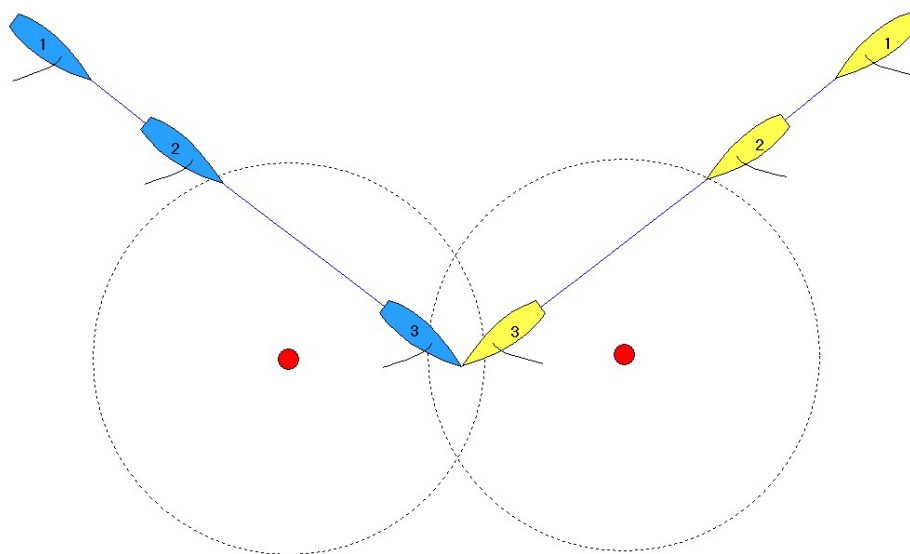


## ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service

Q&A 06-005  
Published: 22 May 2006

### Situation

Two catamarans on opposite tacks both sailing a downwind leg on reaching angles were approaching the gate heading for different marks. They reached the gate at the same time and collided in the middle. At that moment the gate was less than 4 hull length wide and the boats were in both circles at the same time.



### Question 1

What rules do apply and how to decide?

### Answer 1

Boats that are sailing to different gate marks are not about to round a mark on the same side. However, whether or not rule 18 applies, rules 10 and 14 continue to apply. Blue must keep clear of Yellow, and both boats must avoid contact.

### Question 2

Could a gate which is less than 4 hull length wide be considered as an improper action of the Race Officer?

### Answer 2

Yes. However, in order for a boat to be given redress, the improper action must significantly worsen the boat's score through no fault of her own. In this situation, the narrow gate did not prevent either boat from avoiding the collision.

Expiry: 1 February 2007