

Basic RC Sailing Rules

Know the basics before
heading to the starting line.

By John Bert



Introduction

This quiz is designed to help you understand some of the basic Rules of Sailing. There are many rules that I have not covered but these are the ones that are most important and necessary to know before joining in a day of racing.

Most of our experienced sailors will ace this test. As a new sailor, if you are finding you are lacking knowledge there are many resources available to help. You can select one of these or just Google “Sailing Rules Video” for your own selection.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQ3gpKIXWu8>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUx9Evw_sg8 e

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=sailing+rules+video&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:2975e018,vid:vuQgxGQ1oDA,st:0>

20 Questions

Be sure to carefully read the question and all of the answers. Many questions have more than one correct answer.

Keep track of your answers. An answer key will follow and then short explanations for each question.

Good luck!

When Boats Meet

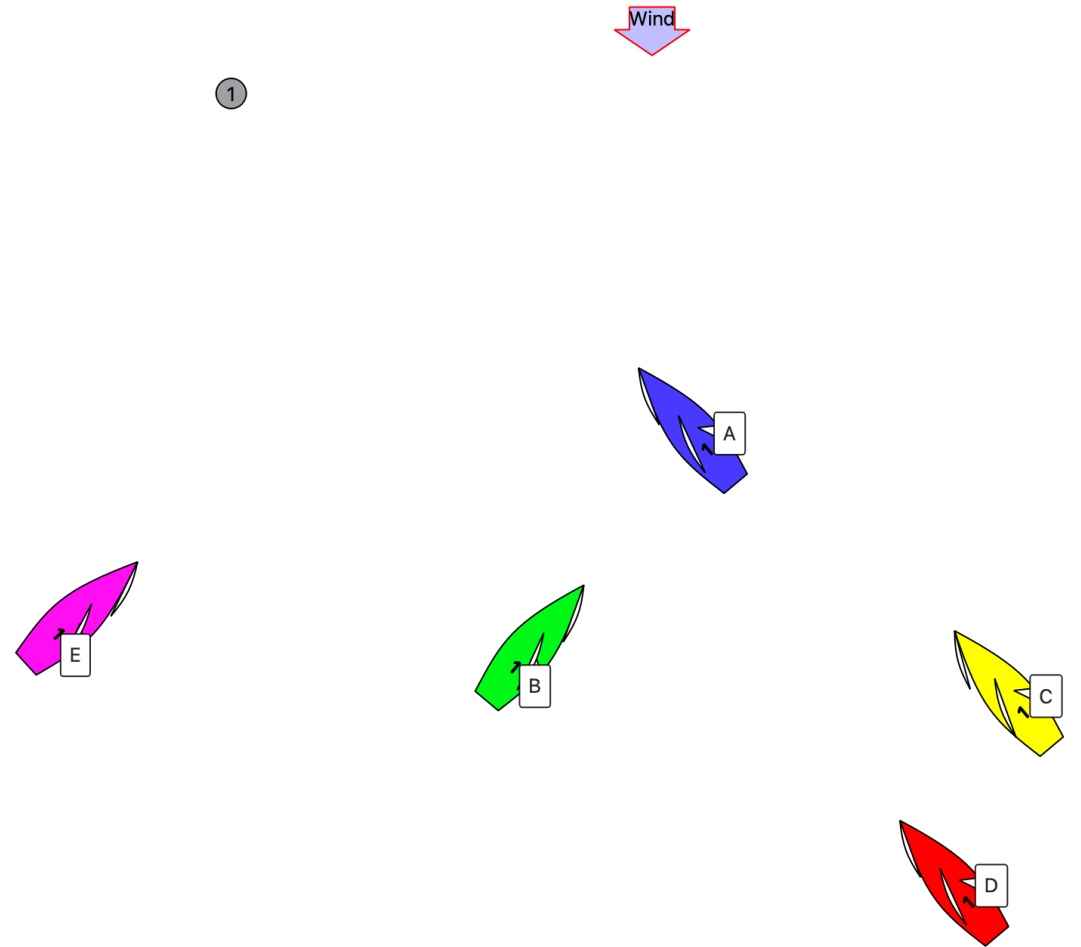
Rule 10 ON OPPOSITE TACKS

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

Note: On the windward leg a starboard tack can be determined by the wind crossing the starboard side of the boat first.

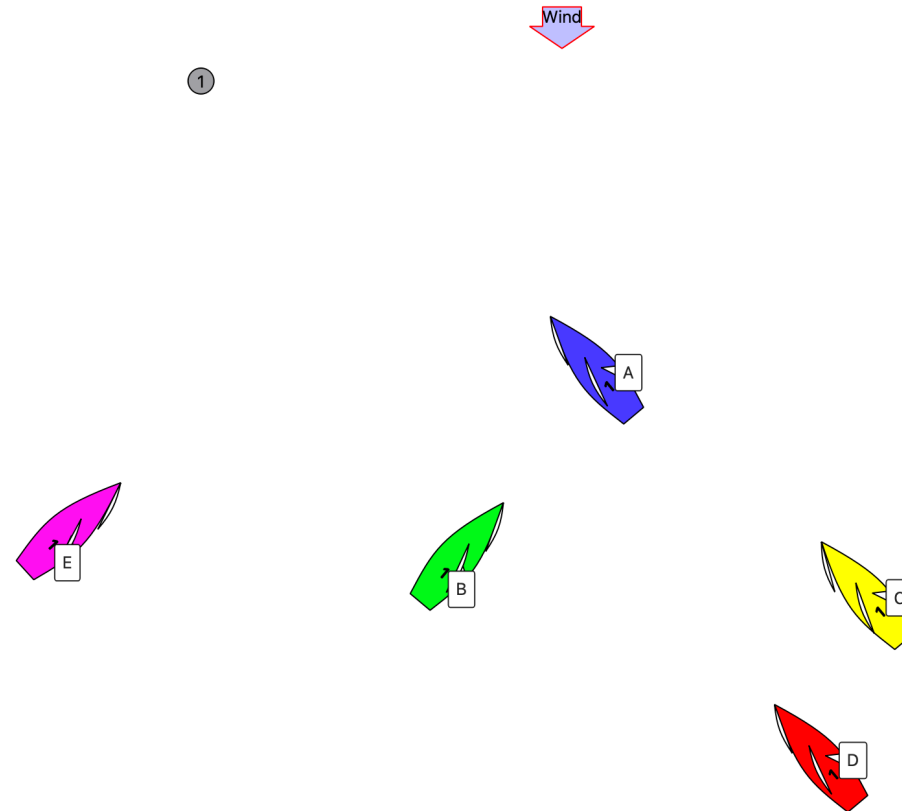
Question 1. Which boats are on Starboard Tack?

- A) A and C only
- B) E and B
- C) A, C and D
- D) A and D because C will have to tack



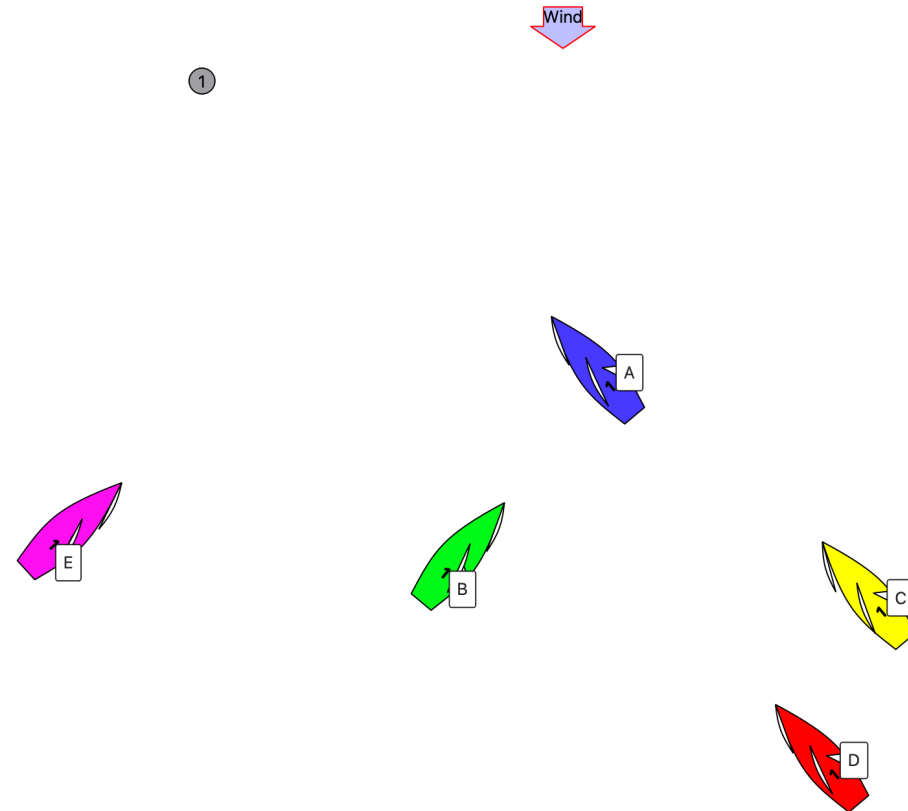
Question 2. To avoid the starboard tack boats the port tack boats must

- A) Tack on to starboard or duck behind
- B) No action is necessary if you are in the zone
- C) Continue and hope a foul will not be committed
- D) The first to yell "Starboard" has the Right of Way



Question 3. Yellow boat C feels he has Right of Way over Green boat B. You should know that

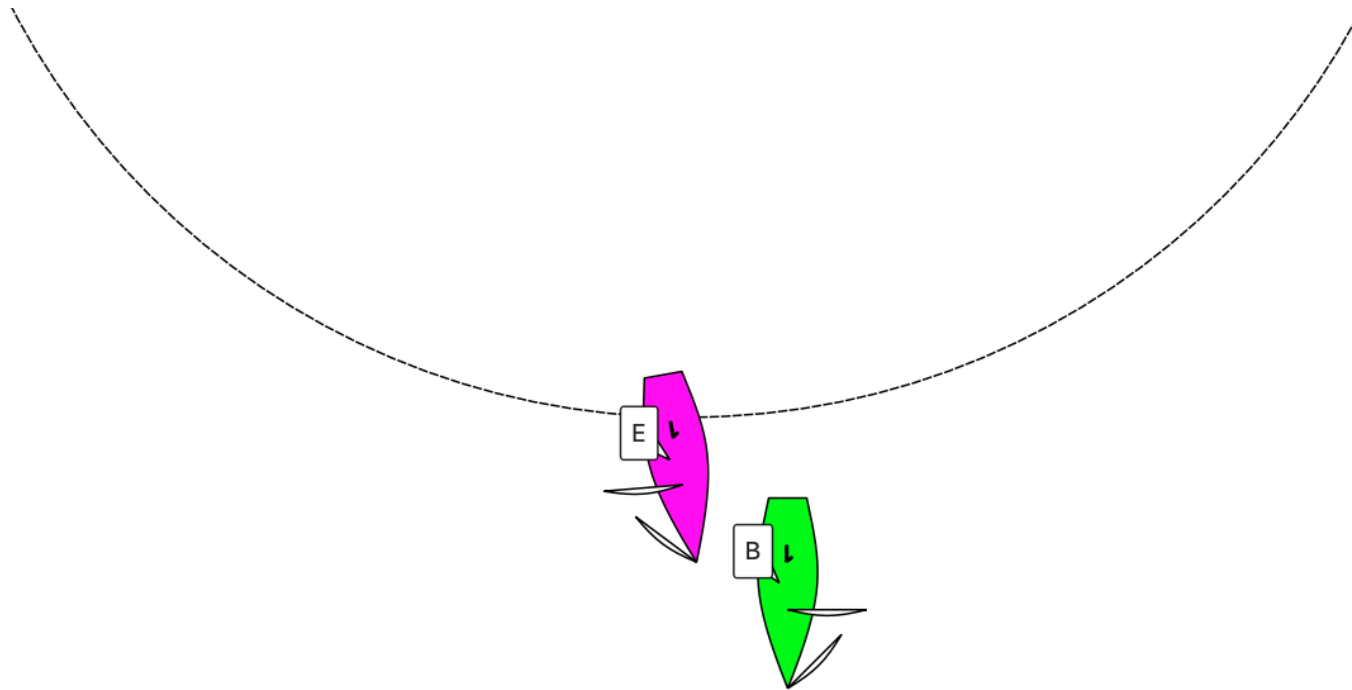
- A) Yelling "Starboard" will initiate the Right of Way rule
- B) Starboard tack Right of Way is in effect, hailing "Starboard" is a heads up to the Green boat
- C) Yellow should tack because green is in the zone
- D) Yellow should tack because green is on starboard tack



The tack of a boat sailing downwind can be determined by the side of the boat the mainsail boom is on. If the mainsail boom is on the port side, it is an indication that the wind is crossing the starboard side.

