

## ISAF Racing Rules Question and Answer Service



Q&A 07-005

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Two boats approach the windward mark (to be left to port) on opposite tacks. The port tack boat (P) tacks inside the two-length zone at one boat length from the mark. After P passes head to wind but before arriving on a close-hauled course, the starboard tack boat (S) has to alter course to windward to avoid contact. S does not luff above a close-hauled course. S protests and later lodges a valid protest.

### Question 1

What will the decision be?

### Answer 1

After P passes head to wind she is entitled to *room* under rule 18.2(a) and she must keep clear under rule 13. While those two rules are in conflict rule 18.2(a) takes precedence. If P takes more *room* than needed to tack around the mark promptly in a seamanlike way, she loses the protection of rule 18 and the case must be judged solely on her compliance under rule 13.

### Question 2

What would the answer be if S is required to sail above a close-hauled course to avoid P when P completes her tack?

### Answer 2

Once P reaches a close-hauled course rule 18.3 applies. If S must sail above close-hauled to avoid her, or if S has sailed above close hauled to avoid P and needs to remain above close hauled at the time the tack is completed, P breaks rule 18.3 and should be scored DSQ.

Expiry date: 1 February 2008