

# rya racing rules

## Fundamental Rules

A yacht and its crew shall compete only by fair sailing, using their speed and skill. Every yacht shall render all possible assistance to any vessel or person in peril. A yacht which realises she has infringed a rule must retire promptly (or exonerate herself when an alternative penalty is provided)

## Means of propulsion

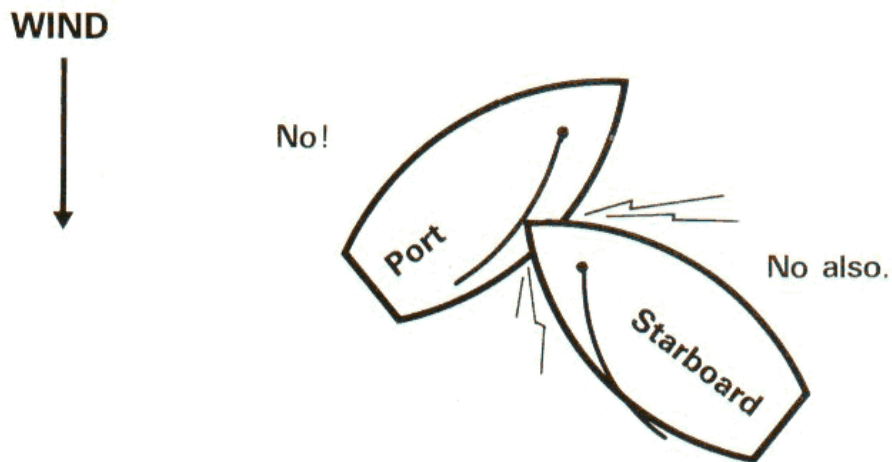
A yacht shall be propelled using only the wind and water, with her crew adjusting the trim of the sails and hull and not otherwise moving their bodies to propel the yacht.

## Certificate

Every yacht shall hold a valid measurement certificate.

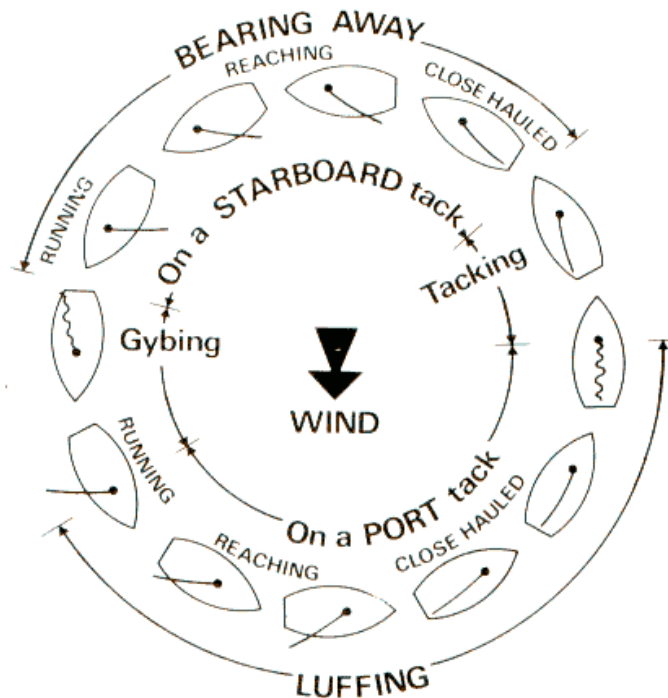
## Contact between yachts and serious damage

When there is contact between 2 yachts, one or both shall protest unless one or both retires (or accepts an alternative penalty when an alternative penalty is provided). A right-of-way yacht which does not try to avoid a collision resulting in serious damage shall be disqualified as well as the other yacht.