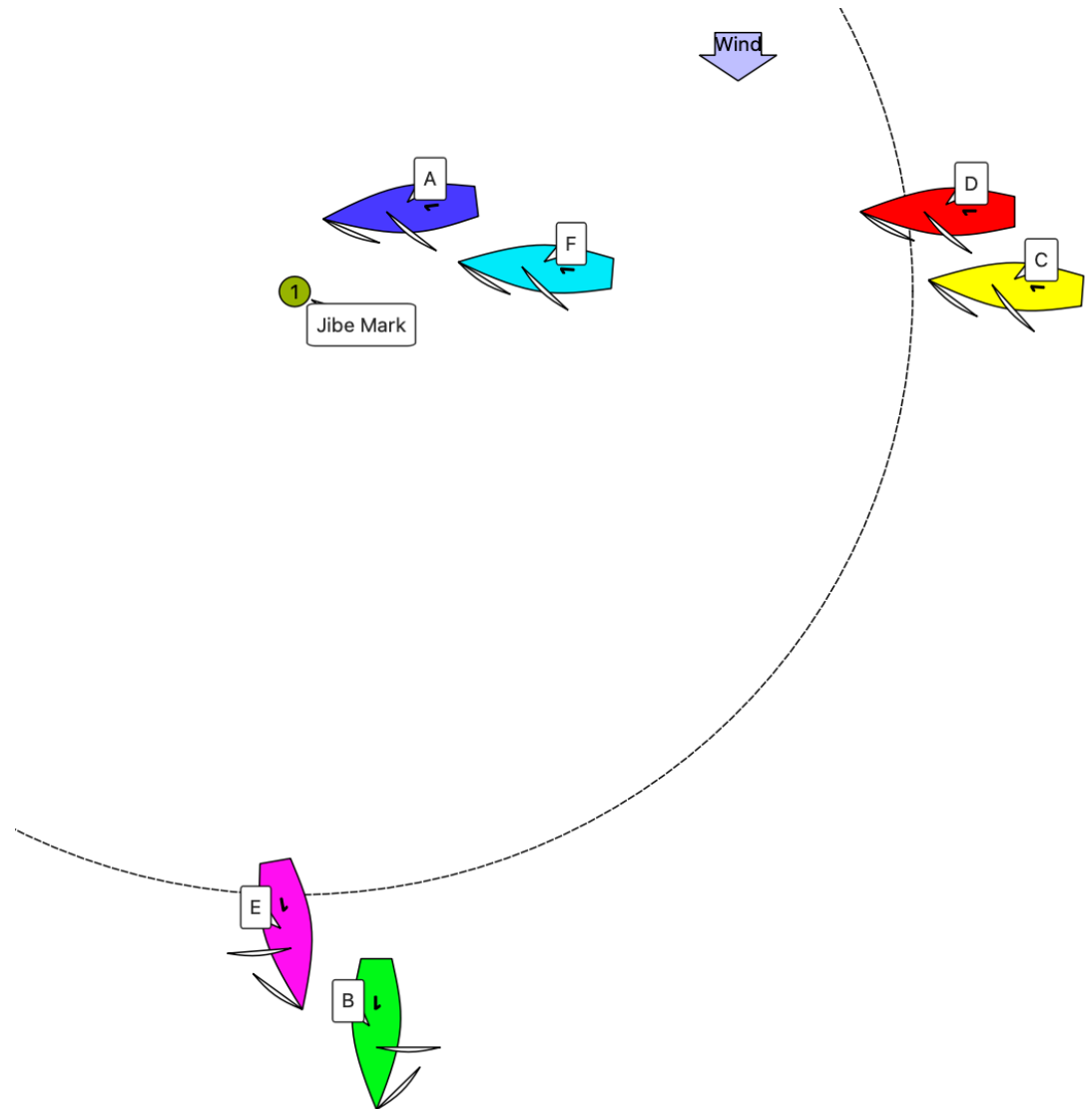
Question 4. The green boat B is on Starboard tack.

- A) True
- B) False



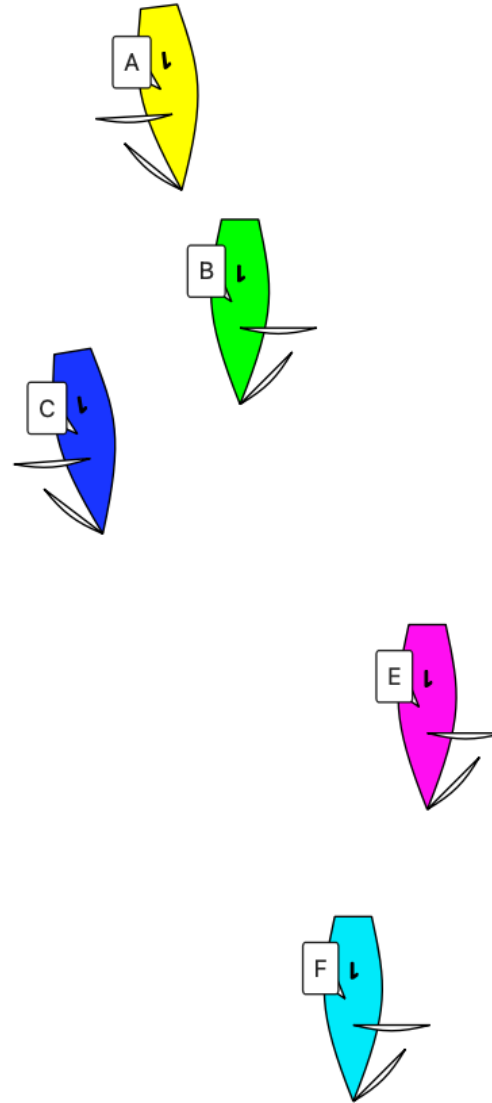
Question 5. How many boats are on starboard tack?

- A) 4
- B) 2
- C) All boats are on starboard tack.
- D) 5



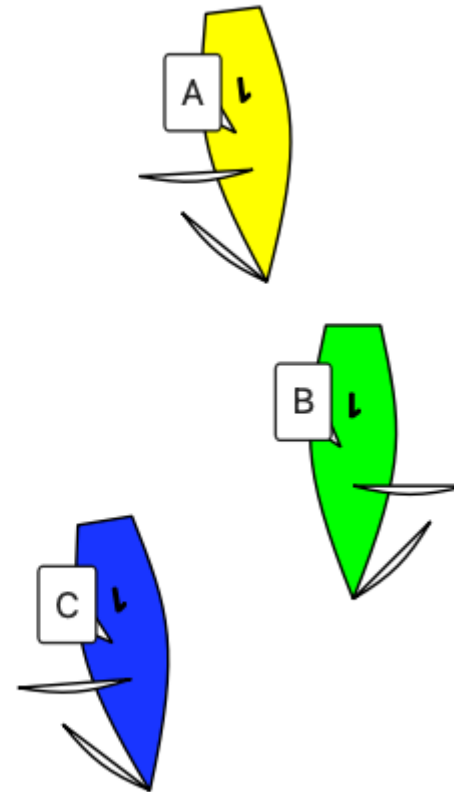
Question 6. How many boats are on port tack?

- A) 2
- B) 3
- C) Port tack cannot be determined
- D) All boats are on starboard



Question 7. On the downwind leg the green boat B has indicated he is on starboard. You should know that

- A) Boats A and C need to keep clear
- B) Only boat C needs to keep clear because they are overlapped
- C) Boat B is not on Starboard tack
- D) There are no correct answers



When Boats Meet

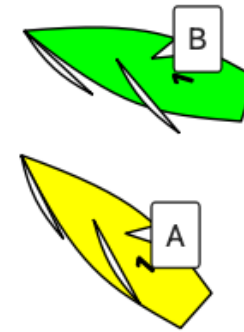
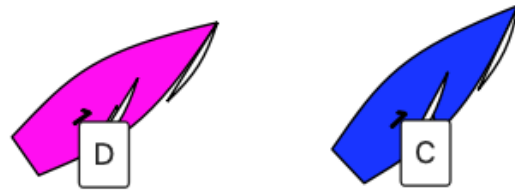
Rule 11 ON THE SAME TACK, OVERLAPPED

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

In this diagram B is the windward boat and must stay clear of A. (Windward-Leeward)

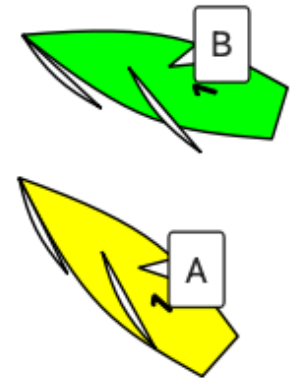
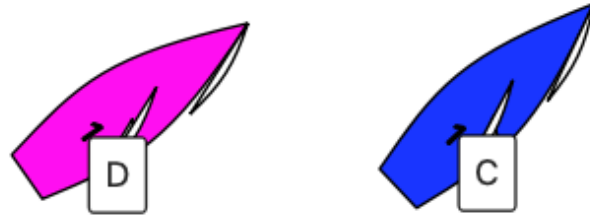
Question 8. Boats C and D are on the same tack. Pick the True statement

- A) Boat D is the leeward boat and shall keep clear
- B) Boat C is the leeward boat and shall keep clear
- C) Boat C is the windward boat and shall keep clear
- D) Boat D is the windward boat and shall keep clear



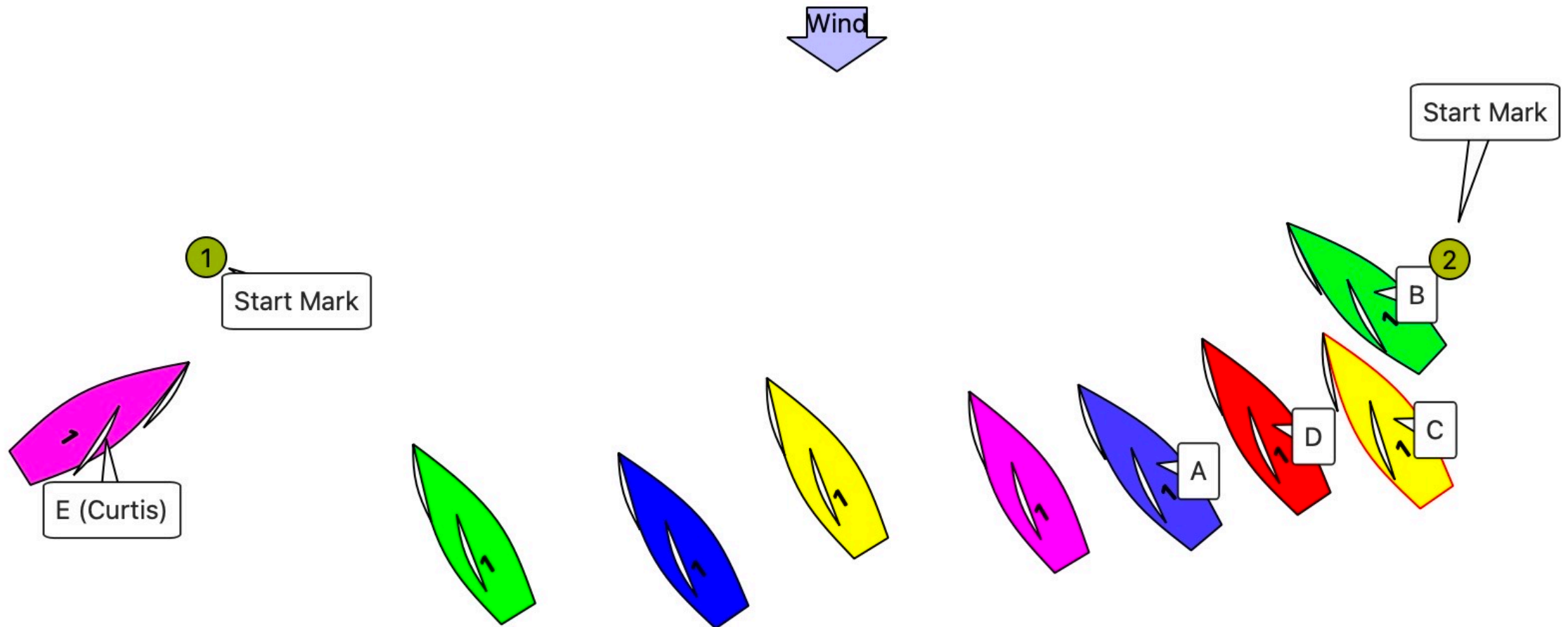
Question 9. Boat A is hailing to B "Keep Up". If boats A and B were to meet

- A) Boat A would have committed a foul
- B) Boat B would have committed a foul
- C) There is no foul because B is on starboard tack
- D) I don't know (Sorry no points!)



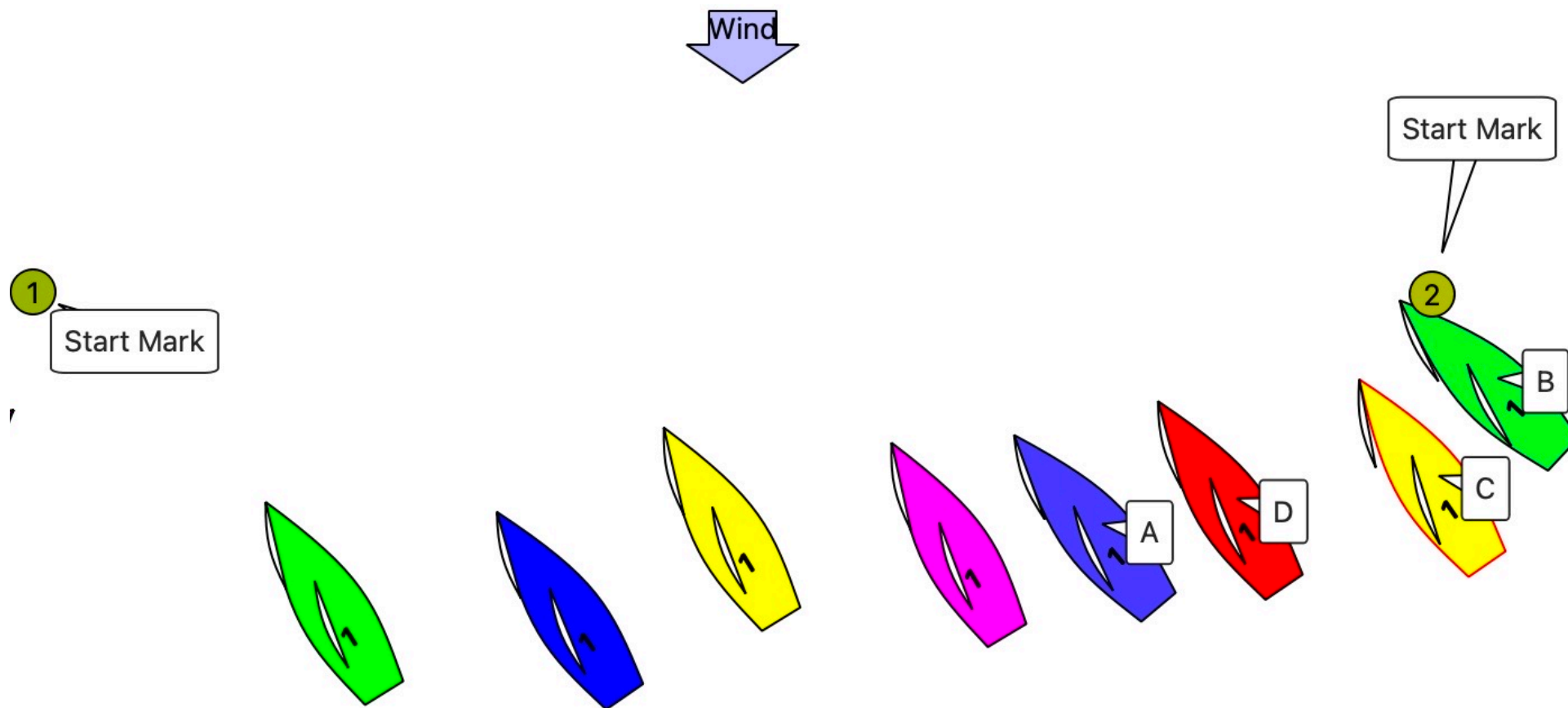
Question 10. In this diagram there are 3 seconds until the start. Regarding boat B, you should know that

