

RC 44

EVENT CALL 02

Gybing

Definition Tack, Starboard or Port

Definition Leeward and Windward

Question 1

How will the umpires decide when the mainsail has filled when a boat is gybing?

Answer 1

The umpires will decide the mainsail has filled when the bottom one-third (1/3) of the mainsail has filled.

Question 2

How will the umpires decide when a boat changes tack during a gybe?

Answer 2

After the boom has crossed to leeward and the umpires are certain that the boat has a new windward side from the angle of the true wind, the umpires will deem that the boat is on the new tack.

If the umpires are in doubt as to which is the boat's leeward side, the umpires will consider her to have changed tack when either the bottom 1/3 of the mainsail lies, or would lie, on the new side without being restrained or when the bottom 1/3 of the mainsail is filled on the new side.

Question 3

A boat sailing downwind on port tack bears away to gybe and keeps her boom trimmed to the starboard side so that the foot of the mainsail does not cross the centreline. After the bottom 1/3 of the mainsail fills on the new side, she eases the boom and the foot of the mainsail across the centreline.

- (a) Is she required to keep clear?
- (b) When does she change tack?

Answer 3

(a) No. Since the foot of the mainsail does not cross the centreline until after the bottom 1/3 of the mainsail has filled on the other side she changes tack instantaneously and she is not required to keep clear for gybing.

(b) She remains on port tack until the bottom 1/3 of the mainsail fills on the new side; at that point she becomes a starboard tack boat.