

Quiz 52

Boat Q is beating towards the finishing line in very light winds and adverse current. Just after her bow crosses the finishing line, she bears away and sails off the course. Boat P protests Q for failing to completely cross the finishing line. You are on the protest committee; how would you decide this?

ANSWER

Boat P's protest is disallowed; Boat Q is scored in her finishing position. Boat Q "finishes" when her bow crosses the finishing line (see the definition Finish). Rule 28.1, Sailing the Race, states, "After finishing she need not cross the finishing line completely."

ANSWER TO QUIZ 51

W's protest is disallowed. The seawall is an obstruction (see the definition Obstruction). When L is about four lengths from the seawall, she will soon need to make a substantial course change to avoid it safely. Therefore L is entitled to hail M for room to tack and avoid M under rule 20.1, Room to Tack at an Obstruction: Hailing; and she is required to give M time to respond by rule 20.2(a), Responding. M is required to respond to L's hail in one of two ways under rule 20.2(c). She can either immediately reply "You tack" and then give L room to tack, or she can tack as soon as possible. Clearly in this case, hailing "You tack" is not an option for M. Because M cannot tack due to the presence of W, she must immediately hail W for room to tack, which she does. And rule 20.3, Passing on a Hail to an Additional Boat, gives her permission to do so even if she is still several lengths away from the seawall herself. When W is hailed by M, she tacks as soon as possible in compliance with rule 20.2(c), followed by M and L's tack. All three boats comply with rule 20. (See World Sailing Case 113.)

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.