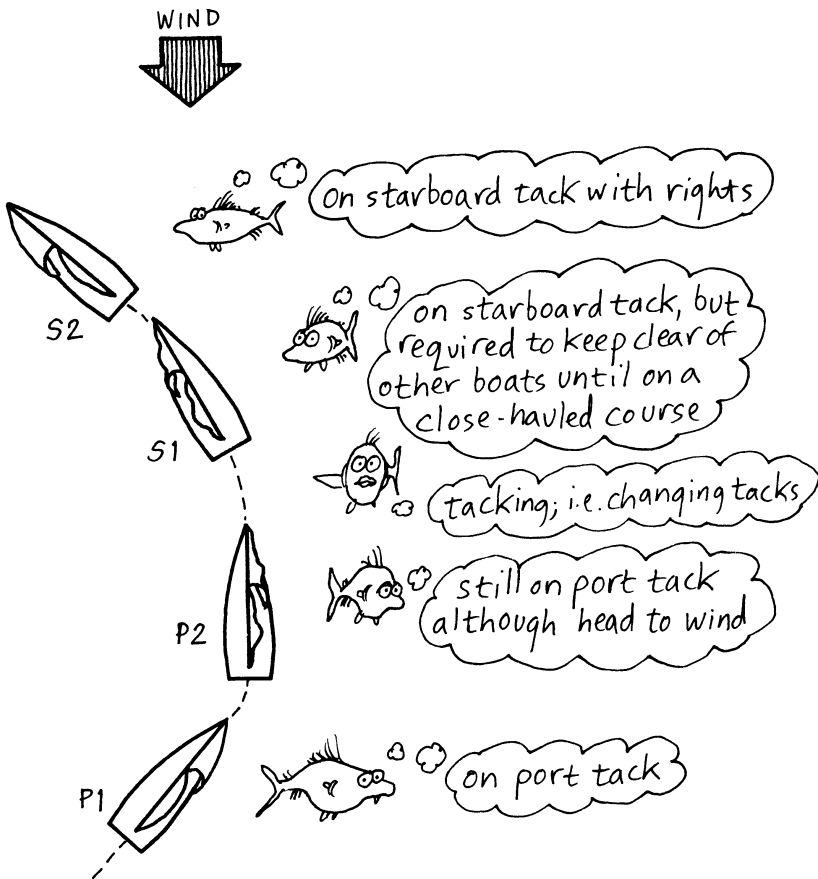


RULE 12 — ON THE SAME TACK, NOT OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same *tack* and not *overlapped*, a boat *clear astern* shall *keep clear* of a boat *clear ahead*.

In 1949 the rule read, “A yacht Overtaking another shall keep clear while she is Clear Astern.” Now the rules only talk about boats that are *clear ahead* or *clear astern*; the RRS do not use the term “overtaking.” However, the concept is still the same. A boat, like a car on the road, coming up from behind another boat on the same *tack*, must not hit her.

Rule 12 clearly identifies a boat or boats *clear ahead* as right-of-way boats, therefore making them *obstructions* to boats coming up from behind (definition *Obstruction*). Case 41 reads, “While BW and BL are overtaking A, rule 12 requires both BL and BW to keep clear of A. Therefore, A is an obstruction to both BL and BW.”



Note, rule 12 applies only to boats when they are on the **same** tack. If a *starboard-tack* boat (S) is astern but on a collision course with a *port-tack* boat (P), P must get out of S’s way even though S is the “overtaking” boat. Because the boats are on **opposite** tacks, S is the right-of-way boat under rule 10 (On Opposite Tacks).