

## 21 EXONERATION

When a boat is sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled, she shall be exonerated if, in an incident with a boat required to give her that *room* or *mark-room*,

- (a) she breaks a rule of Section A, rule 15 or rule 16, or
- (b) she is compelled to break rule 31.

## 22 STARTING ERRORS; TAKING PENALTIES; BACKING A SAIL

**22.1** A boat sailing towards the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions after her starting signal to *start* or to comply with rule 30.1 shall *keep clear* of a boat not doing so until she is completely on the pre-start side.

**22.2** A boat taking a penalty shall *keep clear* of one that is not.

**22.3** A boat moving astern, or sideways to windward, through the water by backing a sail shall *keep clear* of one that is not.

## 31 TOUCHING A MARK

While *racing*, a boat shall not touch a starting *mark* before *starting*, a *mark* that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a finishing *mark* after *finishing*.

## 44 PENALTIES AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT

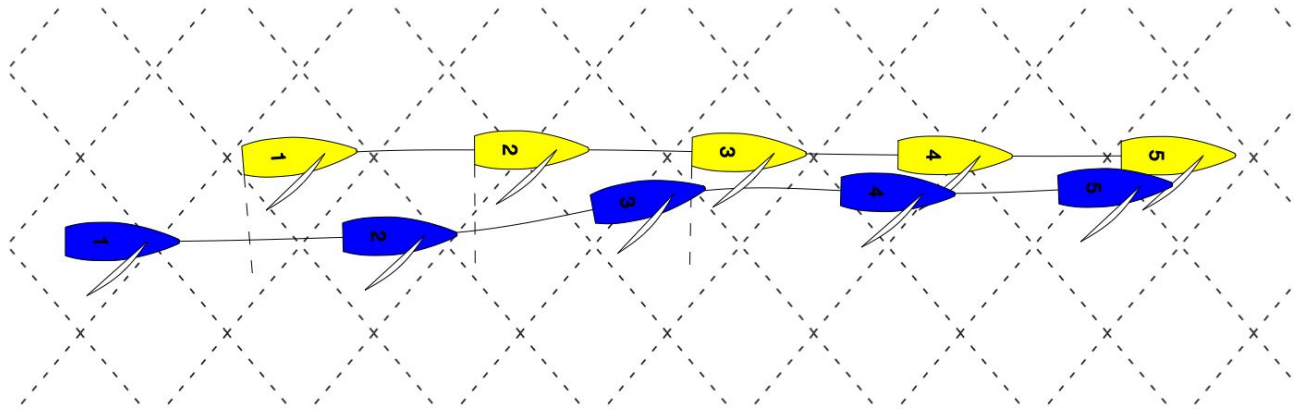
### 44.1 Taking a Penalty

A boat may take a Two-Turns Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 in an incident while *racing*. She may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken rule 31. Alternatively, sailing instructions may specify the use of the Scoring Penalty or some other penalty, in which case the specified penalty shall replace the One-Turn and the Two-Turns Penalty. However,

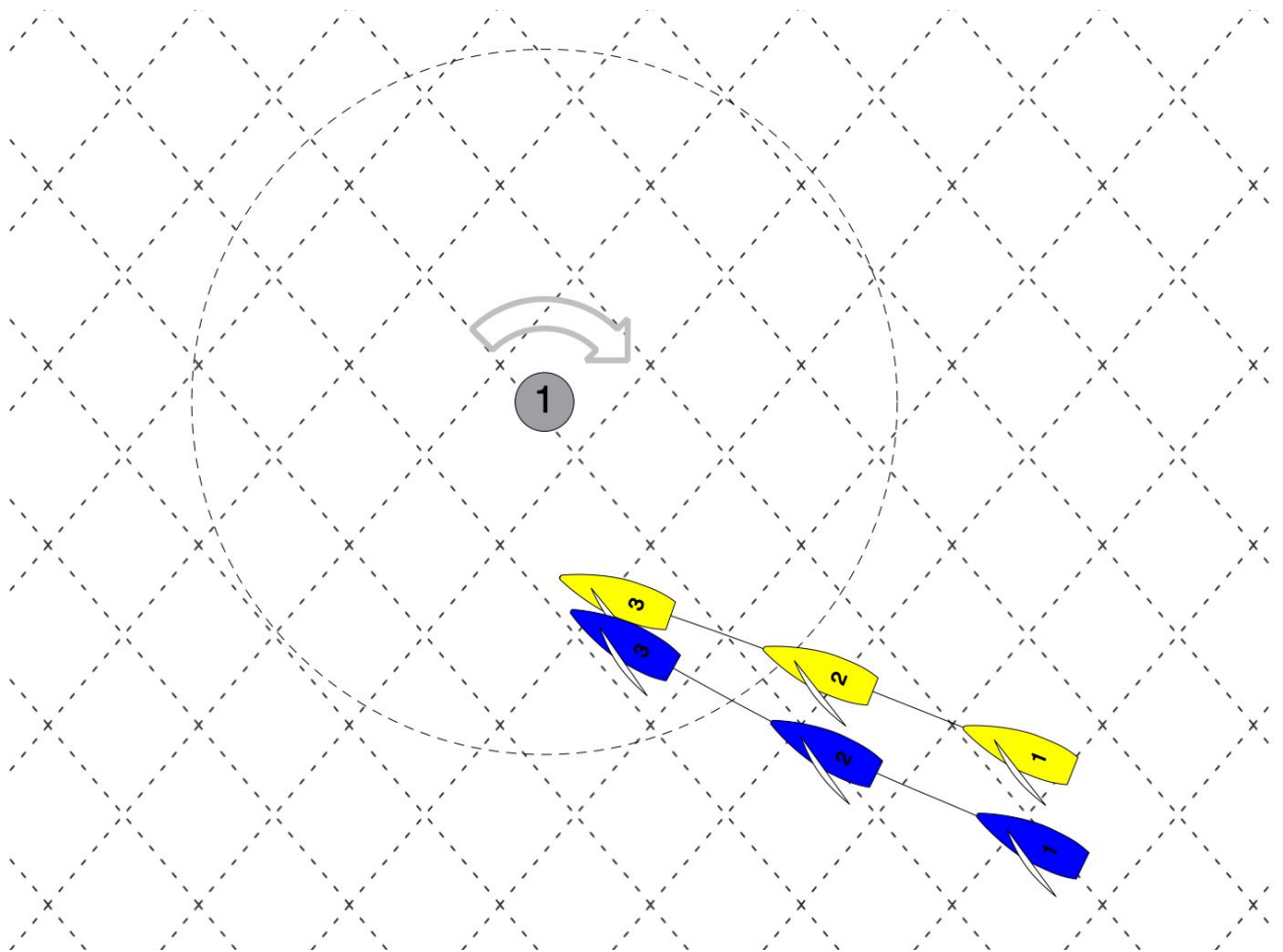
- (a) when a boat may have broken a rule of Part 2 and rule 31 in the same incident she need not take the penalty for breaking rule 31;
- (b) If the boat caused injury or serious damage or, despite taking a penalty, gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach her penalty shall be to retire.

