

SECTION C

AT MARKS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

*Section C rules do not apply at a starting **mark** surrounded by navigable water or at its anchor line from the time boats are approaching them to **start** until they have passed them.*

18 MARK-ROOM

18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However it doesn't not apply

- (a) between boats on opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward,
- (b) between boats on opposite *tacks* when the *proper course* at the *mark* for one but not both of them is to tack,
- (c) between a boat approaching a *mark* and one leaving it, or
- (d) if the *mark* is a continuing *obstruction*, in which case rule 19 applies.

18.2 Giving Mark-Room

- (a) When boats are *overlapped* the outside boat shall give the inside boat *mark-room*, unless rule 18.2(b) applies.
- (b) If boats are *overlapped* when the first of them reaches the *zone*, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat *mark-room*. If a boat is *clear ahead* when she reaches the *zone*, the boat *clear astern* at that moment shall thereafter give her *mark-room*.
- (c) When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by rule 18.2(b),
 - (1) she shall continue to do so even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins;
 - (2) if she becomes *overlapped* inside the boat entitled to *mark-room*, she shall also give that boat *room* to sail her *proper course* while they remain *overlapped*.
- (d) Rules 18.2(b) and (c) cease to apply when the boat entitled to *mark-room* has been given that *mark-room*, or if she passes head to wind or leaves the *zone*.
- (e) If there is reasonable doubt that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.
- (f) If a boat obtained an inside *overlap* from *clear astern* or by tacking to *windward* of the other boat and, from the time the *overlap* began, the outside boat has been unable to give *mark-room*, she is not required to give it.

18.3 Tacking in the Zone

If a boat in the *zone* of a *mark* to be left to port passes head to wind from *port* to *starboard tack* and is then *fetching* the *mark*, she shall not cause a boat that has been on *starboard tack* since entering the *zone* to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact and she shall give *mark-room* if that boat becomes *overlapped* inside her. When this rule applies between boats, rule 18.2 does not apply between them.

18.4 Gybing

When an inside *overlapped* right-of-way boat must gybe at a *mark* to sail her *proper course*, until she gybes she shall sail no farther from the *mark* than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.4 does not apply at a gate *mark*.

Definitions

Fetching

A boat is *fetching* a *mark* when she is in a position to pass to windward of it and leave it on the required side without changing *tack*.

Mark

An object the sailing instructions require a boat to leave on a specified side, and a race committee vessel surrounded by navigable water from which the starting or finishing line extends. An anchor line or an object attached accidentally to a *mark* is not part of it.

Mark-Room

Room for a boat to leave a *mark* on the required side. Also,

(a) *room* to sail to the *mark* when her *proper course* is to sail close to it, and

(b) *room* to round the *mark* as necessary to sail the course.

However, *mark-room* for a boat does not include *room* to tack unless she is *overlapped* inside and to *windward* of the boat required to give *mark-room* and she would be *fetching* the *mark* after her tack.

Proper Course

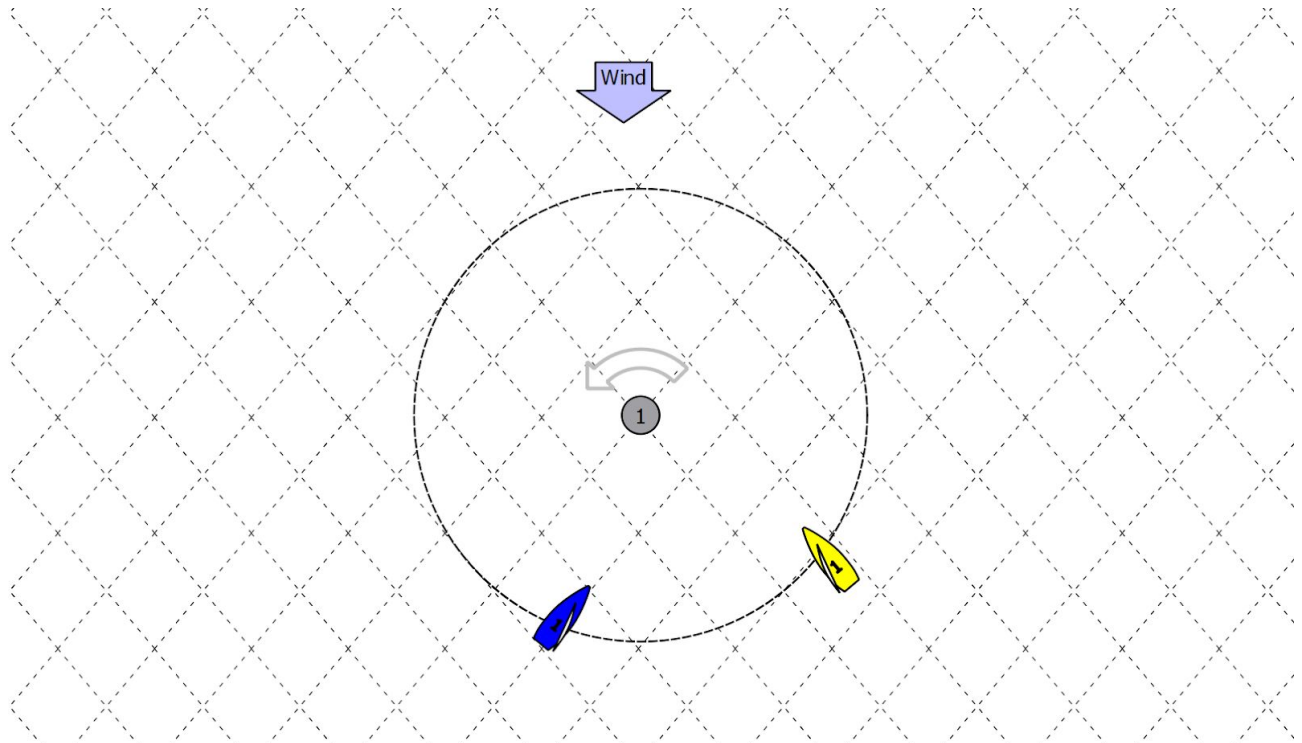
A course a boat would sail to *finish* as soon as possible in the absence of the other boats referred to in the rule using the term. A boat has no *proper course* before her starting signal.

Zone

The area around a *mark* within a distance of three hull lengths of the boat nearer to it. A boat is in the *zone* when any part of her hull is in the *zone*

