

Learn it, do it, win it!

Keeping Clear

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Keep Clear (Definition)

One boat *keeps clear* of another if the other can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action and,

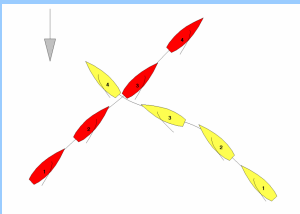


when the boats are *overlapped* on the same *tack*, if the *leeward* boat can change course in both directions without immediately making contact with the *windward* boat.



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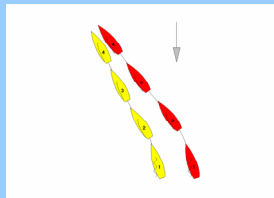
Red on port is required to keep clear of Yellow.

Yellow has to take avoiding action so Red has not kept clear.



Keeping Clear – overlapped, same tack

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Red to windward is required to keep clear of Yellow.

Yellow never has to take avoiding action but....

In position 4 if Yellow altered course in either direction there would be immediate contact so Red is not keeping clear.

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The rules of part 2 state which boat is required to *keep clear* in different situations.

- Port (Starboard)[10]
- Windward (Leeward)[11]
- Astern (Ahead) on same tack [12]
- Tacking [13]
- Outside boat if inside has right-of-way [18.2(a)]
- Clear astern at the 2-length-zone [18.2(c)]
- Establishing inside overlap at continuous obstruction when no room to do so safely [18.5]
- Returning to start, sailing backwards or taking a penalty [20]

Keeping Clear

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*A boat has right of way when another boat is required to **keep clear** of her.*

(From the Preamble to Part 2)

Notes:

The rules do not give a boat right of way directly. They specify which of two boats has the primary **responsibility** to keep clear.

There is a secondary responsibility on both boats to avoid contact at all times. (Rule 14)

Keeping clear is not quite the same as avoiding contact. It is not causing another boat to take action to avoid contact.

