

# Racing Rules of Sailing (Simplified)

---

Russell C. Hardie

8-6-12

Member:

Kettering Model Sailing Club AMYA #237

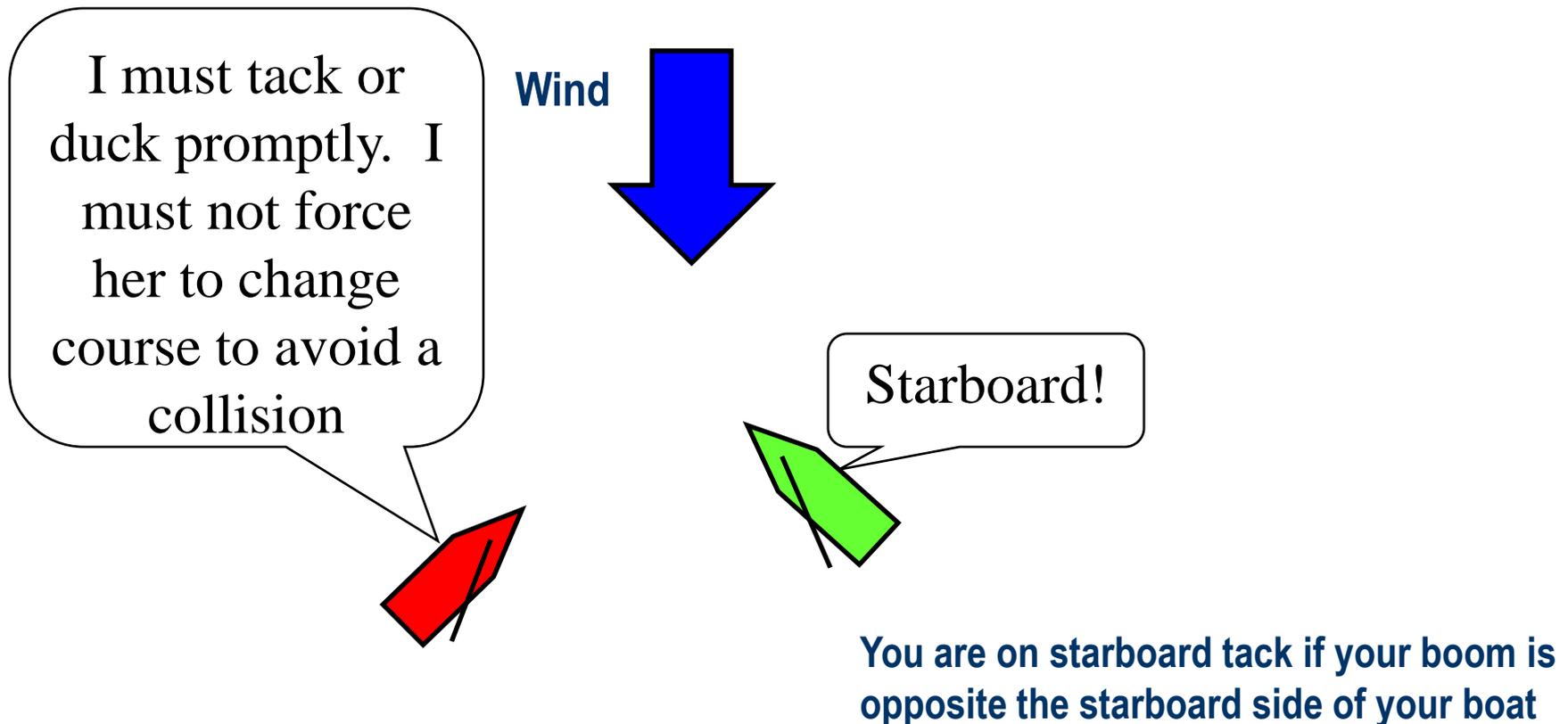
Radio Control Sailing Club of Cincinnati AMYA #217

Miami Valley Model Yacht Club AMYA #73

# Rule 10

ROW boat always  
shown in green

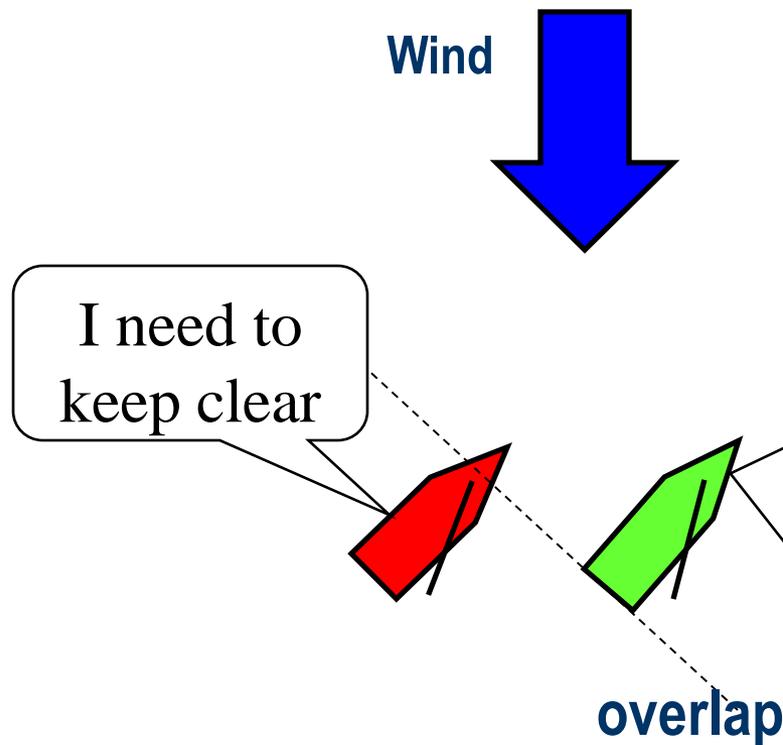
- A boat on starboard tack has **right-of-way** (ROW) over a port tack boat