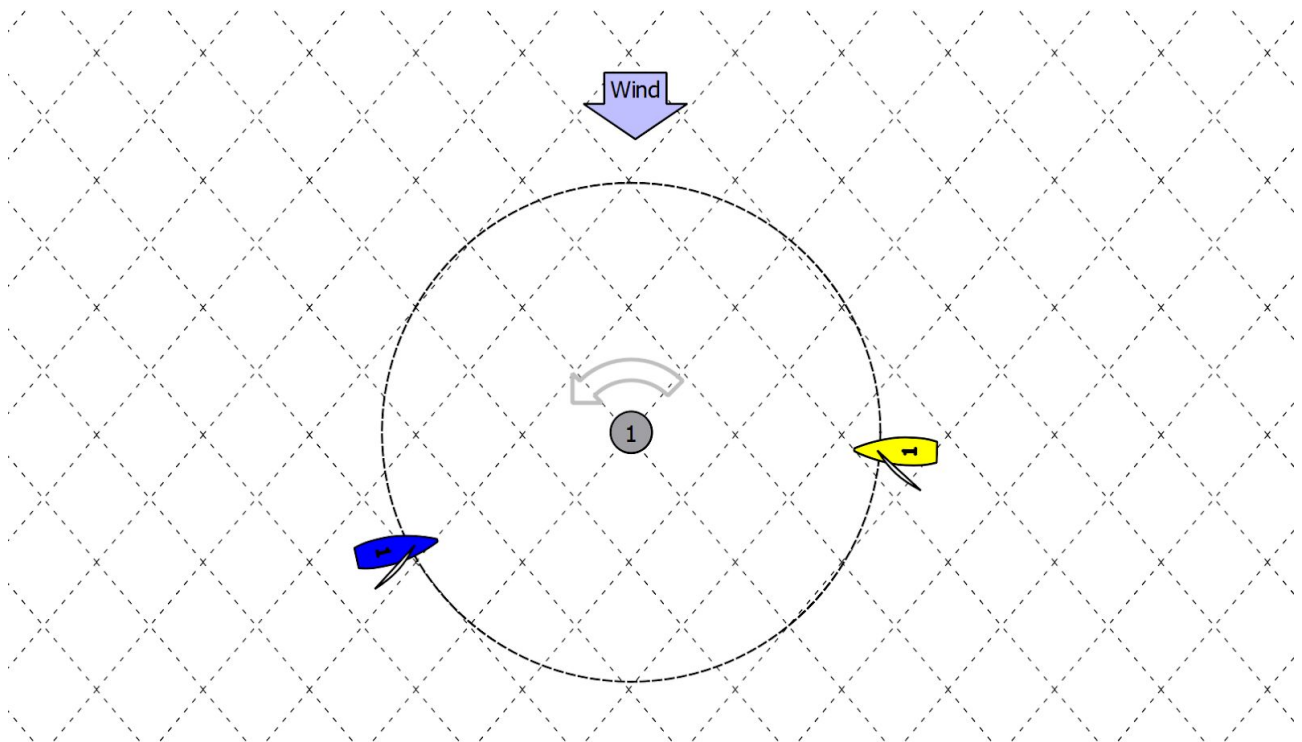
The following pages explain how each part of Rule 18 is applied.

18.1(a)



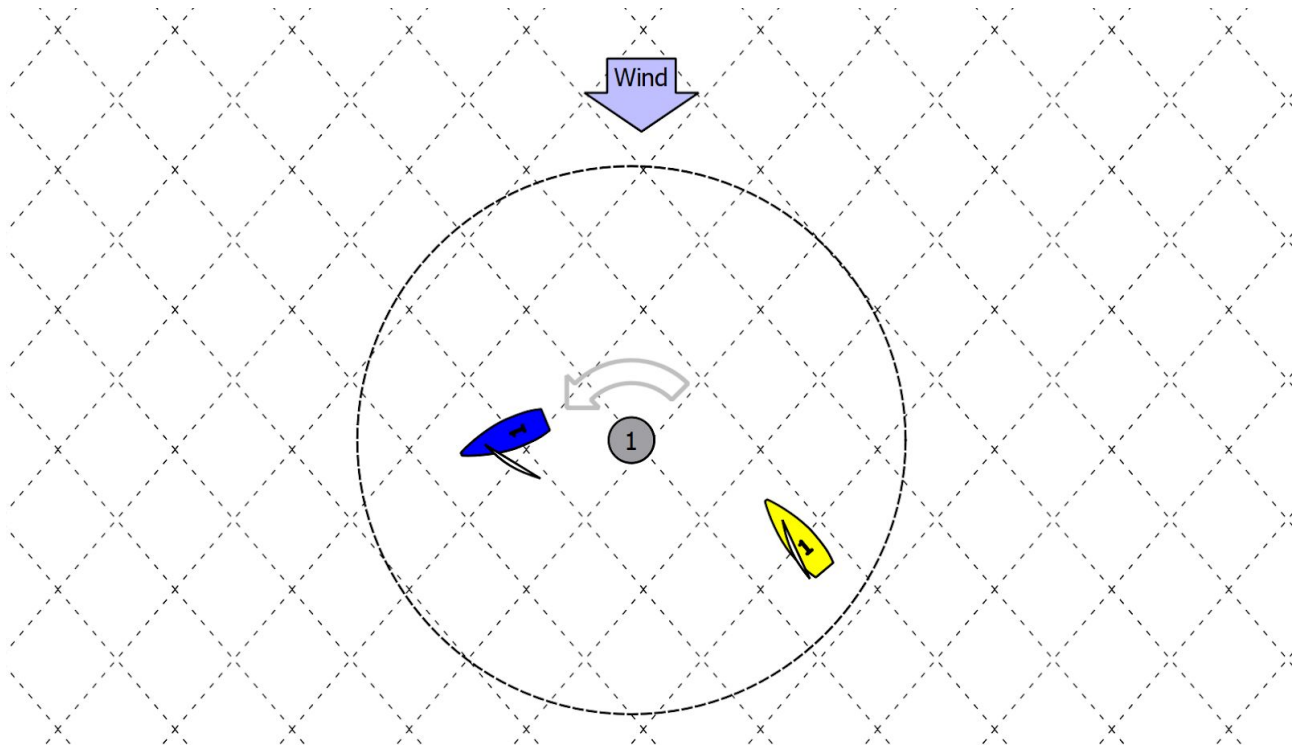
In the diagram the boats are on opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward, 18.1(a) applies, therefore no boat is entitled to *mark-room*.

18.1(b)



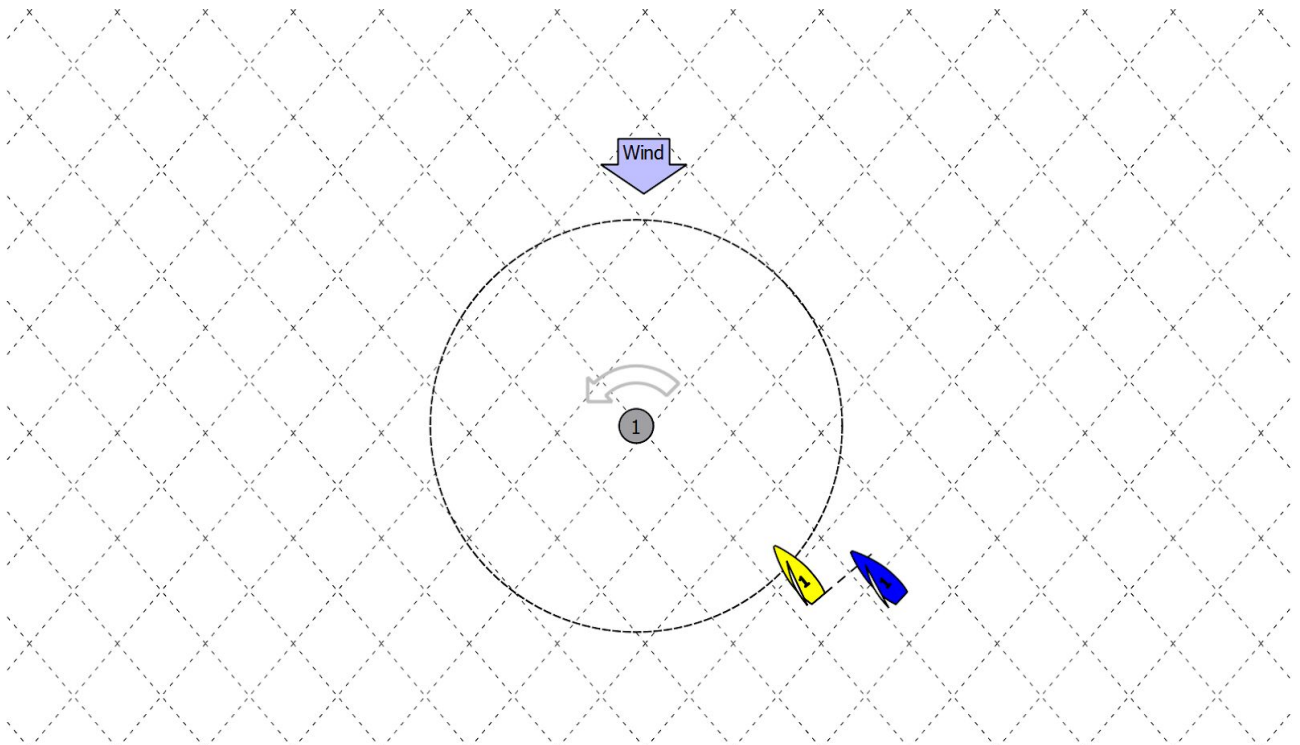
In the diagram the boats are on opposite *tacks* where at the *mark* it is the *proper course* for Blue to tack, 18.1(b) applies, therefore no boat is entitled to *mark-room*.

