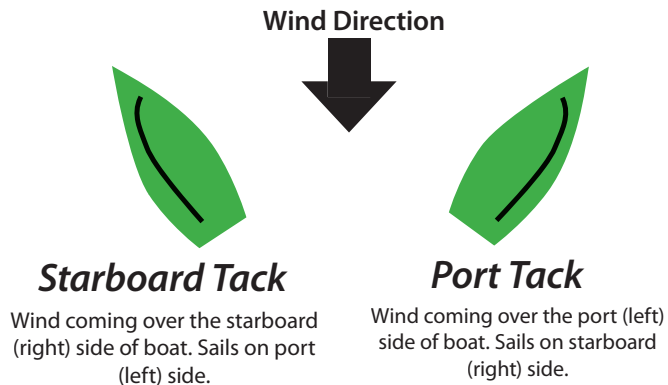
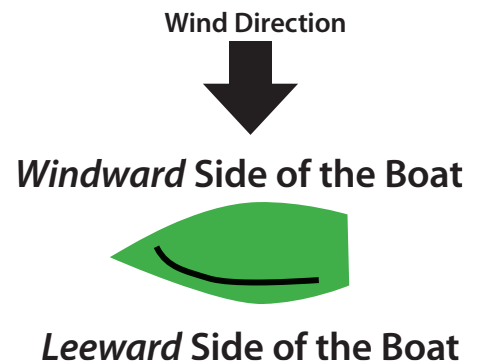


BASIC TERMS

Starboard Tack vs Port Tack



Windward vs Leeward



Right-of-Way

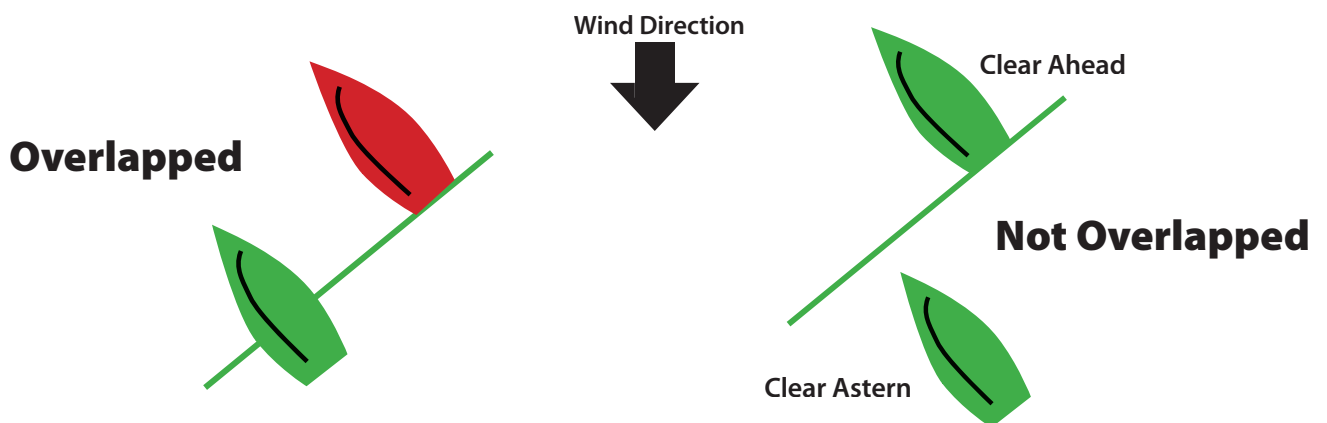
When one boat has the *Right-of-Way*, the other boats is required to *Keep Clear*.



Avoiding Collisions - All boats are required by rule to avoid a collision if possible!
Right-of-Way is no excuse to cause a collision.

Overlapped Boats

A boat *Overlapped* to *Leeward* has *Right-of-Way*. Overlaps are established from the transom.



