



Paradise Radio Yacht Club (Inc.)

RACING RULES OF SAILING WORKSHOP 2021 – 2024

MODULE 3 - Part 2 section B – GENERAL LIMITATIONS

RRS 14 AVOIDING CONTACT AND 15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

1. In the last module we covered RRS 12 on the same tack, not overlapped, and RRS 13 While tacking. This completed the four Right of Way rules found in Part 2 Section A titled, Right of Way. These four rules determine which boat has ROW and which boat is required to keep clear.
2. **Revision of modules one and two:** Rules contained in Section A determine which boat has to keep clear and thereby identify which boat has Right of Way (ROW). This section contains the following four rules and only one of these rules can apply to a situation. These rules are:

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.

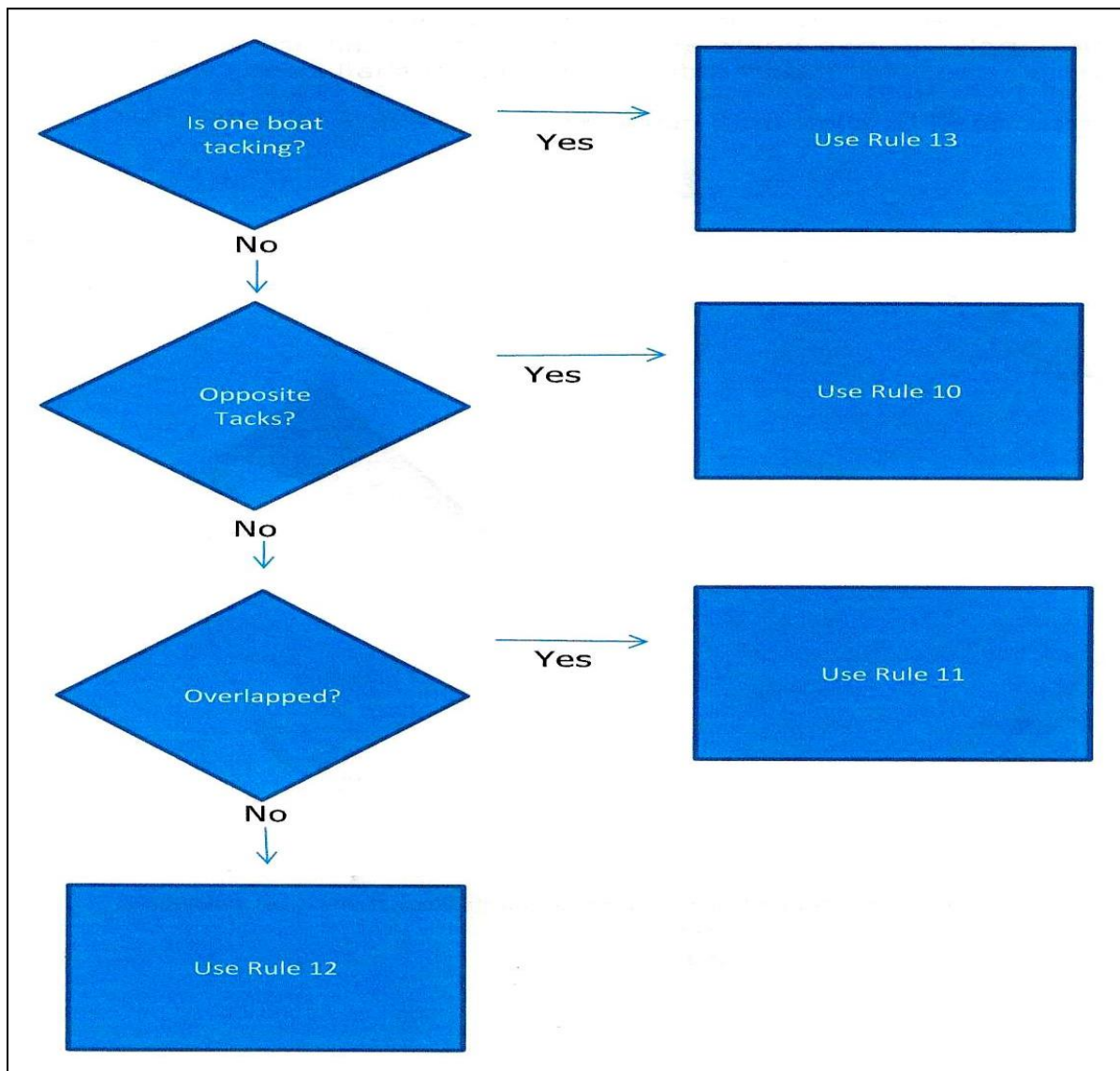
3. The fact that a boat required to keep clear is unable to do so because she is out of control does not entitle her to be exonerated for breaking a rule of Part 2. E2.3 takes this further and states:



E2.3 Boat Out of Radio Control

A competitor who loses radio control of his boat shall promptly hail '(The boat's sail number) out of control' and the boat shall retire.

4. Section A - Right of Way Rules enables us to quickly identify which boat has Right of Way and which boat is required to keep Clear in a given situation. The challenge is to determine which rule applies to a given situation. The following flow chart may help you determine which rule applies to a given situation:





5. The ROW rules are made a little more complicated as some of the Rules in section B - General Limitations, Section C – At marks and Obstructions, and Section D - Other Rules, sometimes limit the actions of the right-of-way boat. In this module, we will cover the first two of these “Limitation Rules,” rule 14 – Avoiding Contact, and 15 Acquiring Right of Way.

