

# THE RACING RULES OF SAILING

FOR 2025-2028

Daingerfield Island Sailing Club

March 4, 2025

# Part 2 – When Boats Meet

*The rules of Part 2 apply between boats that are sailing in or near the racing area and intend to **race**, are **racing**, or have been **racing**. However, a boat not **racing** shall not be penalized for breaking one of these rules, except rule 14 [avoiding contact] when the incident resulted in injury or serious damage, or rule 23.1 [interference].*

## Section A – Right of Way

*A boat has right of way over another boat when the other boat is required to **keep clear** of her. However, some rules in Sections B, C and D limit the actions of a right-of-way boat.*

Right of way  
Keep clear

## Section B – General Limitations

Room to keep clear

## Section C – At Marks and Obstructions

*Section C rules do not apply between boats when the **mark** or **obstruction** referred to in those rules is a starting **mark** surrounded by navigable water or its anchor line, from the time the boats are approaching it to **start** until they have left it astern.*

Mark-room

## Section D – Other Rules

*When rule 21 [taking penalties] or 22 [capsize] applies between two boats, **Section A** [right of way] **rules do not apply**.*

# Definitions

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

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

***Room*** The space a boat needs in the existing conditions, including space to comply with her obligations under the rules of Part 2 [when boats meet] and rule 31 [touching a mark], while manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way.

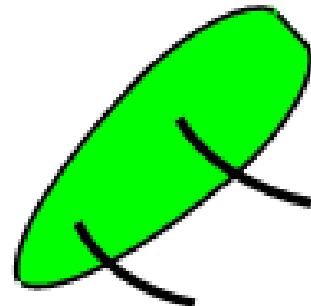
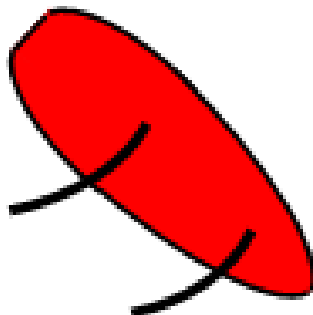
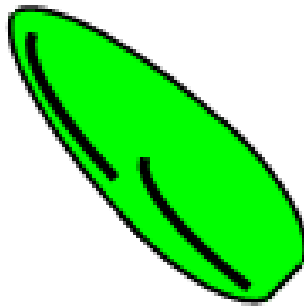
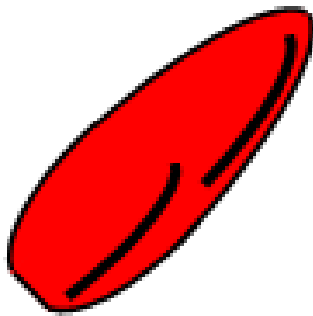
***Mark-Room*** Room for a boat

- (a) to sail to the *mark* when her *proper course* is to sail close to it,
- (b) to round or pass the *mark* on the required side, and
- (c) to leave it astern.

# Section A – Right of Way

## 10 ON OPPOSITE TACKS

When boats are on opposite *tacks*, a *port-tack* boat shall *keep clear* of a *starboard-tack* boat.



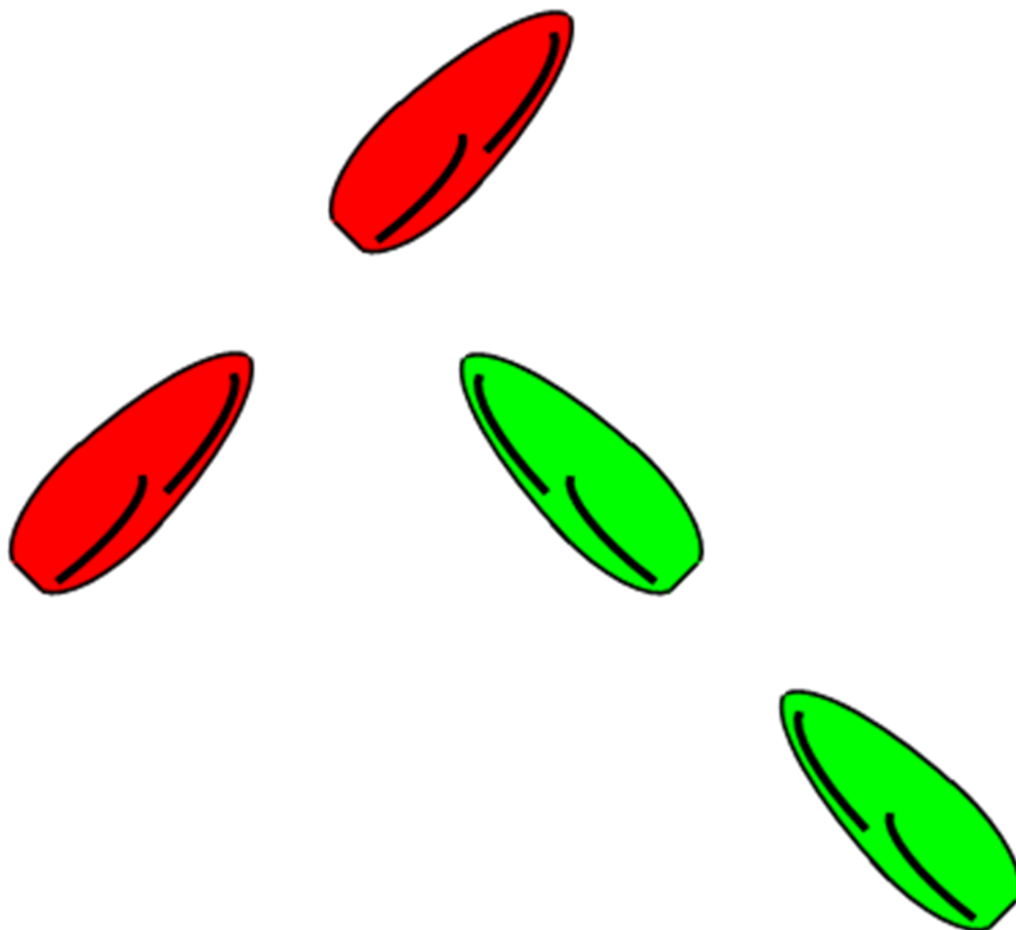
## **Opposite tacks – What does it mean to keep clear?**

“if the right-of-way boat can sail her course with no need to take avoiding action”

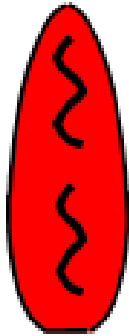
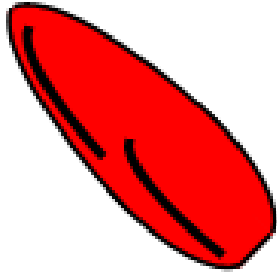
World Sailing Case 50 – “reasonable apprehension of contact”

Options (listed from most risky to least risky)

