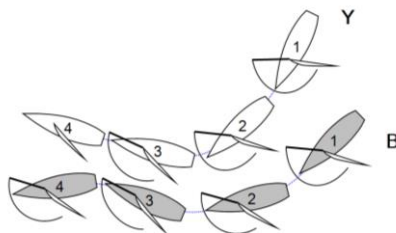




Global Team Race Question 1

Situation

Two keelboats B and Y are on a leeward leg with spinnakers set. Rule 17 does not apply. B luffs continuously and Y keeps clear. After Y is unable to keep the majority of her spinnaker filled and drawing, she holds course and drops her spinnaker. There is no contact. B bears away and protests.



Question 1

Does either boat break a rule?

Answer 1

No.

When B changes course, she is required to give Y room to keep clear, which includes space to manoeuvre promptly in a seamanlike way (See also TR Call A3). In positions 1 and 2, Y is keeping clear. In position 3, it becomes seamanlike for Y to drop her spinnaker. Y continues keeping clear because she is still responding in a seamanlike way to B's change of course. This includes dropping her spinnaker before luffing any higher. By bearing away at position 4, B gives Y room to keep clear, as required by rule 16.1.

Question 2

Does the answer change if Y does not have a spinnaker set?

Answer 2

No

Room for a windward boat to keep clear includes room to drop her spinnaker in a seamanlike manner when it becomes unseamanlike to keep it hoisted. When she is given the room she needs, a seamanlike take-down is one where no part of the spinnaker or its sheets make contact with the leeward boat.

In lighter winds, it may be seamanlike for a boat to sail closer to the wind with her spinnaker hoisted.