



Umpire Questions and Answers

QA002 updated

14 January 2021

based on RRSAC v3.02

Can we get clarification on the use of Rule 19 and Rule 20 in terms of boundary in the pre-start?

Rule 19 (Room to pass an obstruction) uses a 70m zone (3 BL) where the right-of-way boat may choose to pass the obstruction. Rule 20 (Room to pass a boundary) uses a 115 m zone (4 BL) says that “unless the sailing instructions state that rule 19 applies, rule 20 applies to yachts that have started.

Q1

What is the zone size at the boundary?

A1

The zone size is determined by the object, not by what rule applies (see definition - zone). Therefore the zone at a boundary in the pre-start will always be 115m.

Q2

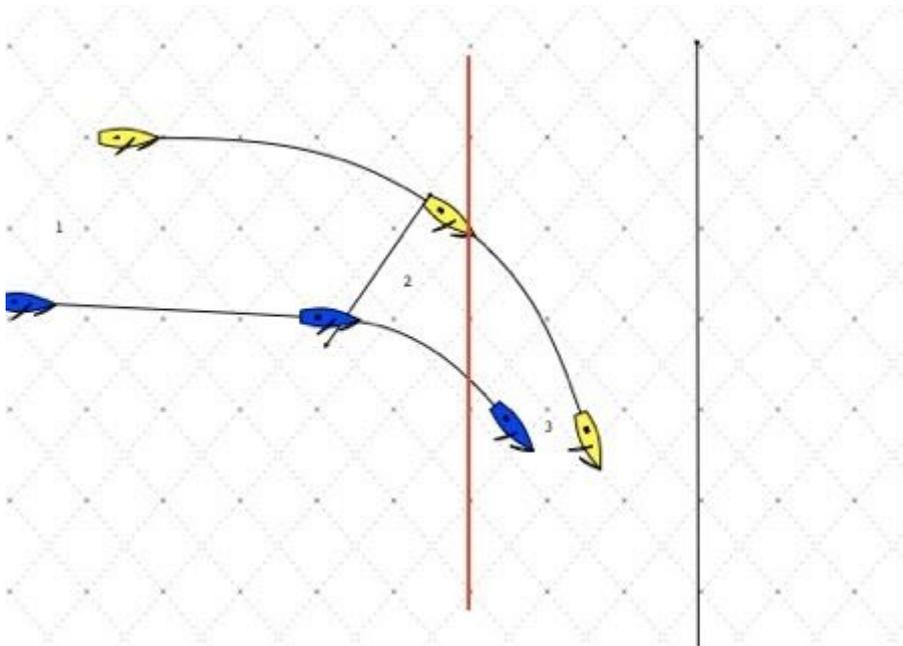
What will the SIs say?

A2

Based on the course design the umpires don't see the need to recommend any sailing instruction to make part of the boundary subject to rule 19 after yachts have started.

Experience with rule 20 is that it works well when yachts need to tack or gybe to avoid the boundary, but it does not work as well when yachts sail parallel with the boundary. Therefore, when the final leg was a reach down a 'corridor' to the finish, it was beneficial to have rule 19 apply to the boundary on that final leg. There has been provision in the rules for AC36 to have a final leg as a reach that could be down a corridor. While reports are that this will not be used, the RRSAC have provisions to cope with this scenario. This may be used if we find problems with the top and bottom boundary and how the yachts are sailing.

Q3



During the pre-start

Position 1: Yellow is clear ahead

Position 2: Yellow alters course down overlapping to windward of Blue. Yellow can no longer turn up to keep clear of the boundary.

Does Rule 19 or 20 apply?

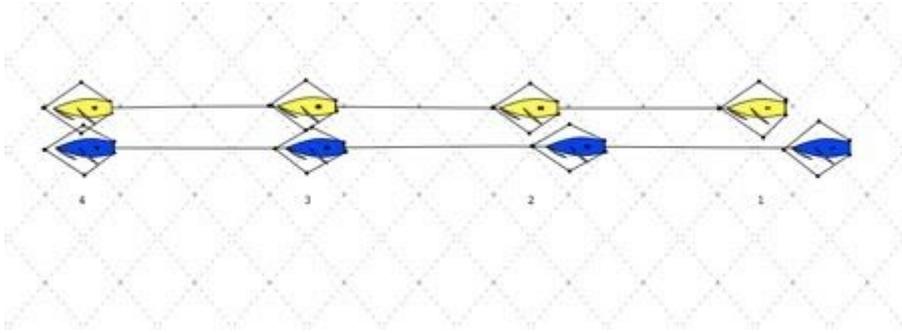
A3

This is in the pre-start so rule 19 applies as both yachts have not started (refer rule 20.1 and 19.1)

When rule 19 first applies at position 2, Blue is the right of way yacht and given the angle of approach to the boundary, Blue has chosen to pass the obstruction to port. Yellow is the inside yacht and Blue must give Yellow room between her and the boundary.

cont...

