

## 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 (SY2.9) 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 (SY2.9) 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 (SY2.9) 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 (SY2.9) no longer apply. Blue is now clear astern and must continue to *keep clear* of Yellow as required by RRS 12.

