

## Windward Boat - Pre Start

The windward boat must keep clear.

- The windward boat is not entitled to sail her proper course
- A boat has no "proper course" before the start - Mast abeam rule went away many years ago
- There is no "mark room" at the starting marks - the windward boat is at high risk
- If there are multiple boats at the start line that are overlapped, the most leeward boat must give the windward *room* to keep clear - as well as all other boats overlapped to windward
- Windward boats that need to keep clear following a change of course by the leeward boat, get a brief opportunity to "respond promptly in a seamanlike manner" to keep clear
- When a windward boat comes down to the leeward boat, and then later can't keep clear - the windward boat put herself there and breaks the rule
- If you are the windward boat and you could keep clear by sailing above the line but refuse to do so to avoid OCS, then you are deliberately breaking the windward boat keep clear rule.

- If you are OCS, you must bring your boat fully on the start side of the line, to be considered starting the race. Realize that you have no maneuvering rights other than port/ starboard.

So... The windward boat must keep clear in all the rules - except if she has mark room or sometimes an obstruction.

I will talk about mark roundings and obstructions next month.