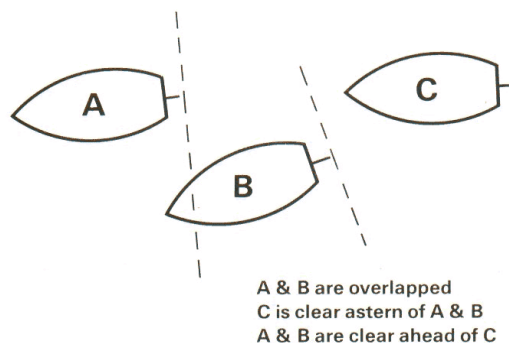


## Definitions

A starboard-tack yacht is one with her boom on the port side and vice versa. A yacht is luffing when altering course towards the wind and bearing away when altering course away from the wind. A yacht is tacking from the moment she is beyond head to wind until she has borne away to close-hauled. A yacht is gybing from the moments when her boom crosses the centre line until her mainsail fills on the new track.






A yacht is clear astern of another when her hull is abaft a line projected abeam from the aftermost part of the other.



## Sailing Instructions

Starting and finishing lines, marks and courses, an alternative penalty facility if any, and other information relating to a particular race or races is notified on the Race Entry Form or sailing board.

### Starting Signals Cruisers

- |                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 10 minute warning |    | 1 sound, Class flag (numeral pennant No 1) displayed |
| 5 minute warning  |   | 1 sound, Code flag P displayed                       |
| Start             |   | 1 sound, Flags lowered                               |

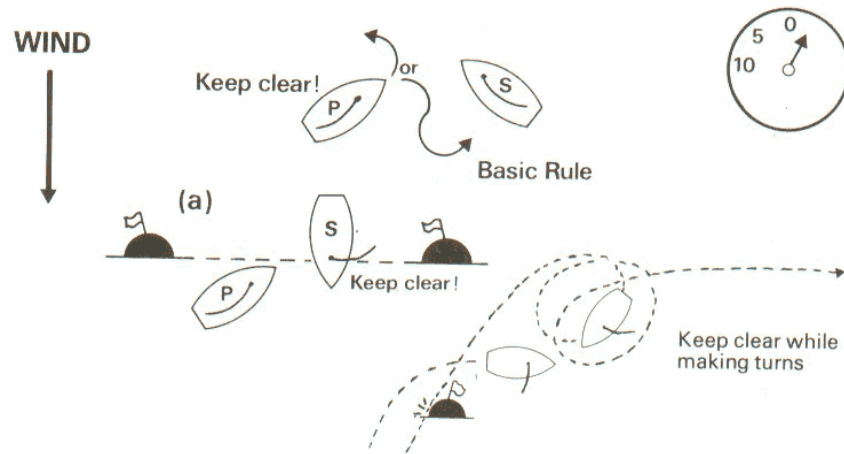


## Sailing the course

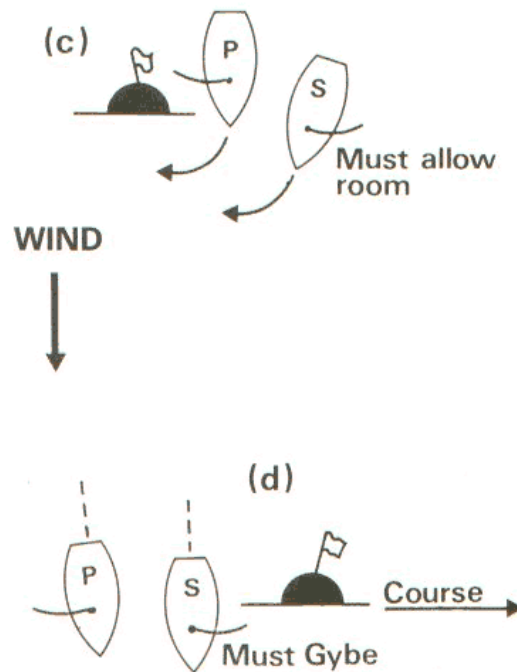
A yacht shall sail the course so as to round each mark on the required side in correct sequence, so that a string representing her wake from the time she starts to the time she finishes would lie on the correct side of each mark.

