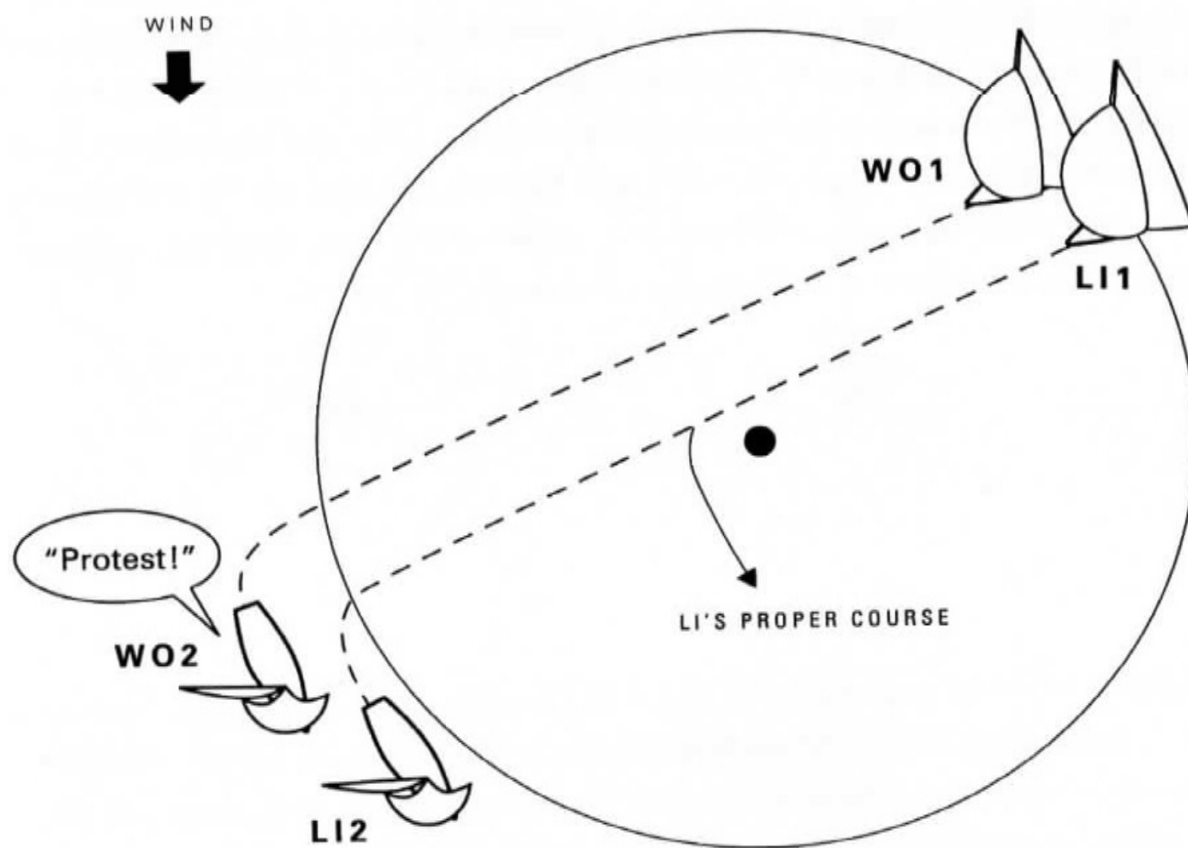


## Quiz 46

In a fleet race, two boats (LI and WO) are sailing down the first reach of a triangle course and are about to round the gybe mark. In order to sail her proper course LI must gybe at the mark. WO has come up from clear astern of LI and has overlapped her to windward when the boats are about ten lengths from the mark. The boats remain overlapped as they enter the zone. Rather than sail her proper course and gybe at the mark, LI decides to delay WO slightly by continuing on past the mark without gybing. When three lengths past the mark, LI gybes. WO gybes also and protests LI. 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 46

Boat LI is penalized under rule 18.4, Mark-Room: Gybing. LI's proper course (i.e., her fastest course to the finishing line in the absence of WO) is to gybe at the mark. LI is both the right-of-way boat (as the leeward boat) and the inside boat, and she is overlapped with WO when she is in the zone. Because LI's proper course includes a gybe at the mark, rule 18.4 requires her to sail no farther from the mark than is necessary to sail her proper course until she gybes. However, LI continues on past the mark for three lengths before gybing, therefore breaking rule 18.4.

Note: If this scenario had occurred at a gate mark or in a team race, the answer would be different; i.e., the protest would be disallowed. The reason is that rule 18.4 does not apply at a gate mark (see rule 18.4), and the Team Racing Appendix (Appendix D) deletes rule 18.4 (see rule D1.1(c), Definitions and the Rules of Parts 2 and 4). Therefore, because LI did not establish the overlap from clear astern of WO, the requirement for LI to sail her proper course under rule 17, On the Same Tack; Proper Course, does not apply; and because rule 18.4 does not apply at a gate mark or in team racing, there is no requirement for LI to gybe and sail her proper course at the mark.