### 44.2 One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalties

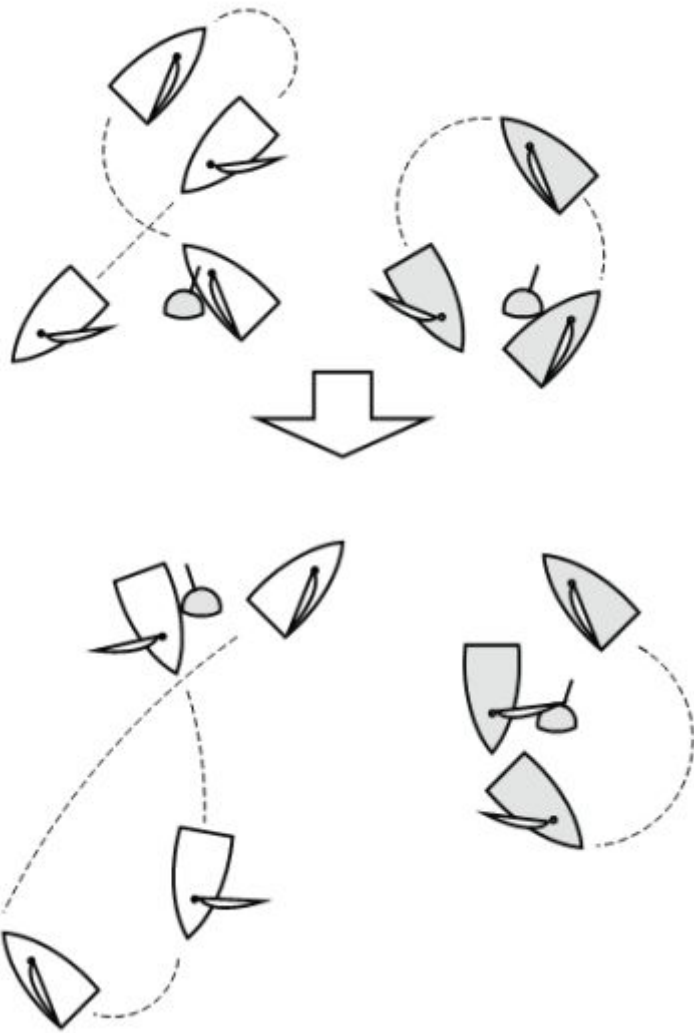
After getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible, a boat takes a One-Turn or Two-Turns Penalty by promptly making the required number of turns in the same direction, each turn including one tack and one gybe. When a boat takes the penalty at or near the finishing line, she shall sail completely to the course side of the line before *finishing*.



Blue is initially a *clear astern keep clear* boat (rule 12) moving faster than Yellow. At position 3 Blue becomes an overlapped right-of-way boat (rule 11), however as she acquired right of way through her own actions she must give Yellow *room to keep clear* (rule 15). Rule 21 exonerates Yellow for breaking rule 11 as she was unable to keep clear.



Yellow is a *windward keep clear* boat (rule 11) and entitled to *mark-room* (rule 18.2(b)). *Mark-room* only includes the room to sail to the mark. Yellow breaks rule 11 and is not exonerated under rule 21 as she is not within her *mark-room*. Both boats break rule 14, however as there is no serious damage they are exonerated by rule 14(b).



In each of the diagrams the boat breaks rule 31 by making contact with the mark. The boat then complies fully with rule 44 by taking a One-Turn penalty which must include a tack and gybe in any order.