1. Cross
2. Tack
3. Duck
4. Slow

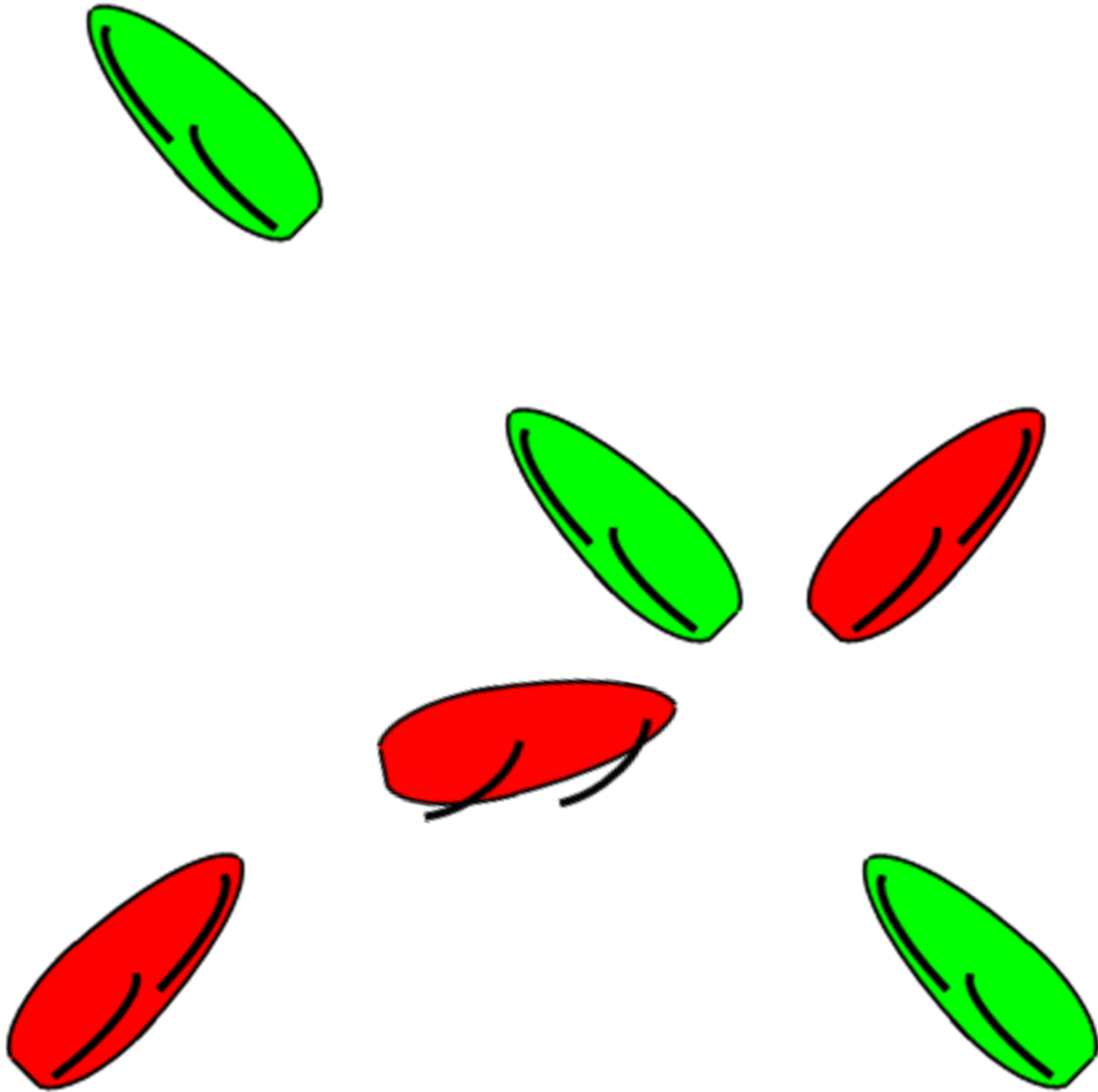


**Cross**

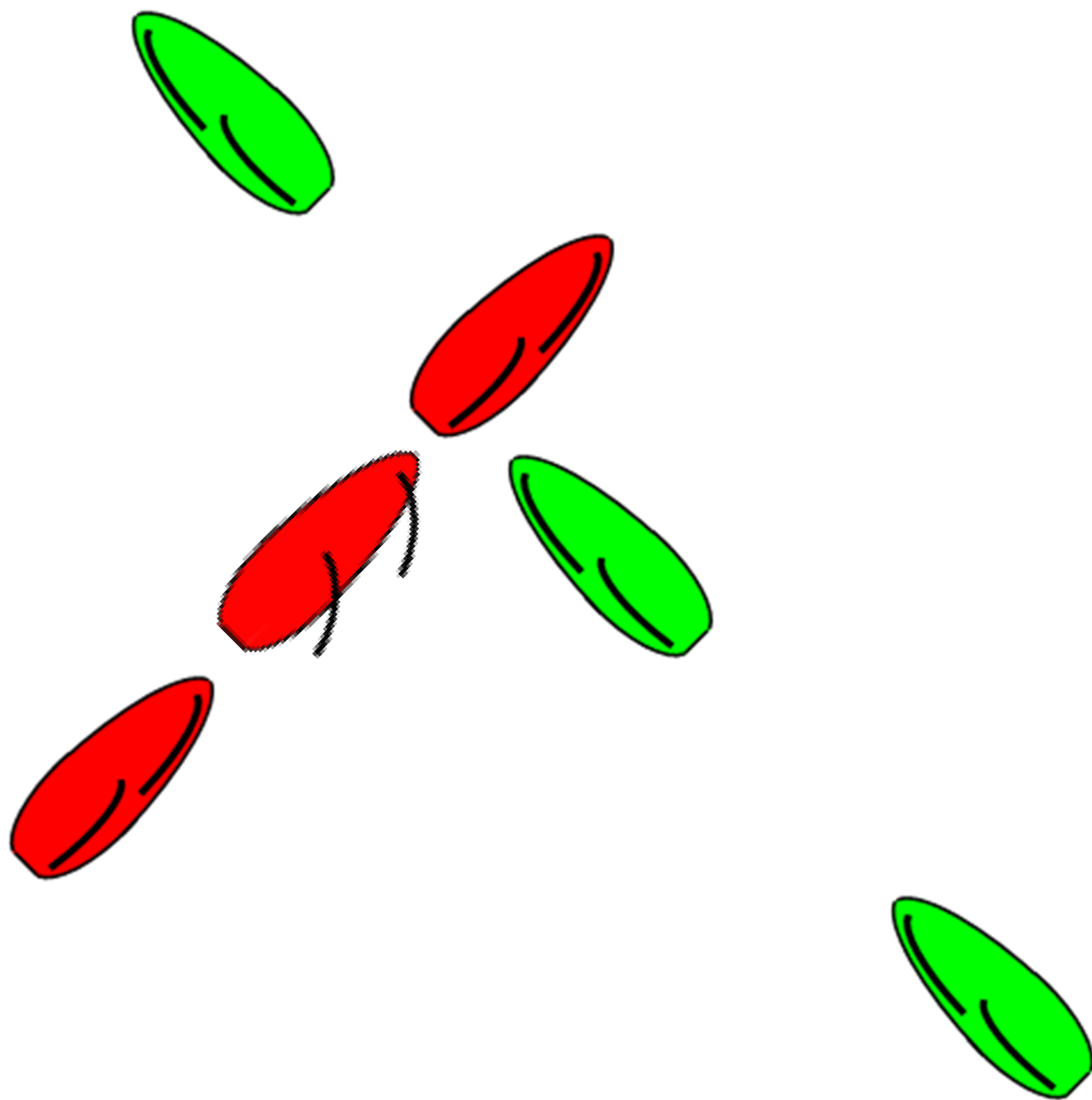


**Tack**





**Duck**



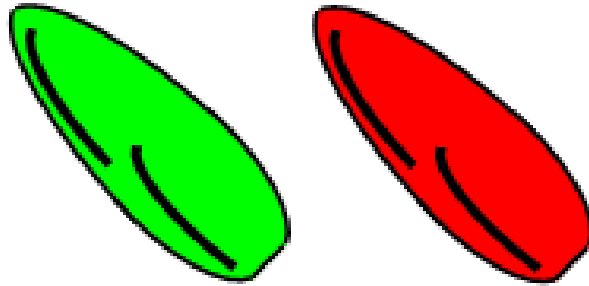
**Slow**

# 11 ON THE SAME TACK, OVERLAPPED

When boats are on the same *tack* and *overlapped*, a *windward* boat shall *keep clear* of a *leeward* boat.

## Overlapped – What does it mean to keep clear?

“when the boats are *overlapped*, if the right-of-way boat can also change course in both directions without immediately making contact”



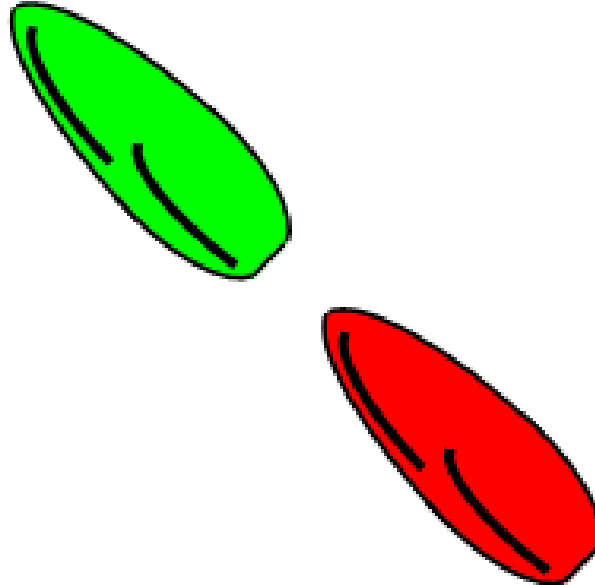
## 12 ON THE SAME TACK, NOT OVERLAPPED

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

**Clear astern – What does it mean to keep clear?**

Options (listed from most risky to least risky)

1. Sail above and become windward boat
2. Sail below and become leeward boat
3. Slow down and remain clear astern



## 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** [port/starboard], **11** [windward/leeward] **and 12** [clear ahead; clear astern] 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.

# Section B – General Limitations

## 14 Avoiding Contact

If **reasonably possible**, a boat shall

- (a) avoid contact with another boat,
- (b) not cause contact between boats, and
- (c) not cause contact between a boat and an object that should be avoided.

However, a right-of-way boat, or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled, **need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not keeping clear or giving room or mark-room.**

## 15 Acquiring Right of Way

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.

## 16 Changing Course

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

**16.2** [skip]

**17 On The Same Tack; Proper Course** [skip]

# Changes for 2025

## 14 Avoiding Contact

If reasonably possible, a boat shall

- (a) avoid contact with another boat,
- (b) not cause contact between boats, and
- (c) not cause contact between a boat and an object that should be avoided.

**What is an object that should be avoided?**

Race committee vessel

Mark

Obstruction

**What does it mean to “cause” contact?**

**Does it mean “cause” by breaking a rule?**

**Or does it also mean “cause” even without breaking a rule?**

**We don’t know yet. We are waiting for a case decision.**

## Section C – At Marks and Obstructions

*Section C rules do not apply between boats when the **mark** or **obstruction** referred to in those rules is a **starting mark surrounded by navigable water** or its anchor line, from the time the boats are **approaching it to start** until they **have left it astern**.*

In a typical DISC Tuesday night race on a windward-leeward course, there are four types of marks:

1. **Starting marks – Section C does not apply**
2. Windward marks – Section C applies
3. Leeward marks – Section C applies
4. Finishing marks – Section C applies

That means a boat is not entitled to **mark-room** at the **starting marks**.



## 18 MARK-ROOM

### 18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

- (a) Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and **at least one of them is in the *zone***.

However, it **does not apply**

- (1) between boats on **opposite *tacks* on a beat to windward,**

. . .

## 18.2 Giving Mark-Room

(a) When the first of two boats reaches the *zone*,


(1) if the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat at that moment shall give the inside boat *mark-room*;

