

RYA Racing Rules: 2009 Rule Changes

Key changes that affect the racing game for competitors. Effective Jan 1st 2009

Old rule :17.2 Except on a beat to windward, while a boat is less than two of her hull lengths from a *leeward* boat or a boat *clear astern* steering a course to *leeward* of her, she shall not sail below her *proper course* unless she gybes. **Old Rule 17.2 is deleted**

This now means..

- A windward boat can bear away towards a leeward boat, as long as the windward boat continues to *keep clear*
- A boat clear ahead can bear away towards the course of a boat clear astern steering a course to leeward of her as long as she gives *room*

ROUNDING MARKS .

The **zone** at which you can call for **room** is now **3** hull lengths. (of the boat nearest to the mark)

Rule 18 Mark Rounding.

Has being re-written to make easier to understand and remove contradictions...

If it was permitted under the old rules it is still allowed

If it was not permitted under the old rule, it is still not allowed

Rule 20, (previously rule 19,) has new words but the same rights and obligations

No changes made to:

Rule 10, (Port and Starboard)

Rule 11, (Windward and Leeward)

Rule 12, (Clear Ahead, Clear Astern)

Rule 13, While Tacking

Rule 14, Avoiding Contact

Rule 15, Acquiring Right of Way

Rule 16, Changing Course

Full details (from which the above is taken) can be found in an excellent Power point presentation which can be downloaded from the RYA website, or direct from the following link: (be patient this link can be slow to load):

www.rya.org.uk/KnowledgeBase/racingrules/Pages/GuidetotheneWRacingrules20092012.aspx