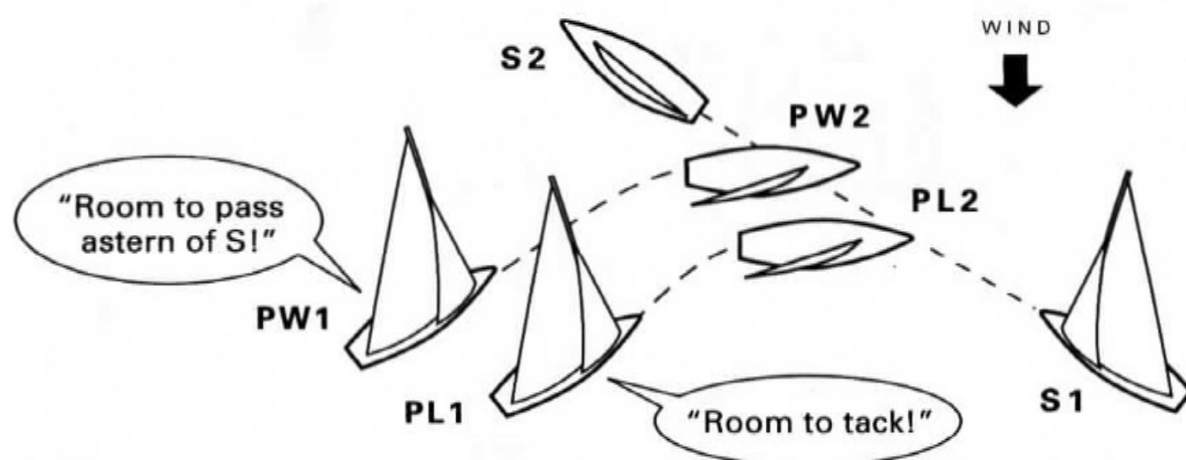


Quiz 49

Boats PW and PL, two close-hauled port-tack boats, are half a length apart and approaching Boat S, a close-hauled starboard-tack boat. If PL and S hold their courses PL will hit S a few feet back from her bow. PW hails PL for room to pass astern of S. PL then hails PW for room to tack at S. PW does not respond and begins bearing away to pass astern of S. PL bears away also to avoid a collision and protests PW. In the hearing PW defends her actions by saying that she hailed first. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?



ANSWER

Boat PW is penalized for breaking rule 11, On the Same Tack, Overlapped, and rule 20.2(c), Room to Tack at an Obstruction: Responding. S is an obstruction to PL and PW because they both need to keep clear of S (see the definition Obstruction). Rule 19.2(a), Giving Room at an Obstruction, states, "A right-of-way boat may choose to pass an obstruction on either side." Rule 20 applies because safety requires the leeward boat (PL) to make a substantial course change to avoid an obstruction (S) and permits PL (the right-of-way boat) to tack if she so chooses. It is immaterial which boat hails first. Rule 20.1, Hailing, specifically permits PL to hail PW for room to tack at the obstruction; and rule 20.2(c) requires PW to respond in one of two ways (either tack or reply "You tack"). PW does neither and thereby breaks rule 20.2(c). (See US Sailing Appeal 24.)

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.