

## SYRA CASE STUDY #6

### Faster Yacht Overtaking a Slower Yacht Downwind at Different Angles

The *Racing Rules of Sailing* apply as changed by Appendix SY.

Blue is a classic 37 metre yacht sailing downwind to the next *mark*. Yellow is a modern 35 metre performance cruising yacht sailing two knots faster at a narrower wind angle and approaching Blue from *clear astern* (see definition Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap). At position 1, Yellow is *overtaking* Blue (see definition Overtaking). When the boats reach position 2, Yellow comes within 80 metres of Blue and RRS 17.2 begins to apply, which requires Blue to sail her *proper course* (see the definition Proper Course). Yellow is *clear astern* and RRS 12 requires her to *keep clear* of Blue, which includes maintaining no less than 40 metres between the boats (see definition Keep Clear).

At position 3, Yellow becomes *overlapped* with Blue and RRS 17.2 no longer applies. RRS 11 requires Blue to *keep clear* of Yellow.

When Yellow obtained an overlap, she acquired right of way and RRS 15 requires her to initially give Blue *room* to *keep clear*, which could include *room* for Blue to drop a spinnaker if that was necessary. RRS 17.1 applies and Yellow must not sail above her *proper course* while she remains *overlapped* to *leeward* within 80 metres of a *windward* boat.

Between positions 3 and 4 the yachts converge while Yellow sails her *proper course* and Blue responds to *keep clear* of Yellow. Between positions 4 and 5 Yellow becomes *clear ahead* and RRS 11 and 17.1 no longer apply. Blue is now *clear astern* and must continue to *keep clear* of Yellow as required by RRS 12.