# Rule 11

ROW boat always shown in green

- Windward (up wind) overlapped boat keeps clear of a leeward (down wind) boat **on the same tack**



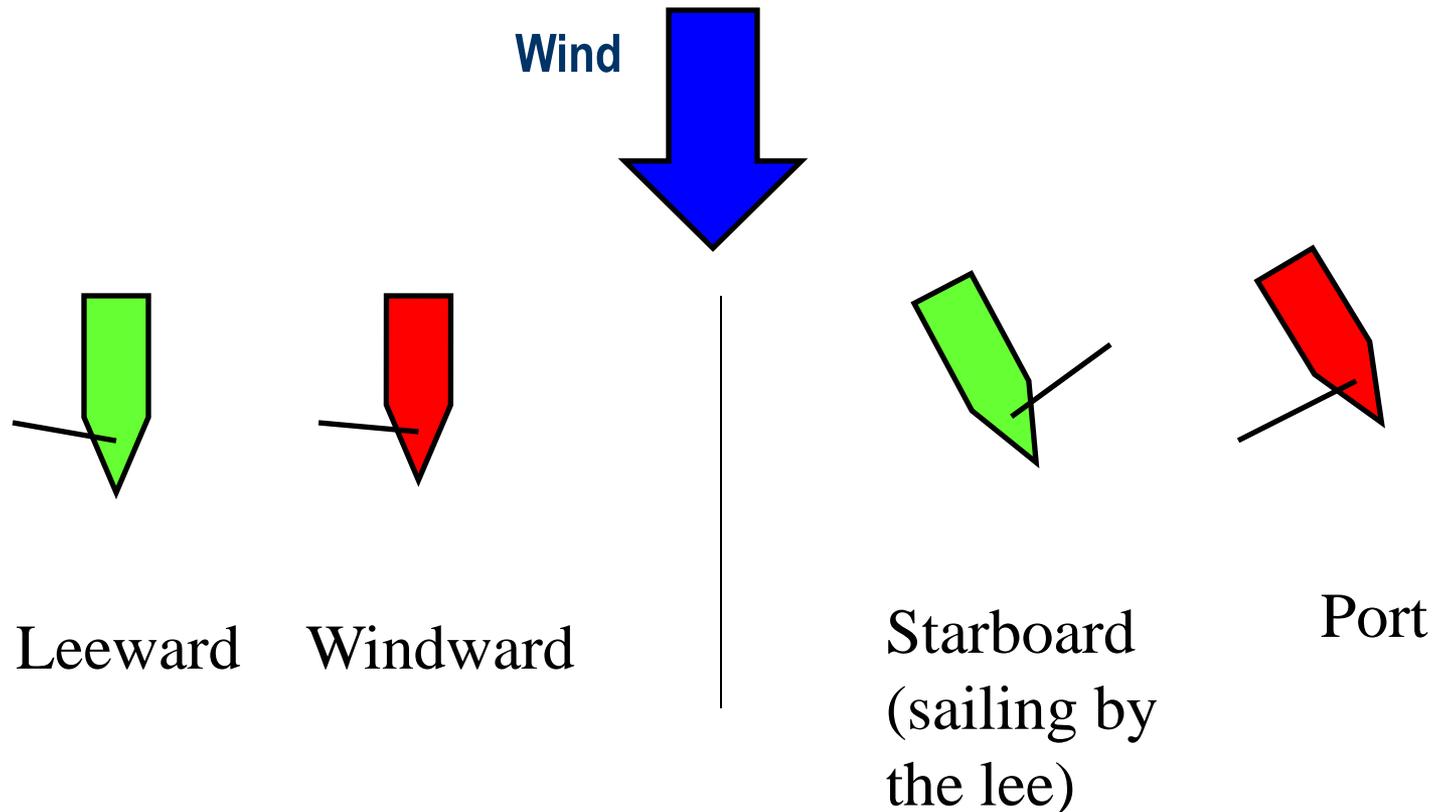
If red is passing me from behind, not only do I have ROW, but I can also defend by heading up and luffing (while giving them room to keep clear). If I am the one passing from behind\*, I must not sail above my proper course – Rule 17.

\*That is, if green created the overlap within 2 boat lengths leeward and from clear astern of red