18.1(c)



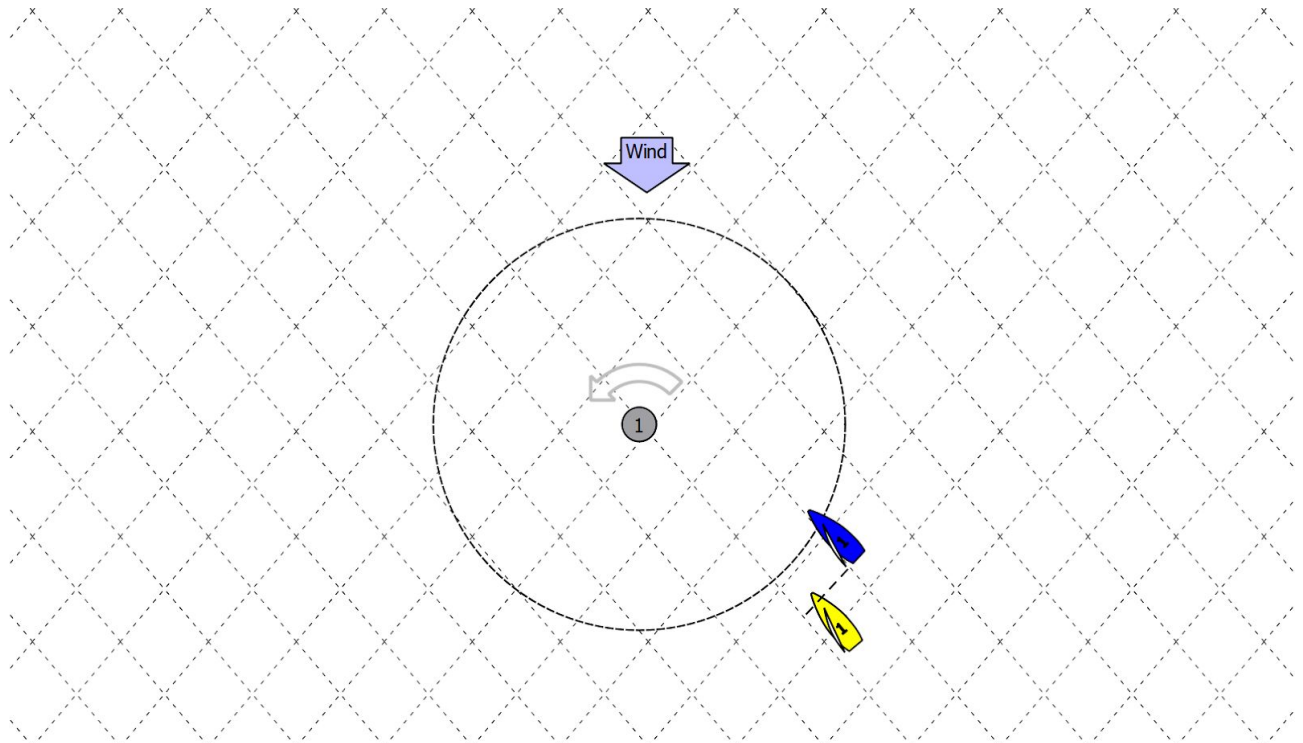
In the diagram Yellow is approaching the *mark* and Blue is leaving the *mark*, 18.1(c) applies, therefore no boat is entitled to *mark-room*.

18.2(a) and 18.2(b)



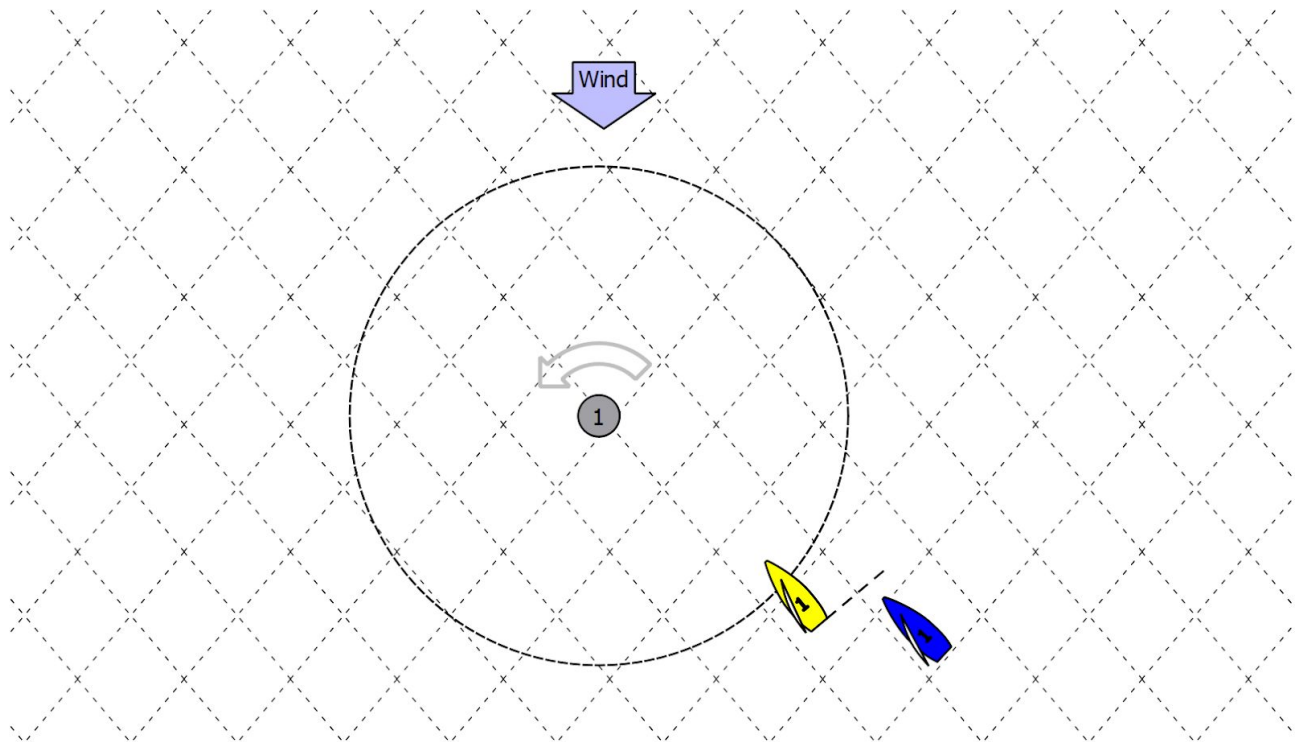
In the diagram the boats are *overlapped* and the outside boat, Blue, shall give the inside boat, Yellow, *mark-room*. Rule 18.2(a) and 18.2(b) apply.

