

Rules Specialist Group 2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing

Changes to the definition regarding Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap in Appendix F.

Issued 19 March 2021

Question

In Appendix F "*changes to definitions*" regarding "*clear astern, clear ahead; overlapped*" it states at the end of the paragraph:

"These terms always apply to kiteboards on the same tack. They apply to kiteboards on opposite tacks only when both kiteboards are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind."

Does that mean that downwind Port/Starboard does not apply, and its only windward / leeward that applies?

Answer

The answer to the question is NO.

The definition merely describes when kiteboards may be clear ahead/clear astern or overlapped.

Part 2 of the racing rules identifies which rules apply at different times.

Rule 10 applies when boats are ON OPPOSITE TACKS and rules 11 and 12 apply when boats are ON THE SAME TACK.

Being overlapped when sailing downwind on different tacks has relevance when the part 2 Section C AT MARKS AND OBSTRUCTIONS rules apply.

The right of way or keep clear requirements do not change but if a kiteboard breaks a rule of Section A of Part 2, rule 15,16 or 31 when she is sailing within room or mark room to which she is entitled she is exonerated under rule 43.1(b).

The RSG notes that there is similar wording in the definition for fleet racing and where this has most effect is at leeward marks where an inside overlapped port tack boat is entitled to mark-room. However, this is not the case for kiteboards as F2 changes 18.1(b) and advises that rule 18 does not apply between kiteboards on opposite tacks. This means that, even when they are overlapped, an inside port tack kiteboard is not entitled to mark-room and should always keep clear of a starboard kiteboard.

On behalf of Australian Sailing Rules Specialist Group

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Chair

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