

## SYRA CASE STUDY #4

### Starting Line Rules

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

The local time is 11:09:56. Three 37 metre yachts are in the starting area. Red is approaching the line on port tack at four seconds to go before her starting signal. Blue's starting time was 11:08, but she was late in arriving and was to windward of the race committee boat when her start was signaled. Blue is now almost two minutes late and sailing toward the pre-start side of the line to start. Yellow is in the starting area but her start is scheduled for 11:20. She is checking the layline and her sail trim as she approaches the line on starboard. What rules apply between the boats?

Boats are racing from their preparatory signal (see definition *Racing*). In this case, Red and Blue are racing but Yellow is not. However, *The Racing Rules of Sailing* still apply between all the boats because they intend to race or are racing (see the preamble to Part 2). Red, on port, must

*keep clear* of Yellow, on starboard, under RRS 10. However, Yellow is not racing and must not interfere with Red or Blue which are racing (RRS 23.1). In the position shown, Yellow may already be breaking that rule with respect to both boats.

Blue was on the course side of the starting line at the time of her starting signal, so she was identified by the race committee as OCS under RRS 29.1. Blue would normally have right of way over Red under RRS 10. However, Blue is sailing towards the pre-start side of the starting line to start, so RRS 21.1 applies.