18.2(a) and 18.2(b)



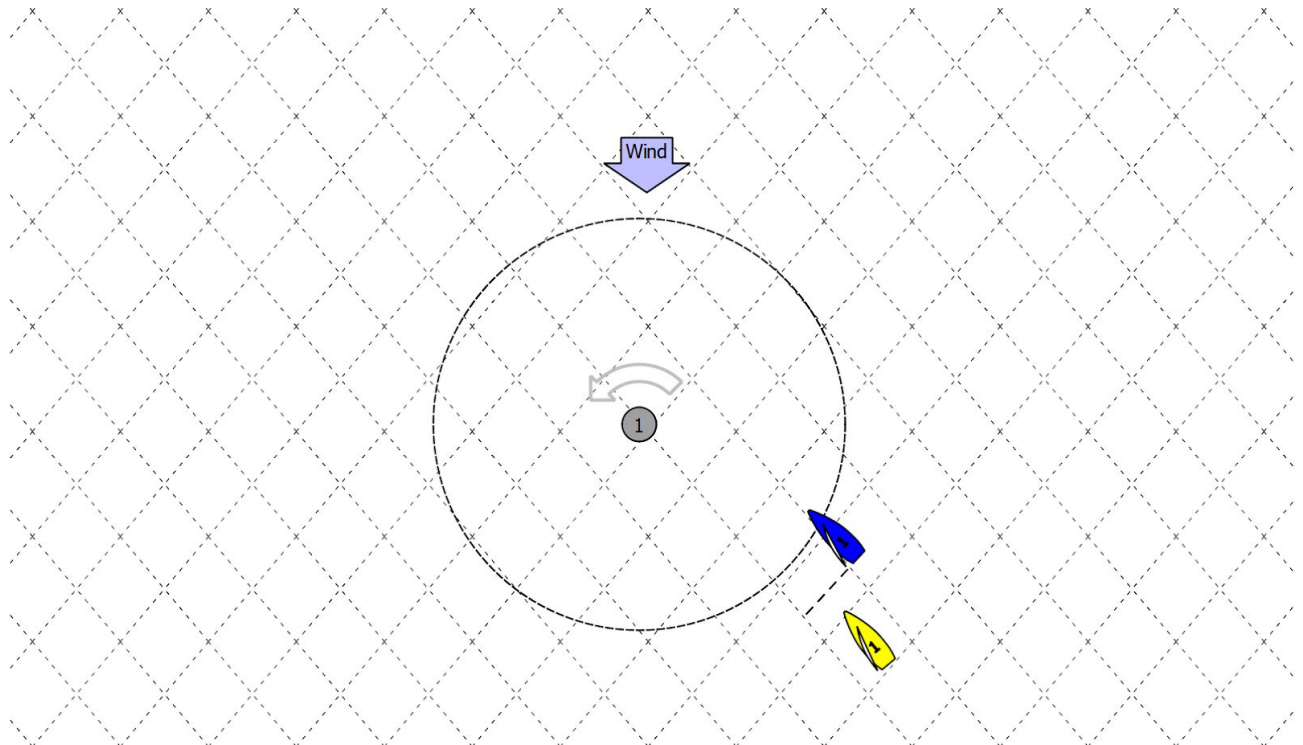
In the diagram the boats are *overlapped* and the outside boat, Blue, shall give the inside boat, Yellow, *mark-room*. Rule 18.2(a) and 18.2(b) apply.

18.2(b)



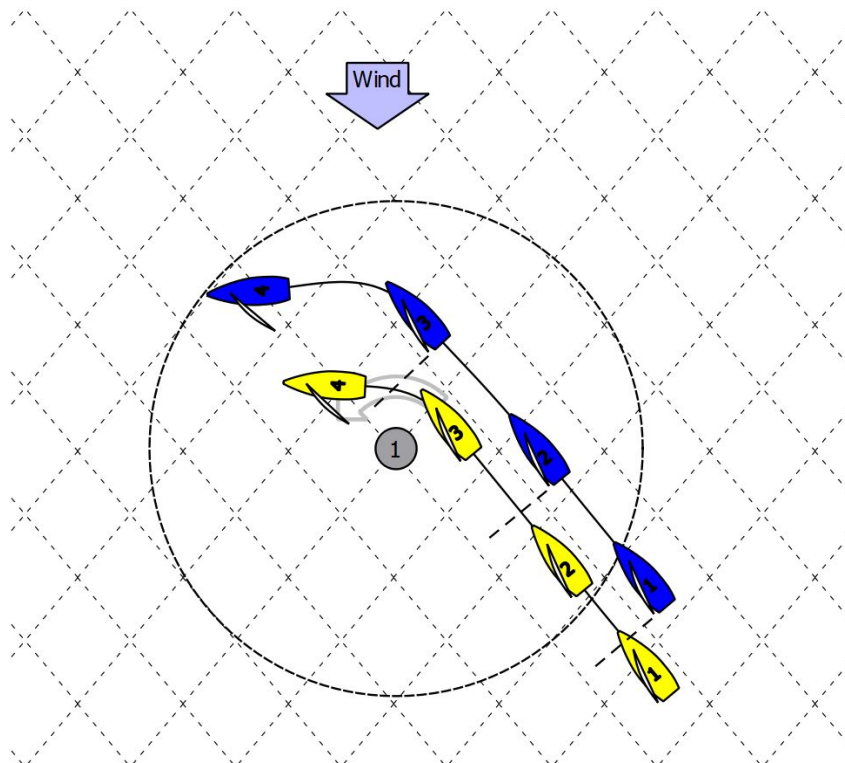
In the diagram the Yellow is *clear ahead*, Blue is *clear astern*, Blue shall give Yellow *mark-room*. Rule 18.2(b) applies.