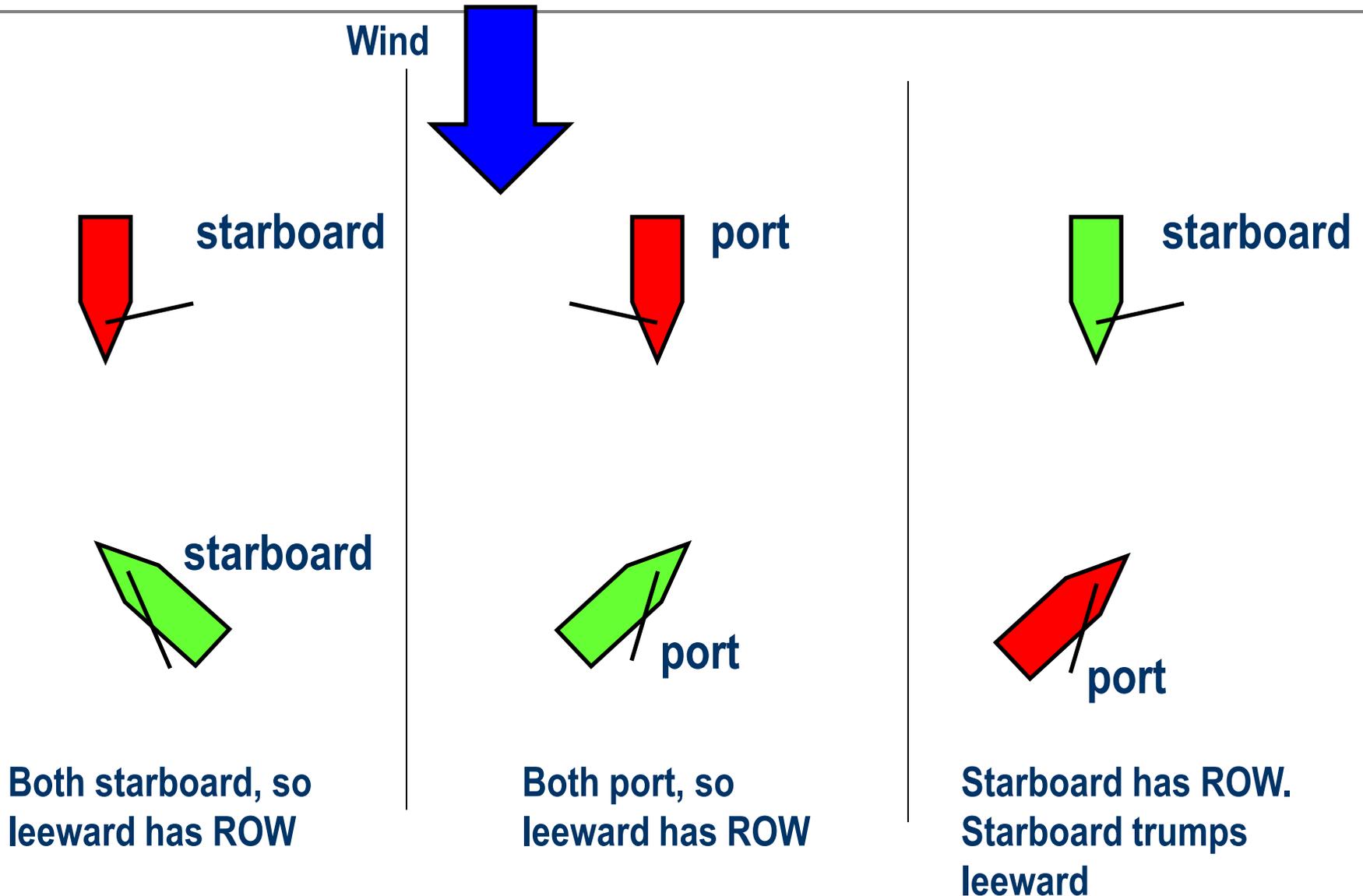
# Definitions

ROW boat always  
shown in green

- A boat's current tack (and windward/leeward position) is defined by which side the boom is on



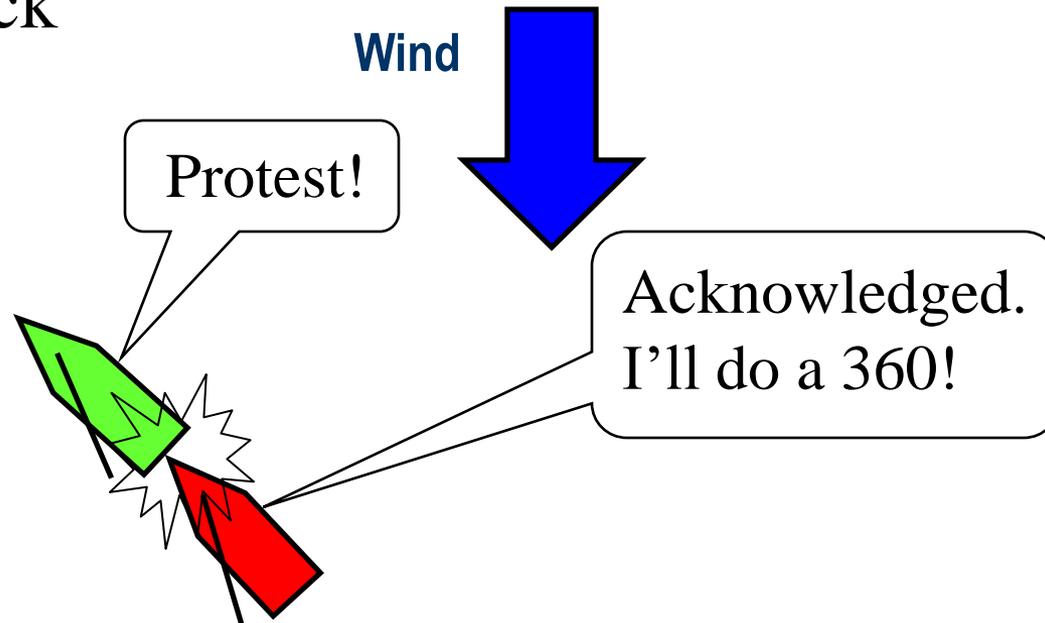
# Rules 10 & 11 apply to boats on all courses