Q4



Position 1: Yellow is clear ahead, Blue is clear astern.

Position 2: Yellow is overlapped windward, Blue is overlapped to leeward. Rule 15 states that Blue has acquired the right of way and shall initially give Yellow room to keep clear.

Position 3: Neither boat has changed course, but their keep clear borders are converging.

Does Blue need to give Yellow room to keep clear if she (blue) has not changed course (Rule 16.1)?

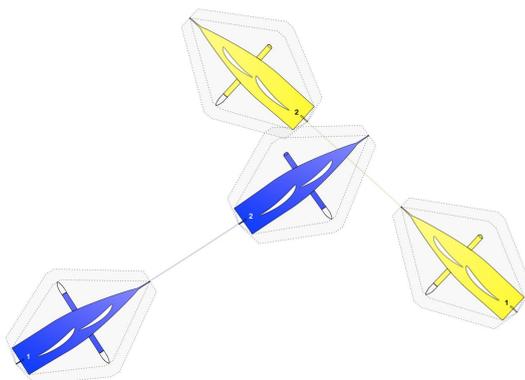
Position 4: Do the keep clear borders overlapping constitute "contact"?

A4

At position 3, Blue does not have to give Yellow room under rule 16.1 as Blue has not changed course. Depending on relative speeds, Blue may still have an obligation to give room under rule 15, which may require Yellow to maneuver promptly in a seamanlike way once the overlap is established.

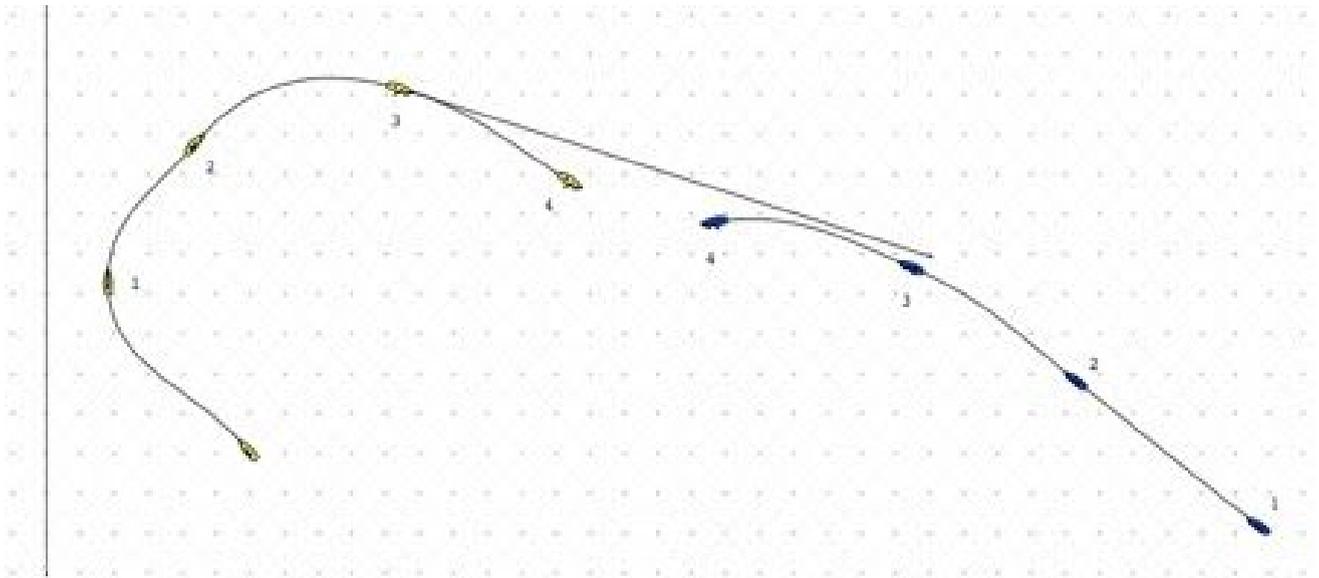
Keep clear borders intersecting does not mean there is contact; however, it is definitive that a yacht has not kept clear.

For example, in the diagram below, Blue has not had contact with Yellow but the keep clear borders have intersected. This means Blue has not kept clear.



cont...

Q5



Position 1 & 2: Yellow is on port tack sailing a course to windward of Blue

Position 3: Yellow has changed course, but is not on a course to pass to leeward. Blue is changing course

Position 4: Yellow has changed course and is now on a course to pass to leeward of Blue.

Has Blue fulfilled her obligations under rule 16.2?

A5

Yes.

At the moment the umpires are certain Yellow is sailing a course to pass to leeward, a further bear away by Blue that is below her proper course and causes Yellow to immediately change course to continue keeping clear breaks rule 16.2. Until the umpires are certain, any bear away by Blue is only subject to rule 16.1.

There are examples where Yellow's course may be such that it is clear she is sailing a course to pass to leeward of Blue without her bow aiming to leeward of Blue, such as being slow and luffing.