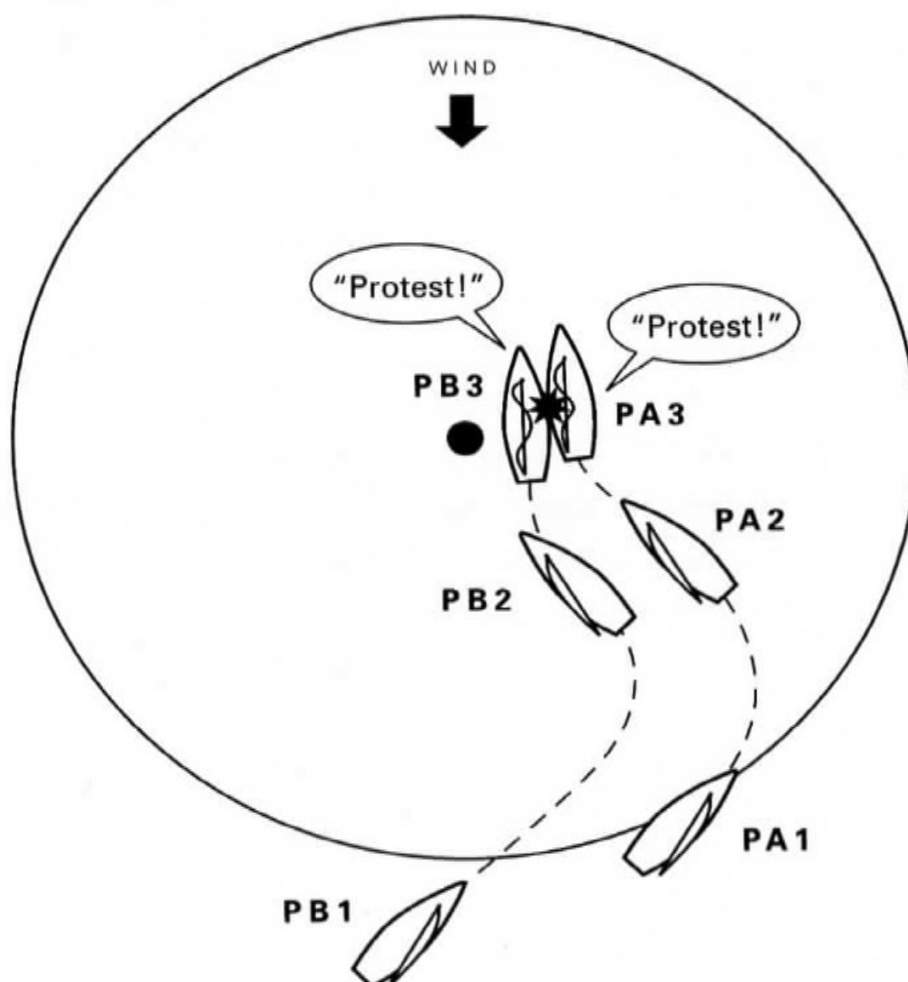


## Quiz 43

Boats PA and PB, two close-hauled port-tack dinghies, are approaching a windward mark to be left to port. When PA reaches the zone, she is half a length clear ahead of PB, who is a half a length to windward of PA's centerline. Not wanting to risk tacking too close, PA tacks immediately after PB tacks. After sailing close-hauled on starboard tack for a few seconds, PB luffs sharply to head to wind to avoid hitting the mark and makes contact with PA causing no damage or injury. Both boats protest. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



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*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 43

Boat PA is penalized for breaking rules 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped and 18.2(a), Giving Mark-Room. When PA reaches the zone clear ahead on port tack, she is entitled to mark-room from PB under rule 18.2(b), but mark-room does not include room for PA to tack because she is not overlapped inside and to windward of PB (see the definition Mark-Room).

When PA passes head to wind, rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply (see rule 18.2(d)). The moment both boats have passed head to wind, they are both on starboard tack and are overlapped. Therefore PA is required to give mark-room to PB under rule 18.2(a). When PB luffs sharply to avoid the mark, she is required to give PA room to keep clear under rule 16.1, Changing Course, which she fails to do. But because PB is sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled, she is exonerated by rule 43.1(b), Exoneration, for breaking rule 16.1. PA fails to keep clear and to give PB mark-room. Note that rule 18.3, Passing Head to Wind in the Zone, does not apply because PA has not been on starboard tack since entering the zone.

Both boats are required to avoid contact under rule 14, Avoiding Contact, if reasonably possible. If PA had been giving PB mark-room, she would have avoided the contact, so PA breaks rule 14. And clearly PB could have avoided contact, so she also breaks rule 14. But PA is entitled to room to keep clear under rule 16.1 and PB is entitled to mark-room under rule 18.2(a), so because there is no damage or injury both boats are exonerated (not penalized) for breaking rule 14 (see rule 43.1(c), Exoneration).