# Rule 12

ROW boat always  
shown in green

- A boat clear astern must keep clear of a boat ahead on the same tack

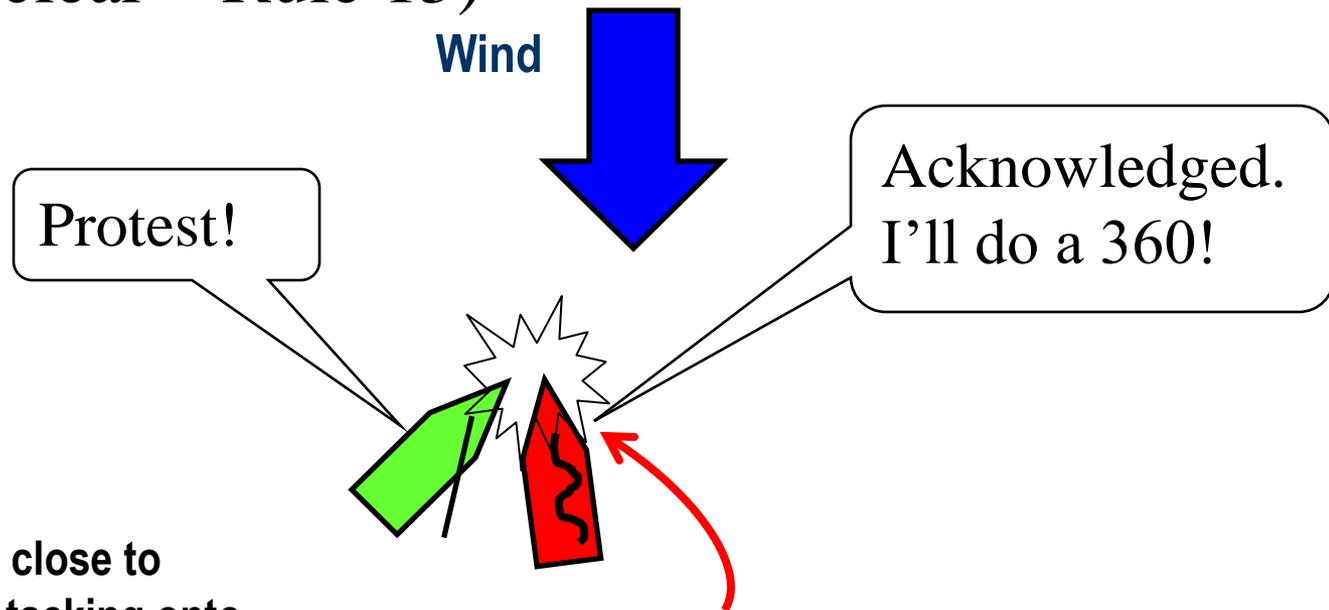


On opposite tacks, starboard has ROW  
regardless of being ahead or astern!

# Rule 13

ROW boat always shown in green

- While tacking you must keep clear (and if acquiring right of way, you must initially give the other boat room to keep clear – Rule 15)



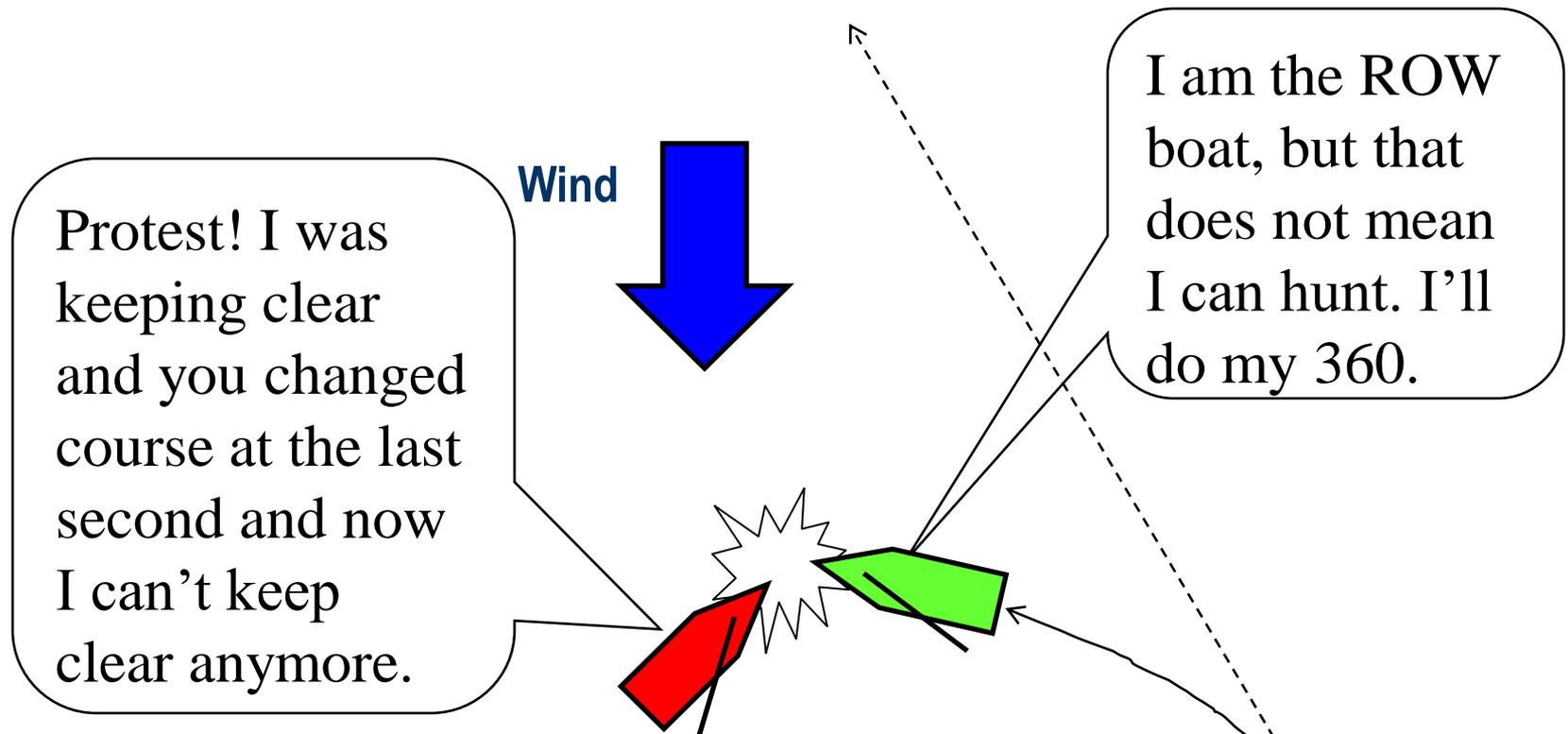
You can't tack too close to someone, even if tacking onto ROW starboard.

