

Racing Rules of Sailing

New Case based on Q&A M001

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To propose a new case based on an ISAF Q&A.

Proposal

CASE XXX

Rule 18.1(a), Mark-Room: When Rule 18 Applies **Rule 42.3(c), Propulsion: Exceptions**

A boat is ‘on a beat to windward’ when the course she would sail to finish as soon as possible in the absence of other boats is a close-hauled course or above.

Question

The phrase ‘on a beat to windward’ is used in rules 18.1(a) and 42.3(c). When is a boat on a beat to windward?

Answer

For the purposes of rules 18.1(a) and 42.3(c), a boat is on a beat to windward when the course she would sail to finish as soon as possible in the absence of other boats is a close-hauled course or above.

When a boat is on a windward leg, she is not necessarily on a beat to windward. An example is a boat that has overstood a windward mark and, in the absence of other boats, would therefore sail below close-hauled to finish as soon as possible. Such a boat may have overstood the mark either by sailing beyond the layline to the mark or because a change in wind direction has made it possible for her to sail to the mark on a course below close-hauled.

Similarly, when a boat is on a reaching or a downwind leg, there are circumstances in which she may be on a beat to windward. This can happen when a boat has been swept by current below the rhumb-line to a reaching mark, or there has been a change in wind direction, and as a result the course the boat would sail to finish as soon as possible in the absence of other boats has become a close-hauled course or above.

Current Position

None. The case is new. However, it is based on current ISAF Q&A M001.

Reason

To comply with an item in the minutes of the 2012 Racing Rules Committee meeting in Dublin by proposing a new case based on current ISAF Q&A M001. At that meeting, the Racing Rules Committee recommended that that Q&A was sufficiently helpful and interesting to competitors and officials that it be proposed as a new case.