## Opposite Tacks, Basic Rule

A port tack yacht shall keep clear of a starboard tack yacht. Except (a) when the starboard tack is returning to start after being over the line at the starting signal or (b) is executing penalty turns.



or (c) when on a downwind leg of the course the port tack has an inside overlap on the starboard tack yacht, the starboard tack yacht must give room at a mark or obstructions or (d) the starboard tack yacht has an inside overlap on the port tack yacht and the starboard tack yacht must gybe to round the mark, she must gybe as soon as she has room to do so.



## Same tack basic rules

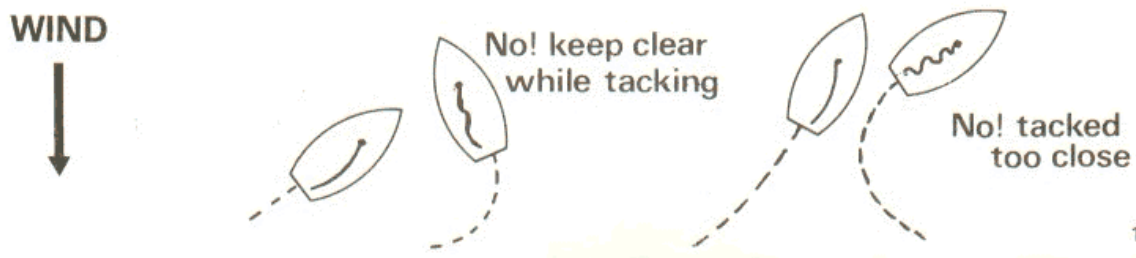
(a) when overlapped: a windward yacht shall keep clear of a leeward yacht

(b) when not overlapped: a yacht clear astern shall keep clear of a yacht clear ahead



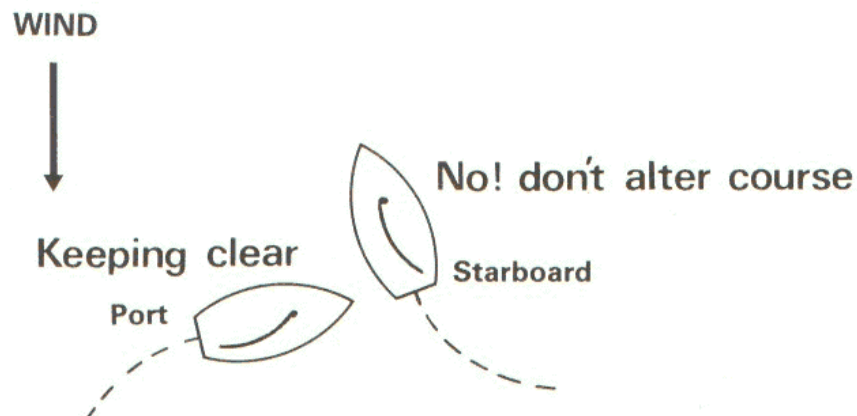
## Changing tack basic rule

A yacht which is either tacking or gybing shall keep clear of a yacht on a tack. A yacht shall neither tack nor gybe into a position which will give her right of way unless she does so far enough from a yacht on a tack to enable this yacht to keep clear without having to begin to alter her course till after the tack or gybe had been completed.