*Note that unlike a tack, during a gybe you don't necessarily lose any rights!*

# Rule 16

ROW boat always shown in green

- If a right-of-way boat changes course, she **MUST** give any other boat room to keep clear



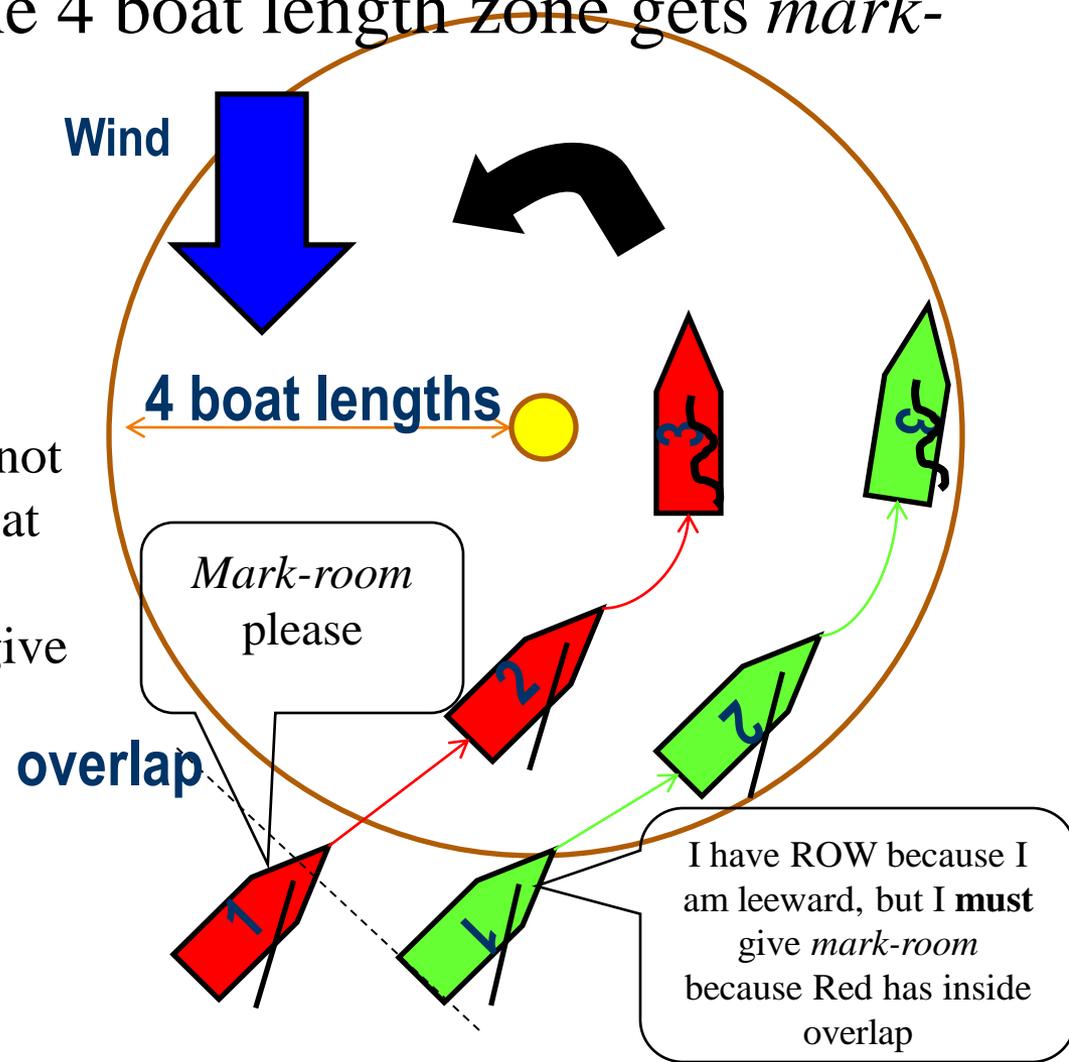
**This is true even if the wind shifts (Green may not be able to respond to a last second lift or header). However, ROW Green can hold course but change speed legally to frustrate Red.**

# Rule 18

ROW boat always shown in green

- For boats **on the same tack**, the inside overlapped boat or clear-ahead boat at the 4 boat length zone gets *mark-room*