- A) Boat B must be given room to fall off
- B) Boat B needs to hail "Barging" to not get forced over early
- C) Sailing Rules are not in effect until after the start
- D) Boat C can force Boat B across the start line early (Windward-Leeward)



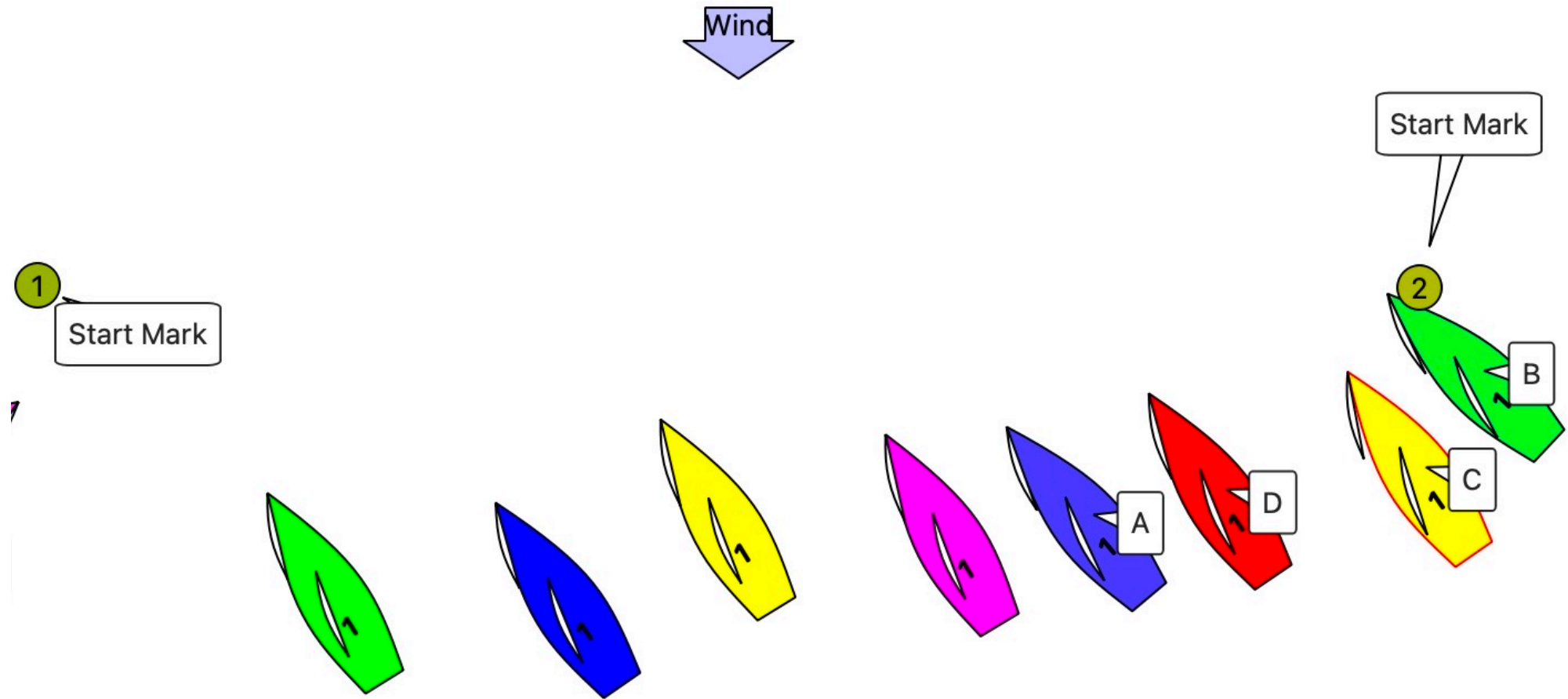
Question 11. Boat B has been forced up and hit the starting mark. Choose the correct statement

- A) Boat B should have been given room to miss the mark
- B) Boat B needs to hail "Barging" to get room
- C) Boat C can force Boat B into the start mark (Windward-Leeward)
- D) Boat B should protest C if forced into the start mark



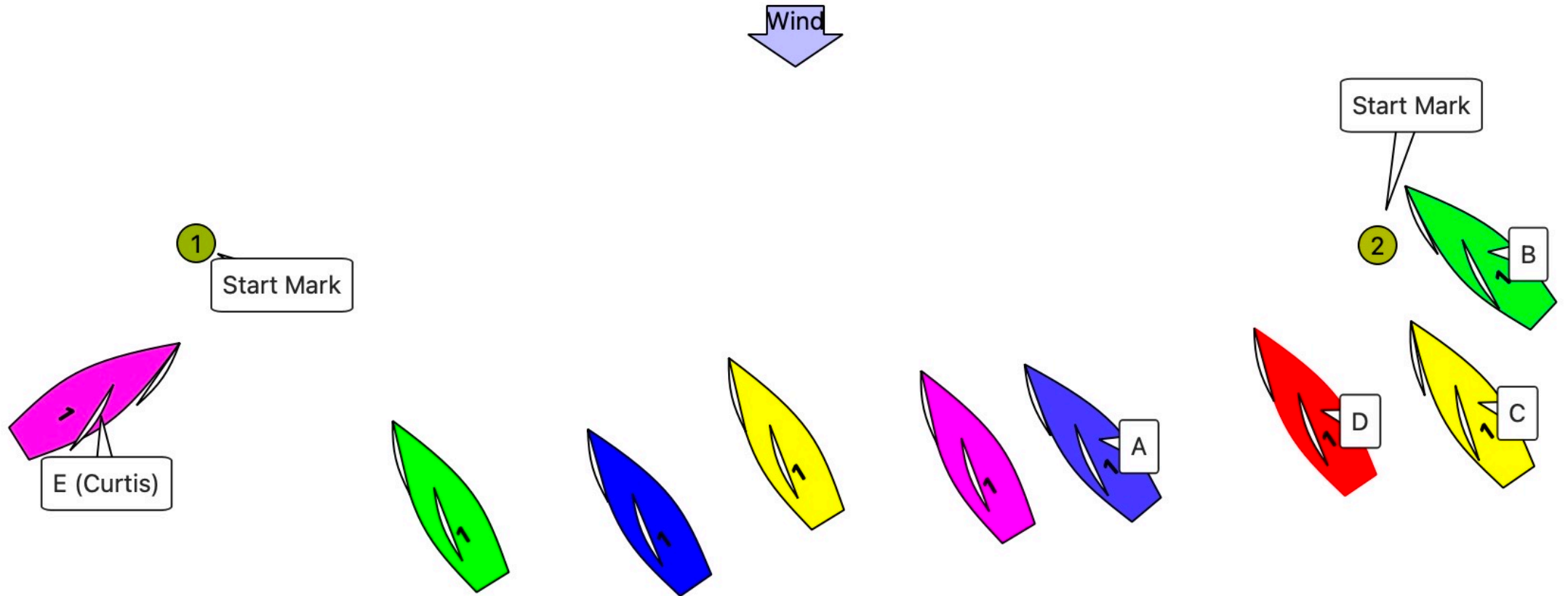
Question 12. Because Boat B hit the Starting mark he must.

- A) Stay clear of other boats and do a Penalty Turn
- B) Return and restart if he was over early
- C) File a protest with the Race Committee
- D) Both A and B are correct



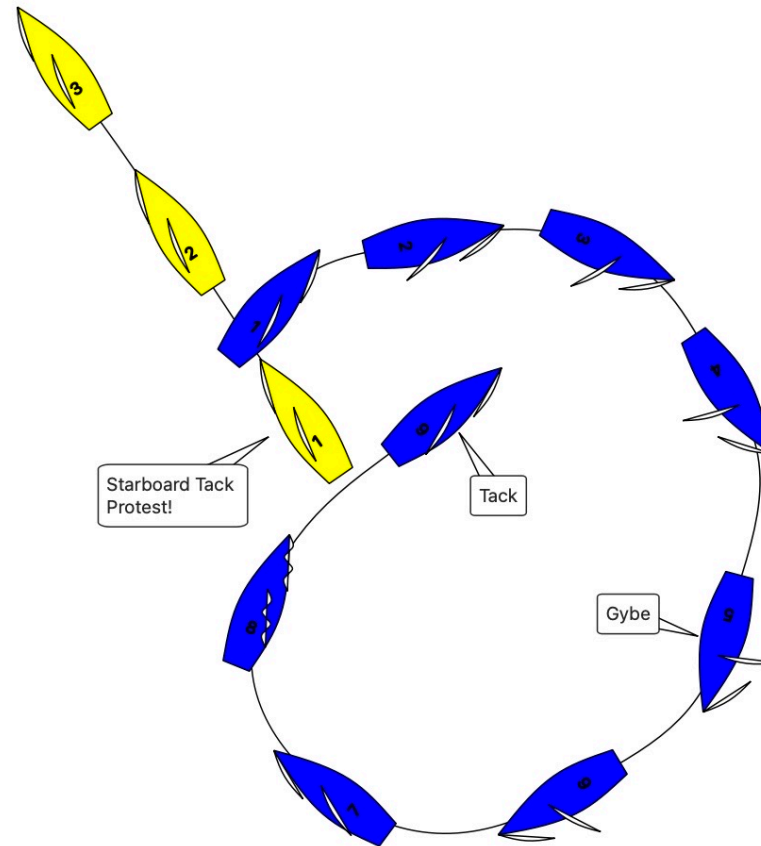
Question 13. Boat B has been forced up and passes on the wrong side of the starting mark.

- A) Boat B must be given room to start
- B) Boat B needs to hail "Room at the Start" to get room
- C) Boat C can force Boat B on the wrong side of the starting mark (Windward-Leeward)
- D) Because Boat B was forced on the wrong side of the starting mark, he does not have to return to start on the proper side



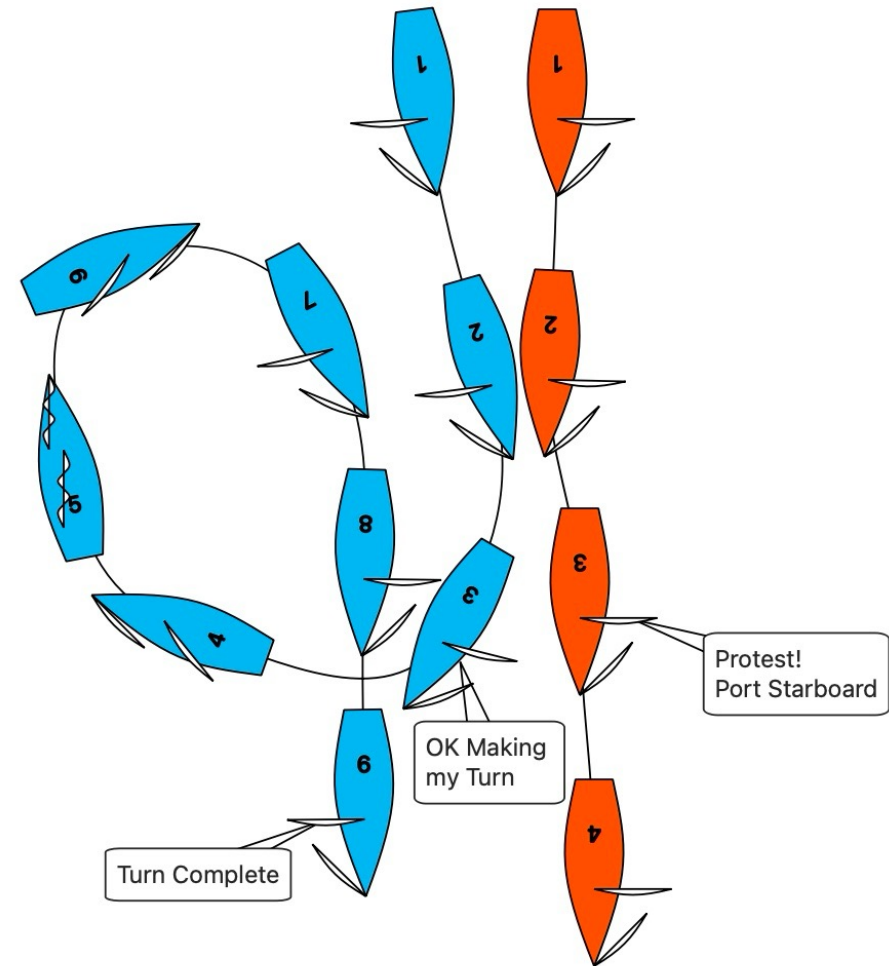
Rule 44 One-Turn Penalty

After getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible, a boat takes a One-Turn Penalty by promptly making the turn in the same direction, each turn including **one tack and one gybe**. A boat making a Penalty turn for fouling another boat must be behind that boat at the completion of the turn or continue turning. When a boat takes the penalty at or near the finishing line, her hull shall be completely on the course side of the line before she *finishes*.



