

## Rules Specialist Group 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing

### Mark and Obstructions at a leeward mark

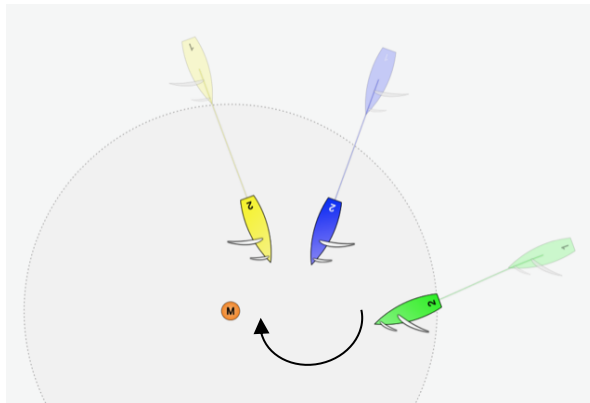
Issued 26 March 2020

#### 1. [Question 1](#)

Yellow, Blue and Green are approaching a leeward mark, to be rounded or passed to starboard.

Yellow reaches the zone of the mark and is inside of Blue and Yellow and Blue are inside of Green.

What should the boats do in order to round or pass the mark in compliance with the rules?



#### 2. [Answer 1](#)

Mark-room is the room to sail to the mark and then the room to round the mark as necessary to sail the course.

Yellow must keep clear of Blue and Green (rule 10), however, Yellow is entitled to mark-room.

Blue must keep clear of Green (rule 11) but must give Yellow mark-room. Blue is entitled to mark-room from Green and this room includes the space needed by Blue to give Yellow mark-room.

Green is the right of way boat, however must give both Yellow and Blue mark-room.

Green is an obstruction to both Blue and Yellow as Blue has to keep clear of Green under rule 11 and Yellow has to keep clear of Green under rule 10. However, rule 19 (the rule that deals with giving room at obstructions) does not apply in this case as the boats are all subject to rule 18 and they are overlapped. Rule 19.1(b) states that in this case, rule 19 does not apply between Yellow and Blue.

The diagram below shows Blue and Green giving the mark-room required and Yellow only taking the mark-room it is entitled to.

Australian Sailing Limited  
ABN 26 602 997 562

Level 1, 22 Atchison Street  
St Leonards NSW 2065

Locked Bag 806  
Milsons Point NSW 1565  
Australia

T +61 2 8424 7400

F +61 2 9906 2366

E [office@sailing.org.au](mailto:office@sailing.org.au)

Principal Partner

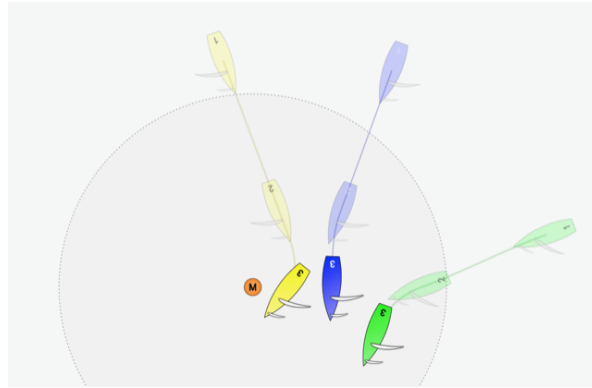


Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

Affiliated with



[sailing.org.au](http://sailing.org.au)

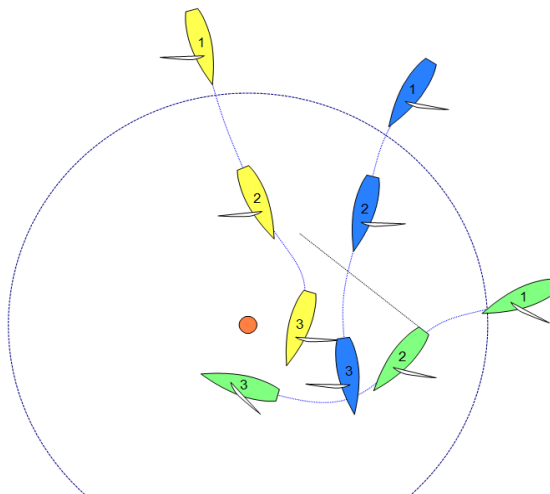


### 3. [Question 2](#)

Does rule 19 ever come into play at a leeward mark?

### 4. [Answer 2](#)

Yes.



If Green becomes clear ahead of one of the boats the exception in rule 19.1(b) no longer applies as Green is no longer overlapped with each of them.

However, the application of rule 18 does not change and Green is still required to give mark-room to both Blue and Yellow. See rule 18.2 (b).

If Blue does choose to sail behind Green she must consider that she may need to give room to Yellow should she also have to pass behind Green but she does not have to anticipate that Green will not give Yellow room to round the mark. If Yellow is forced to pass behind Green because Green does not give mark-room and Blue is unable to respond in time Blue would be exonerated under rule 64.1(a) for breaking rule 19 as she was compelled to break the rule by Green breaking rule 18.