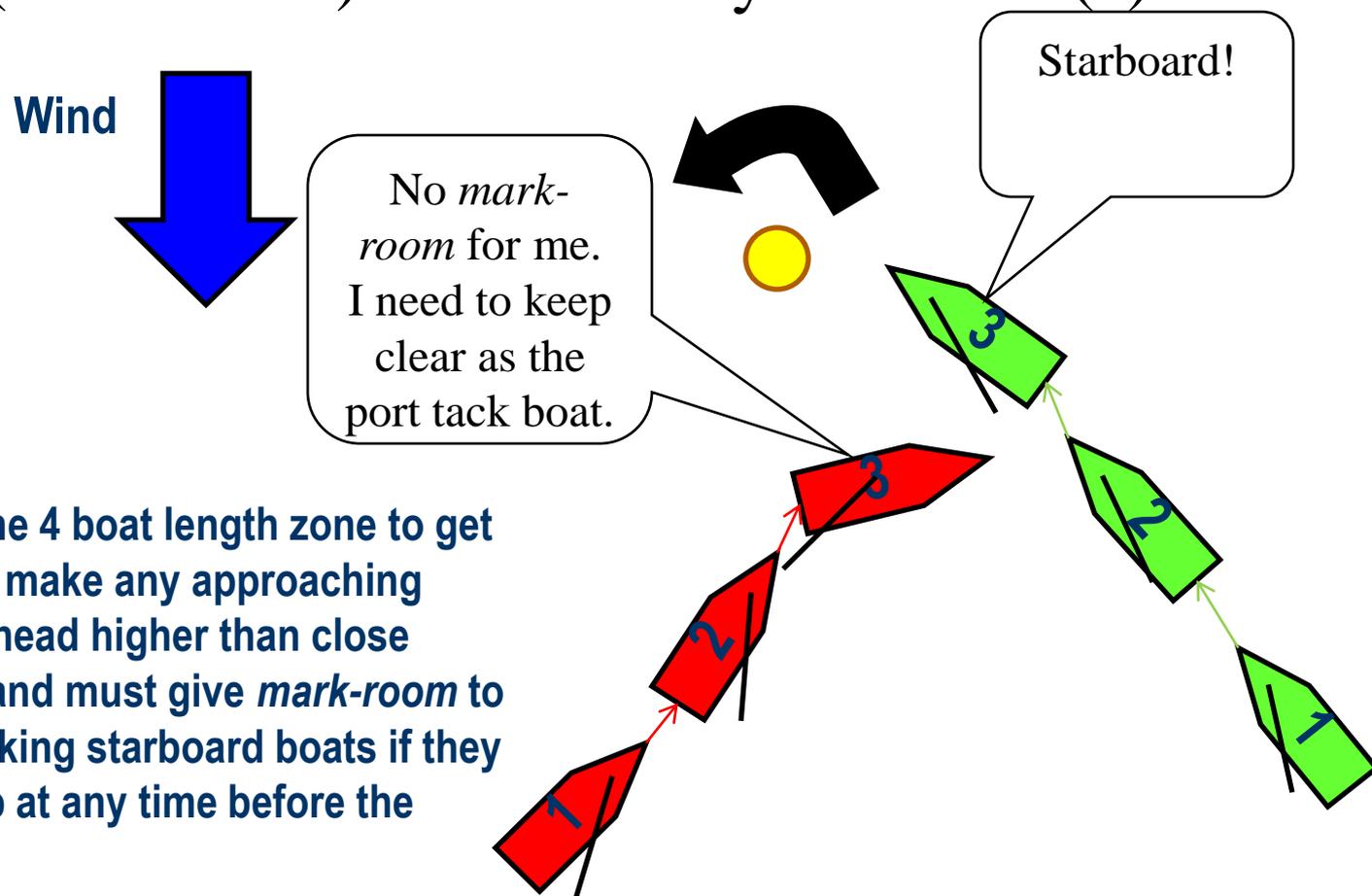
- *Mark-Room* = Room for a boat to sail to the mark, and then room to sail her proper course while at the mark. However, mark-room does not include room to tack unless the boat is overlapped to windward and on the inside of the boat required to give mark-room. (Official Definition)