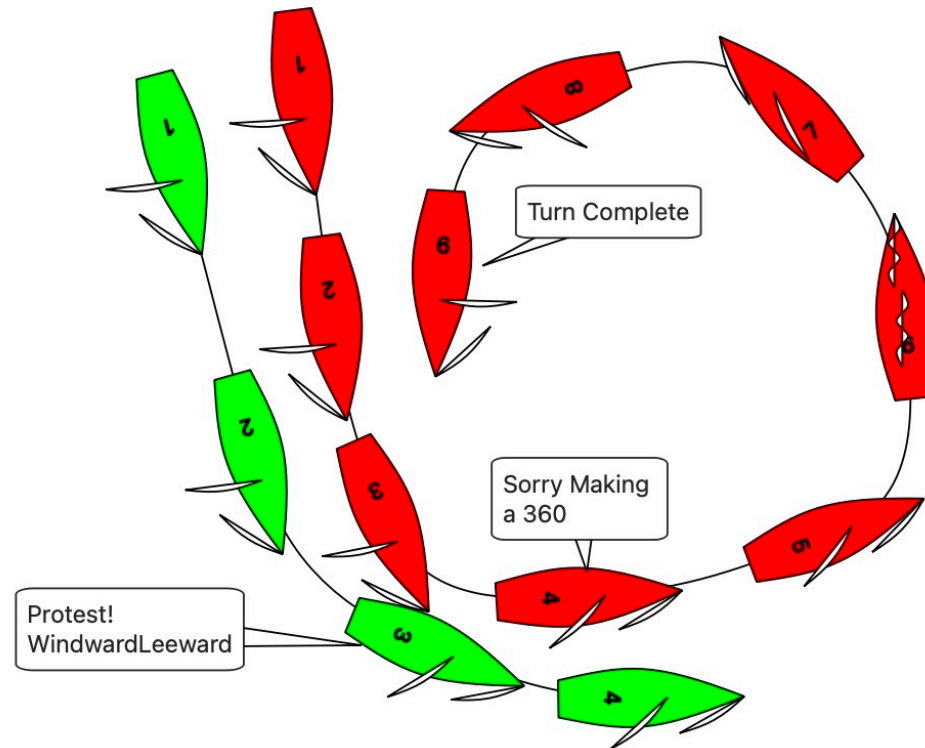
Question 14. The Orange and Blue boats made contact at position 2 on the downwind leg. You should know that

- A) Orange was on Starboard tack, Blue was on Port
- B) Blue completed his Penalty Turn with a tack and a gybe
- C) A and B are both correct
- D) Orange was not on Starboard tack



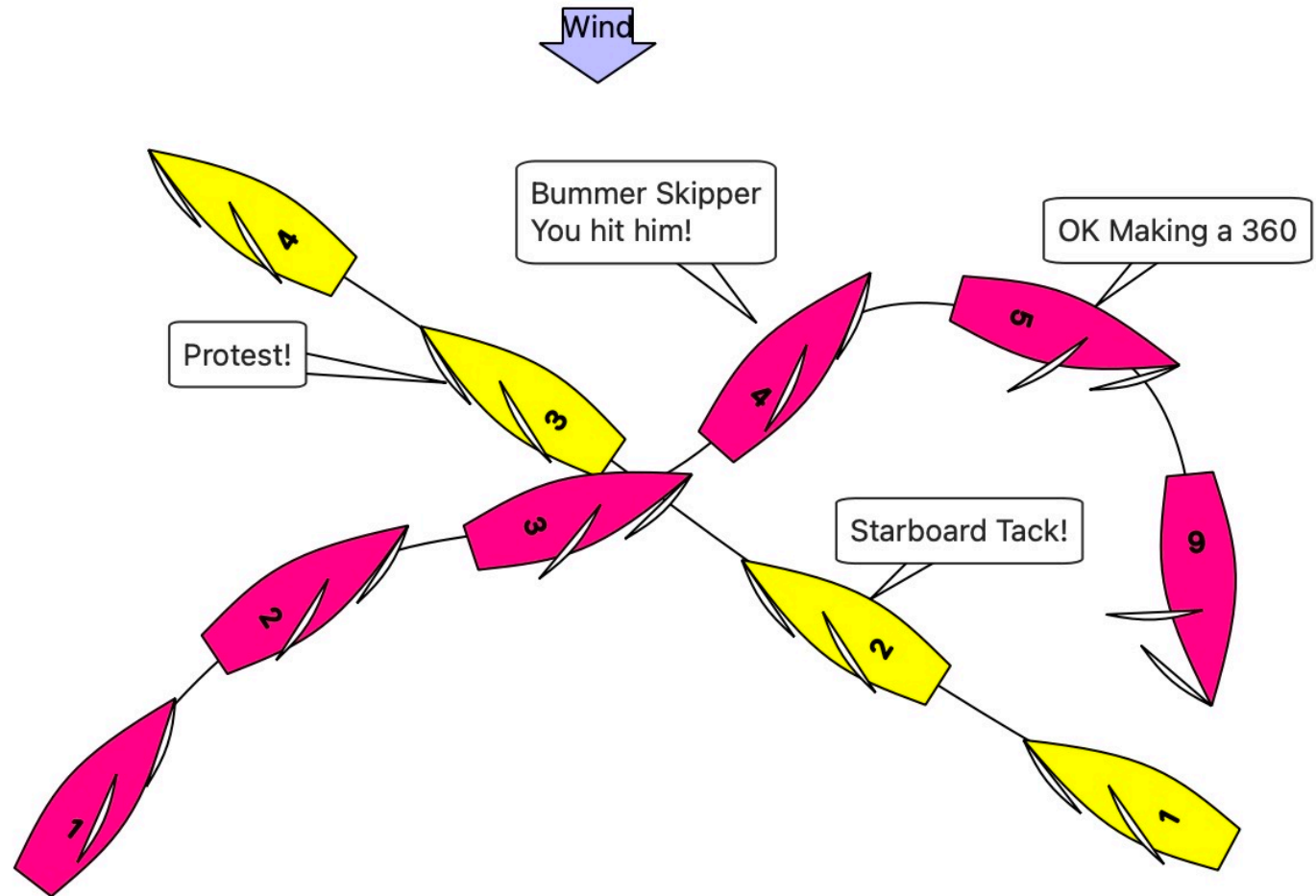
Question 15. The Red and Green boats made contact at position #3. What is a true statement regarding Red?

- A) The Penalty Turn was successfully completed
- B) After the turn Red was not behind Green
- C) Red should not have been Protested
- D) Red did not complete the Penalty Turn



Question 16. Red and Yellow are approaching on opposite tacks. After Yellow hails "Starboard Tack", Red tries to duck and makes contact at position #3.

- A) Red is on Starboard tack
- B) Yellow is on Port tack
- C) Both A and B are correct
- D) Red must complete his Penalty Turn with a tack and a gybe

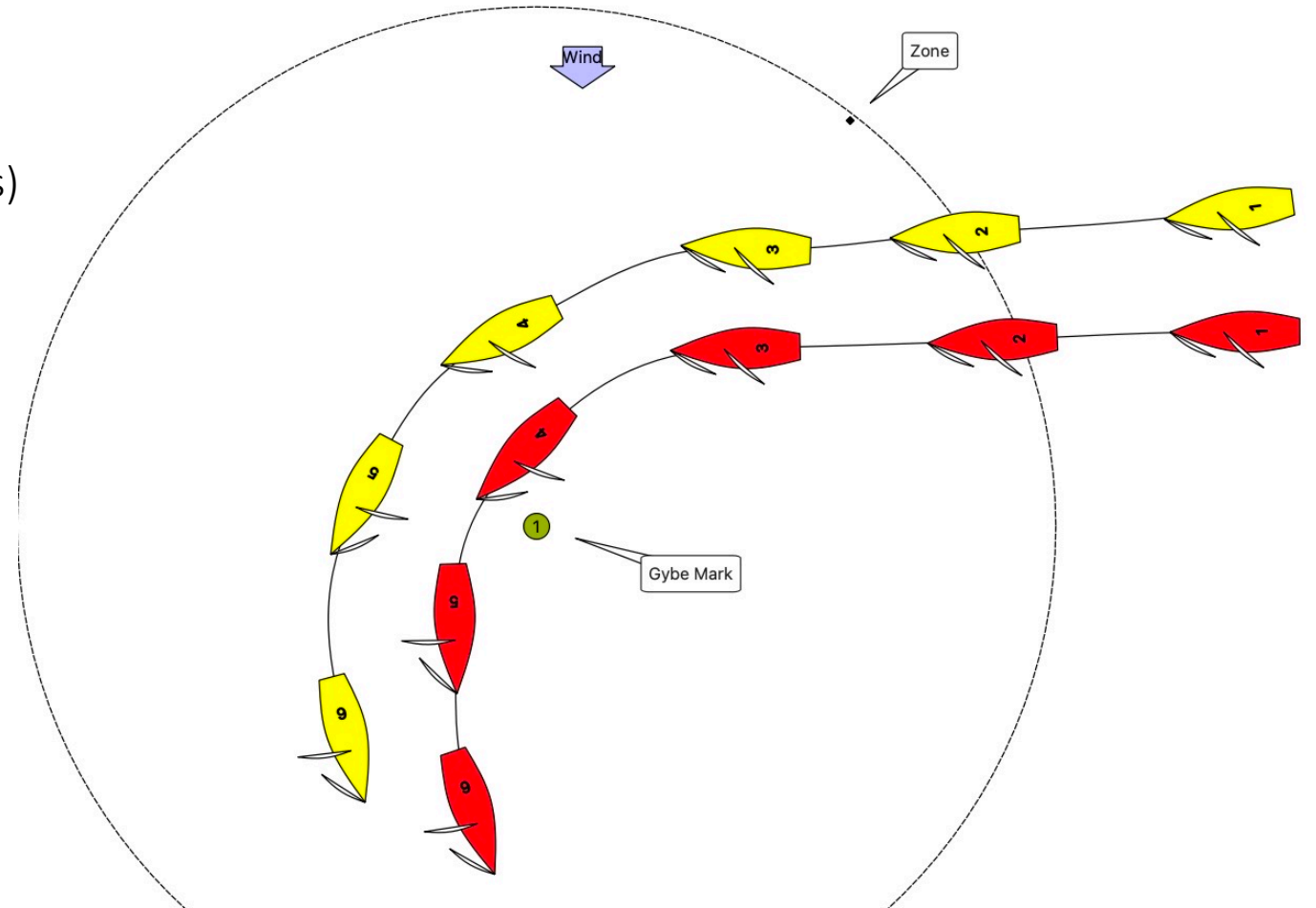


Rule 18 Giving Mark-Room

When two or more boats are Overlapped while crossing within 4 boat lengths of the mark (The Zone) the boat/s outside shall give the inside boat/s room to round the mark.

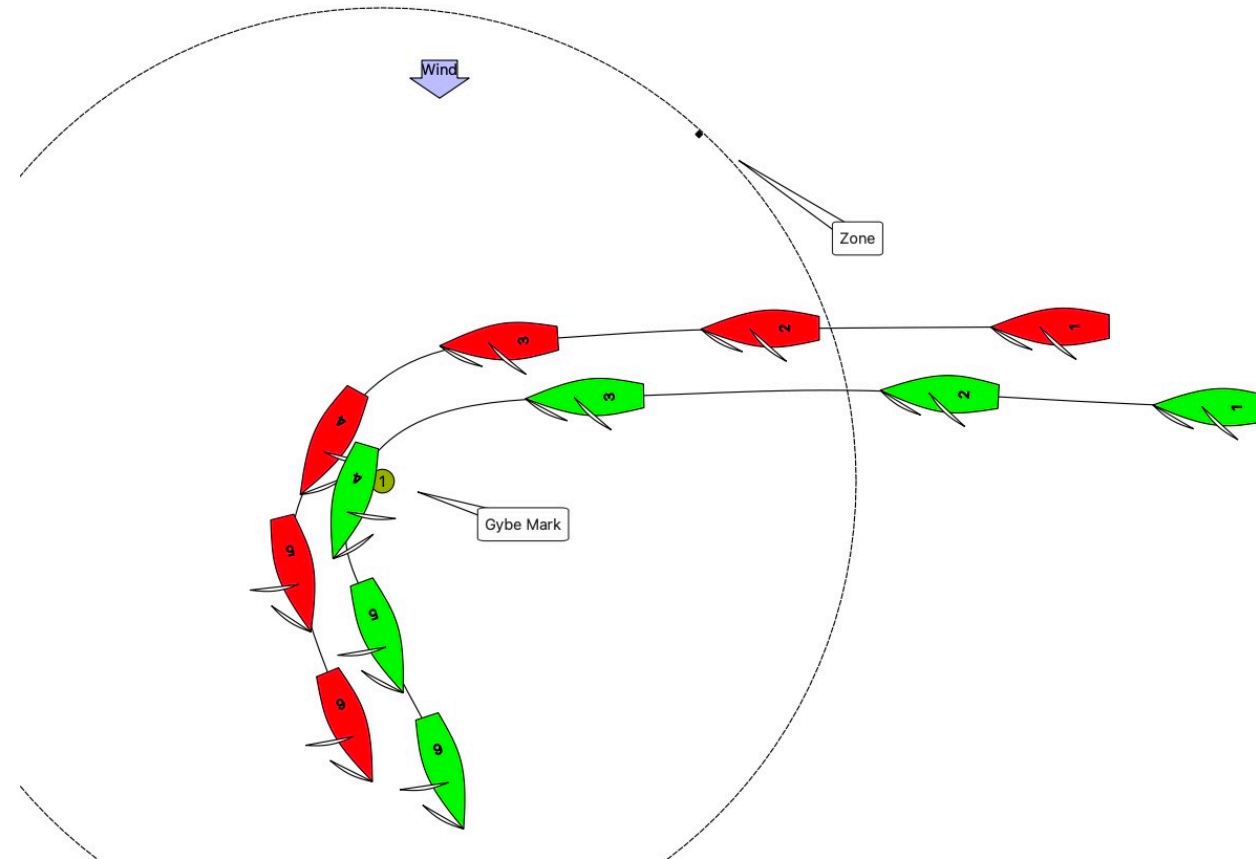
Question 17. True or False – Red entered the Zone Overlapped with Yellow. This determined that Red is entitled to room to round the mark.

