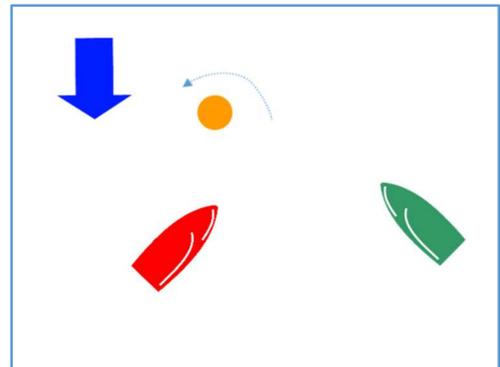


Rules Briefing (2013-2016 ISAF Rules)

We've often heard boats asking for water at the end of a beat, but it can be different at the Windward Mark

Rule 18.2 is the one that covers Giving Mark-Room however **it does not apply** "between boats on **opposite tacks** on a beat to windward" under Rule 18.1(a).

In this example the boats are on "opposite tacks on a beat to windward" so Rule 18.2 (Giving Mark-Room) does not apply. Rule 10 applies (*a port-tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard tack boat*). Green does not have to give mark-room to Red to round the mark inside her, instead Red must keep clear by bearing away behind Green.

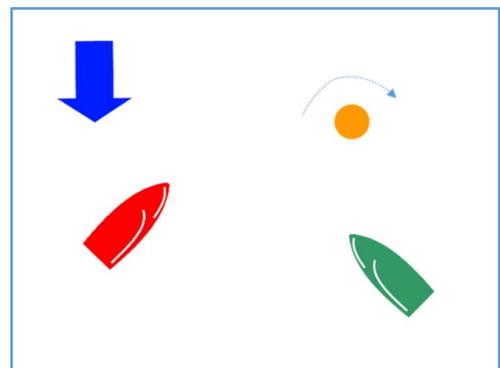


The other part of Rule 18 that often crops up at the windward mark is 18.3 (Tacking in the Zone). This states that if a boat in the zone (*an area around the mark within three boat lengths of the boat nearer to it*) passes head to wind and is then on the same tack as a boat that is fetching the mark Rule 18.2 (Giving Mark-Room) does not thereafter apply between them. The boat that changed tack;

- a) shall not cause the other boat to sail above close hauled to avoid contact or prevent the other boat from passing the mark on the required side, and
- b) shall give mark-room if the other boat becomes overlapped inside her.

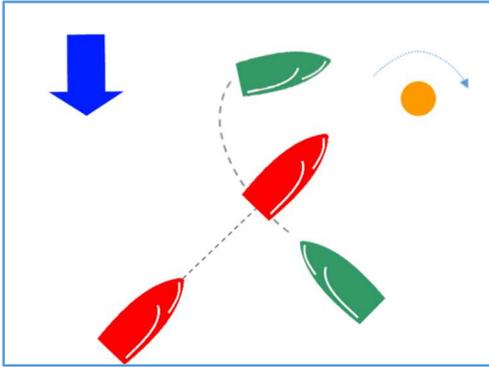
This section is a bit less obvious... however here are a few examples which hopefully help explain.

In this one, Green has right of way under Rule 10 (*port & starboard*) and if she chooses to sail on a bit to make sure she clears the mark Red must keep clear. However, if she chooses to tack she's not entitled to Mark-Room as she luffs up to head to wind (as above Rule 18.2 doesn't apply to boats on opposite tacks on a beat to windward) nor after turning past head to wind when Rule 13 applies (*after a boat passes head to wind she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course*). After the tack Rule 18.3 states that she is not entitled to Mark-Room as Red is fetching the mark.



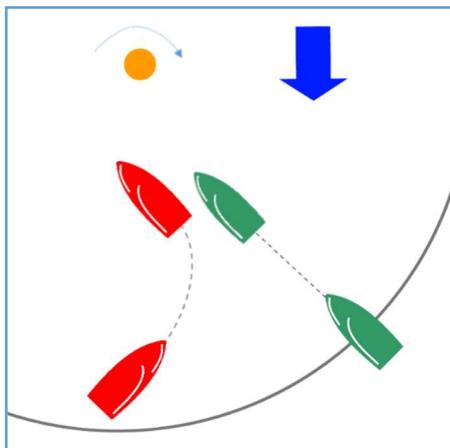
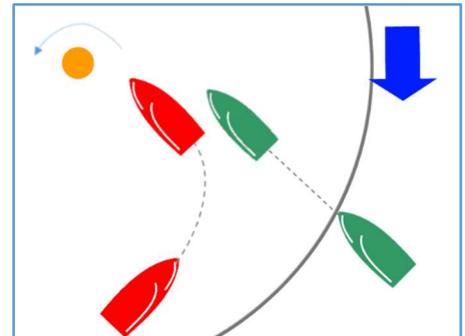
This is exactly the same as if they were in the middle of the beat. So to remember what to do at the Windward Mark on opposite tacks - **TAKE THE MARK AWAY**.

In this, similar, situation the Green boat tacks within the zone and as a result Red becomes overlapped inside her. As Red is fetching the mark Green must give Red Mark-Room under Rule 18.3(b) (above).



The fact that she was first to reach the zone and passed ahead of Red doesn't matter!

In this scenario, Red changed tack within the zone. As Green is fetching the mark (*she can round the mark without tacking*), Rule 18.3 states that Red is not entitled to Mark-Room and also states that Red cannot cause Green to sail above close-hauled.



If the mark was to be rounded to starboard rather than port, Green would **not** be fetching the mark (even although she's on the lay line she would need one more tack to round the mark). Therefore 18.3 would **not** apply and Green would be entitled to Mark-Room.

The scenarios and explanations are based on examples from the Adlard Coles Nautical publication "Paul Elvstrøm Explains The Racing Rules of Sailing"