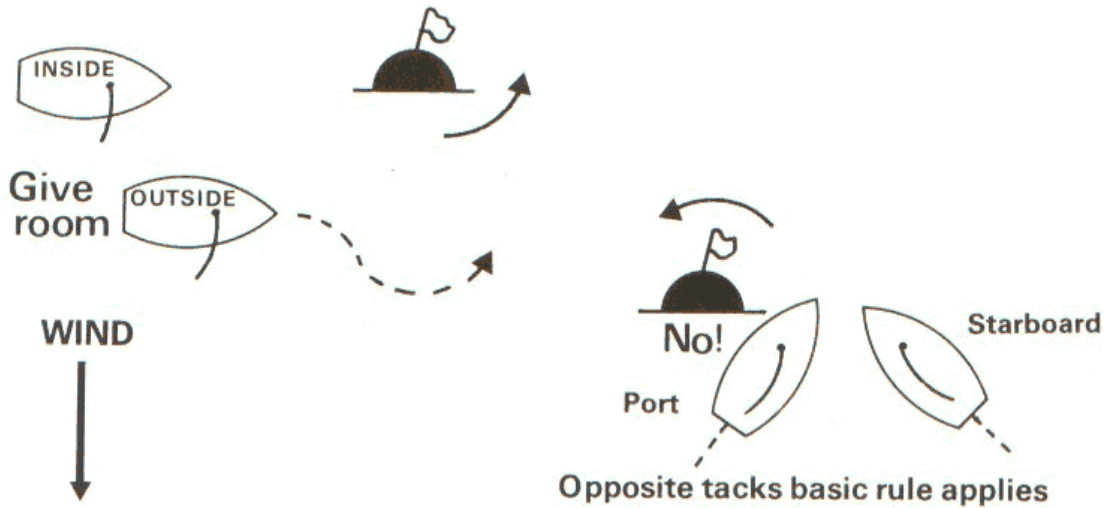
## Limitations on altering course

Except when luffing after starting, when one yacht is required to keep clear of another the right of way yacht shall not alter course so as to obstruct the other while she is keeping clear.



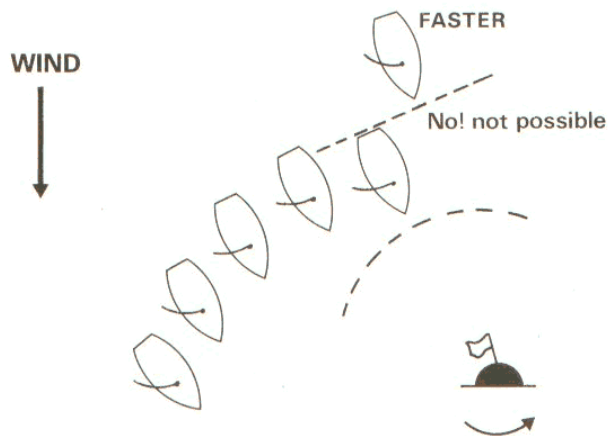
## Rounding or passing marks or obstructions

when about to round a mark or an obstruction, an outside yacht shall give room to each yacht overlapping her on the inside but this does not apply to two close-hauled yachts on opposite tacks, when the opposite tacks basic rule applies.



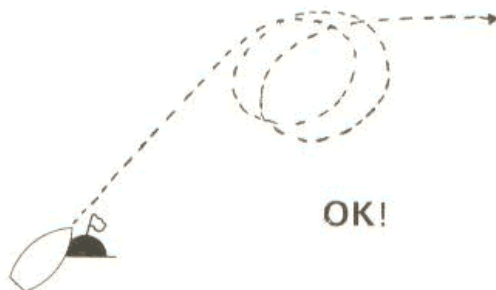
## Establishing overlap

A yacht clear astern establishing an inside overlap is entitled to room only when the yacht outside her is able to give room and is more than two lengths from the mark when the overlap is established. An outside yacht overlapped at the time she comes within two lengths of a mark or obstruction shall continue to give room even though the overlap may afterwards be broken.



## Touching a mark

A yacht which touches a mark may exonerate herself by sailing clear of all other yachts and making two turns



## Room to tack

A yacht to leeward or ahead of two close-hauled yachts on the same tack approaching an obstruction, which cannot tack without colliding, may hail for room to tack, and shall then tack when she has room. The hailed yacht must either tack immediately or reply "you tack" and give room for the hailing yacht to tack and keep clear.



## Hailing

Except when luffing, a yacht should hail when making an unforeseen alteration of course and when claiming room at a mark or obstruction.