- A) True
- B) False
- C) Not enough information
- D) Who cares? (Sorry no points)



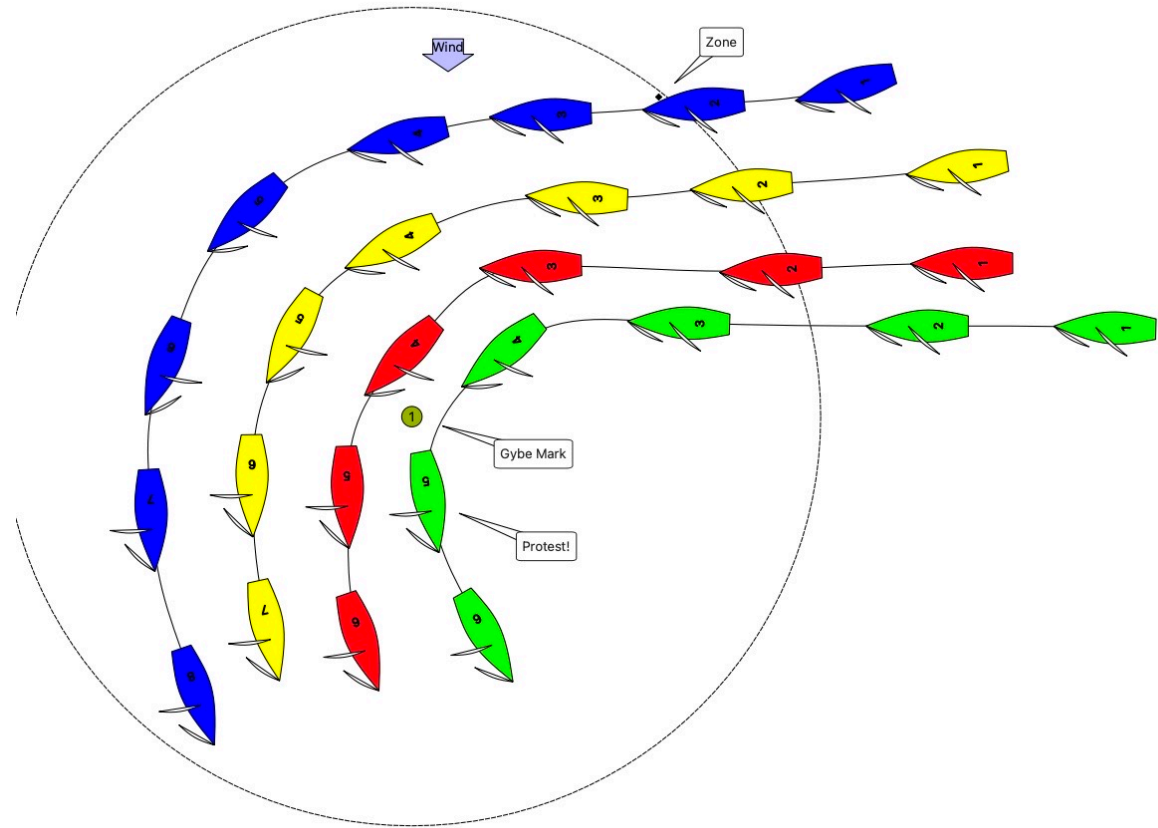
Question 18. Look at positions 2 where the Red and Green boats enter the zone.

- A) The Red boat is clear ahead of the Green boat and does not have to give Green room.
- B) Green is entitled to mark room after getting an overlap inside the zone.
- C) The Red boat fouled the Green boat by forcing it into the mark.
- D) Both B and C are correct.



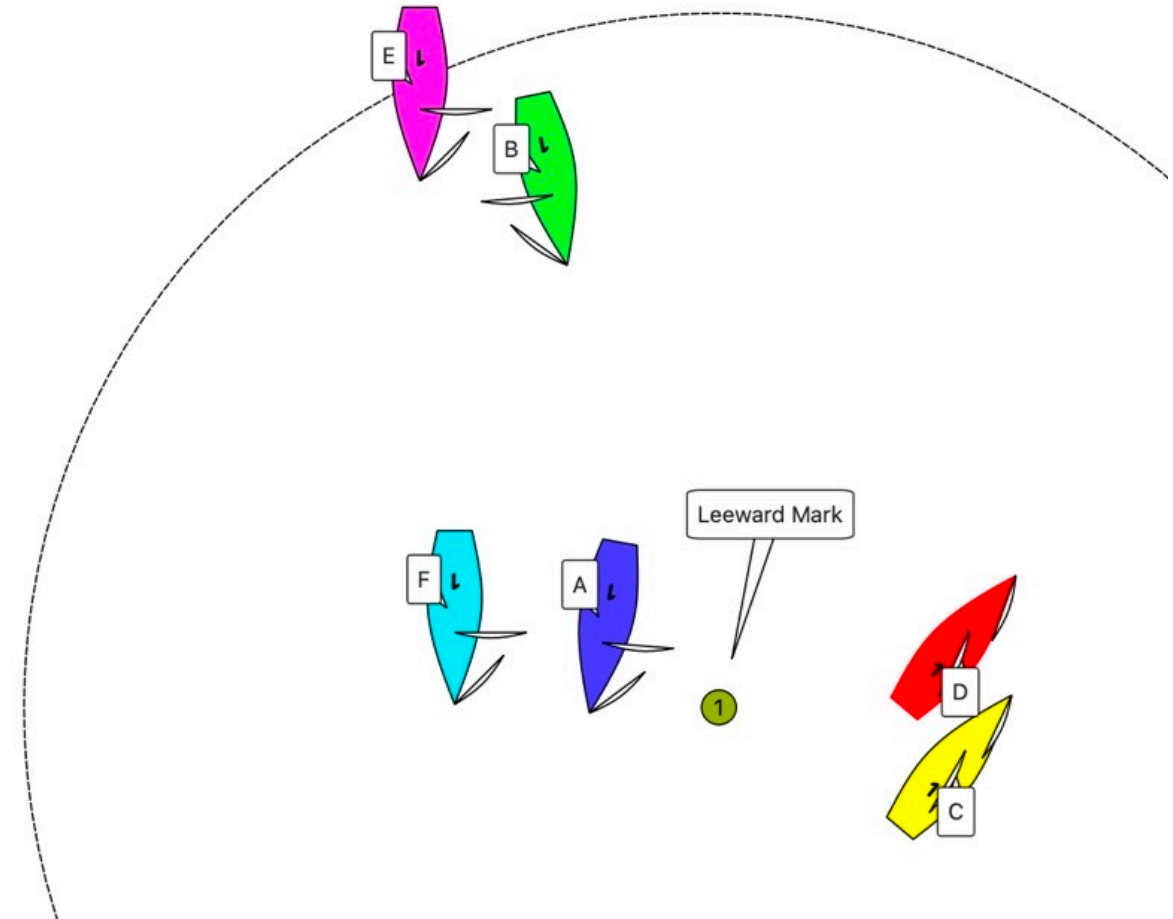
Question 19. Green is Protesting Red because room was not given at the mark. You should know that

- A) Green is not entitled to room at the mark
- B) Green will have to go back to round the mark
- C) Green did not enter the zone with an overlap with Blue, Yellow or Red
- D) A, B and C are all correct



Question 20. Boats B and E have entered the Zone with B overlapped on the inside. With E being on Starboard tack do they have to give B room at the mark?

- A) On the downwind leg Starboard cannot claim rights in the zone and therefore must give Port tack B room at the mark
- B) B will only get room if he gybes to Starboard tack
- C) B is not entitled to room
- D) Starboard is always king!



Answers

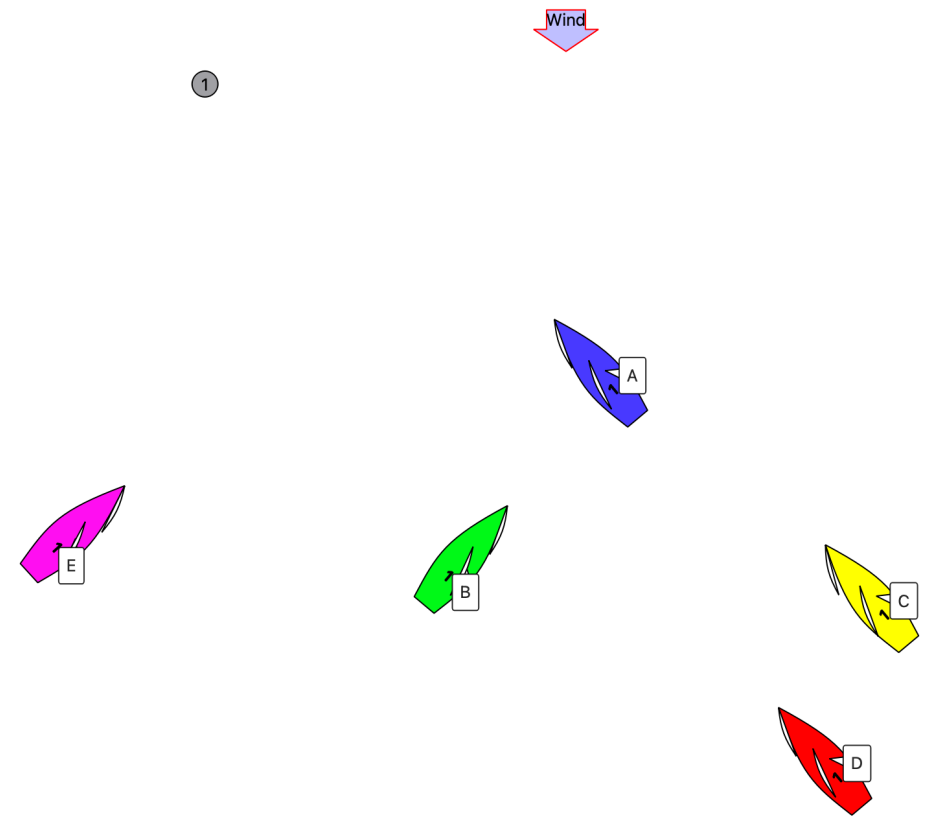
- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 11. C |
| 2. A | 12. D |
| 3. B | 13. C |
| 4. A | 14. C |
| 5. D | 15. D |
| 6. A | 16. D |
| 7. A | 17. A |
| 8. D | 18. A |
| 9. B | 19. D |
| 10. D | 20. A |

Continue for explanations.

Question 1. Which boats are on Starboard Tack?

- A) A and C only
- B) E and B
- C) A, C and D
- D) A and D because C will have to tack.

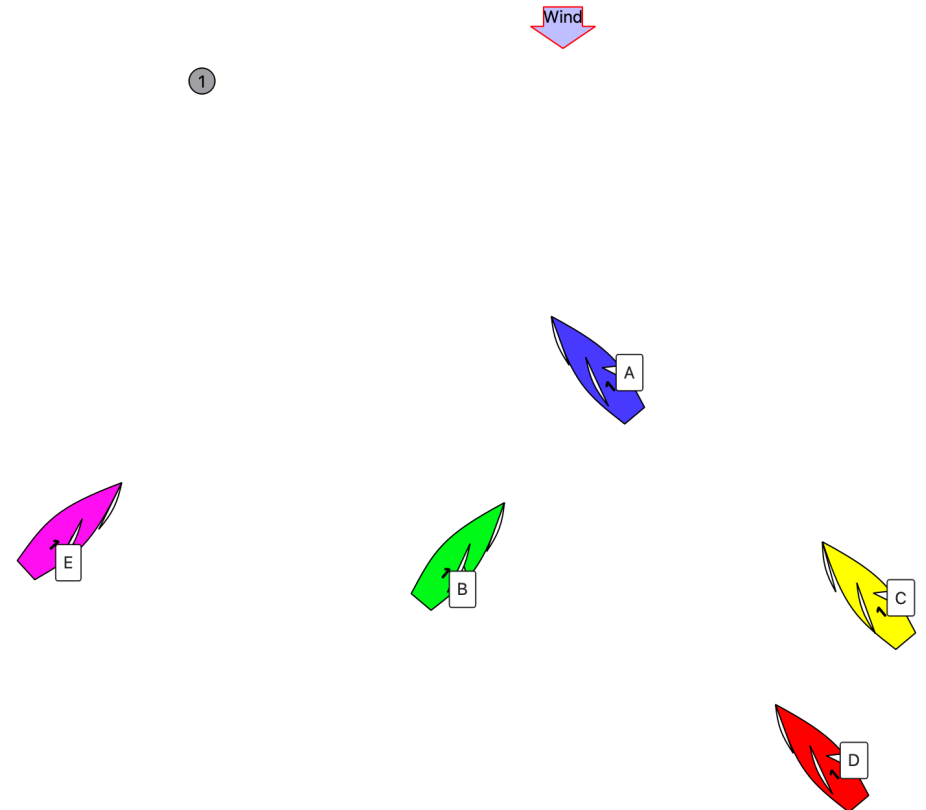
A, C, and D all have the wind crossing the starboard side first



Question 2. To avoid the starboard tack boats the port tack boats must

- A) Tack on to starboard or duck behind
- B) No action is necessary if you are in the zone
- C) Continue and hope a foul will not be committed
- D) The first to yell "Starboard" has the Right of Way

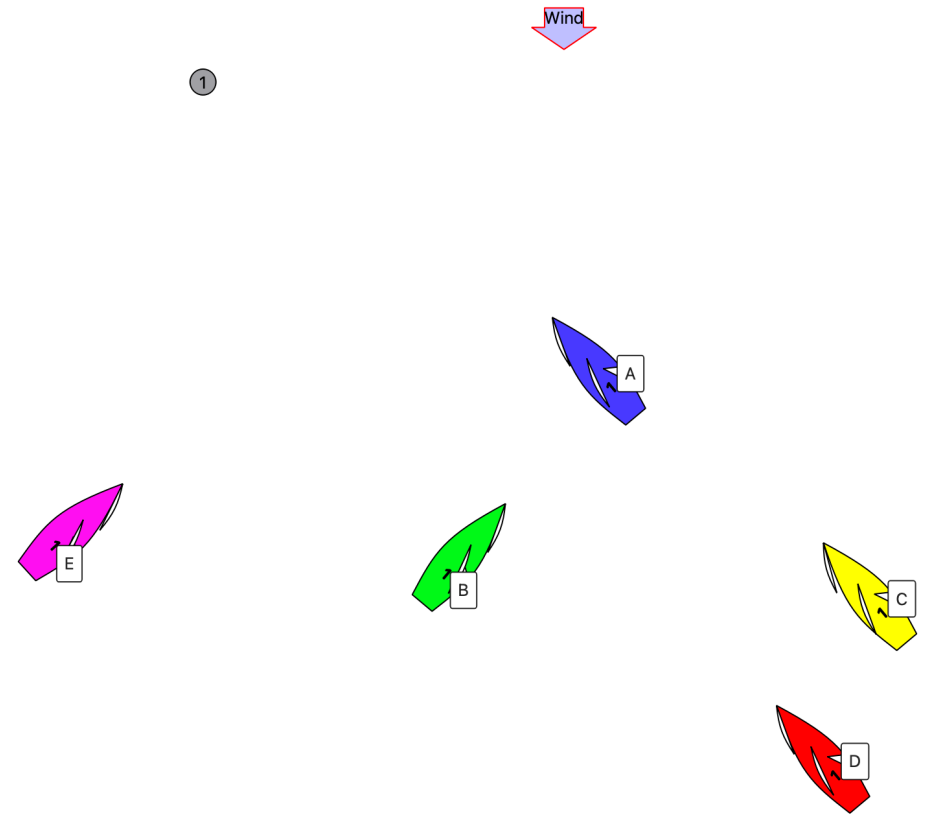
E and B are on Port tack. To avoid all the Starboard tack boats they will either have to tack or fall off (duck behind)



Question 3. Yellow boat C feels he has Right of Way over green boat B. You should know that

- A) Yelling "Starboard" will initiate the Right of Way rule
- B) Starboard tack Right of Way is in effect, hailing "Starboard" is a heads up to the green boat
- C) Yellow should tack because green is in the zone
- D) Yellow should tack because green is on starboard tack

C is on Starboard, giving B a heads up that they will need to stay clear is always a good idea.

