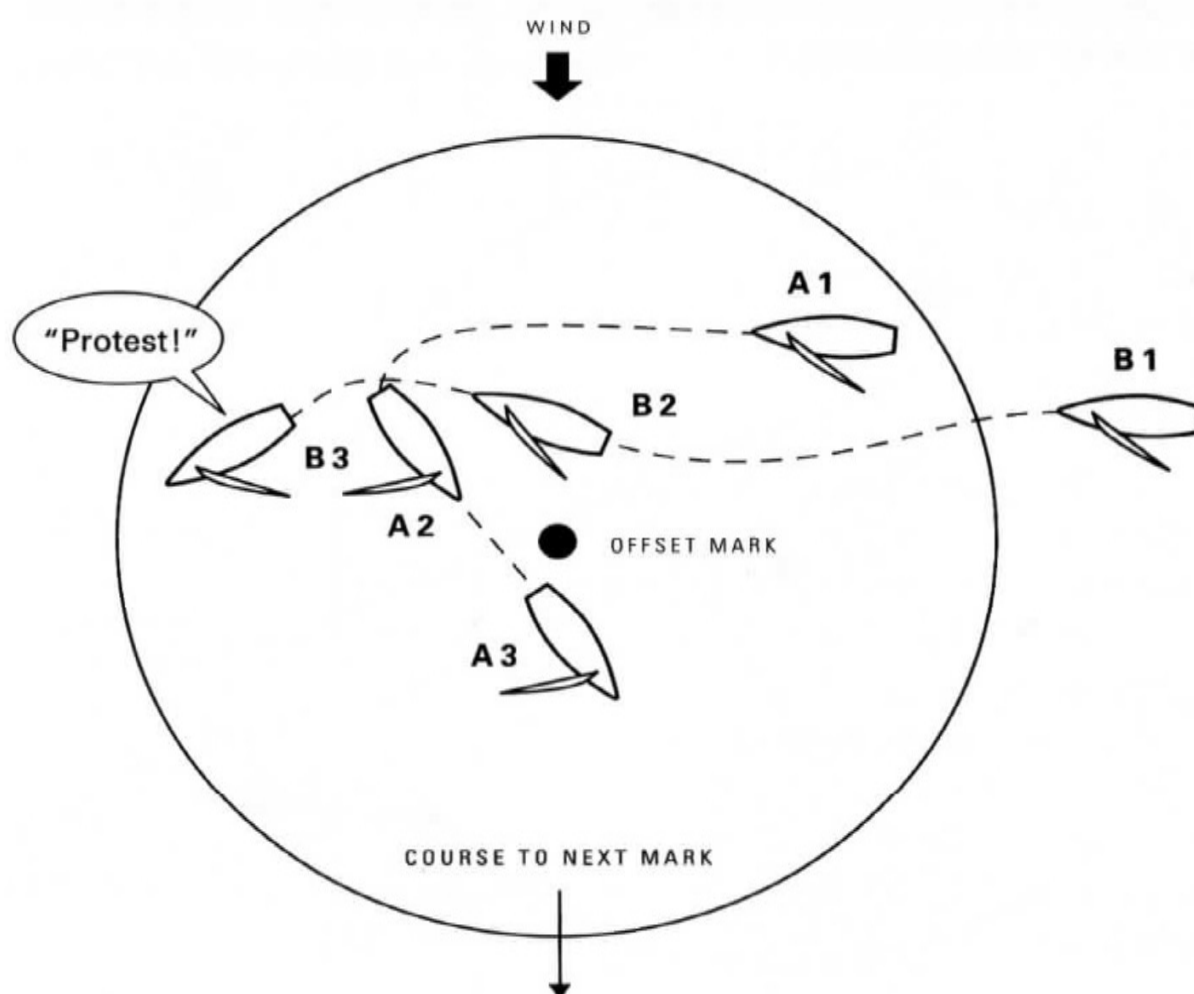


Quiz 45

Boats A and B are approaching an offset mark on starboard tack. The next leg is a downwind leg with time spent on both tacks. When A reaches the zone she is clear ahead of B. A sails about a length to windward of the mark and gybes onto port tack on her proper course which will bring her close to the mark. Before A reaches the mark, B, who is still on starboard tack, luffs sharply to avoid contact with A, and protests. 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 45

The protest is disallowed; A breaks no rule. When A reaches the zone clear ahead, she is entitled to mark-room from B by rule 18.2(b), Giving Mark-Room. Mark-room includes room to sail to the mark when a boat's proper course will bring her close to the mark (see the definition Mark-Room). When A gybes, her proper course will bring her close to the mark, and therefore she is sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled. Furthermore, when A gybes, B becomes overlapped inside her. Therefore rule 18.2(c)(2) further requires B to give A room to sail her proper course while she is sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled. A breaks rule 10, On Opposite Tacks, but is exonerated by rule 43.1(b), Exoneration.

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