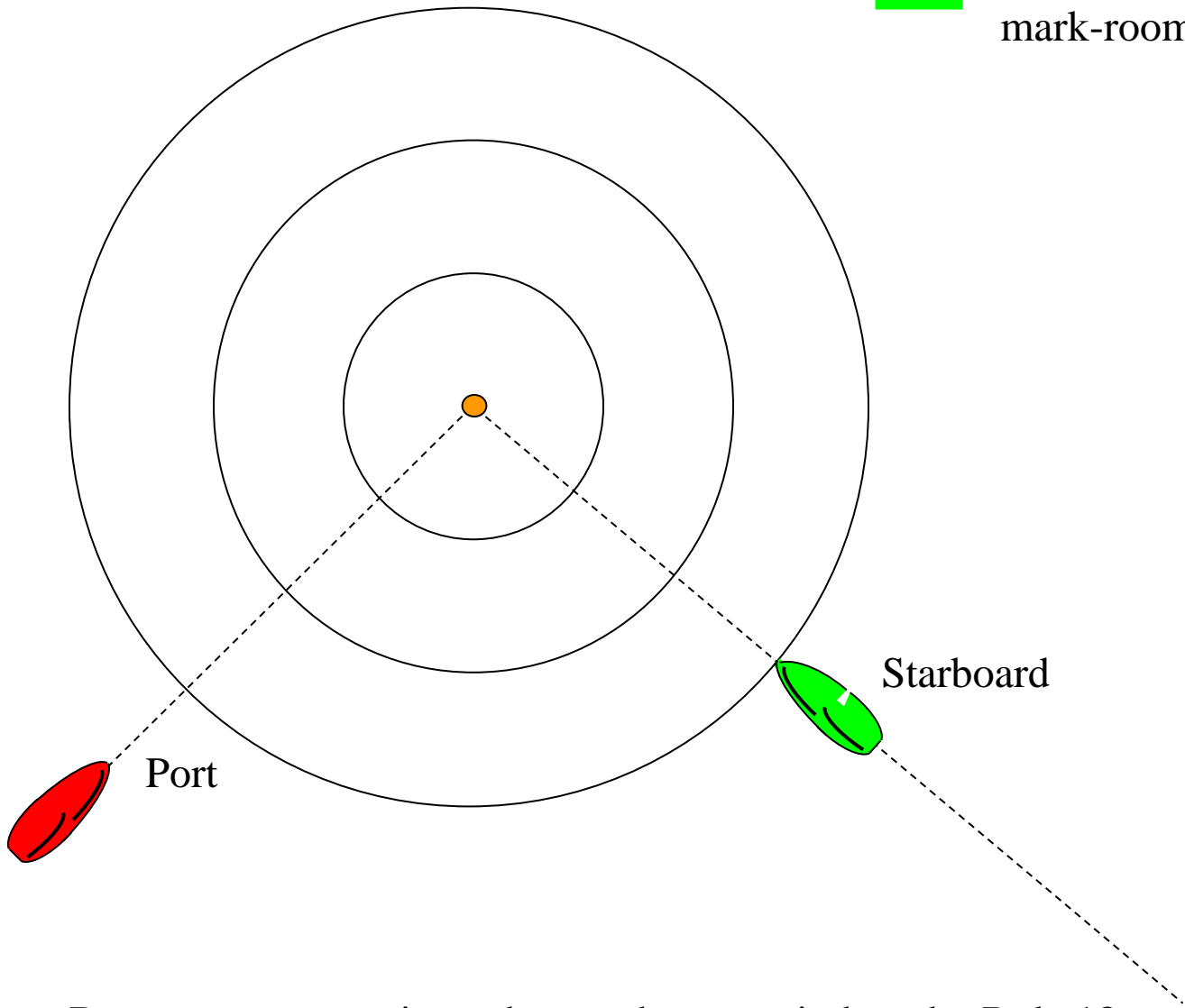
(2) if the boats are not *overlapped*, the boat that has not reached the *zone* at that moment shall give the other boat *mark-room*.

When a boat is required to give *mark-room* by this rule, she shall **continue to do so** for as long as this rule applies, even if later an *overlap* is broken or a new *overlap* begins.

- (b) Rule 18.2(a) no longer applies if the boat entitled to *mark-room* **passes head to wind or leaves the zone**.
- (c) When **rule 18.2(a) does not apply** and the boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat shall give the **inside boat mark-room**.
- (d) 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.
- (e) If there is **reasonable doubt** that a boat obtained or broke an *overlap* in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.

Figure 1  
Windward mark (left to port)  
Opposite tacks

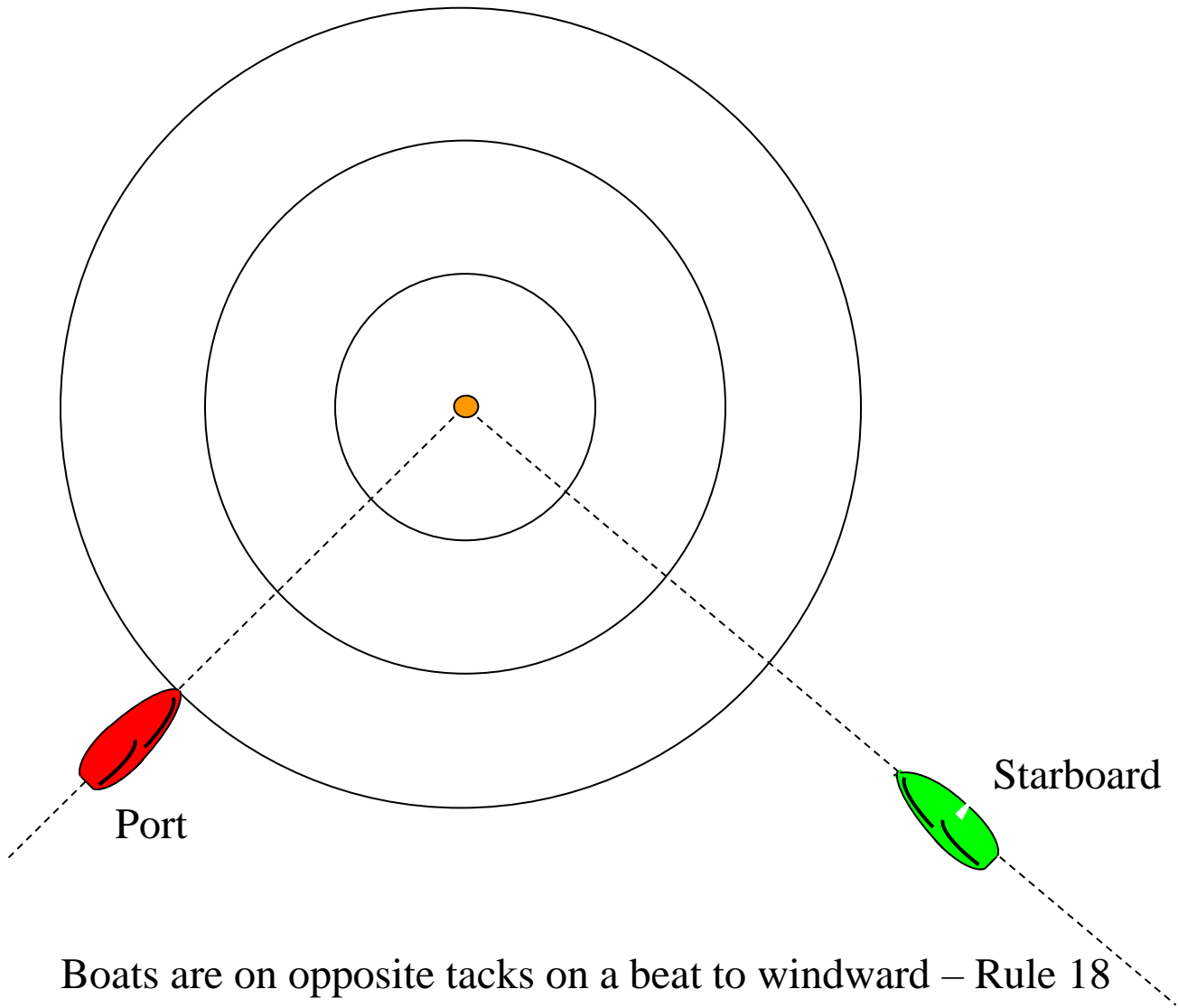
 = entitled to mark-room



Boats are on opposite tacks on a beat to windward – Rule 18 does not apply. *See* Rule 18.1(a).

Rule 10 applies – Port must keep clear of Starboard.

Figure 2  
Windward mark (left to port)  
Opposite tacks

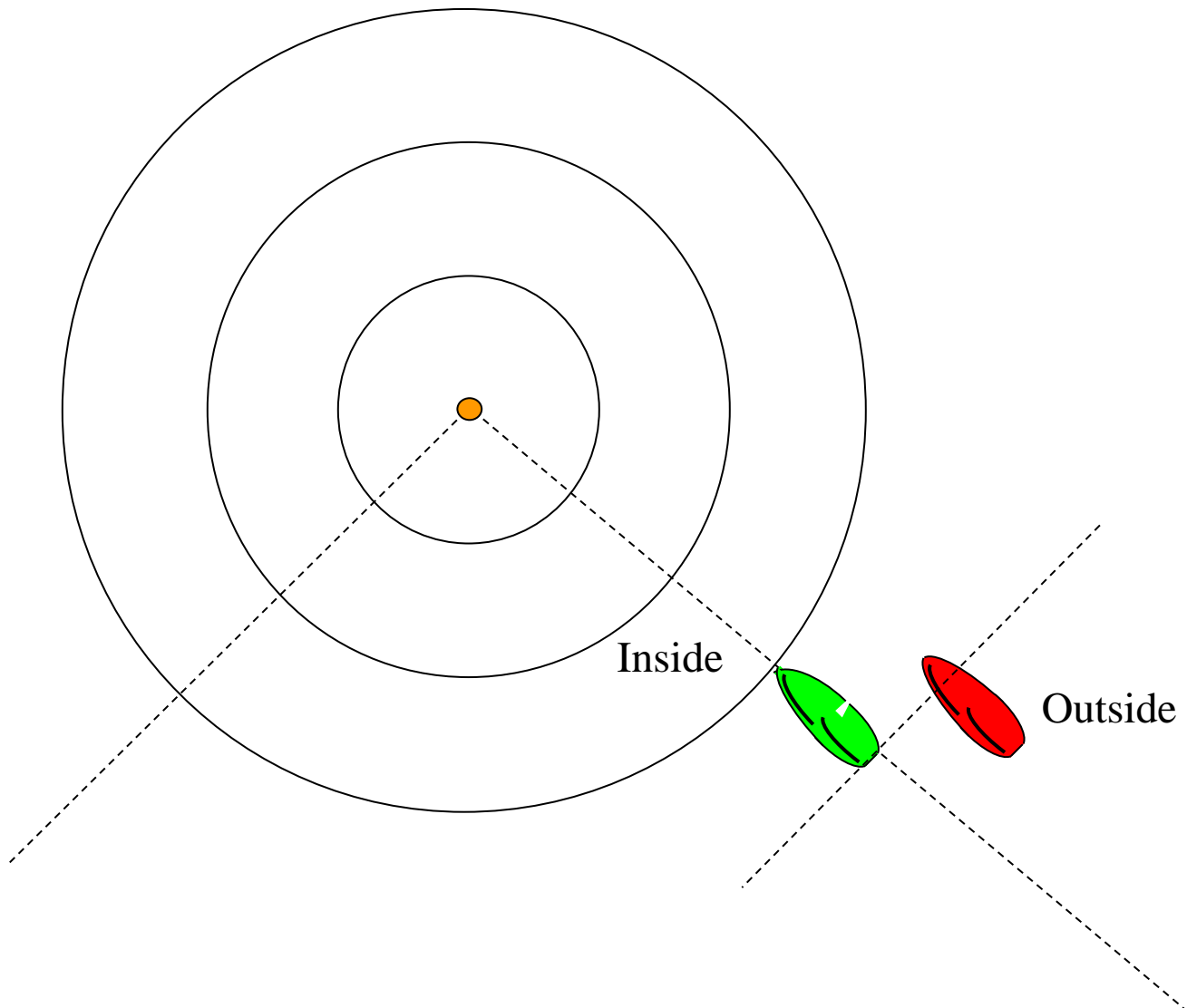


Boats are on opposite tacks on a beat to windward – Rule 18 does not apply. *See* Rule 18.1(a).

