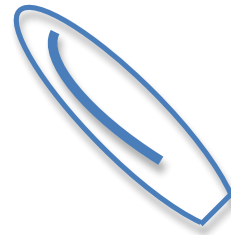
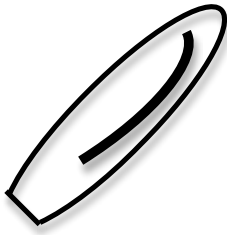
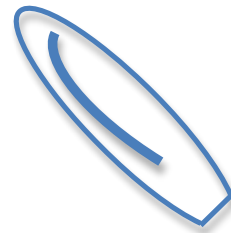
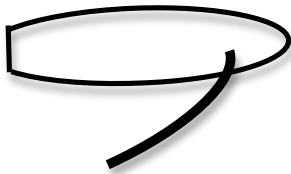


1) Blue has right of way – Port vs Starboard

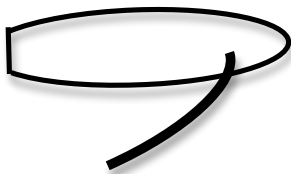


2) Black bears away to pass astern of blue

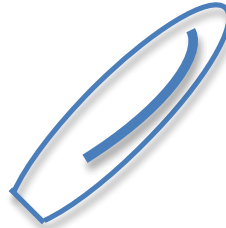
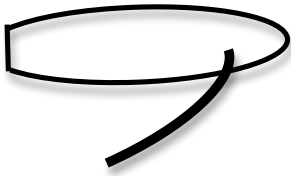


2a) Rule 16.2 “when after the starting signal a *port-tack* boat is *keeping clear* by sailing to pass astern of a *starboard-tack* boat, the *star-board-tack* boat shall not change course if as a result the *port-tack* boat would immediately need to change course to continue *keeping clear*”. This is known as the anti hunting rule. If blue bore away at black she would break the rule. Question then – if blue gets knocked must she tack? And what if tacking would break the rule??? But I digress

3) Blue tacks. Black now has right of way as Rule 13 says tacking boat to keep clear.



4) Blue completes tack and reacquires right of way. Ahead and/or to leeward



Other rules to consider:

“Rule 15 When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat *room to keep clear*, unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat’s actions ”

A similar rule to that is:

“Rule 16.1 When a right-of-way boat changes course, she shall give the other boat *room to keep clear* ”

Some relevant definitions for those rules:

Room The space a boat needs in the existing conditions, including space to comply with her obligations under the rules of Part 2 and rule 31, while manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way. (“promptly in a seamanlike manner” – so in a yacht in a gale on the high seas that can be a lot – on an RC boat – not so much)

Keep Clear A boat *keeps clear* of a right-of-way boat

1. (a) if the right-of-way boat can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action and,
2. (b) when the boats are *overlapped*, if the right-of-way boat can also change course in both directions without immediately making contact. (this is commonly referred to as wriggle room)

There is never a requirement of a boat to anticipate the actions of another boat. This includes when the other boat warns them of what they are going to do (eg: “215 is tacking”). So in the above scenario by example, black does not have to respond to blues tack before the tack is complete, and at that point she needs to have been given room to keep clear.