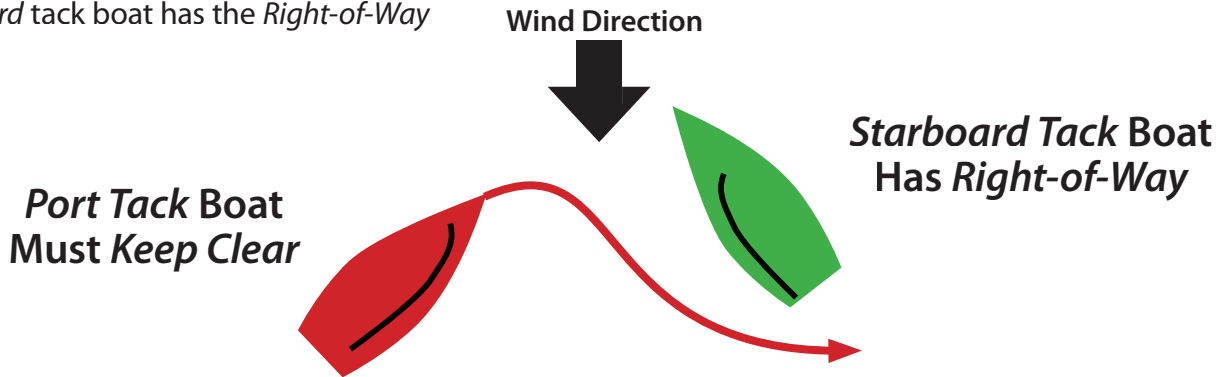
Other Terms Used In This Discussion

- Close Hauled** - A boat sailing as close to the wind direction as possible
- Head-to-Wind** - A boat pointed straight into the wind. Sails will be luffing.
- Inside** - A boat positioned between the mark and another boat
- Outside** - A boat positioned with another boat between them and the mark
- Proper Course** - The course a boat would sail to get to the next mark as quickly as possible
- Room** - The space a boat needs to maneuver properly given conditions

BASIC RIGHT-OF-WAY SITUATIONS

Two Boats Converging on Opposite Tacks

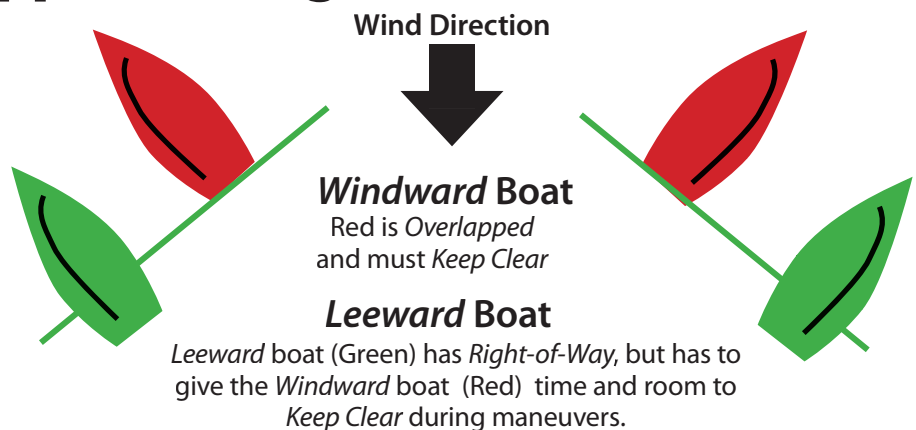
A Starboard tack boat has the *Right-of-Way*