Rule 10 applies – Port must keep clear of Starboard.

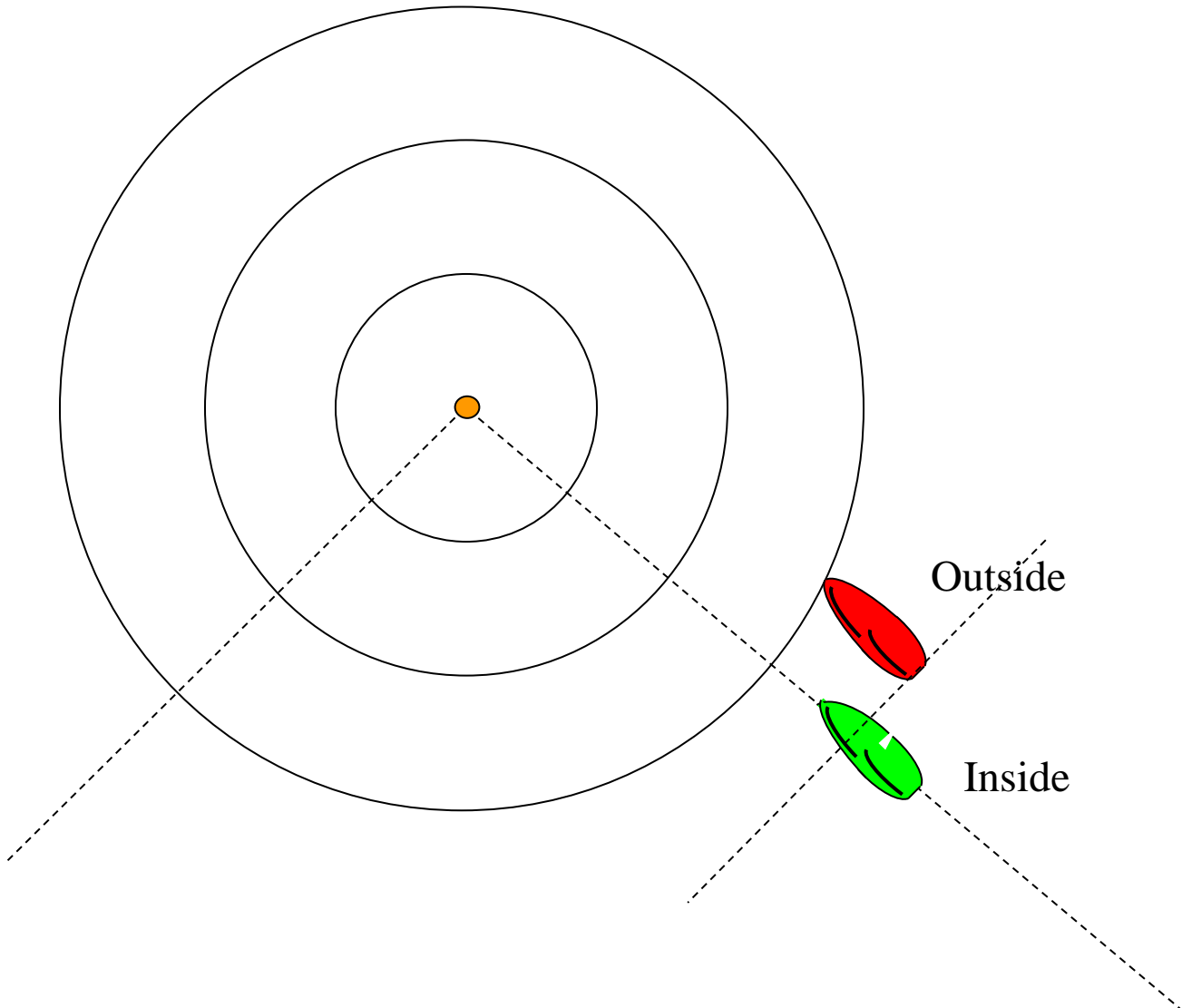
It does not matter that Red was first to enter the zone because Rule 18 does not apply.

Figure 3  
Windward mark (left to port)  
Same tack – overlapped



When the first boat reaches the zone, they are overlapped –  
Outside shall give mark-room to Inside. *See Rule 18.2(a)(1).*

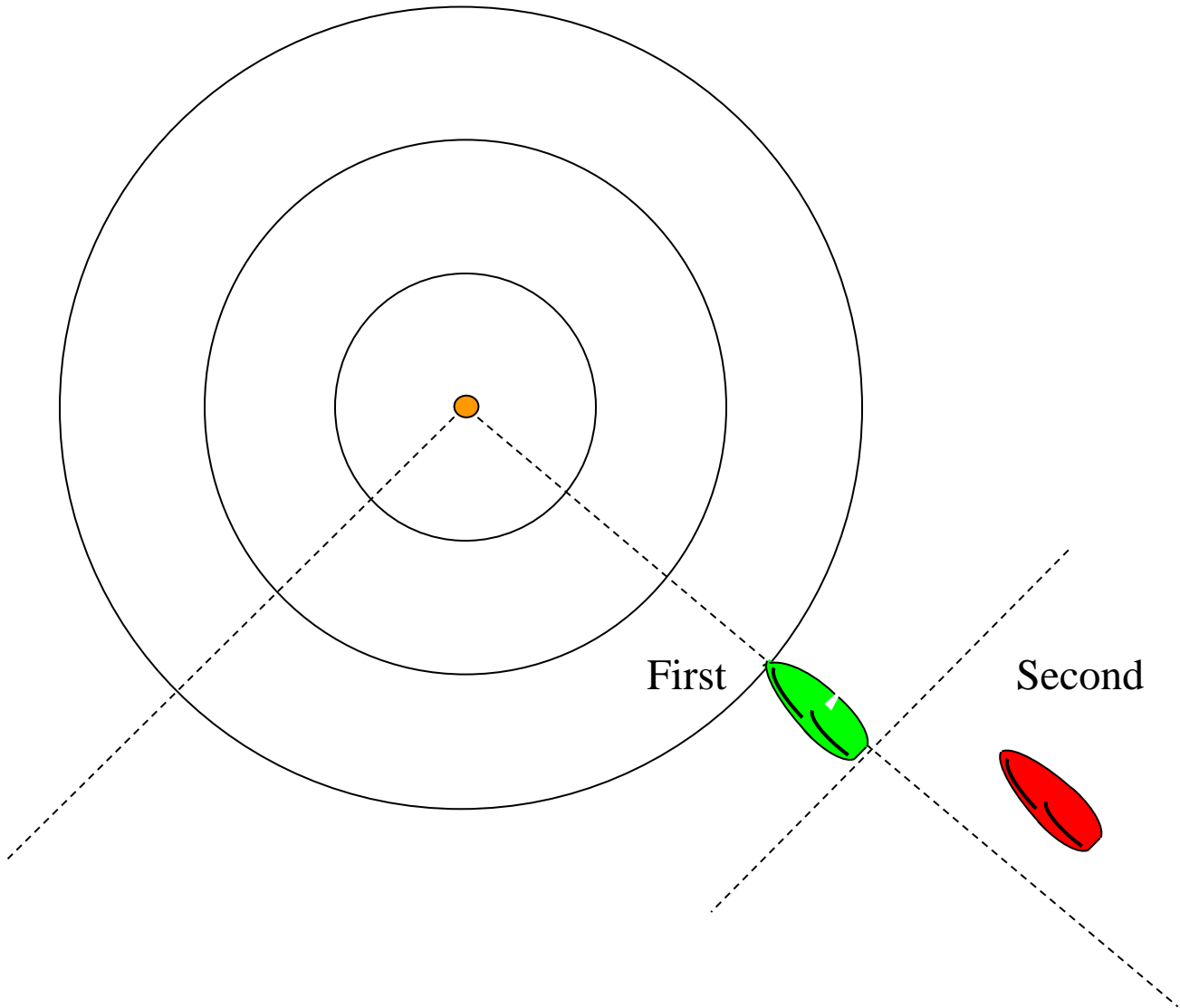
Figure 4  
Windward mark (left to port)  
Same tack - overlapped



When the first boat reaches the zone, they are overlapped – Outside shall give mark-room to Inside. *See* Rule 18.2(a)(1).

It does not matter that Red was first to enter the zone because they are overlapped.

