

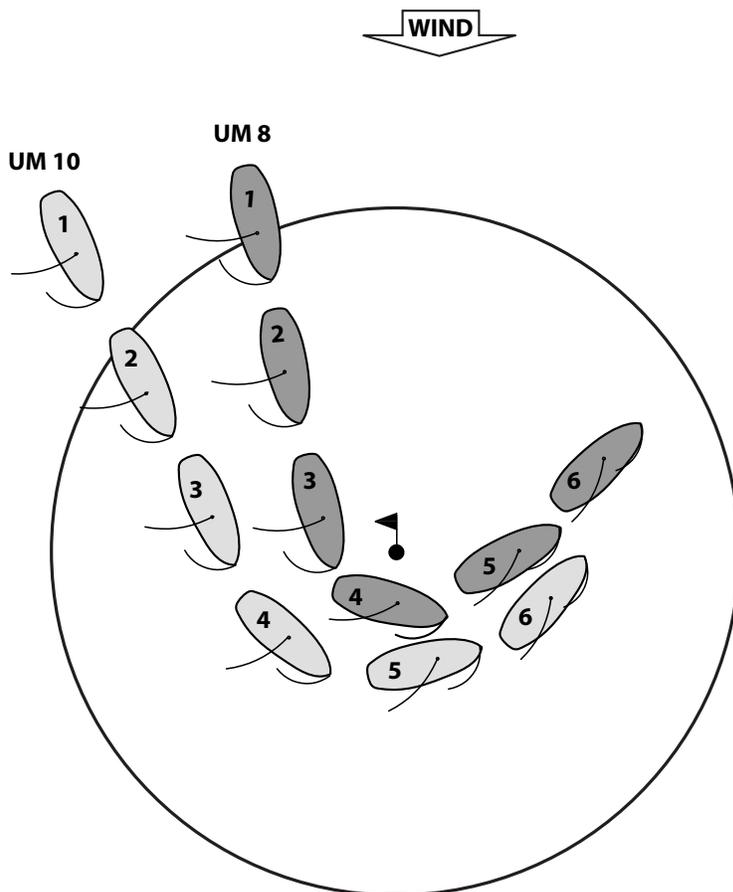
APPEAL 105

UM8 vs. UM10

Rule 18.2(b), Mark-Room: Giving Mark-Room

Definitions, Mark-Room

In the definition Mark-Room, the phrase “room to sail to the mark” means space to sail in a seamanlike way to a position close to, and on the required side of, the mark. When the mark is abeam of the boat’s bow and she is close to it, she has arrived “at” it. While “at” the mark, the boat is entitled to room to sail her proper course.



Facts and Decision of the Protest Committee

UM8 and UM10, overlapped on port tack with UM8 inside, approached a leeward mark to be left to port and subsequently rounded it as shown in the diagram. UM8 protested UM10 under rule 18.2(b) for not giving her enough room to sail to the mark and round it. The protest committee decided that UM10 did give UM8 the room she was entitled to, both while she was sailing to the mark and while she was at the mark, and denied the protest. UM8 appealed.

Decision of the Appeals Committee

The definition Mark-Room creates an important distinction between the room, as defined by the definition Room, to which a boat is entitled while she is sailing “to” a mark and the room to which she is entitled while “at” the mark. The phrase “room to sail to the mark” in the definition Mark-Room means space to sail in a seamanlike way to a position close to, and on the required side of, the mark. While “at” the mark, however, she is entitled to room to sail her proper course. The transition between the two types of room occurs at the moment the boat arrives “at” the mark. In this case, UM8 is “at” the mark in position 3 in the diagram because the mark is abeam of her bow and she is close to the mark.

We agree with the protest committee’s application of rule 18.2(b) and the two components of the definition Mark-Room. Therefore, the appeal is denied and the decision of the protest committee is upheld.

December 2010