Two Boats Overlapped Sailing On the Same Tack

Leeward boat has the *Right-of-Way*

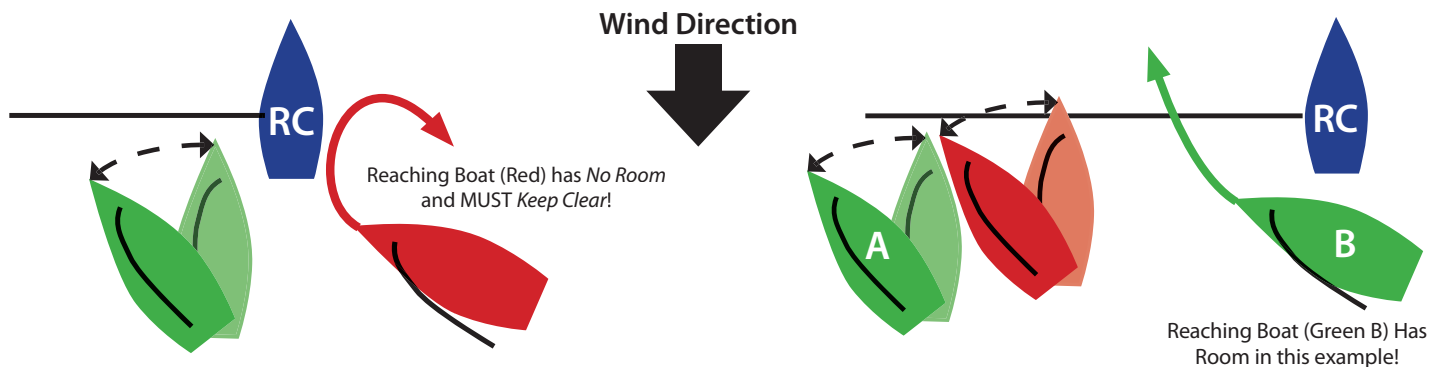
NOTE: This Rule applies for two boats near each other on the same tack. However, remember that any approaching *Starboard Tack* boat will have *Right-of-Way* over all *Port Tack* boats



No Barging at Start

A *Leeward* boat has *Right-of-Way* at the start and is allowed to sail above her *Proper Course* to shut-out any boat heading into the start before the start signal. After the start signal, the *Leeward* boat must assume her proper course.

Basically, any boat to leeward that you can potentially hit should be considered a brick wall.



REACHING BOAT (RED) IS BARGING!

Before the start signal, Green has the right to go "head-to-wind" and force a *Windward Overlapped* boat (RED) over the start line or into a position that it must avoid the Committee Boat or Start Mark by turning away.

LEEWARD BOAT (GREEN A) HAS RIGHT-OF-WAY RED MUST KEEP CLEAR OF GREEN A!

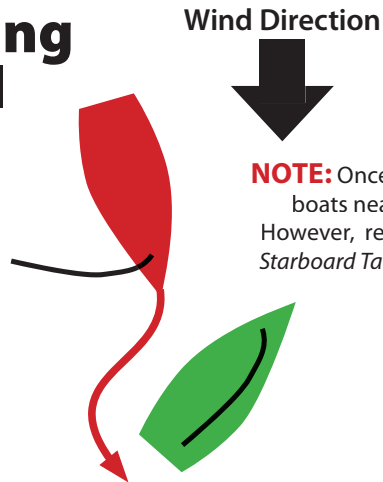
Green A has the right to go "head-to-wind" to force Red over the start line before the start signal. Green A is not close enough to committee boat to shut-out Green B.

BASIC RIGHT-OF-WAY SITUATIONS

Same Tack Boats Converging on Different Points-of-Sail

Leeward Boat has Right-of Way

In this example, both boats are on *Port Tack*. As they converge, the *windward* boat (Red), which is sailing downwind, has to *Keep Clear* of the *leeward* boat (Green).



NOTE: Once again this rule applies for two boats near each other on the same tack. However, remember that any approaching *Starboard Tack* boat will have *Right-of-Way* over all *Port Tack* boats.

Boats Converging at Mark

An *Inside* and *Overlapped* boat (Green A) within three boat-lengths of the mark has the *Right-of-Way*. In general, any *Overlapped* outside boat (Red B) must *Keep Clear* and give room to any boat between them and the mark.

A boat coming into the mark on *Port Tack* (Red D) must be able to complete its tack without obstructing the progress of an incoming *Starboard Tack* boat. If a *Starboard Tack* boat has to adjust course, you fouled them.

