

# The 2022 Test Rule 18

*This Development Rule has been approved by World Sailing in accordance with Regulation 28.1.5(b) and shall be published as part of the NoR.*

*Version: April 2022*

## **Definition *Mark-Room***

*Room for a boat to sail her proper course to round or pass the mark, and room to pass a finishing mark after finishing.*

## **Preamble to Section C**

*Section C rules do not apply at a starting mark surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line.*

## **18 MARK-ROOM**

### **18.1 When Rule 18 Applies**

- (a) Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However, it does not apply
  - (1) between boats on opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward or when the *proper course* at the *mark* for one but not both of them is to tack,
  - (2) between a boat approaching a *mark* and one leaving it, or
  - (3) if the *mark* is a continuing *obstruction*, in which case rule 19 applies.
  
- (b) Rule 18 no longer applies between boats when the boat entitled to *mark-room* has left the *mark* astern and is on a course to begin sailing the next leg, or is no longer *racing*.

### **18.2 Giving Mark-Room**

- (a) When the first of two boats reaches the *zone*,
  - (1) if the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat at that moment shall give the inside boat *mark-room*.
  - (2) if the boats are not *overlapped*, the boat that has not reached the *zone* at that moment shall give the other boat *mark-room*.
- (b) When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by rule 18.2(a), she shall continue to do so even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins.
- (c) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* before the first of two boats reached the *zone*, it shall be presumed that she did not.
- (d) Rule 18.2(a) no longer applies if the boat entitled to *mark-room* passes head to wind or leaves the *zone*.
- (e) When rule 18.2(a) does not apply and the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat shall give the inside boat *mark-room*.

### **18.3 Tacking in the Zone**

If a boat has passed head to wind in the *zone* and another boat was *fetching* the *mark* at that time,

- (a) rule 18.2 does not apply between them, and
- (b) at a *mark* to be left to port, if the other boat has been on *starboard tack* since entering the *zone*, the boat that tacked shall
  - (1) not cause the other boat to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact, and
  - (2) give *mark-room* if the other boat becomes *overlapped* inside her.

**18.4 Gybing in the Zone**

When an inside *overlapped* boat must gybe at a *mark* to sail her *proper course*, she shall not sail farther from the *mark* than needed to sail her *proper course* if this affects the choice of course of an outside boat.