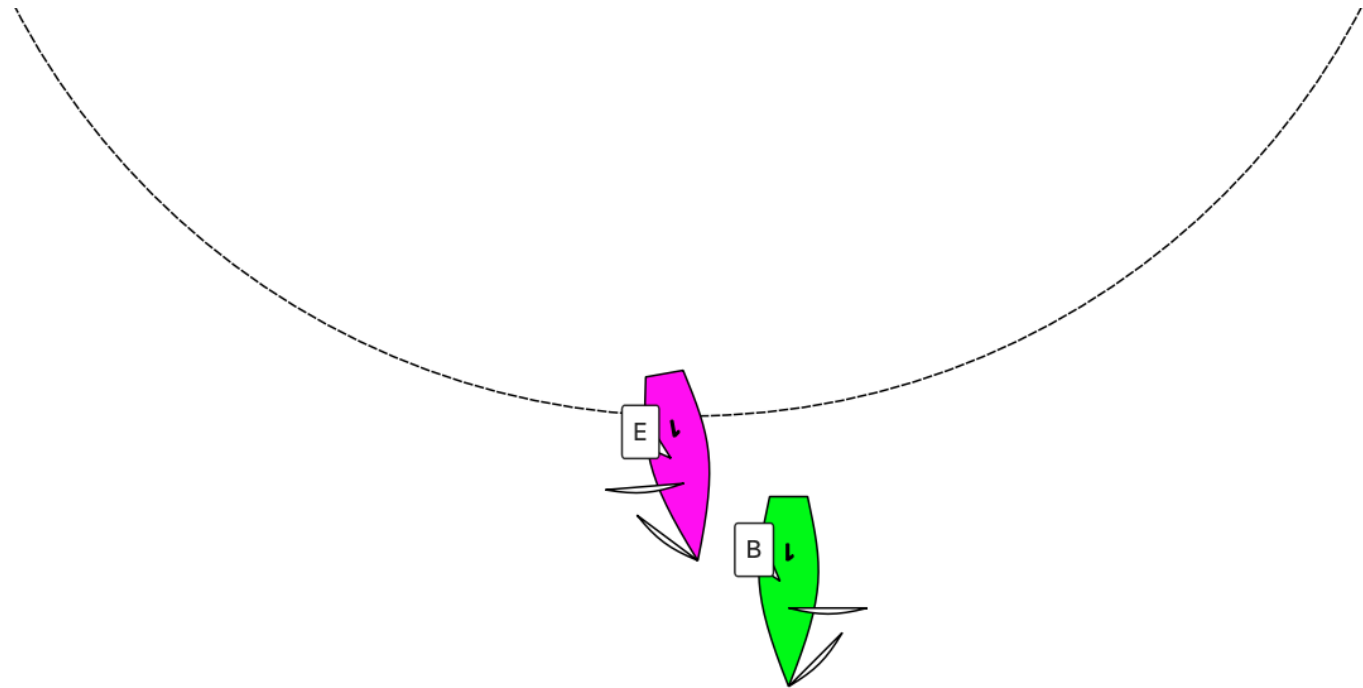


The tack of a boat sailing downwind can be determined by the side of the boat the mainsail boom is on. If the mainsail boom is on the port side, it is an indication that the wind is crossing the starboard side.

Question 4. The green boat B is on Starboard tack.

- A) True
- B) False

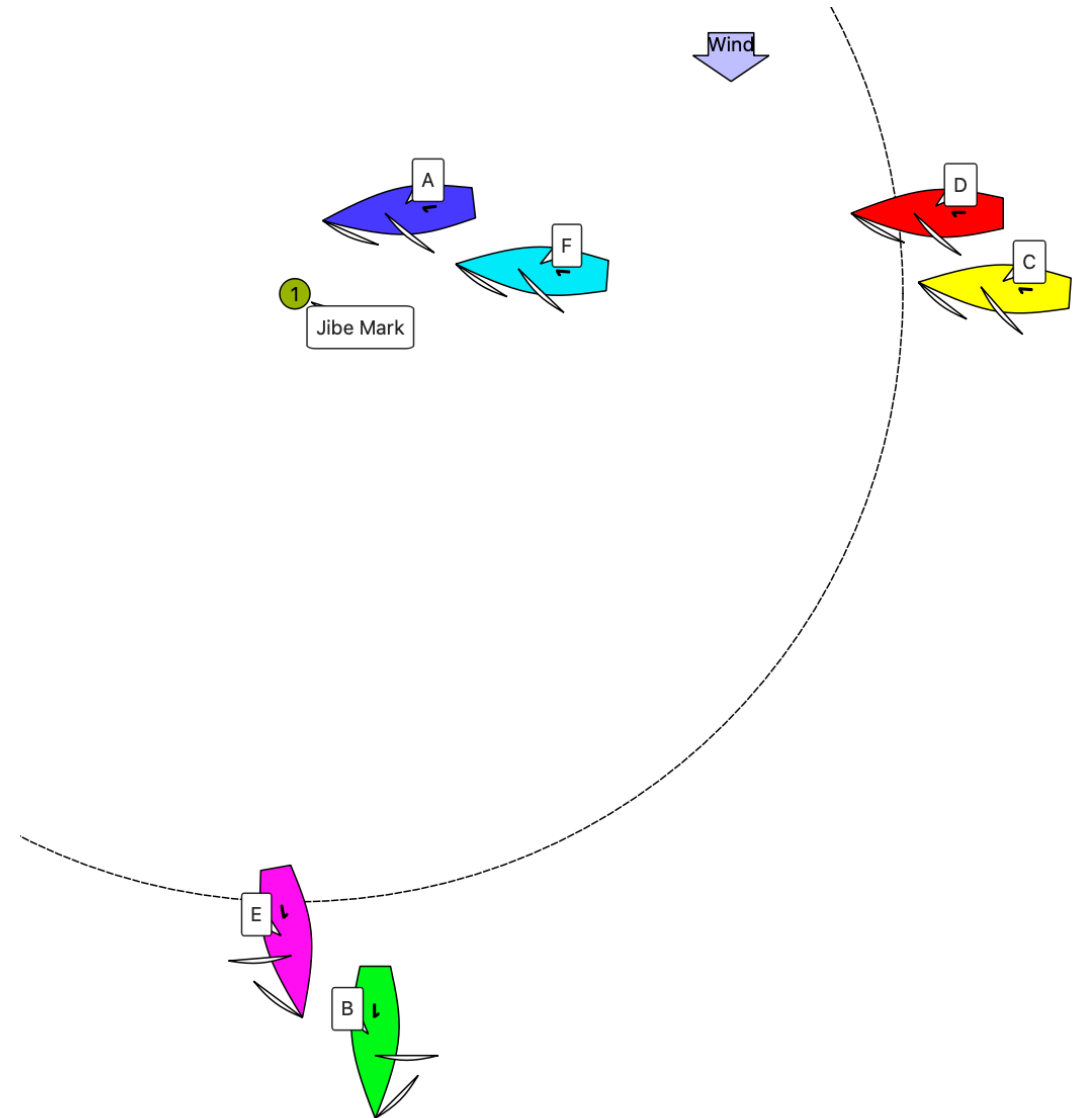
The mainsail boom on boat B is on the port side. Therefore, he is on Starboard tack.



Question 5. How many boats are on starboard tack?

- A) 4
- B) 2
- C) All boats are on starboard tack
- D) 5**

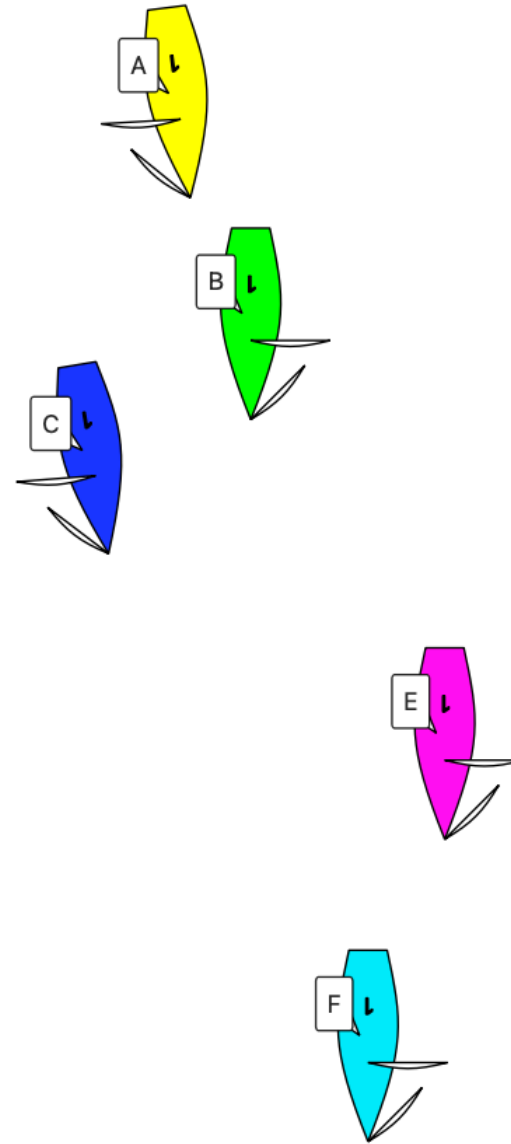
Only E is on Port tack



Question 6. How many boats are on port tack?

- A) 2
- B) 3
- C) Port tack cannot be determined
- D) All boats are on starboard

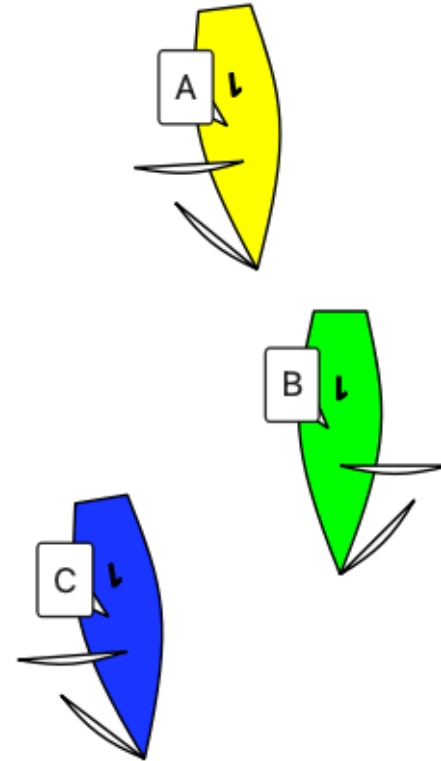
A and C are on Port tack.



Question 7. On the downwind leg the green boat B has indicated he is on starboard. You should know that

- A) Boats A and C need to keep clear
- B) Only boat C needs to keep clear because they are overlapped
- C) Boat B is not on Starboard tack
- D) There are no correct answers

A and C are both on Port tack and need to keep clear of B on Starboard tack.

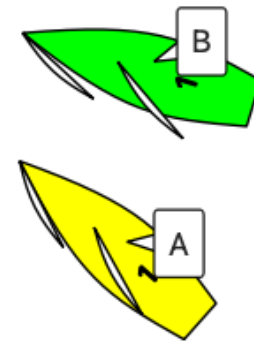
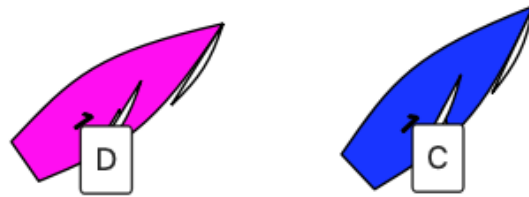


In this diagram B is the windward boat and must stay clear of A. (Windward-Leeward)

Question 8. Boats C and D are on the same tack. Pick the True statement

- A) Boat D is the leeward boat and shall keep clear
- B) Boat C is the leeward boat and shall keep clear
- C) Boat C is the windward boat and shall keep clear
- D) Boat D is the windward boat and shall keep clear

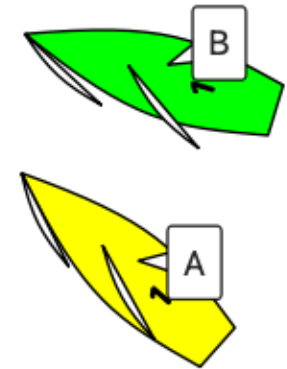
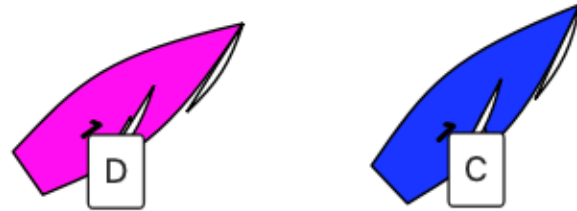
The Windward - Leeward rule – The windward boat must stay clear.