18.2(b)



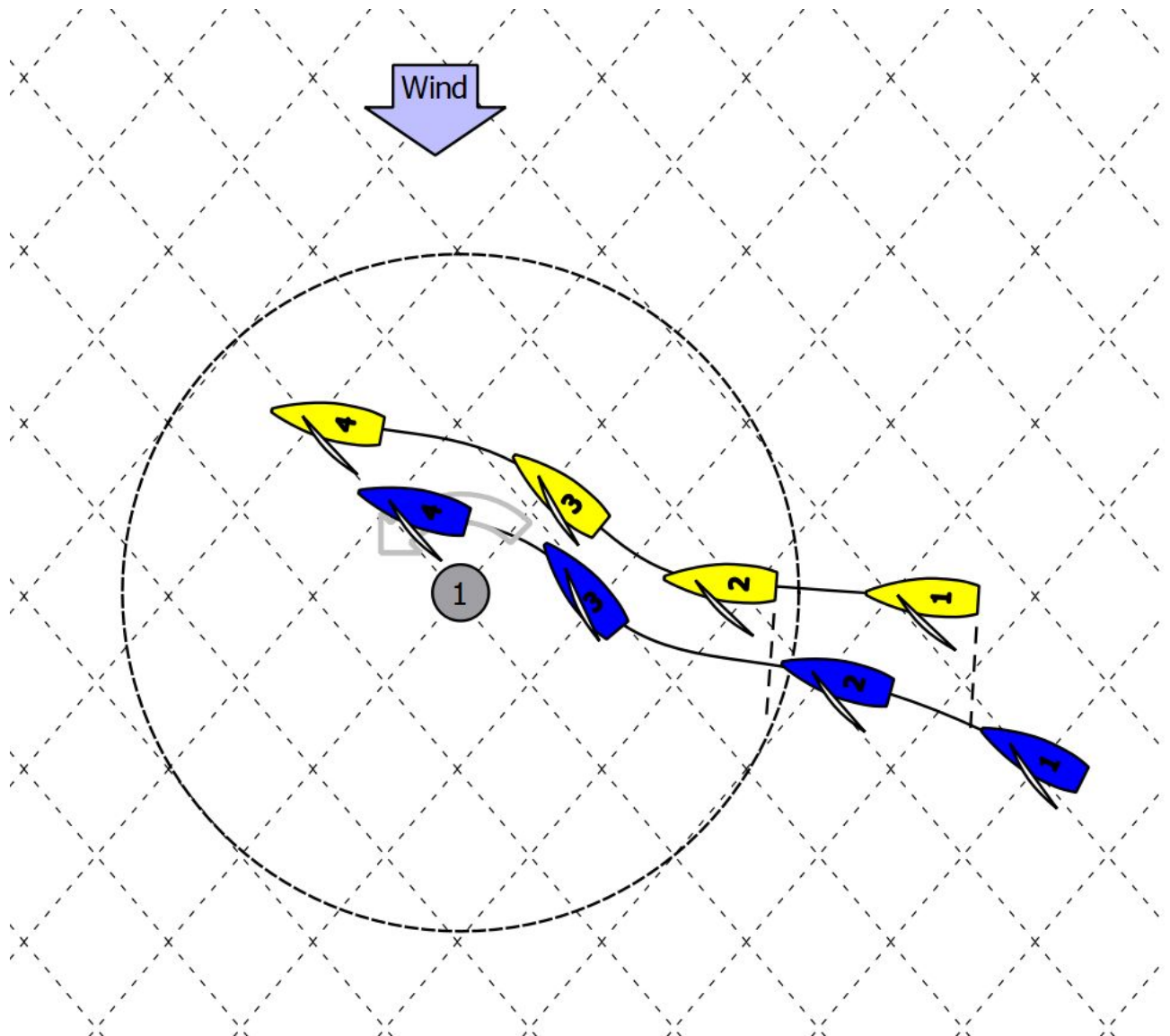
In the diagram the Blue is *clear ahead*, Yellow is *clear astern*, Yellow shall give Blue *mark-room*. Rule 18.2(b) applies.

18.2(c)(1)



In the diagram, Yellow is *overlapped* with Blue when Blue reaches the *zone*. Blue must give Yellow *mark-room* even when the *overlap* is broken from position 2. Rule 18.2(c)(1) applies.

18.2(c)(2)



In the diagram Yellow enters the *zone clear ahead* of Blue. Blue must give Yellow *mark-room* 18.2(b).

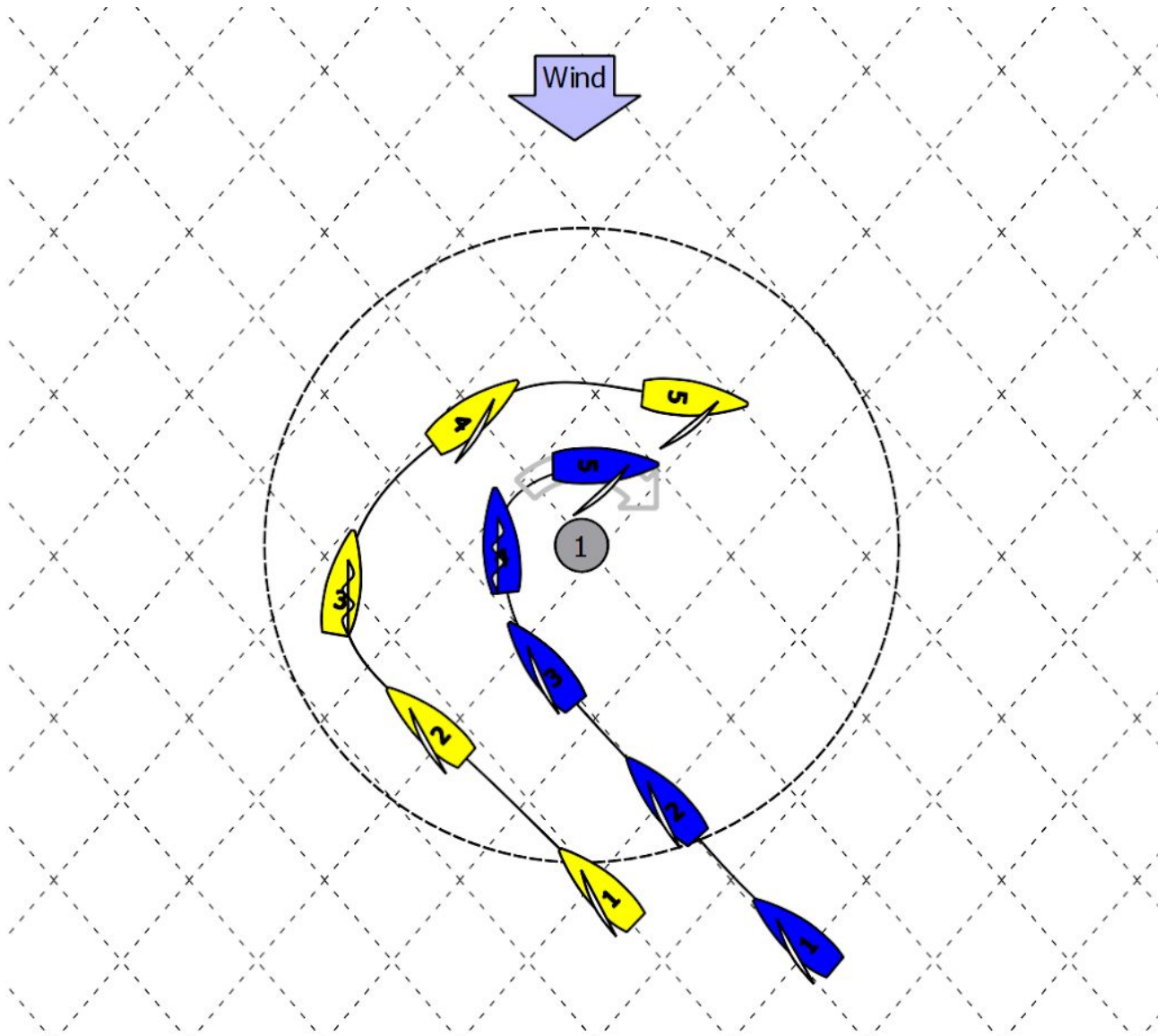
When Blue becomes *overlapped* with Yellow between positions 2 and 3, Yellow must *keep clear* under Rule 11, however, Blue must not require Yellow to sail above her *proper course* while they remain overlapped 18.2(c)(2) and must continue to give Yellow *mark-room* 18.2(b) and 18.2(c)(1). Yellow's *proper course* is to sail directly to the mark and so Blue breaks 18.2(c)(2).

