

Racing Rules

Definitions:

1. Luffing:

This is when a boat changes direction towards the wind i.e. goes from sailing on whatever tack to get the boat pointing into the wind and the sails flapping i.e. head to wind. At this point the boat then effectively has 3 options, it can,

- a) Hold this head to wind position with its sails flapping, like on the start line.
- b) Return back onto its original course,
- c) Continue the manoeuvre and complete the tack.

2. Tacking:

Tacking is potentially the continuation of a luff that results in the boat changing course so that it ends up sailing on the opposite tack to where it started, i.e. Port to Starboard and vice versa.

When a boat tacks from Port onto Starboard it is allowed to call "Starboard" once its sails have filled on the new side however, you must give the other boat the room to keep clear by either tacking themselves or taking other avoiding action such as ducking your transom.

IRRS Rule 13: WHILE TACKING

After a boat passes head to wind, she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course. During that time rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply. If two boats are subject to this rule at the same time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern shall keep clear.

(See Apr 22 clinic notes – Club Rule No's. 4 and 5 (IRRS Rules 13 and 16.) These address what you should do when gaining the right of way when you change course.)

The opposition isn't expected to anticipate your manoeuvre so beware when in close combat!

3. Overlap:

We have a couple of scenarios here, i.e. whether it's to Windward or Leeward.

A. Passing to Windward:

Club Rule 2, the Apr 22 rules clinic discussed the IRRS Rule 11 for the Windward keeping clear of the Leeward boat.

B. Passing to Leeward:

This one is a little more difficult as is dependant on where the Leeward boat starts and is covered by IRRS Rule 17.

IRRS Rule 17: ON THE SAME TACK; PROPER COURSE

If a boat clear astern becomes overlapped within two of her hull lengths to leeward of a boat on the same tack, she shall not sail above her proper course while they remain on the same tack and overlapped within that distance, unless in doing so she promptly sails astern of the other boat. This rule does not apply if the overlap begins while the windward boat is required by rule 13 to keep clear. (Rule 13 is keeping clear whilst tacking)

This definition was put on the internet by **Dinghy Racing Tips** in 2020 and gives a great breakdown what passing to Leeward means and the actions required by both boats when an overlap occurs, i.a.w. IRRS Rule 17.

<https://dinghyracingtips.com/blog/luffing-rights-proper-course-rule-17-of-the-racing-rules-of-sailing/>