Question 9. Boat A is hailing to B “Keep Up”. If boats A and B were to meet

- A) Boat A would have committed a foul
- B) Boat B would have committed a foul
- C) There is no foul because B is on starboard tack
- D) I don't know (Sorry no points!)

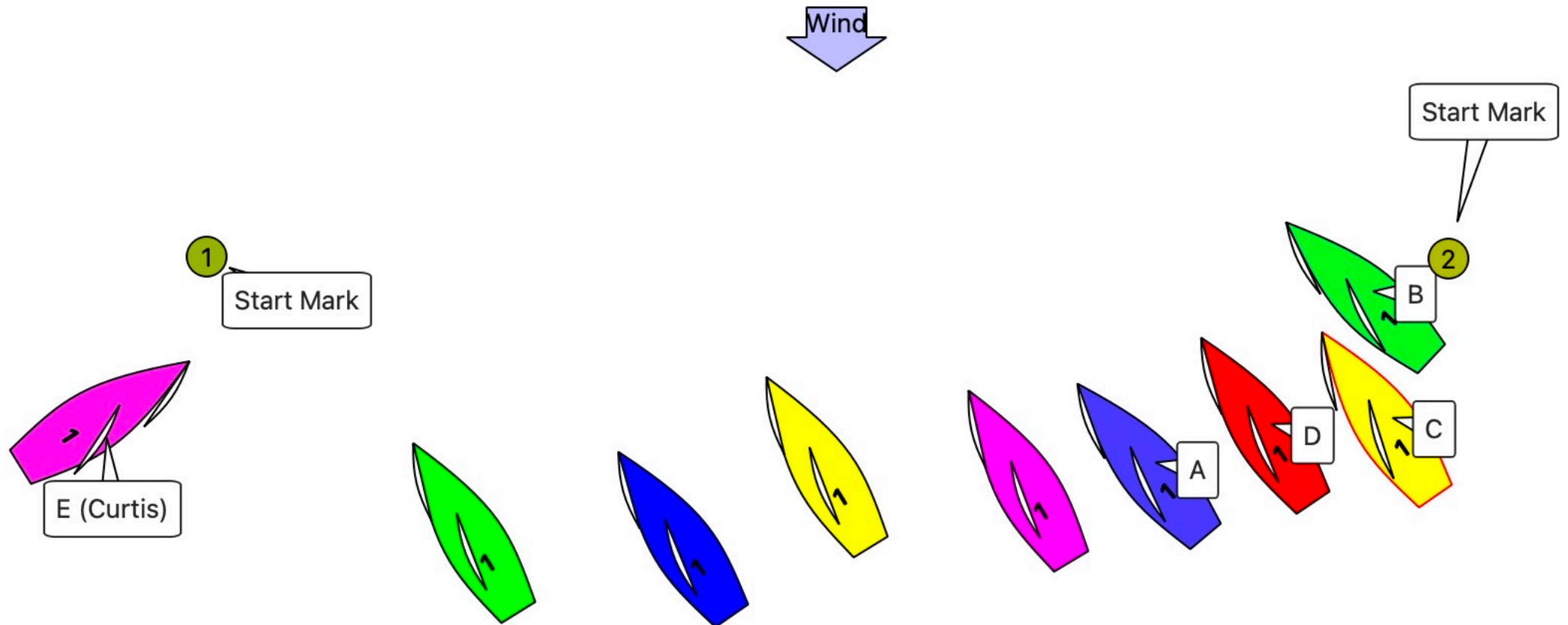
Boat B is the Windward boat.
It must stay clear of A.



Question 10. In this diagram there are 3 seconds until the start. Regarding boat B, you should know that

- A) Boat B must be given room to fall off
- B) Boat B needs to hail "Barging" to not get forced over early
- C) Sailing Rules are not in effect until after the start
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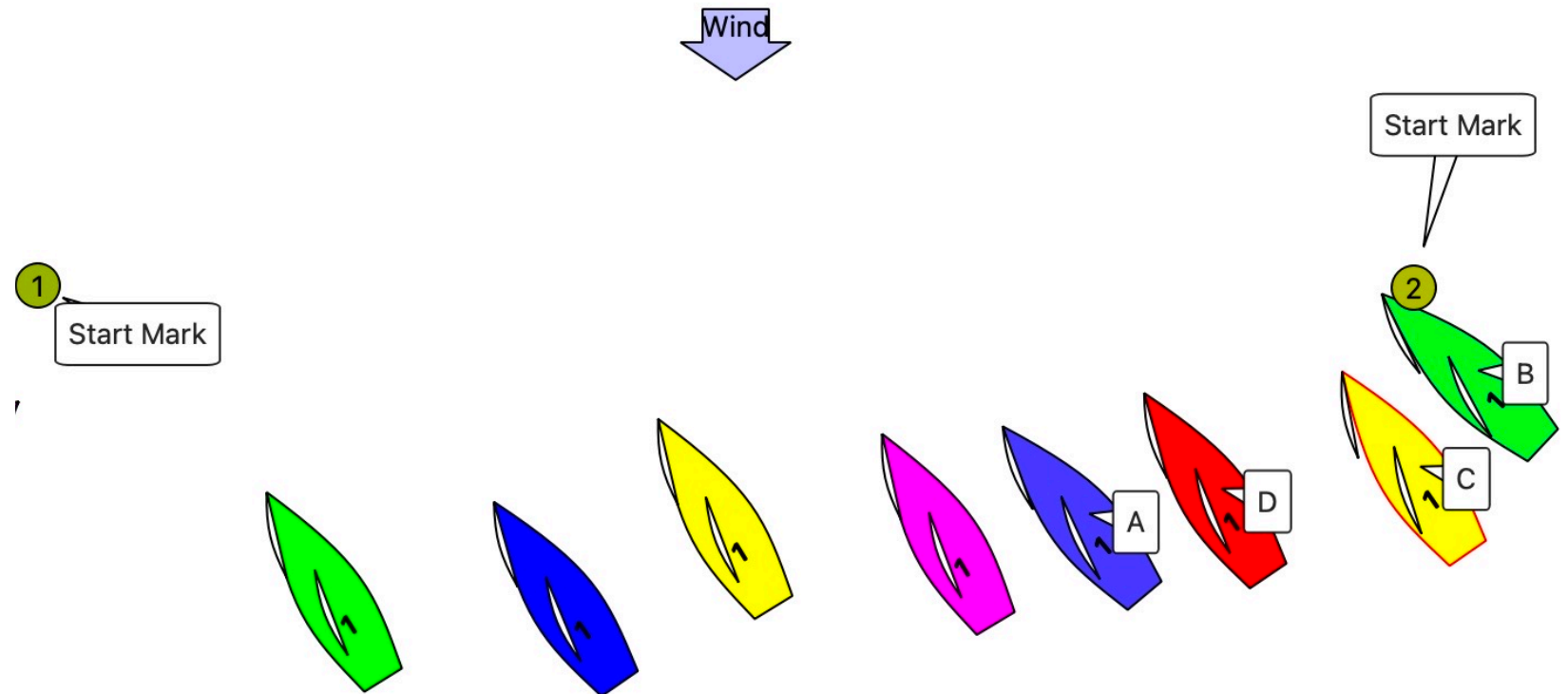
B is the windward boat and must stay clear even if it is forced over early.



Question 11. Boat B has been forced up and hit the starting mark. Choose the correct statement

- A) Boat B should have been given room to miss the mark
- B) Boat B needs to hail "Barging" to get room
- C) Boat C can force Boat B into the start mark (Windward-Leeward)
- D) Boat B should protest C if forced into the start mark

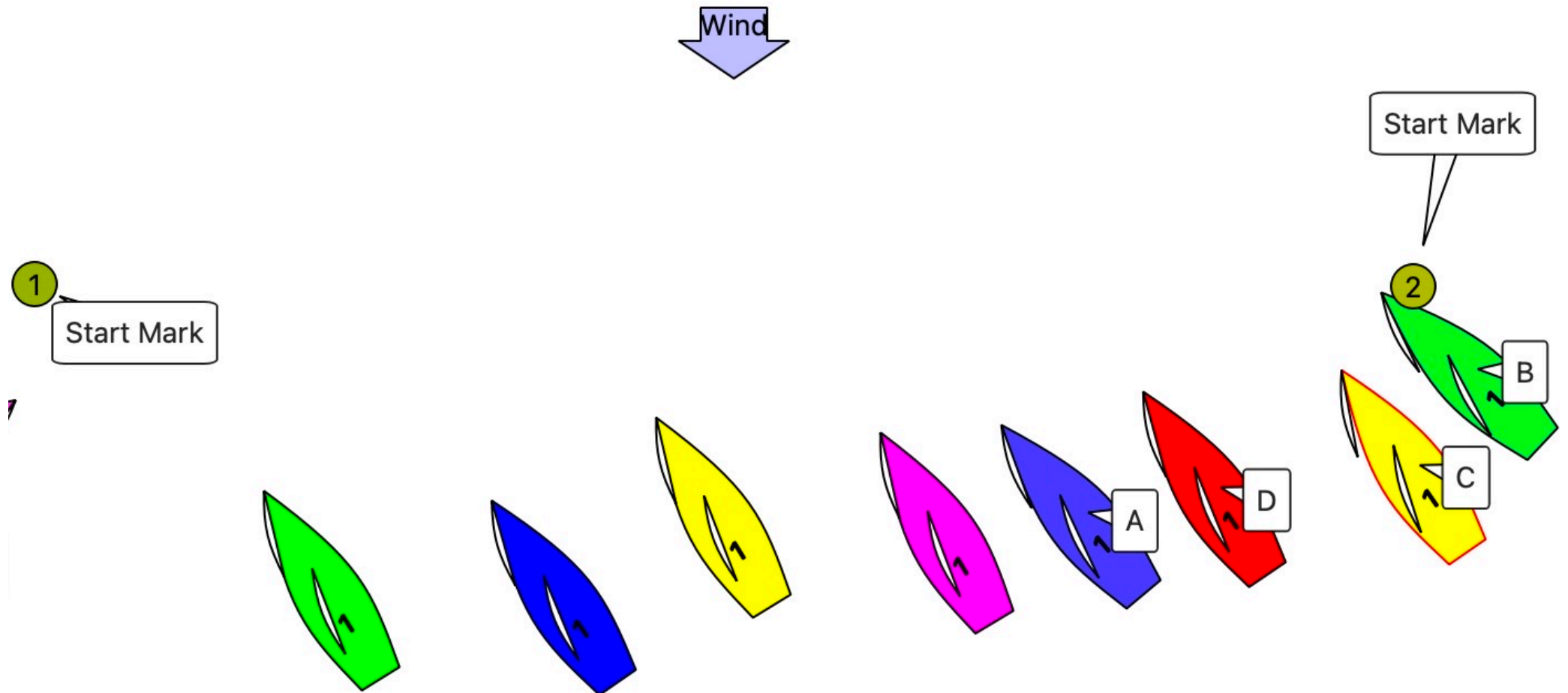
The number of new sailors that fail to recognize how a starting line works is too common. Please note how many boats are lined up on Starboard tack close hauled. You do not want to foul another boat on a starting line. The chances of taking an experienced skipper out of a race at the start by fouling them is not a way to make new friends.



Question 12. Because Boat B hit the Starting mark he must.

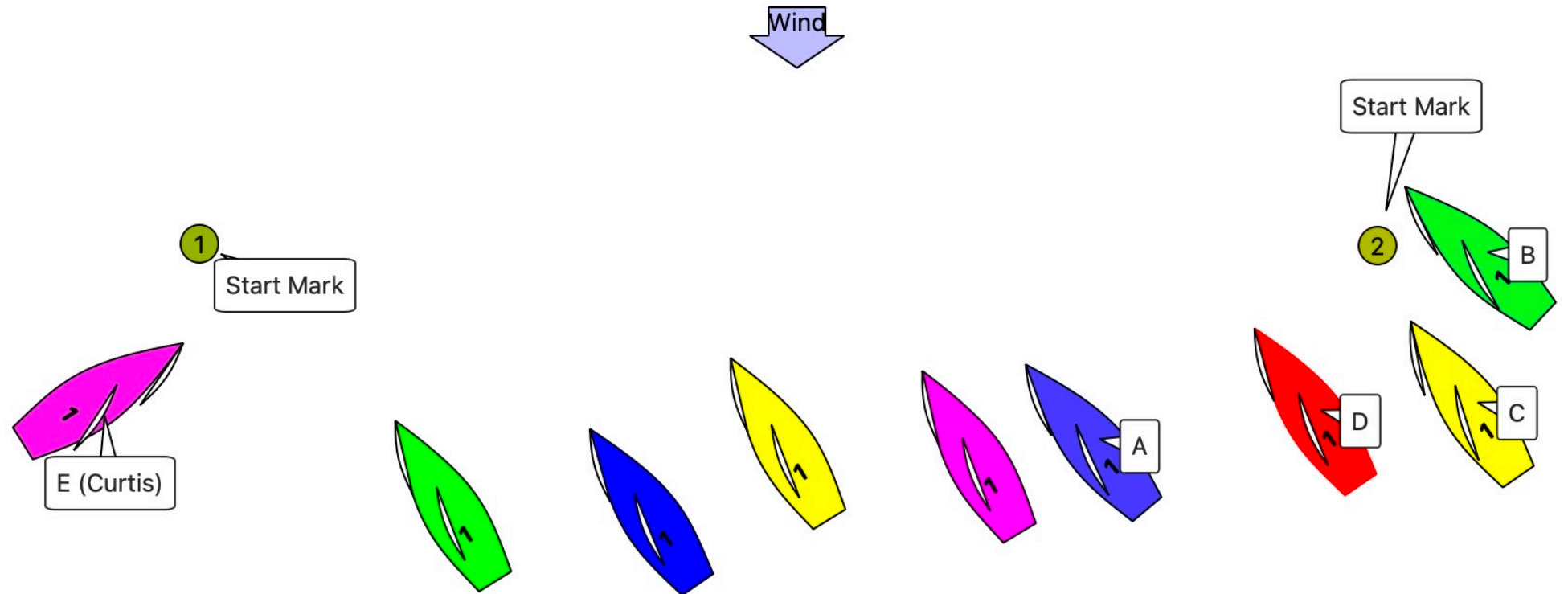
- A) Stay clear of other boats and do a Penalty Turn
- B) Return and restart if he was over early
- C) File a protest with the Race Committee
- D) Both A and B are correct

After hitting a starting mark, the procedure is to do a Penalty Turn. If you are also over early you must return and restart.