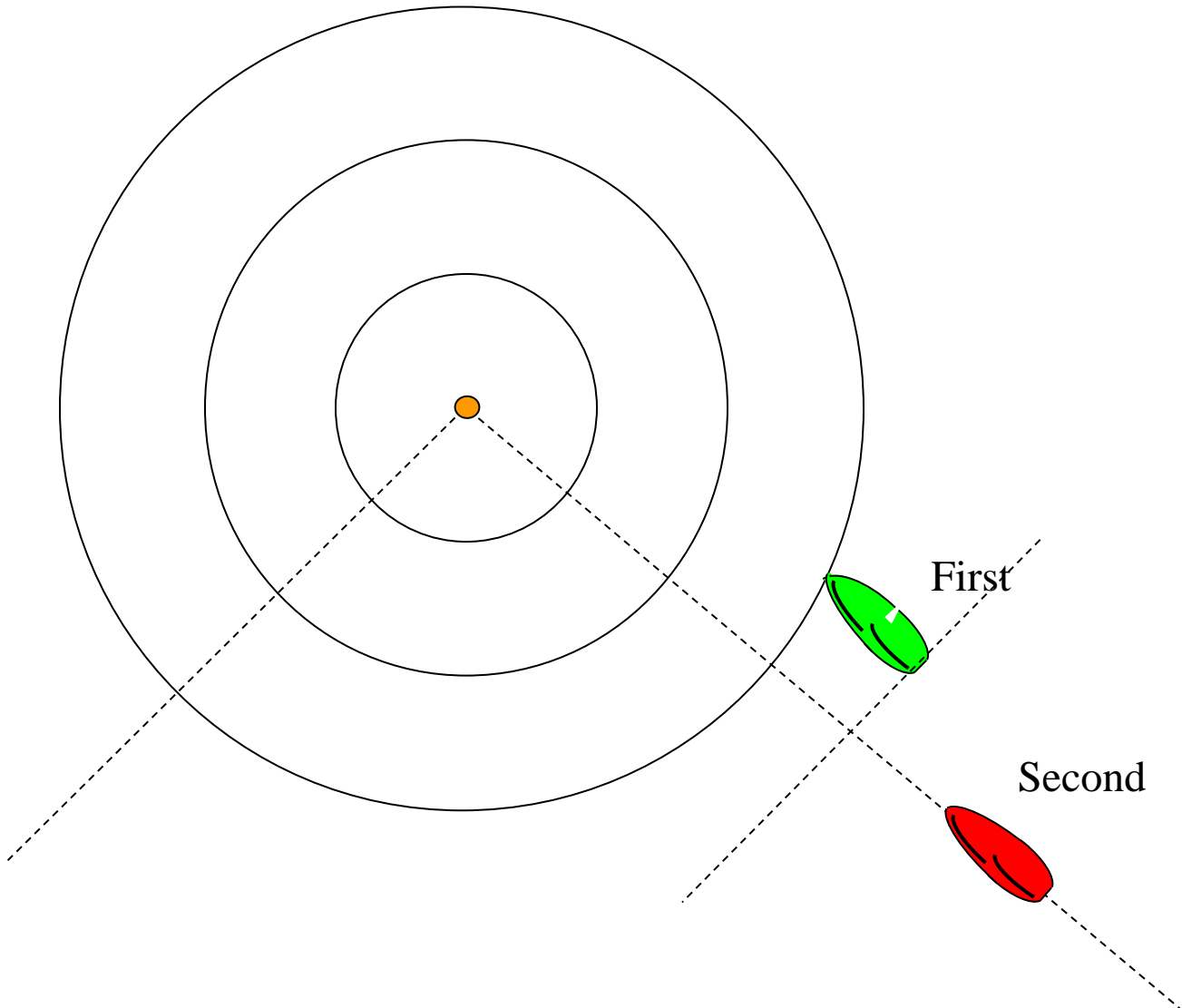
Figure 5  
Windward mark (left to port)  
Same tack – not overlapped



When the first boat reaches the zone, they are not overlapped –  
Second shall give mark-room to First. *See Rule 18.2(a)(2).*



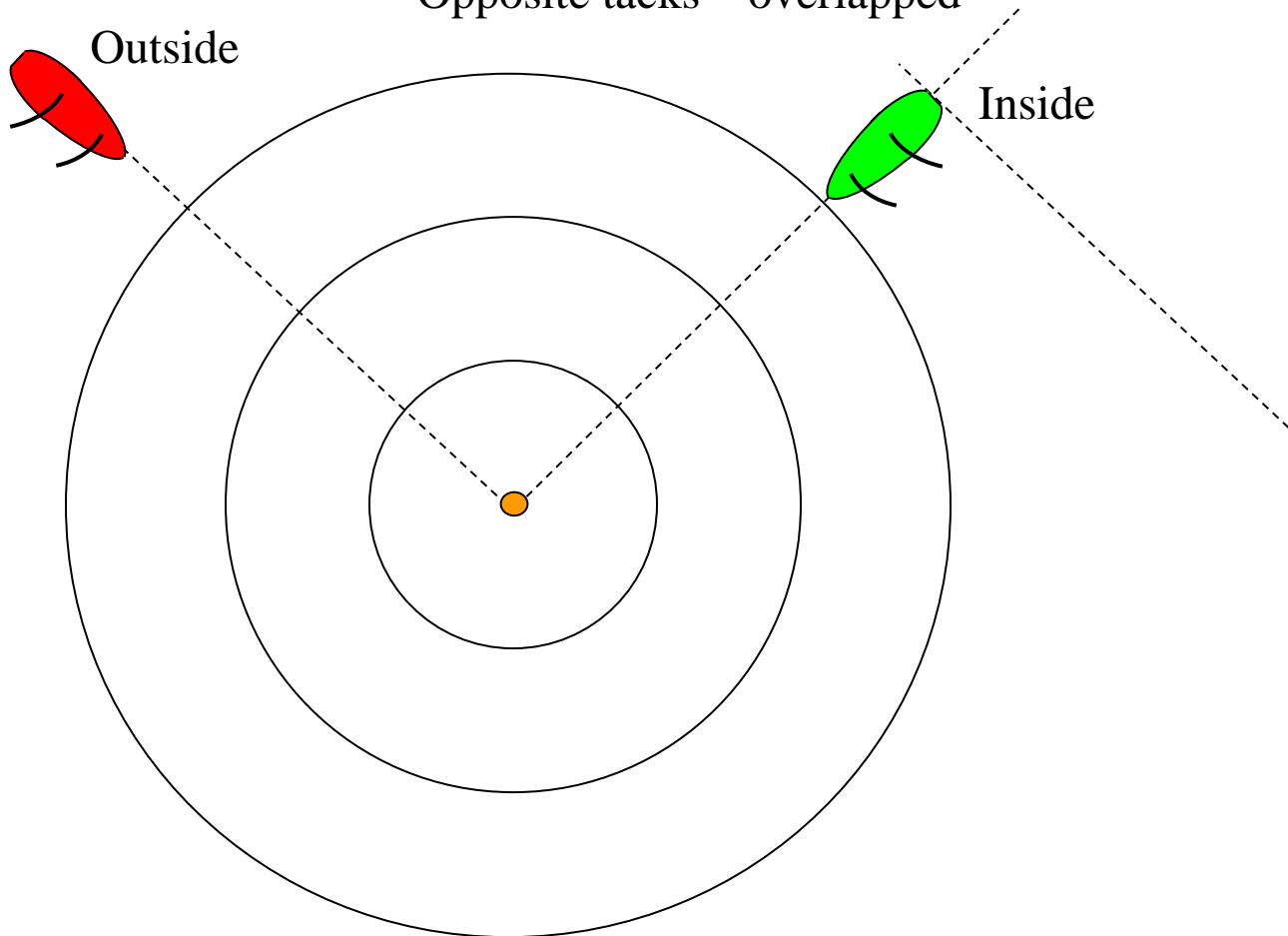
Figure 6  
Windward mark (left to port)  
Same tack – not overlapped



When the First boat reaches the zone, they are not overlapped – Second shall give mark-room to First. *See* Rule 18.2(a)(2).

It does not matter that Red is inside because they are not overlapped.

Figure 7  
Leeward mark (left to port)  
Opposite tacks – overlapped



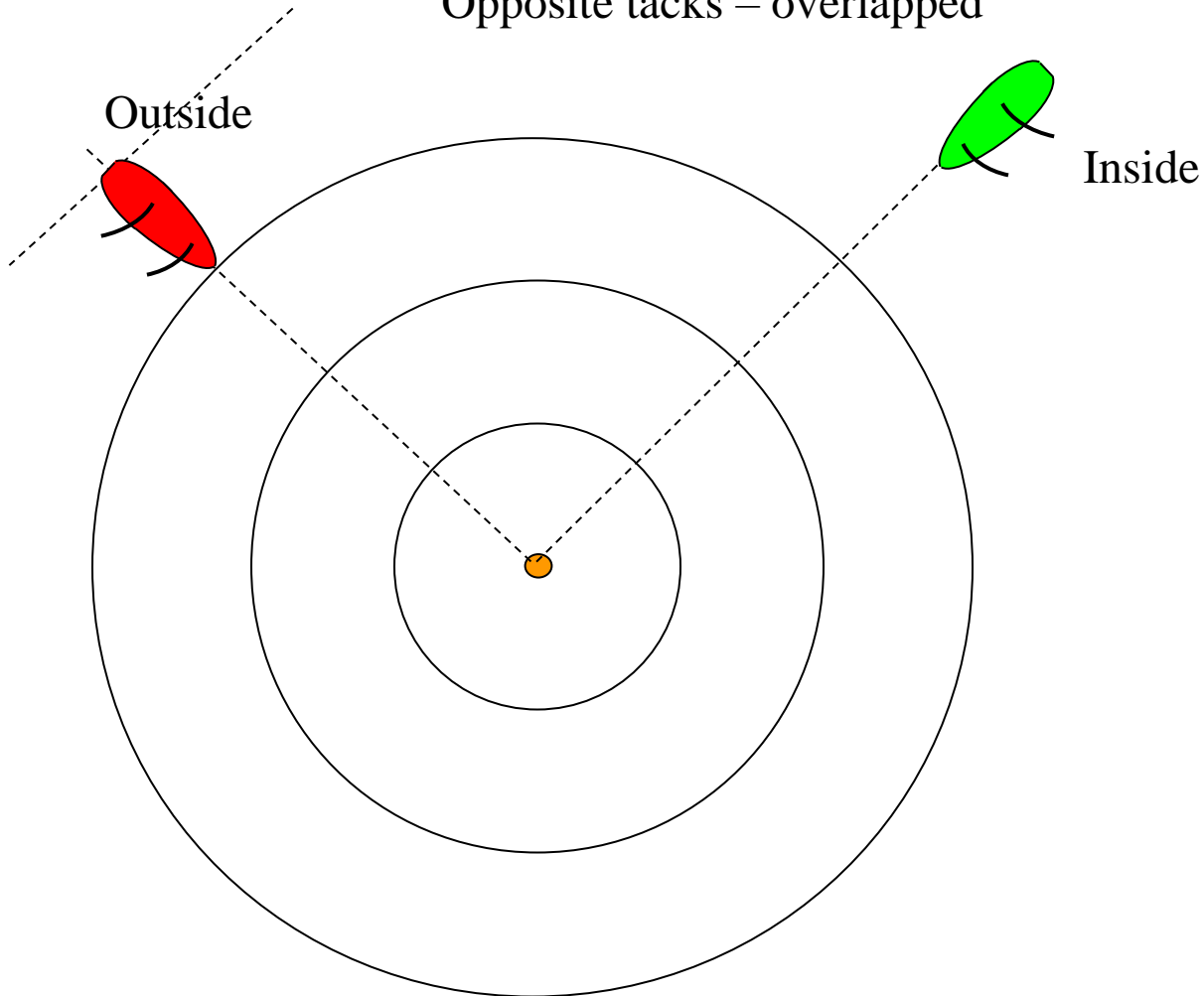
Boats are on opposite tacks, but NOT on a beat to windward.  
Rule 18 applies. *See* Rule 18.1(a).