The diagram illustrates a sailing race start on a diamond grid. A dashed circle is centered on a grey circle labeled '1'. A blue arrow labeled 'Wind' points down. A line of boats (blue and yellow) is shown, with a dashed line indicating a starting line. A curved arrow shows the path of a boat.

Yellow becomes *clear astern* at position 2 and so is required to *keep clear* under Rule 12, although the actions of Blue are restricted by Rule 18 by having to give *mark-room*.

At position 4, 18.2(d) applies as Yellow has been given the *mark-room* to which she is entitled and so Rule 18 ceases to apply.

18.2(d)



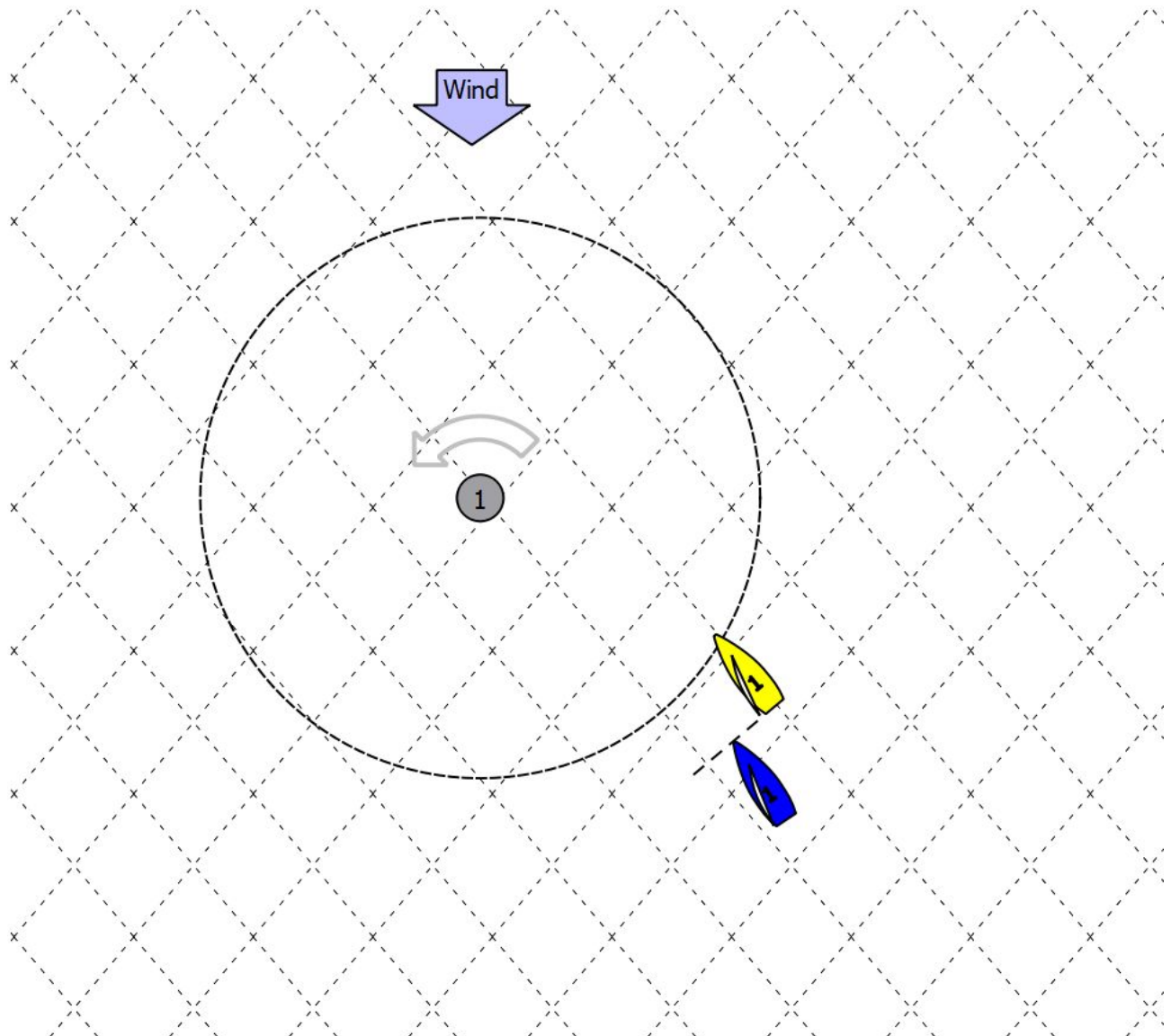
In the diagram, Blue is required to give Yellow *mark-room* by Rule 18.2(b) as Yellow is *clear ahead* when she enters the *zone*.

At position 3 Yellow passes head to wind and becomes a *tacking* boat subject to Rule 13 and Rule 18.2(d) which means that Yellow's *mark-room* ceases to apply.

Yellow must *keep clear* of Blue under Rules 13 and 10.

