

SVOD RULES ESSENTIALS *This is a guide to key rules issues only. There is only one set of racing rules*

Fair sailing. SVOD racing is for fun

- **Abusive or Foul Language is unacceptable in the SVOD fleet and can be protested like any other rule broken. Witnesses to such incidents especially against younger or inexperienced members may also make a protest.**
- **Top Tip: Members especially committee members are encouraged to protest when such incidents occur.**

Establishing an overlap and luffing before the start

- No obligations exist **until the moment** an overlap is established.
- If you establish an overlap you have to give the windward boat **time and room to respond**.
- If the **windward boat can't respond** then you **can't luff until he can**. (Could be because there are other boats to windward that also need to respond or the committee boat is in the way or he has no way on).
- If you are **windward boat** you must start to respond to a luff **positively** as soon as you can.
- **Top Tip: Sails in and helm down is responding.**

Approaching a windward mark on port and tacking within the zone

- If two boats were approaching a *mark* on opposite *tacks* and one of them **tacks** in the 3 length **Zone** when the other is **fetching the mark**, the boat that changed *tack*:
(a) **shall not cause the other boat to sail above close-hauled** to avoid her or prevent the other boat from passing the mark on the required side, and;
(b) shall **give mark-room** if the other boat becomes **overlapped inside** her.
- **Top Tip: Beware of the tidal set. It pays to take the pain and go beyond the Starboard boats if the tide is against you**

When you have luffing rights on the run

- You **do not have Luffing rights** if you **come from astern** and you are within two boat lengths of the windward boat (24 feet).
- You only **gain luffing rights** if you are **overlapped when one or other of you changes gybe** or you have come **up from more than two boat lengths** (24 feet) to leeward while being overlapped.
- If you do have luffing rights you **must give the windward boat time to respond** and the windward boat must respond positively to a luff (if he can).
- If you establish your overlap from astern you **can not sail above your proper course** and the windward boat can not sail below their proper course.
- **Top Tip: Proper Course downwind = A course a boat would sail to finish as soon as possible in the absence of the other boats. A proper course may include gybing onto port.**

Approaching and rounding a leeward mark

- If you are **not overlapped inside** when the boat in front of you **enters the Zone** (3 Boat lengths – In SVODS that is 36 feet or the length of a reasonable size cruising boat) you have **no right to room** between the boat outside of you and the mark.
- If there is any **doubt** that an overlap has been established or broken before you reach the Zone **it is assumed that it has not been**.
- Once you are **within the Zone** the tack you are on is irrelevant and **Port/Starboard rules are suspended**.
- **Top Tip: Watch out for "late arriving" starboard boats at the leeward mark when it is busy there. They may have had water on your stern when you entered the 3 lengths because of your angle of entry even though they arrive much later. You must give them water if you can.**

Doing your penalty

- If you **foul another boat** and they call protest you must do your **One Turn Penalty** or protest them
- If you **hit a mark** or the committee boat you need to do a **One Turn Penalty**. Or protest them if another boat caused it.
- After getting well clear of other boats **as soon after the incident as possible**, a boat takes a One Turn Penalty by making one tack and one gybe in the same direction.
- **Top Tip: It is usually quicker to do the gybe first**

THE MOST IMPORTANT RULES YOU NEED TO KNOW (These are the actual rules but all have some exceptions)

10 ON OPPOSITE TACKS

When boats are on opposite *tacks*, a *port-tack* boat shall *keep clear* of a *starboard-tack* boat.

11 ON THE SAME TACK, OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same *tack* and *overlapped*, a *windward* boat shall *keep clear* of a *leeward* boat.

12 ON THE SAME TACK, NOT OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same *tack* and not *overlapped*, a boat *clear astern* shall *keep clear* of a boat *clear ahead*.

13 WHILE TACKING

After a boat passes head to wind, she shall *keep clear* of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course. During that time rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply. If two boats are subject to this rule at the same time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern shall *keep clear*.

14 AVOIDING CONTACT

A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible. However, a right-of-way boat or one entitled to *room* or *mark-room*

(a) need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not *keeping clear* or giving *room* or *mark-room*, and

(b) shall not be penalized under this rule unless there is contact that causes damage or injury.

15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat *room* to *keep clear*, unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat's actions.

16 CHANGING COURSE

16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room* to *keep clear*.

16.2 In addition, when after the starting signal a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass astern of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *starboard-tack* boat shall not change course if as a result the *port-tack* boat would immediately need to change course to continue *keeping clear*.

17 ON THE SAME TACK; PROPER COURSE

If a boat *clear astern* becomes *overlapped* within two of her hull lengths to *leeward* of a boat on the same *tack*, she shall not sail above her *proper course* while they remain on the same *tack* and *overlapped* within that distance, unless in doing so she promptly sails astern of the other boat. This rule does not apply if the *overlap* begins while the *windward* boat is required by rule 13 to *keep clear*.

18 MARK-ROOM

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However, it does not apply

(a) between boats on opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward,

(b) between boats on opposite *tacks* when the *proper course* at the *mark* for one but not both of them is to *tack*,

(c) between a boat approaching a *mark* and one leaving it, or

(d) if the *mark* is a continuing *obstruction*, in which case rule 19 applies.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

(a) When boats are *overlapped* the outside boat shall give the inside boat *mark-room*, unless rule 18.2(b) applies.

(b) If boats are *overlapped* when the first of them reaches the *zone*, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat *mark-room*. If a boat is *clear ahead* when she reaches the *zone*, the boat *clear astern* at that moment shall thereafter give her *mark-room*.

(c) When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by rule 18.2(b), she shall continue to do so even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins. However, if either boat passes head to wind or if the boat entitled to *mark-room* leaves the *zone*, rule 18.2(b) ceases to apply.

(d) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.

(e) If a boat obtained an inside *overlap* from *clear astern* and, from the time the *overlap* began, the outside boat has been unable to give *mark-room*, she is not required to give it.