# Rule 18

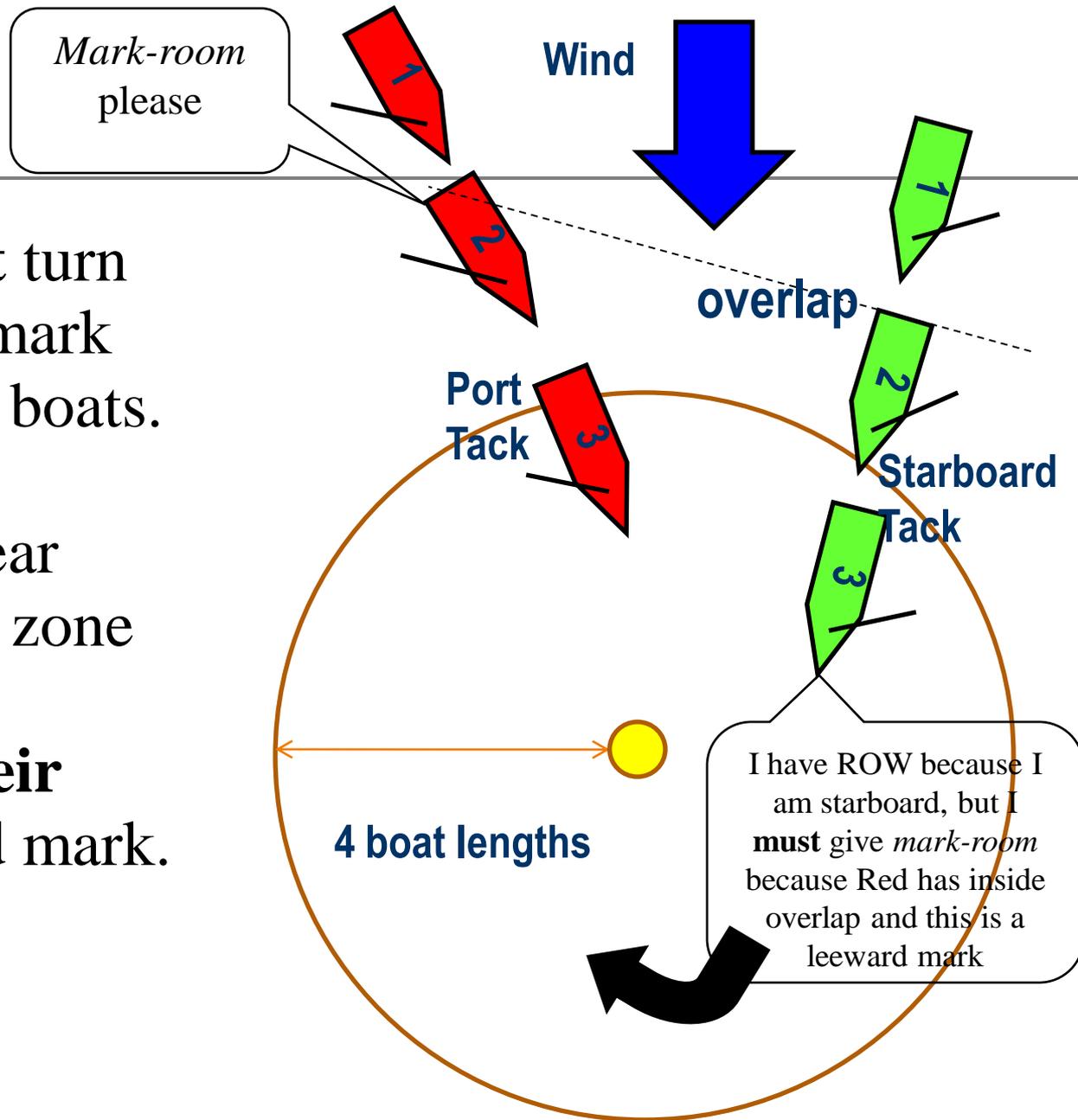
ROW boat always shown in green

- On a beat to windward for boats **on opposite tacks**, Rule 18 (*mark-room*) turns OFF by Rule 18.1(a).



# Rule 18

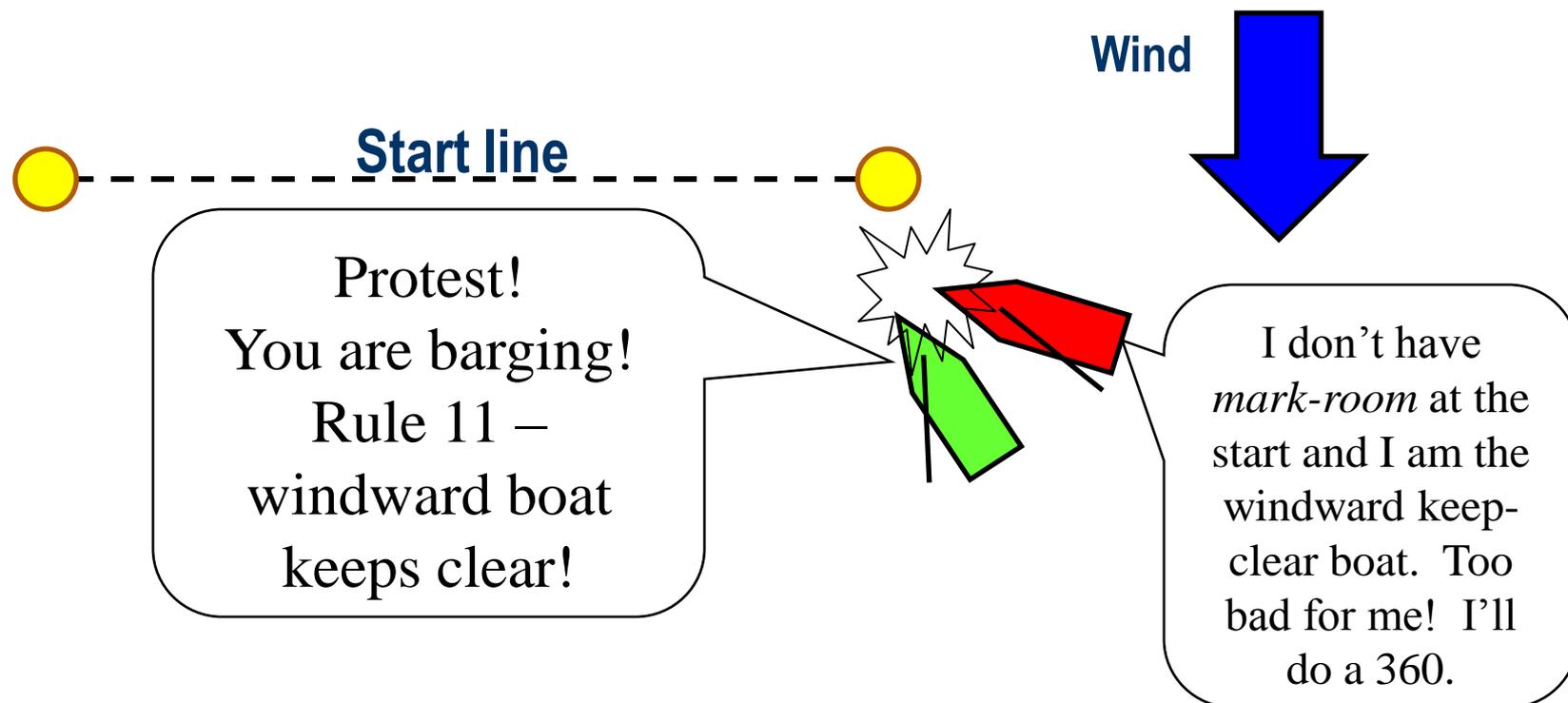
- Rule 18 **does not** turn off at a leeward mark for opposite tack boats. Thus, the inside overlapped or clear ahead boat at the zone gets *mark-room* **regardless of their tack** at a leeward mark.