When the first boat reaches the zone, they are overlapped. *See*  
Definition, *Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap* [next page].

Outside shall give mark-room to Inside. *See* Rule 18.2(a)(1).

*Clear Astern and Clear Ahead; Overlap*  
One boat is *clear astern* of another when her hull and equipment in normal position are behind a line abeam from the aftermost point of the other boat's hull and equipment in normal position. The other boat is *clear ahead*. They *overlap* when neither is *clear astern*. However, they also *overlap* when a boat between them *overlaps* both. These terms always apply to boats on the same tack. **They also apply to boats on opposite *tacks* only when rule 18 applies between them or when both boats are sailing more than ninety degrees from the true wind.**

Figure 8  
Leeward mark (left to port)  
Opposite tacks – overlapped

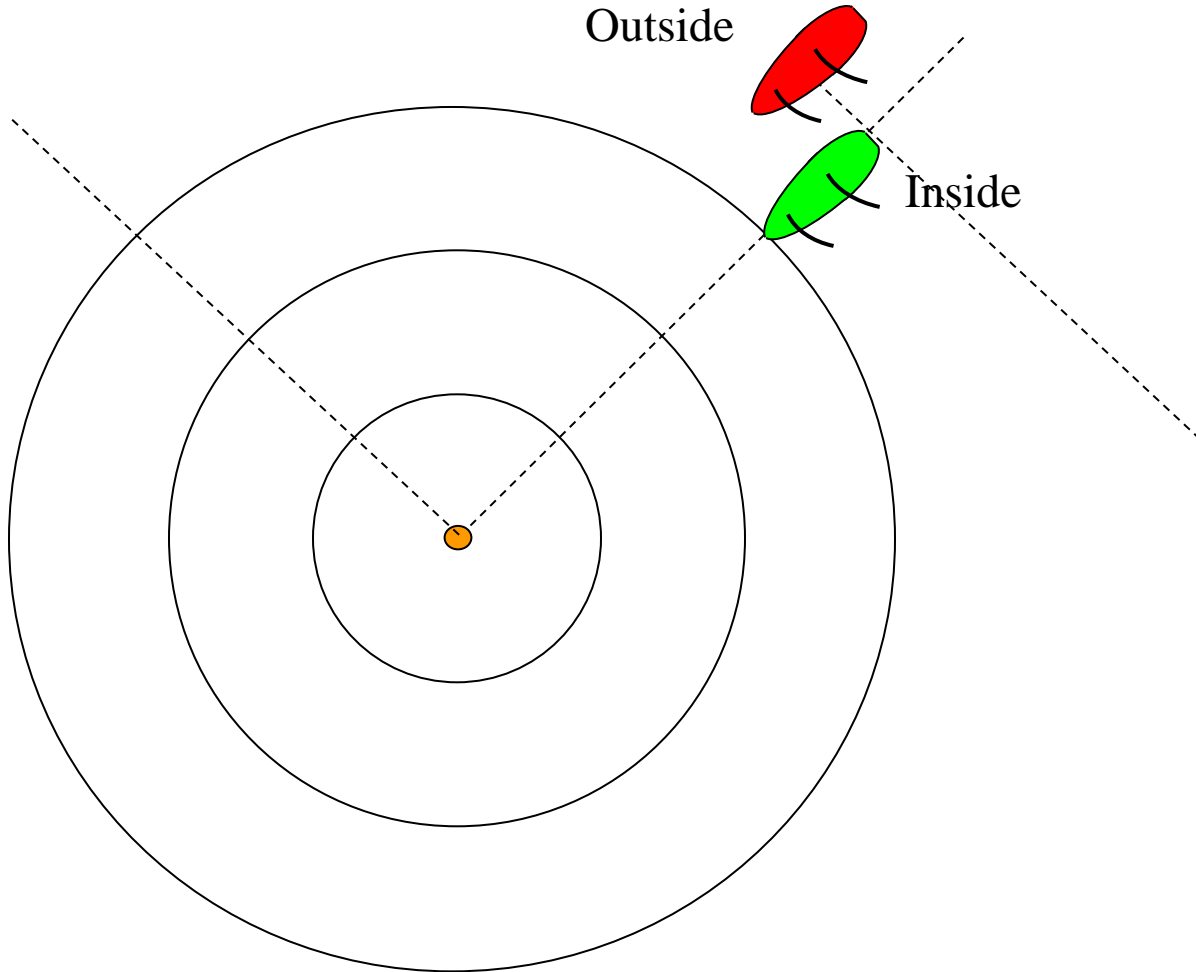


Boats are on opposite tacks, but NOT on a beat to windward.  
Rule 18 applies. *See* Rule 18.1(a).

When the first boat reaches the zone, they are overlapped.  
Outside shall give mark-room to Inside. *See* Rule 18.2(a)(1).

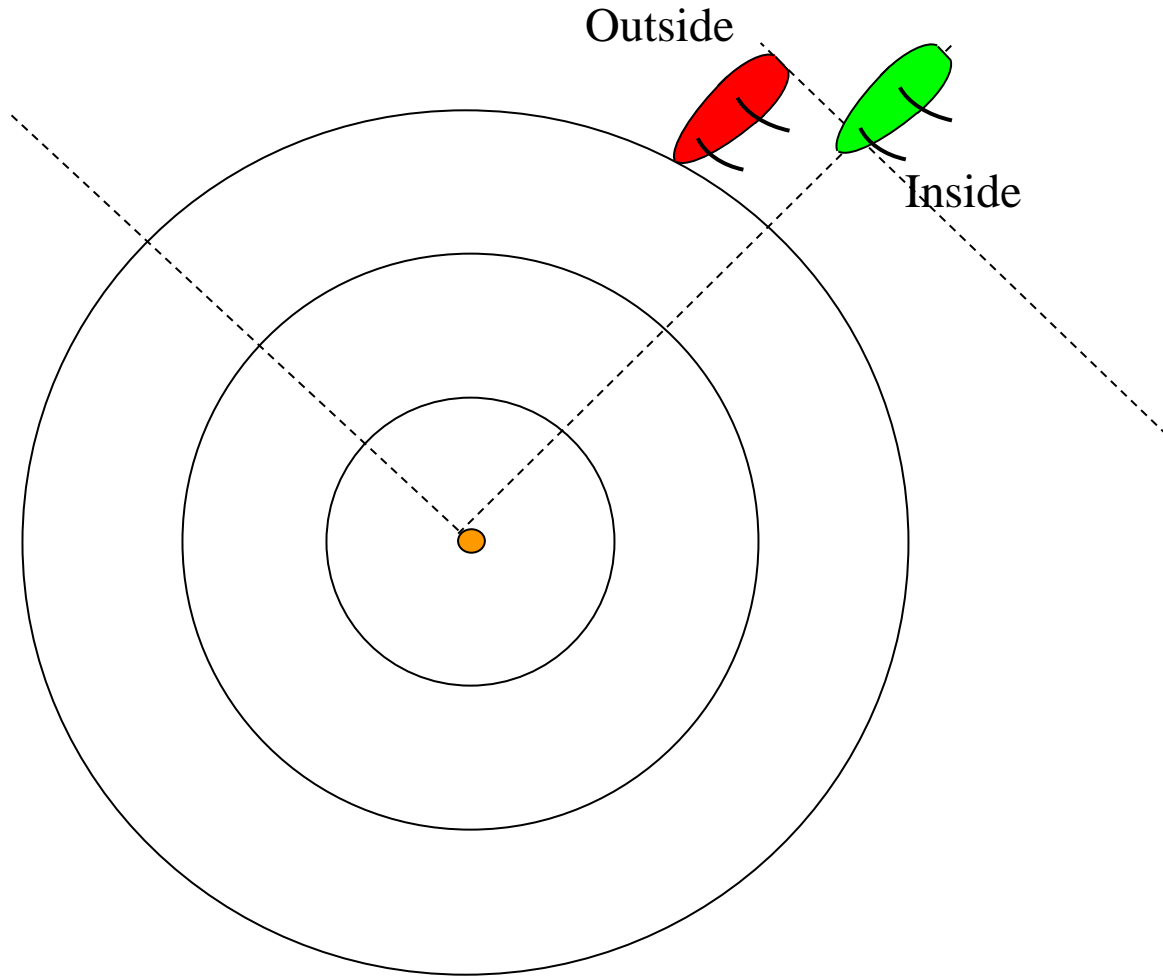
It does not matter that Red was first to enter the zone because  
they are overlapped.

Figure 9  
Leeward mark (left to port)  
Same tack – overlapped  
Outside



When the first boat reaches the zone, they are overlapped –  
Outside shall give mark-room to Inside. *See Rule 18.2(a)(1).*