Question 13. Boat B has been forced up and passes on the wrong side of the starting mark.

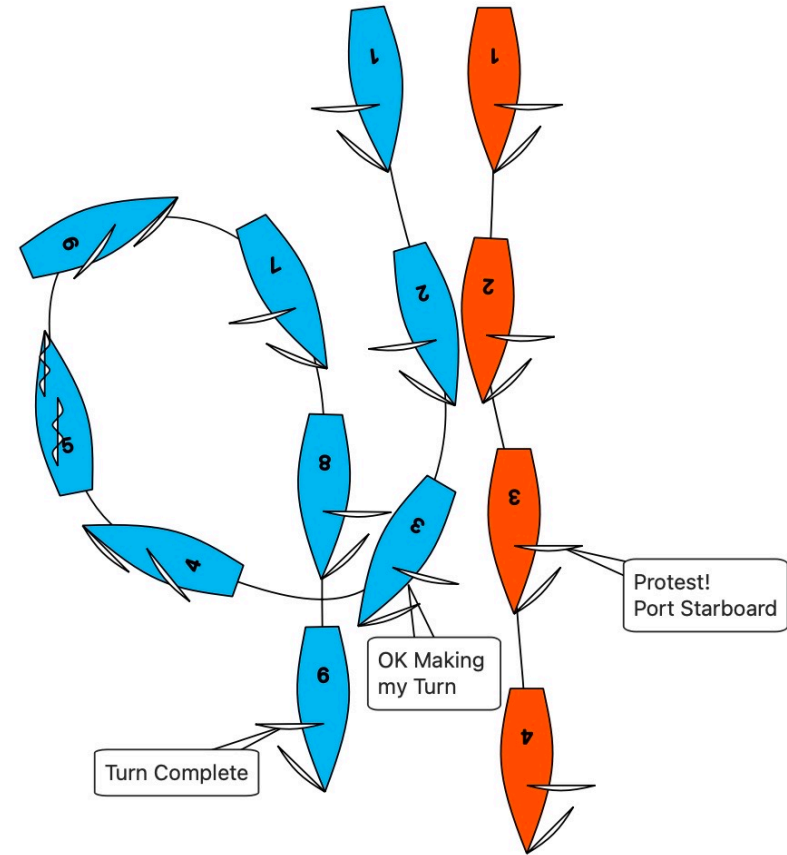
- A) Boat B must be given room to start
- B) Boat B needs to hail "Room at the Start" to get room
- C) Boat C can force Boat B on the wrong side of the starting mark (Windward-Leeward)
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Question 14. The Orange and Blue boats made contact at position 2 on the downwind leg. You should know that

- A) Orange was on Starboard tack, Blue was on Port
- B) Blue completed his Penalty Turn with a tack and a gybe
- C) A and B are both correct
- D) Orange was not on Starboard tack

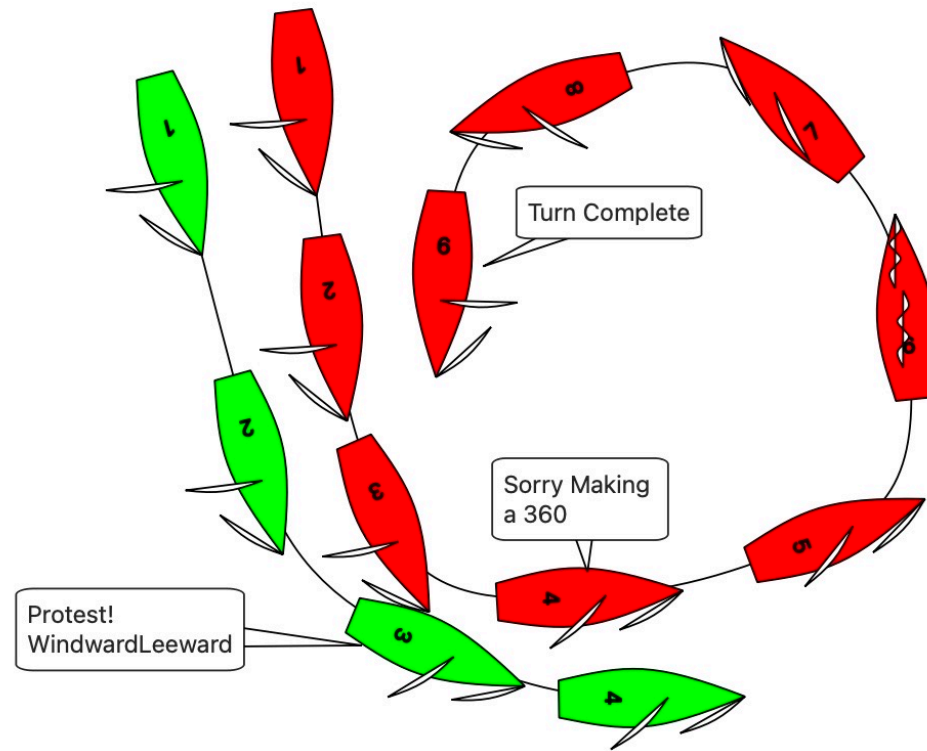
Orange is on Starboard Tack, Blue is on Port. Blue completed his Penalty Turn with a tack and a gybe.



Question 15. The Red and Green boats made contact at position #3. What is a true statement regarding Red?

- A) The Penalty Turn was successfully completed
- B) After the turn Red was not behind Green
- C) Red should not have been Protested
- D) Red did not complete the Penalty Turn

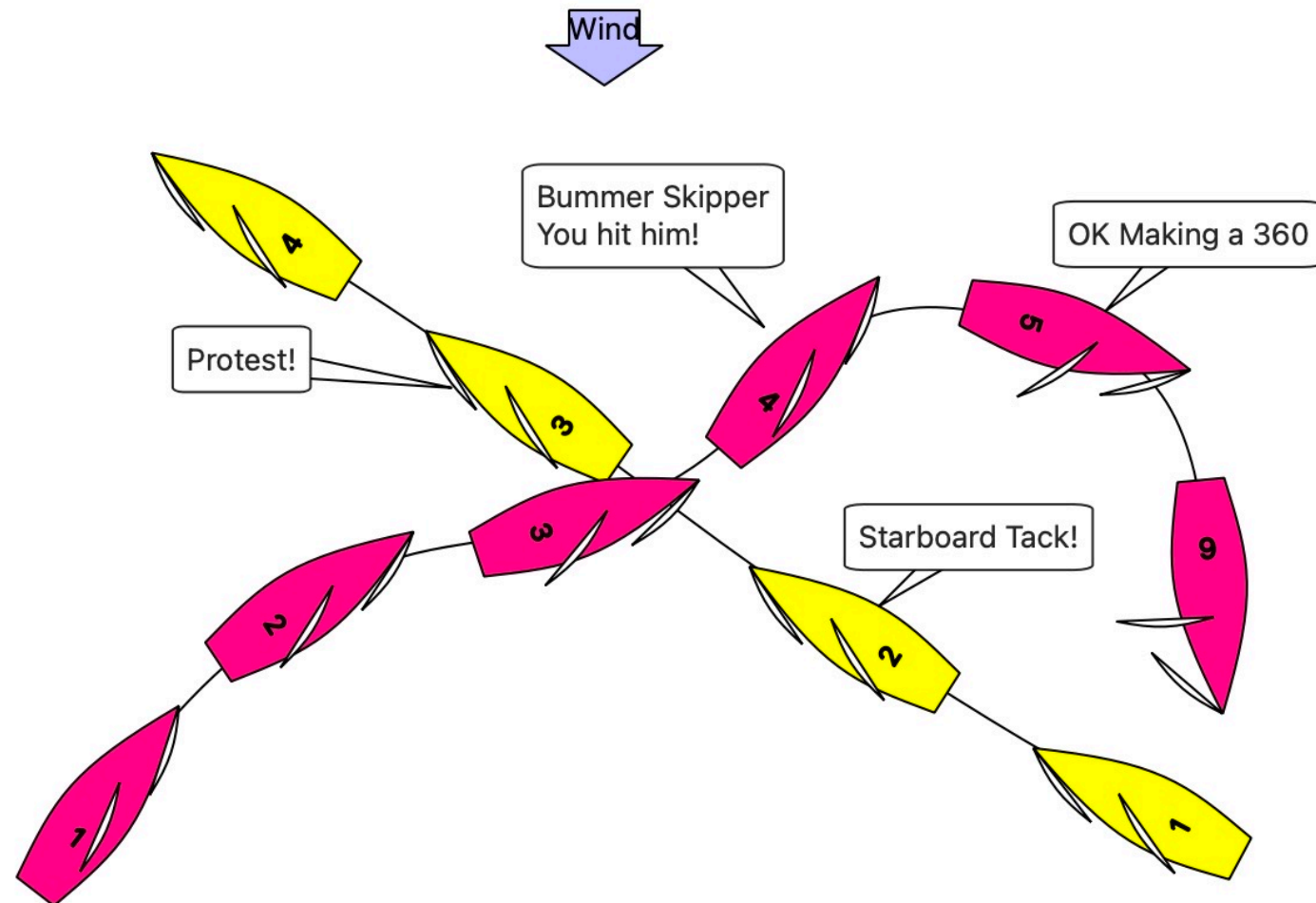
Red has only tacked for the Penalty Turn, a gybe has not been done.



Question 16. Red and Yellow are approaching on opposite tacks. After Yellow hails “Starboard Tack”, Red tries to duck and makes contact at position #3.

- A) Red is on Starboard tack
- B) Yellow is on Port tack
- C) Both A and B are correct
- D) Red must complete his Penalty Turn with a tack and a gybe

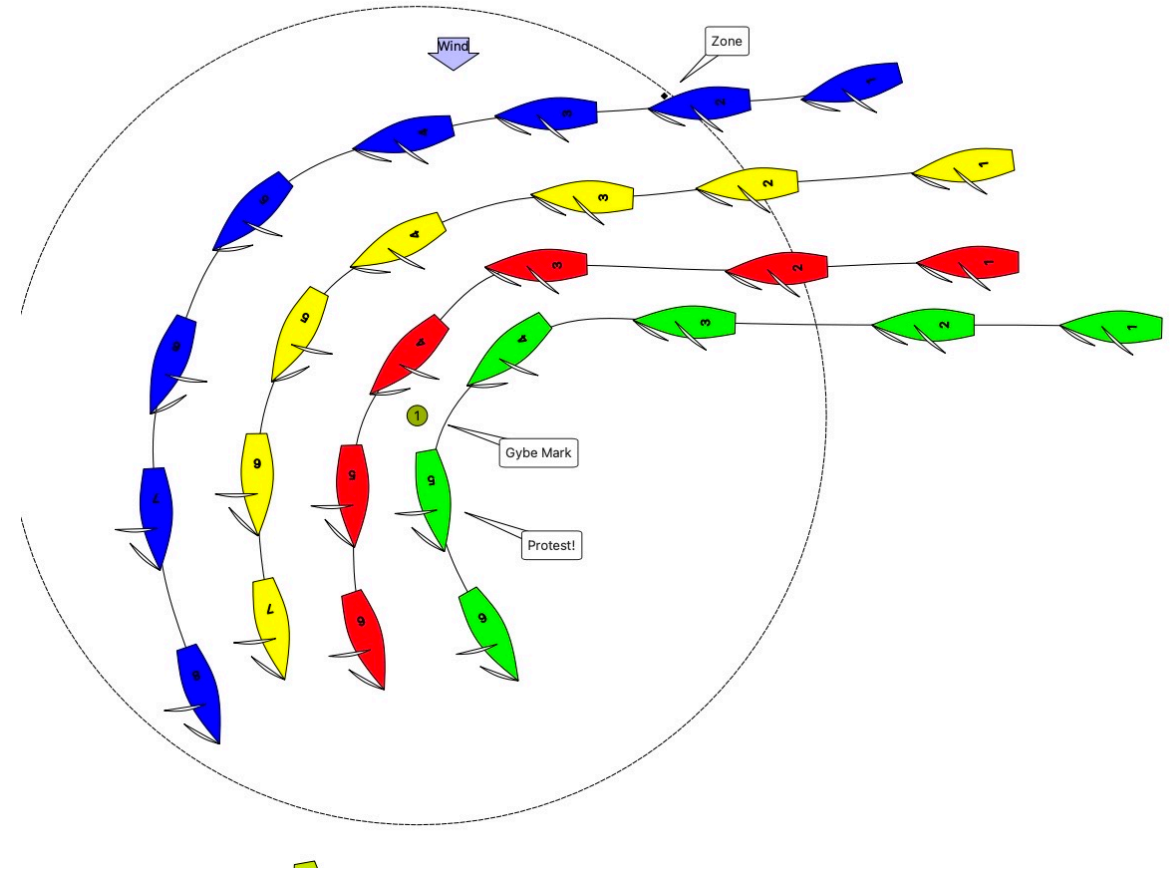
Red has only begun a Penalty Turn, a tack and a gybe need to be done.



Question 19. Green is Protesting Red because room was not given at the mark. You should know that

- A) Green is not entitled to room at the mark
- B) Green will have to go back to round the mark
- C) Green did not enter the zone with an overlap with Blue, Yellow or Red
- D) A, B and C are all correct

Because green did not have an overlap entering the zone he should have planned early to maneuver outside blue to round the mark.



Question 20. Boats B and E have entered the Zone with B overlapped on the inside. With E being on Starboard tack do they have to give B room at the mark?

- A) On the downwind leg Starboard cannot claim rights in the zone and therefore must give Port tack B room at the mark
- B) B will only get room if he gybes to Starboard tack
- C) B is not entitled to room
- D) Starboard is always king!

Down wind in the Zone Starboard tack rights are not valid. This is one of the few times a Starboard tack boat must give way to a Port tack boat.