# Rule 18

ROW boat always shown in green

- *Mark-room* does **NOT** apply at a start mark – Section C.
- Any course is a “proper” course before the signal.

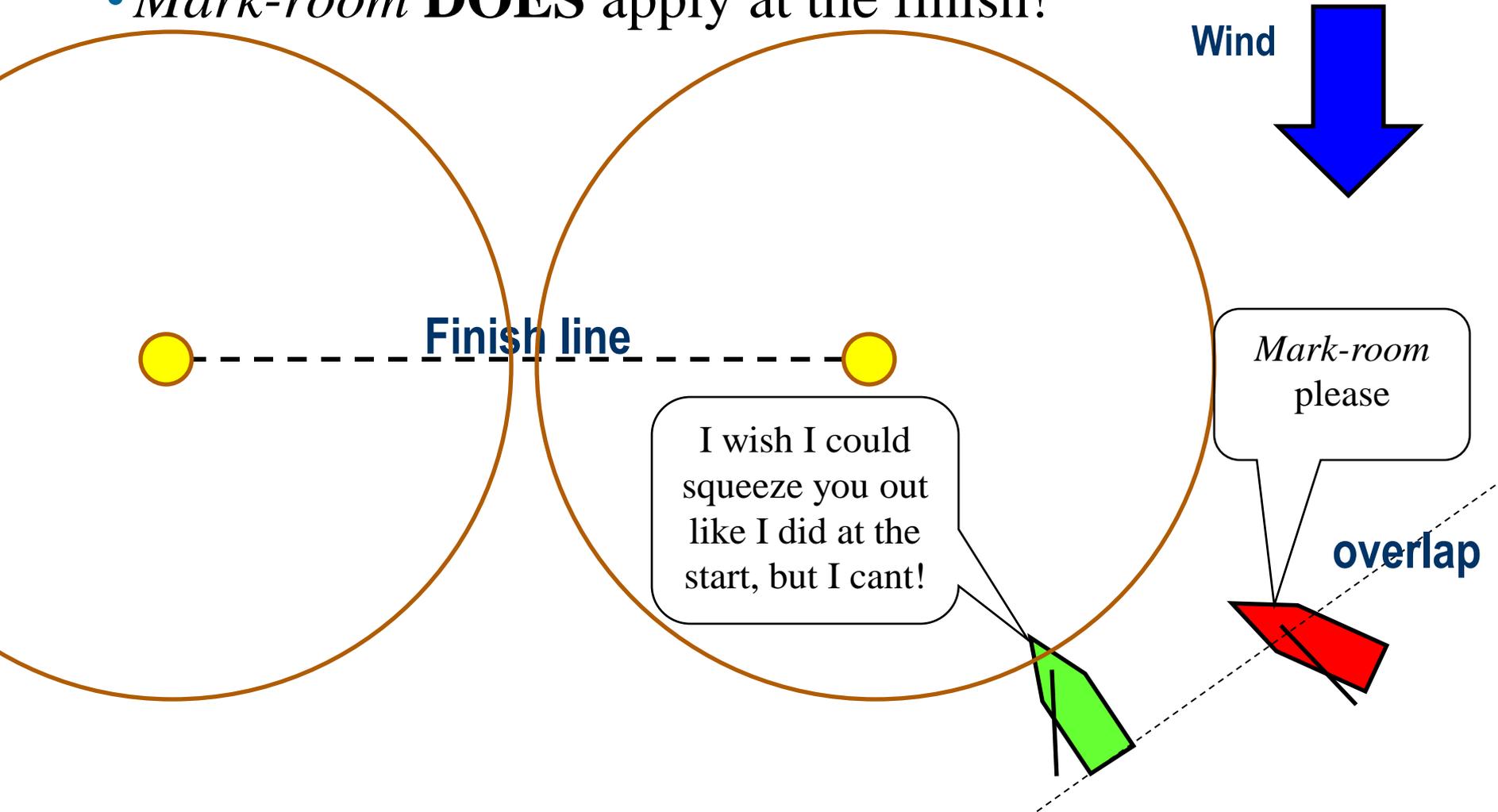


Before the start, leeward boats can always “luff-up” windward boats regardless of how the overlap was created because any course is “proper” before the signal (Rule 17 does not constrain them).

# Rule 18

ROW boat always  
shown in green

- *Mark-room* **DOES** apply at the finish!



# Touching a Mark

---

- Our local rules allow touching any mark except the start and finish marks.
  - If you touch a start mark, **GET CLEAR** of all other boats and do a 360 as soon as possible.
  - If you touch a finish mark, get clear and do a 360 and re-cross the finish line from the course side (the 360 can be anywhere, course side or not, but you must finish from the course side) – Rules 31 and 44.

# Links

---

- [\*Official Racing Rules of Sailing \(RRS\)\*](#)
- [\*Case Book – Interpretations of the RRS\*](#)
- Discussion of case studies: <http://rrsstudy.blogspot.com/>
- Where is the start line really?  
<http://propercourse.blogspot.com/2009/11/two-amazing-facts-about-racing-rules-of.html>
- More on *mark-room* (Rule 18) and obstructions (Rules 19 and 20):  
<http://www.victiques.com/v32pages/v32russrules.htm>
- [\*Peter Winkelstein's Rules Presentation\*](#)