

2019 Morgan Cup, Hinman Masters & Grand Masters

Q&A # 1 - "Well Clear of Other Boats"

Question

When a boat plans to take a penalty and tacks or gybes to get clear of the boat she has fouled, does this tack or gybe count as part of her penalty turn?

Answer

No.

Rule 44.2 states that a boat must be well clear of all other boats before she begins turning to take her penalty beginning with either a tack or a gybe (See team race call L5). If she tacks or gybes to get into a position where she is then well clear of all other boats, she cannot count that tack or gybe as part of her penalty turn(s).

The expression "after getting well clear of other boats" in rule 44.2, refers to when a boat is clear enough to complete her penalty in a space that she can reasonably expect will remain clear of other boats which are, or are about to be, sailing tactically appropriate courses (such as approaching the line to start or rounding a mark).