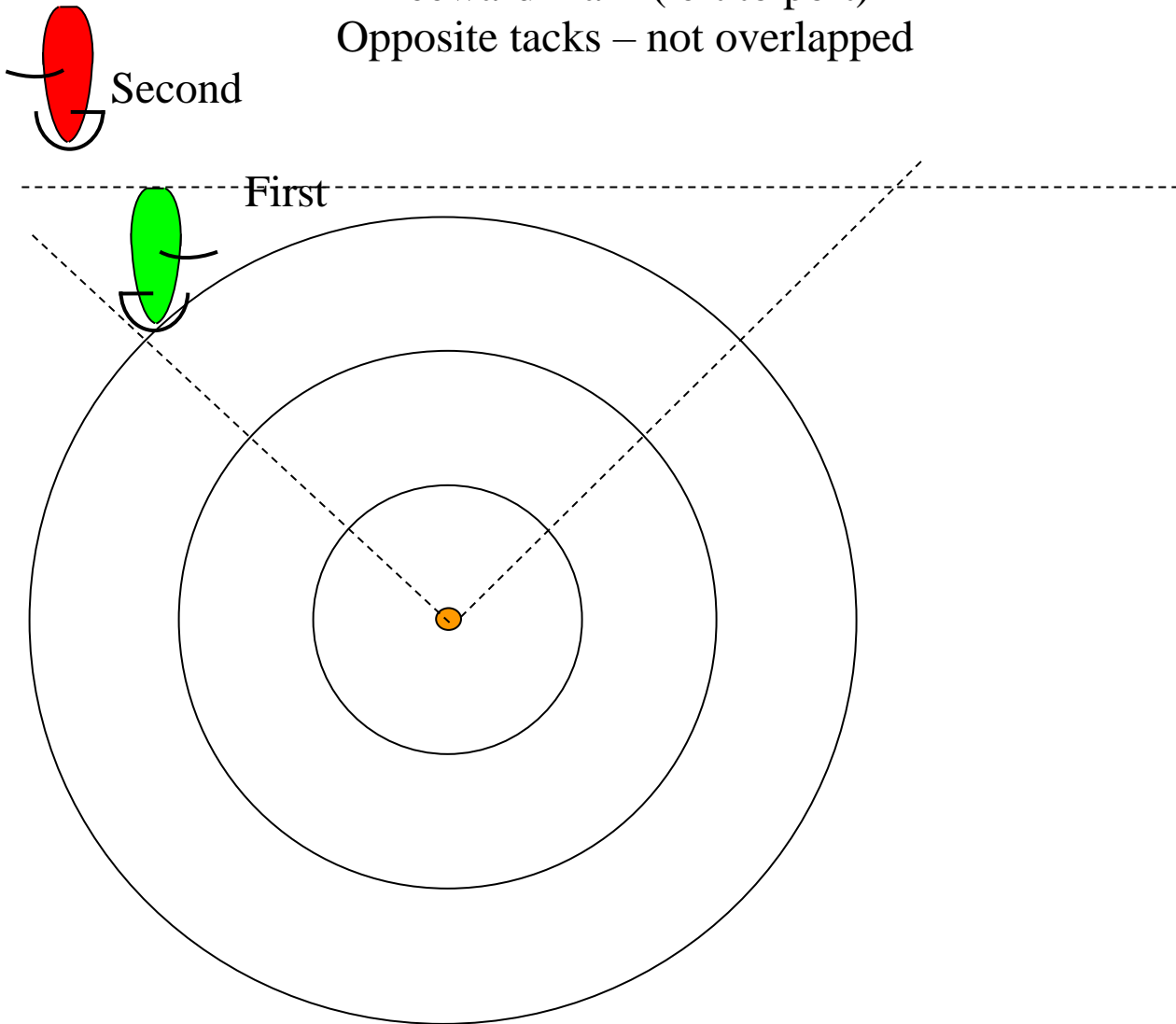
Figure 10  
Leeward mark (left to port)  
Same tack – overlapped



When the first boat reaches the zone, they are overlapped – Outside shall give mark-room to Inside. *See* Rule 18.2(a)(1).

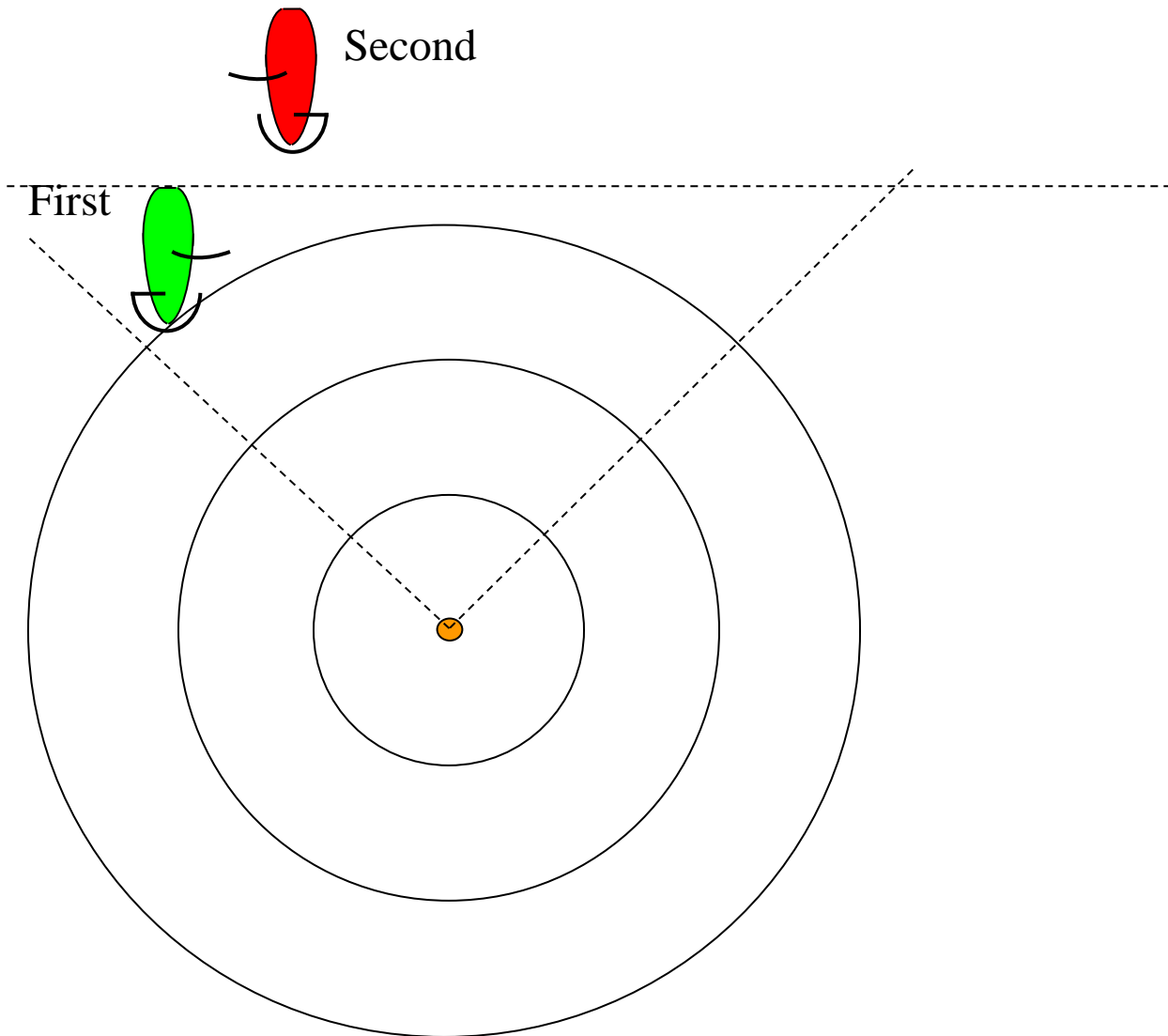
It does not matter that Red was first to enter the zone because they are overlapped.

Figure 11  
Leeward mark (left to port)  
Opposite tacks – not overlapped



When the first boat reaches the zone, they are not overlapped –  
Second shall give mark-room to First. *See* Rule 18.2(a)(2).

Figure 12  
Leeward mark (left to port)  
Opposite tacks – not overlapped

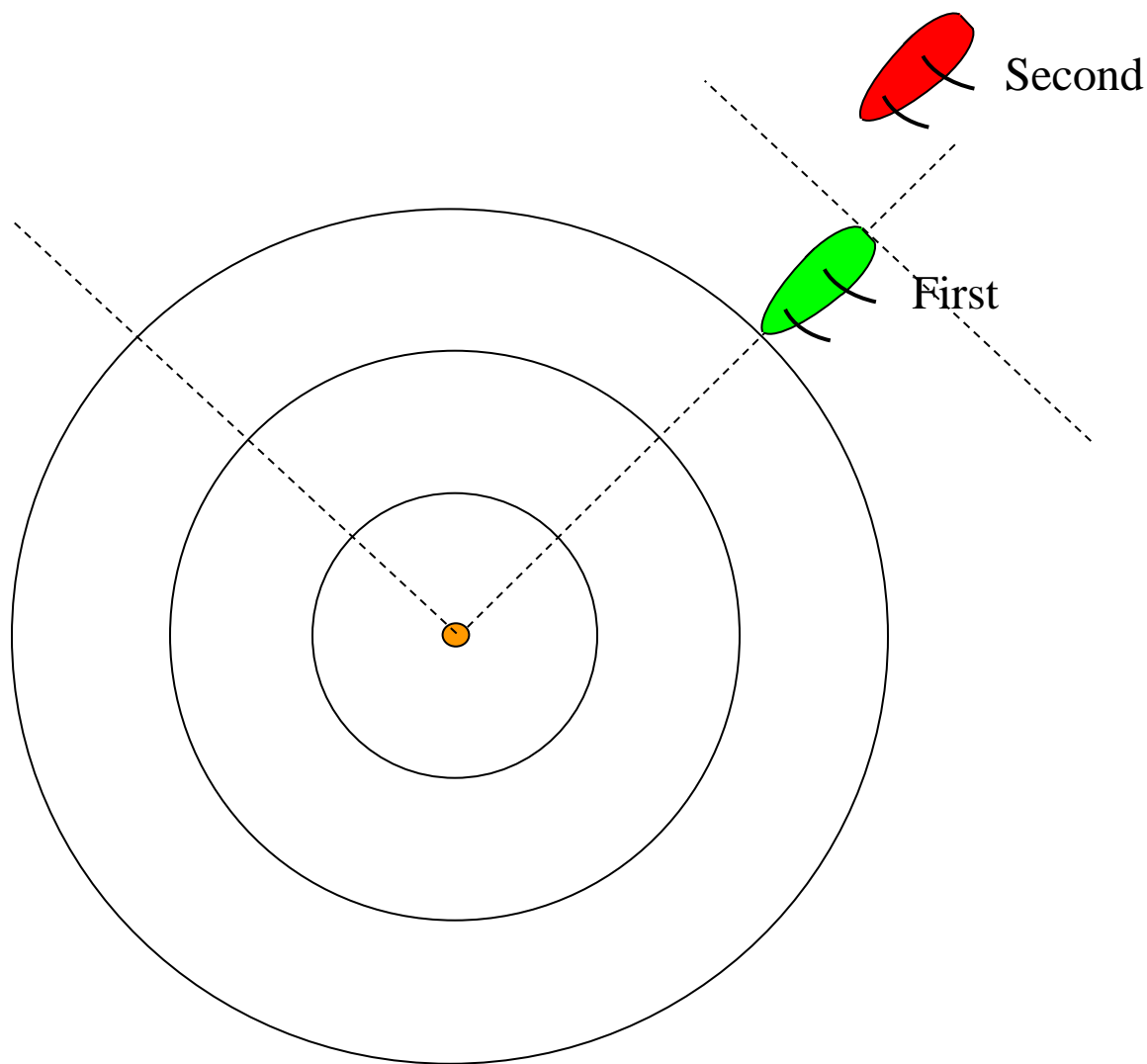


When the first boat reaches the zone, they are not overlapped – Second shall give mark-room to First. *See* Rule 18.2(a)(2).

