



Umpire Questions and Answers

QA005 updated

14 January 2021

based on RRSAC v3.02

Question

A yacht is OCS, and the other yacht is sailing at a reduced VMG and has not started. May the OCS yacht turn to a downwind course and cross 50 meters behind the other yacht to clear her penalty?

Answer

Yes, provided she is OCS as a result of having crossed the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side within 10 seconds prior to the starting signal.

The OCS yacht is then required to take a penalty by acting immediately to reduce her VMG / VMC until she is 50 metres behind the other yacht or *start* as per definition start (a) (44.2(a)). This may include sailing a negative VMG / VMC. It is not a requirement for either yacht to have started to take a penalty.

If a yacht is OCS as a result of not having crossed the starting line or having crossed the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side more than 10 seconds before the starting signal, she is required to take a penalty by *starting* as per definition start (a).