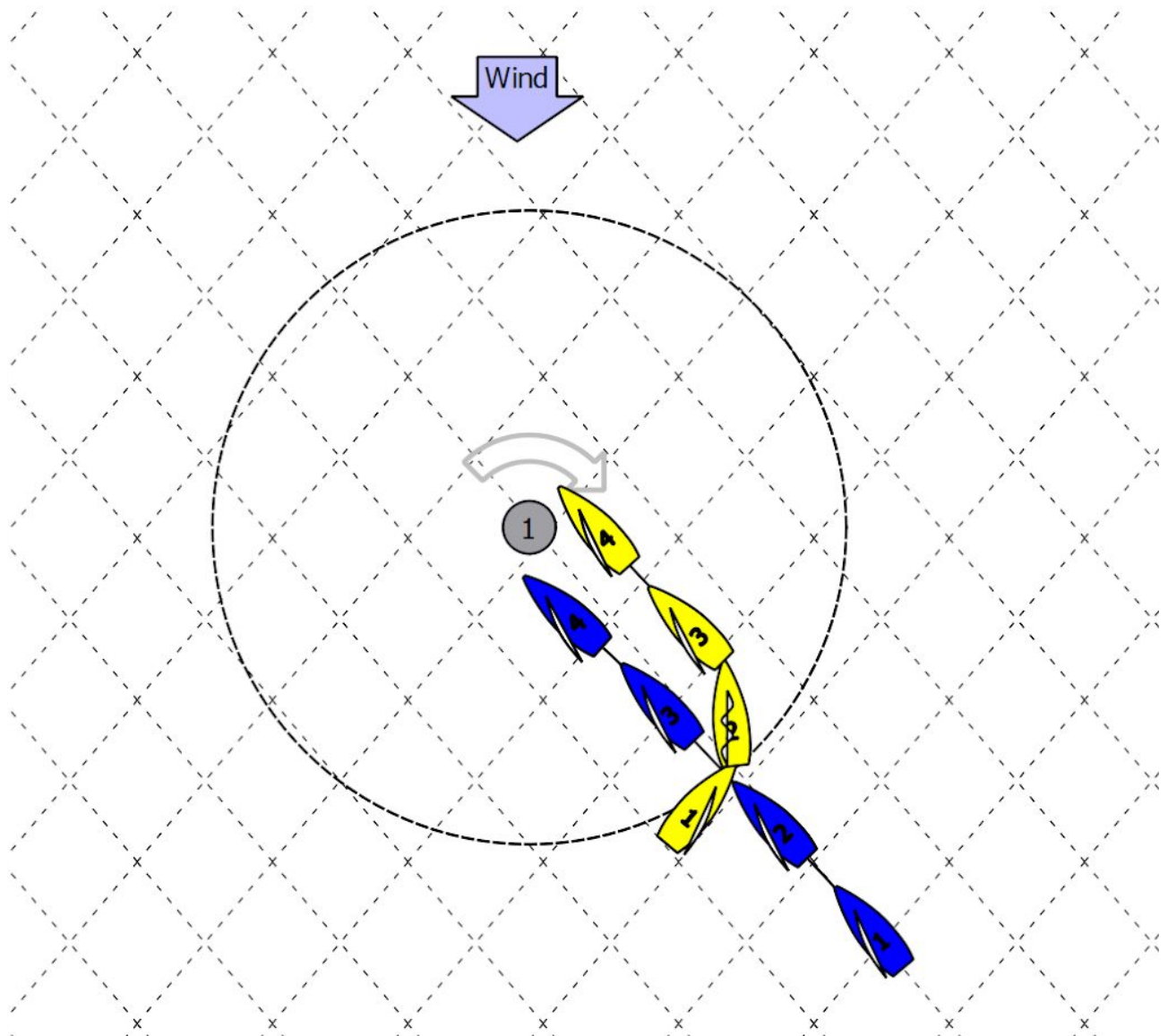
Blue must give Yellow *room* to *keep clear* under Rule 16.1 as she changes course at position 4.

18.2(e)



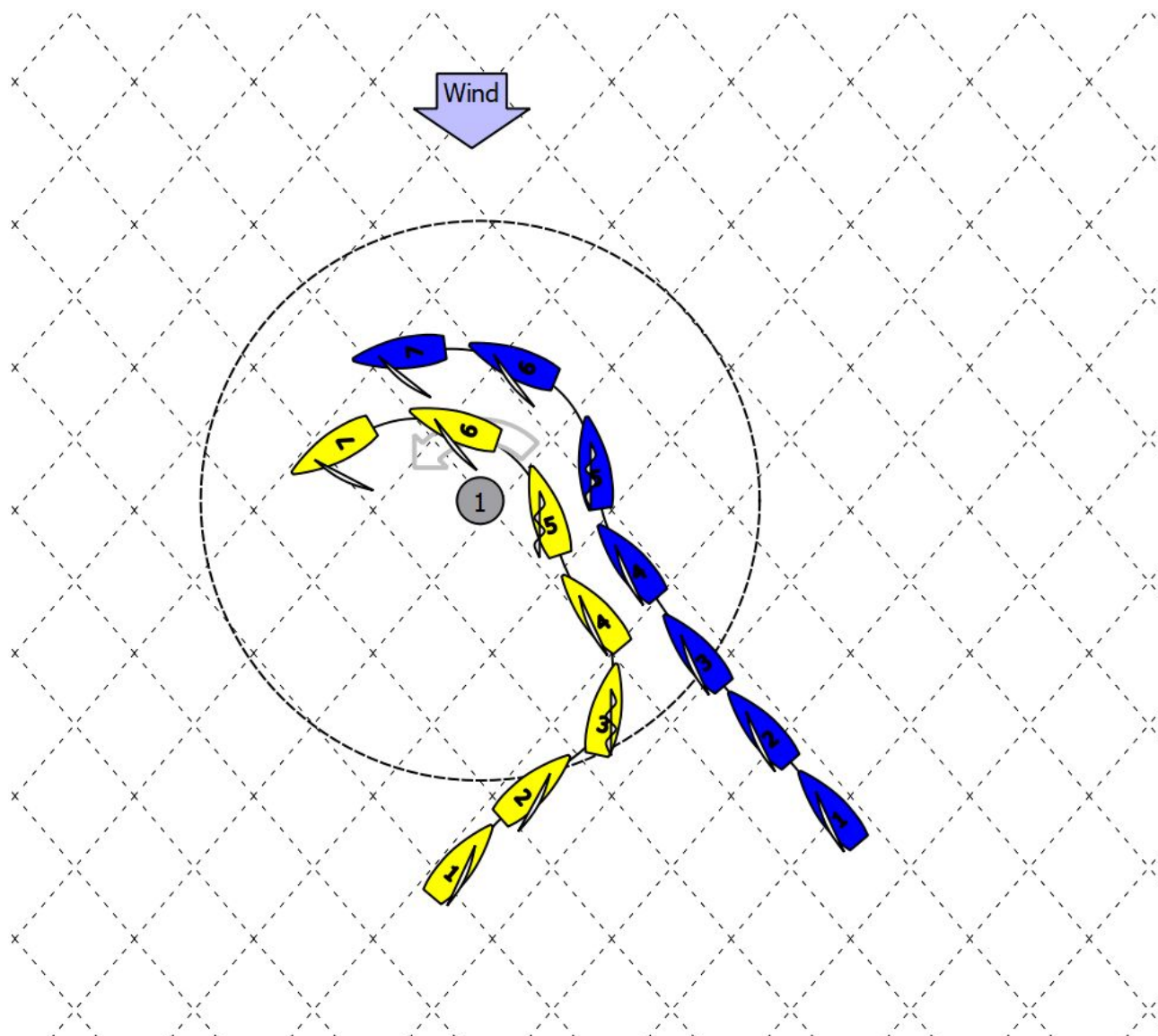
In the diagram there is reasonable doubt that Blue is *overlapped* with Yellow as they reach the *zone*, 18.2(e) states that it shall be presumed that Blue did not gain an *overlap* and so Yellow must be given *room* as per rule 18.2(b)

18.2(f)



At positions 1&2 Rule 18 does not apply as the boats are on opposite *tacks* as per 18.1(a).
At position 3 both boats are on the same *tack* and so Rule 18.2(a) applies, however as Yellow has gained an inside overlap by tacking to windward of Blue 18.2(f) applies. If Blue is unable to give *mark-room* from the time the overlap began then she is not required to give it, however if she is able to give *mark-room* then she must do so.

18.3



When Yellow enters the *zone* at position 2 she is a *keep clear* boat under Rule 10 and Rule 18 does not apply due to 18.1(a).

