



*“What if I physically can’t give room to the boat that just obtained the inside overlap on me?”*

That’s the second exception to rule 18.2(a). When a boat gets an *overlap* on you just before you reach the *zone*, she becomes entitled to *mark-room* under rule 18.2(a)(1) as an inside boat. However, you are not required to anticipate her arrival. There are times, though very rare, when you may be physically unable to give her the *room* she needs to round or pass the *mark* from the time the *overlap* began, based on your situation at that moment. Rule 18.2(d) says, *“If a boat obtained an inside overlap from clear astern or by tacking to windward of the other boat and, from the time the overlap began, the outside boat has been unable to give mark-room, rules 18.2(a) and 18.2(c) do not apply between them.”* In this situation, the inside boat is not entitled to *mark-room* and the applicable rules of Section A and B apply. If she becomes the right-of-way boat, she must comply with rule 15 (Acquiring Right of Way) which means she won’t get inside at the *mark* because if the outside boat could have created enough *room* to do so, she would have done so in the first place. And if she is a keep-clear boat, she must *keep clear*.

One example of where this situation might occur is a tightly packed *mark* rounding in light air where a boat astern gets an inside *overlap* on a boat that is three and a half boat-lengths from the *mark*, but there’s just no way the outside boat can get everyone else outside of her to move away from the *mark* in time to create *room* for the new inside boat. Another example is when two boats are going so fast that by the time the outside boat can react to her new obligation and make the *room*, the inside boat is already past the *mark* on the wrong side. Twelve knots of boat-speed equals about 20 feet per second, so on a windy reach a Hobie 18 will chew up three boat-lengths in less than three seconds!