Part 2 section B – GENERAL LIMITATIONS

RRS 14 AVOIDING CONTACT AND 15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY.

6. **OBJECTIVE:** At the end of this module, you will be able to:
- Identify a boat’s obligation to avoid contact under RRS 14.
 - Identify when a Right of Way boat needs to act under RRS 14.
 - Understand when a Right of Way boat or one sailing within the mark-room to which she is entitled, is exonerated for breaking RRS 14 under RRS 43. and
 - Understand a Right of Way boat obligation under RRS 15 Acquiring Right of Way.

SECTION B

GENERAL LIMITATIONS

14. AVOIDING CONTACT

A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible. However, a right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled, need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not *keeping clear* or *giving room* or *mark-room*.

7. Rule 14 is often miss understood. We often hear a keep clear boat claim that the ROW boat should have acted to avoid a collision as if the keep clear boat has a right to force a ROW boat to take avoiding action. The rule is designed to avoid collisions, however, nothing in rule 14 takes the responsibility off or exonerates the keep clear boat to avoid contact. If a keep clear boat finds it impossible to avoid contact with the ROW boat she has got into that situation through her own actions and that she has or will have broken a rule, and in the majority of cases will be disqualified even if the ROW boat is also disqualified under rule 14 if there is damage.

8. A ROW boat need not act to avoid a collision until it is clear that the other boat is not keeping clear, and shall be exonerated under rule 43.1 (c) if the contact does not cause damage or injury. She may also be exonerated if she has made a “reasonable” attempt in the prevailing conditions, to avoid the contact. Nothing in the rules requires a boat to do the impossible.



RRS 43. Exoneration

- 43.1 (c) A right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the room or mark-room to which she is entitled is exonerated for breaking rule 14 if the contact does not cause 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.

9. RRS 15 embodies the principle that when ROW shifts from one boat to another, the boat that acquires ROW must give the other boat space and time to respond and thus a fair opportunity to keep clear.

10. Rule 15 is contained in Section B, titled, General Limitations. It limits the ROW boat's ability to sail as she pleases. It states "she shall initially give" which suggests it is time sensitive. It is addressed to the ROW boat, and this rule can only be broken by the ROW boat. The rule only applies for a short time. If the give-way boat delays taking action to keep clear, she risks losing the protection of the rule. The ROW boat's actions under Rule 15 are not a continuing one. The keep clear boat must act promptly, and in a seaman-like manner to keep clear.

[Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024: Rule 14 and Rule 15](https://sailzing.com/racing-rules-of-sailing-2021-2024)

<https://sailzing.com/racing-rules-of-sailing-2021-2024>

9. Further reading on this subject can be found in John's RC Sailing Rules and Tactics, Chapter 1: The Definitions by John Ball at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/johnsrcsailingrulesandtactics/>

12. In our next module we will cover the remaining 2 rules in Section B "General Limitations." These are RRS 16 Changing Course and rule 17 On The Same Tack; Proper Course.

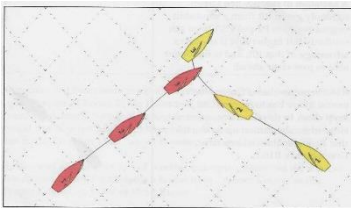
TEST OF OBJECTIVES RRS

14 AVOIDING CONTACT and 15 ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY

1. When does a ROW boat act to avoid contact under rule 14?
 - A. Within four boat lengths of a mark.
 - B. When it is clear the other boat is not keeping clear.
 - C. When hailed by the keep clear boat.
 - D. When boats are on the same tack.

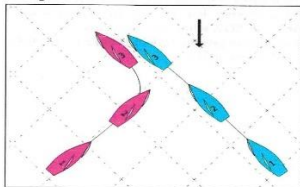
2. When is a ROW boat exonerated for breaking rule 14 under RRS 43?
 - A. When they are on a beat to windward.
 - B. When they are more than 90 degrees from the wind.
 - C. When the contact does not cause damage.
 - D. When rule 18 applies.

3. In the following photo, is red bound by RRS 15 at position 3?

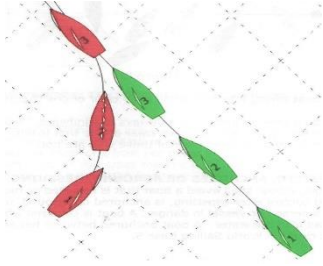


- A. YES. Red has gained ROW and must give yellow room to keep clear.
 - B. No. Red acquires ROW because of the other boats' actions.
 - C. YES. Red has gained ROW from clear astern.
 - D. YES. Red is leeward boat.

4. In the following photo, is pink bound by RRS 15 at position 3?



5. In the following photo, is red bound by RRS 15 at position 3?



- A. Yes. Red has acquired ROW and must initially give green room to keep clear.
- B. No. Green is clear astern.
- C. No. Red was on port tack.
- D. No green was on starboard tack.

ANSWERS:

- 1. B.
- 2. C.
- 3. B.
- 4. A.
- 5. A.