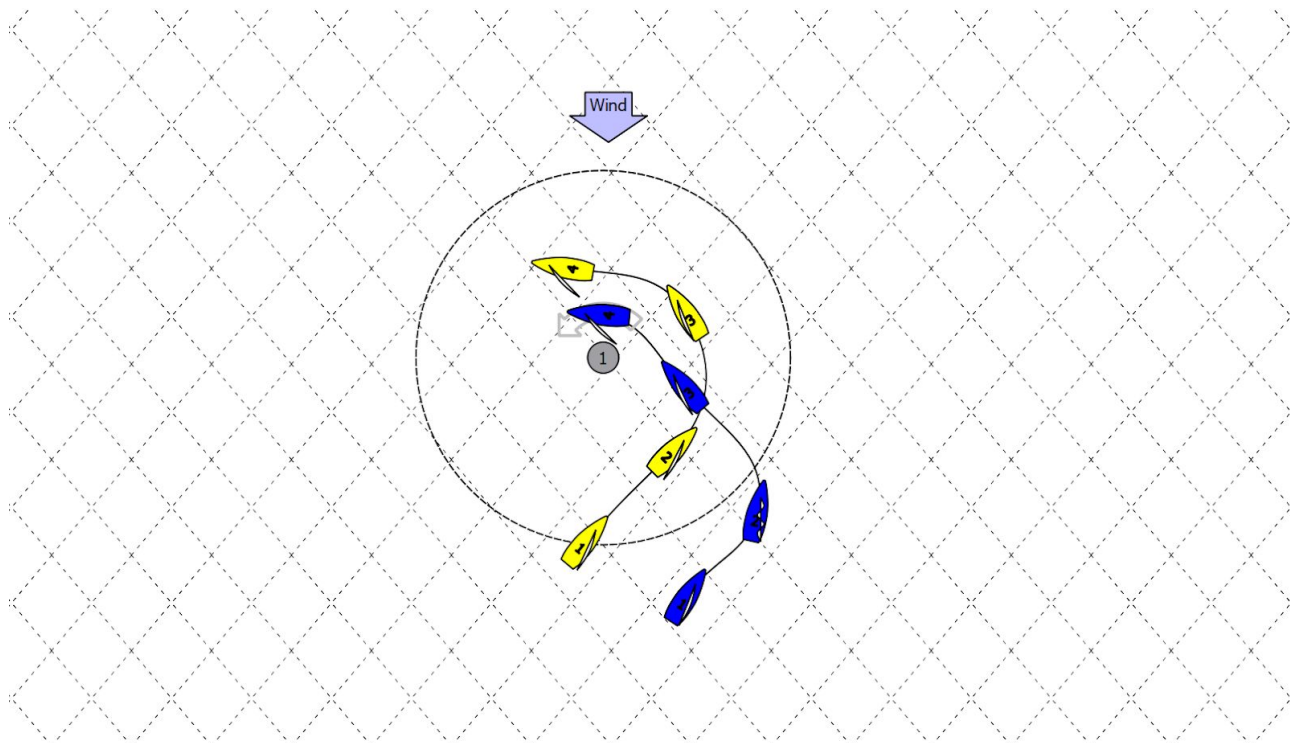
When Yellow passes head to wind from *port* to *starboard tack* within the *zone* of a *mark* to be rounded to port and is then *fetching* the *mark*, rule 18.3 applies and 18.2 does not.

Blue has been on *starboard tack* since entering the *zone* and from Position 4 must *keep clear* of Yellow under Rule 11 - on the same tack, overlapped.

Rule 18.3 restricts Yellow from causing Blue to sail above close-hauled (rules 15 and 16.1 also limit the actions of Yellow). In the diagram, Yellow breaks 18.3 and Blue *keeps clear* as required by Rule 11.

NB this does not apply to a windward mark to be rounded to starboard

18.3



In the diagram, Yellow enters the *zone overlapped* and inside Blue at position 1 and is entitled to *mark-room* by Rule 18.2(a) and 18.2(b).

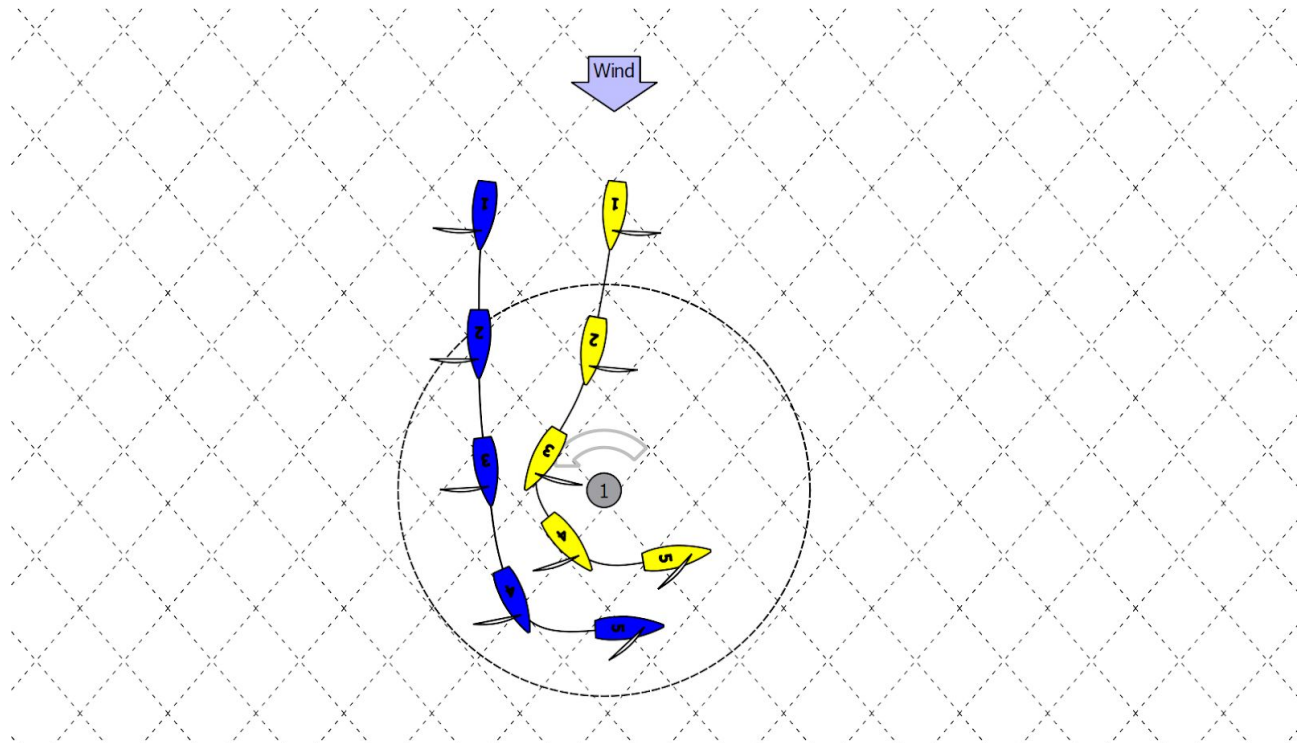
When Blue passes through head to wind shortly after position 2 and before entering the *zone*, Rule 18 ceases to apply as 18.1(a) is met.

At position 3 Blue and Yellow are *overlapped*. Yellow has passed head to wind from *port* to *starboard tack* and is *fetching* the *mark*.

Blue has been on starboard since entering the *zone*, Rule 18.3 applies.

Yellow must give Blue *mark-room* as Blue has become *overlapped* inside Yellow. As Rule 18.3 applies, Rule 18.2 does not. (Rule 11 On the Same Tack, Overlapped, will also apply between the boats after position 3).

18.4



When Blue and Yellow enter the *zone* they are *overlapped* and Yellow is an inside right-of-way boat who must gybe at the *mark* to sail her *proper course*.

Rule 18.4 applies and so Yellow must not sail farther from the *mark* than needed to sail her *proper course*.

NB Rule 18.4 does not apply at a gate mark.