It does not matter that Red is inside because they are not overlapped.

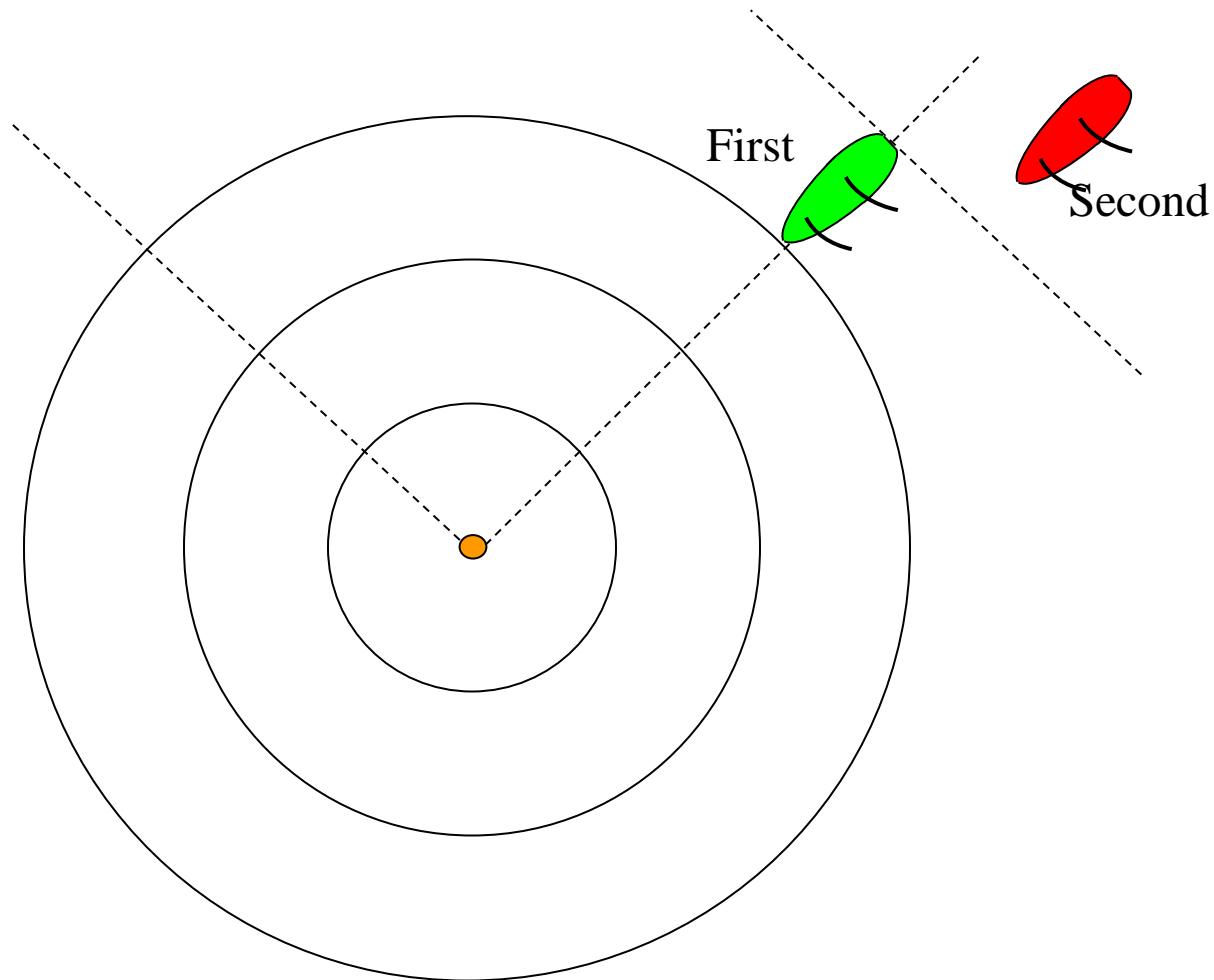


Figure 13  
Leeward mark (left to port)  
Same tack – not overlapped



When the first boat reaches the zone, they are not overlapped –  
Second shall give mark-room to First. *See Rule 18.2(a)(2).*

Figure 14  
Leeward mark (left to port)  
Same tack – not overlapped



When the First boat reaches the zone, they are not overlapped –  
Second shall give mark-room to First. *See* Rule 18.2(a)(2).

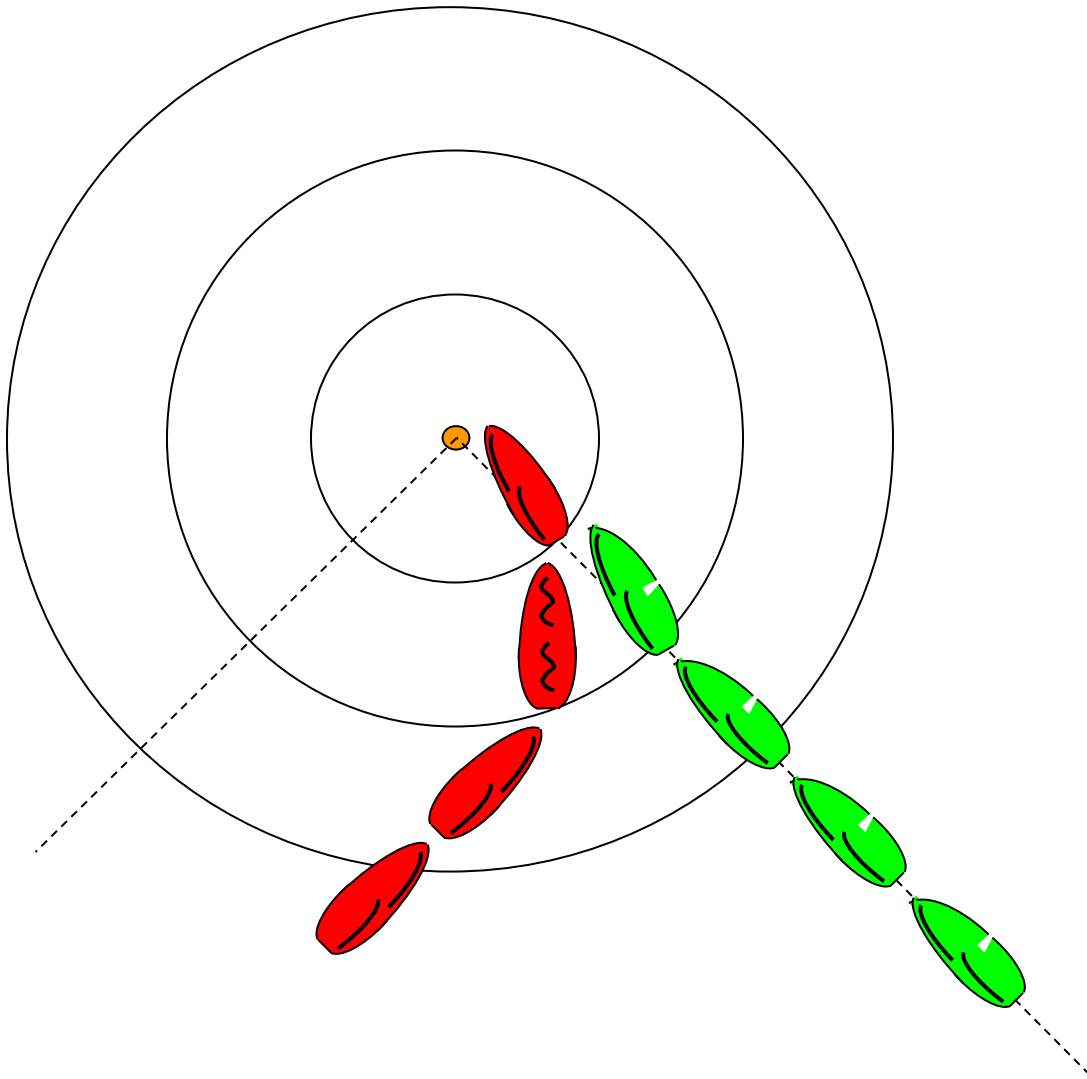
It does not matter that Red is inside because they are not overlapped.

### 18.3 Tacking in the Zone

If a boat **passes head to wind from *port* to *starboard tack* in the zone of a *mark* to be left to port**, rule 18.2 does not apply between her and another boat on *starboard tack* that is *fetching* the *mark*. If the other boat has been on *starboard tack* since entering the *zone*, the boat that passed head to wind

- (a) shall not cause the other boat to sail above close-hauled to avoid contact, and
- (b) shall give *mark-room* if the other boat becomes *overlapped* inside her.

Figure 15  
Windward mark (left to port)  
Tack in the zone



## 18.4 Gybing in the Zone [skip]

## 19 Room to Pass an Obstruction [skip]

## 20 Room to Tack at an Obstruction

### 20.1 Hailing

A boat may hail for *room* to tack and avoid a boat on the same *tack* by hailing ‘Room to tack’. However, she shall not hail unless

- (a) she is approaching an *obstruction* and will soon need to make a substantial course change to avoid it safely, and
- (b) she is sailing close-hauled or above.

In addition, she shall not hail if the *obstruction* is a *mark* and a boat that is *fetching* it would be required to change course as a result of the hail.

## 20.2 Responding

- (a) After a boat hails, she shall give a hailed boat time to respond.
- (b) A hailed boat shall respond even if the hail breaks rule 20.1.
- (c) A hailed boat shall respond either by tacking as soon as possible, or by immediately replying 'You tack' and then giving the hailing boat room to tack and avoid her.
- (d) When a hailed boat responds, the hailing boat shall tack as soon as possible.
- (e) From the time a boat hails until she has tacked and avoided a hailed boat, rule 18.2 does not apply between them.

## 20.3 Passing on a Hail to an Additional Boat [skip]

## 20.4 Additional Requirements for Hails [skip]