

## **Racing Rules of Sailing ([wikipedia](#))**

1. Boats on a port tack shall give way to boats on starboard tack ([Rule 10](#)).
2. When boats are on the same tack, the boat to [windward](#) shall keep clear of a [leeward](#) boat ([Rule 11](#)).
3. When boats are on the same tack, the boat that is astern shall keep clear of the boat ahead. ([Rule 12](#)).
4. When a boat is tacking (changing tack) it shall keep clear of boats that are not tacking [Rule 13]

## **PORT**

When both sailboats are on opposite tacks (one has the wind on the port side and the other has the wind on the starboard side), the PORT tack vessel has to stay out of the way of the other sailboat.

## **WIND**

When both sailboats have the wind on the same side (same tack), the sailboat to WIND-ward has to stay out of the way of the sailboat to leeward. (The boat furthest from the source of wind, leeward, has right of way)

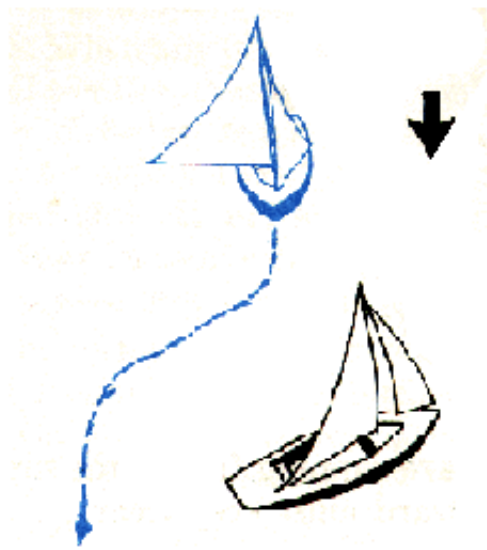
## **O**

When one sailboat O-vertakes another sailboat from behind the beam, it has to stay out of the way of the other sailboat. This applies to vessels under sail or under power.

## Right of Way (ROW) Rule 1

The arrow indicates the direction of the wind. The black boat is "privileged", and has the right-of-way. The blue boat is the "burdened" boat and must get out of the way.

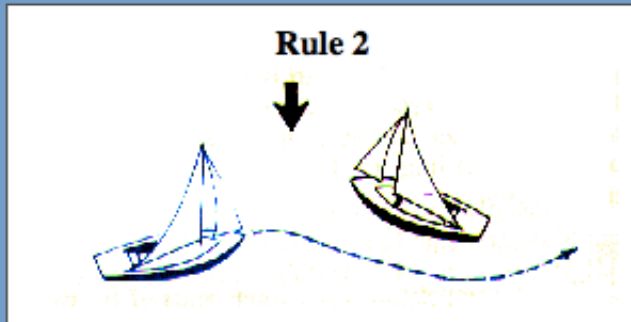
### Rule 1



A sailboat running free must keep clear of one close hauled.

## Right of Way (ROW) Rule 2

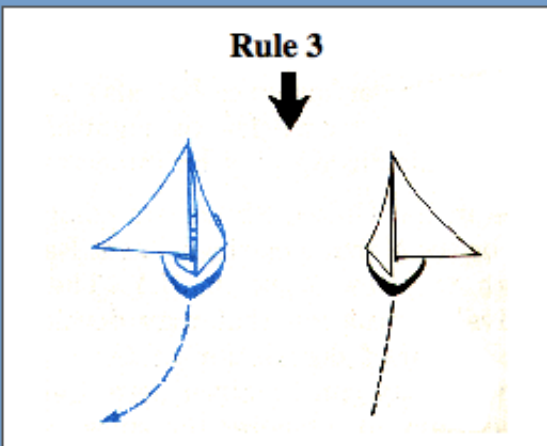
The arrow indicates the direction of the wind. The black boat is "privileged", and has the right-of-way. The blue boat is the "burdened" boat and must get out of the way.



A sailboat close hauled on the port tack must keep clear of a sailboat close hauled on the starboard tack.

## Right of Way (ROW) Rule 3

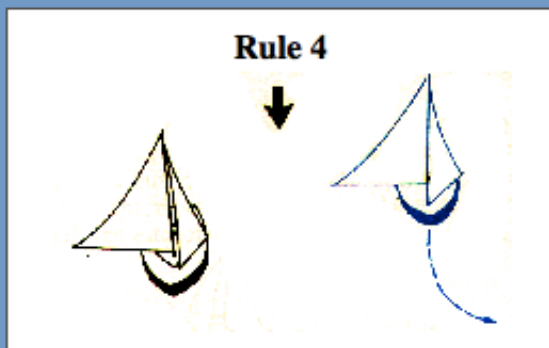
The arrow indicates the direction of the wind. The black boat is "privileged", and has the right-of-way. The blue boat is the "burdened" boat and must get out of the way.



When both boats are running free on opposite tacks the vessel with the wind on the port side must keep clear.

## Right of Way (ROW) Rule 4

The arrow indicates the direction of the wind. The black boat is "privileged", and has the right-of-way. The blue boat is the "burdened" boat and must get out of the way.



When both boats are running free on the same tack the boat to windward must keep clear.

[\[Back to ROW Rule List\]](#)

Alex's algorithm

I'm going

**upwind (close hauled)**



The boat I'm going to hit sails



**downwind (running)**

I have the right of way

**upwind (close hauled)**



The boat I'm going to hit is



**on the opposite tack**

**(our sails are on different sides)**



On my boom I read



**starboard**  
**(wind is from the**  
**right board)**

I have the right of way



**port**  
**(wind is from the**  
**left board)**

I should keep clear  
(give way)



**on the same tack**

**(our sails are on the same side)**



Whoever is closer to the wind  
(windward) should keep clear  
(give way)

