



AC35 Umpire Call 08

Definition **Keep Clear**
Definition **Room**
Rule 16 **CHANGING COURSE**

Question

How will Umpires interpret "...manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way." In regards to AC Class Yachts in a Match Race.

Answer

Actions that are not seamanlike in a fleet of yachts may be considered seamanlike in a situation with only two yachts. Thus, in match racing some manoeuvres might be considered normal that would be considered abnormal in other racing, and therefore 'seamanlike way' will be interpreted somewhat more broadly in match racing.

Any manoeuvre, however, that puts a yacht or her crew at unreasonable risk of damage or injury is unseamanlike. A manoeuvre that is done faster than normal, or results in a speed loss (stopping foiling, having both hulls in the water) may still be a seamanlike manoeuvre. The umpires will judge each incident on the basis of the yacht's actions in relation to the existing conditions.

The Umpires will assume that both yachts in a race have equal manoeuvrability when judging rule 16 and the definition – keep clear. They will also assume that yachts maintain a proper lookout and are ready to manoeuvre promptly at the moment they are required to do so by the rules.

When a right of way yacht changes course, the room she must give is directly linked to the time for the keep clear yacht to recognise the change of course and start to respond. After that time, the keep clear yacht is required to make every seamanlike effort to keep clear.

When yachts are at different speeds or sailing in different modes (foiling vs flying a hull vs both hulls in the water) the umpires will base the room required on the mode in which the keep clear yacht is sailing.