Racing Rules of Sailing

New TR Call L2

A submission from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Purpose or Objective

To clarify when a boat may interrupt and then continue taking the same penalty turn.

Proposal

TR CALL L2

Rule 21.2 Taking Penalties
Rule 23.2 Interfering with Another Boat
Rule 44.2 One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalties

Facts

On a beat to windward, B is on port tack and is well clear of other boats. She bears away to take a penalty. Y tacks to starboard onto a collision course with B. B luffs to keep clear of Y, then gybes and promptly completes her penalty. There is a protest.

Decision

No Penalty.

From position 2 B is taking a penalty. See Call L5 answer 3.

While B is taking her penalty she must keep clear of Y; she does so by luffing and complies with rule 21.2. Then she complies with rule 44.2 by promptly completing her penalty.

Y is sailing her proper course at all times. Therefore rule 23.2 does not apply to her and she breaks no rule.

When a boat that is well clear of other boats starts to take a penalty turn, and the actions of another boat cause her to interrupt her turn to comply with rule 21.2, she complies with rule 44.2 if she then promptly completes her penalty.
Current Position
None

Reasons
Rule 44.2 states that a penalty turn or turns must be taken "by promptly making the required number of turns". There are occasions when, after sailing well clear as required, a boat has started to take a penalty which is then interrupted by a right-of-way boat. This call clarifies the conditions when a boat may interrupt a penalty turn and the requirements for completing her penalty.