

TR RAPID RESPONSE CALL
Getting Well Clear before Taking a Penalty

Rule 21.2 **Taking Penalties**
Rule 44.2 **One-Turn and Two-Turn Penalties**

Question 1

When is a boat, intending to take a penalty under rule 44.2, ‘well clear of other boats’?

Answer 1

A boat intending to take a penalty under rule 44.2 meets the requirement to get ‘well clear of other boats’ when she reaches a position where she

- a) has the space she needs to start taking the penalty, and
- b) is not preventing a boat on another team from:
 - i. continuing to sail her current course;
 - ii. changing course onto a *proper course*; or
 - iii. approaching the line to *start*.

Rule 44.2 requires the boat to meet this requirement as soon as possible.

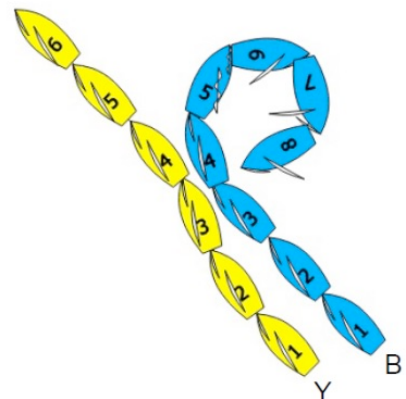
Once a boat has met this requirement, rule 44.2 then requires her to take the penalty promptly, and rule 21.2 requires her to *keep clear* of other boats while doing so.

Question 2

B and Y are two-person dinghies on a beat to windward in moderate wind. Rule 17 does not apply to Y and no other boats are nearby.

After Position 1 Y luffs slowly and B does not respond. At Position 3 B is not keeping clear. Y bears away and protests. B luffs, then tacks and gybes.

Has B taken a One-Turn Penalty that complies with rule 44.2?



Answer 2

Yes. At position 4 after Y bears away and B luffs, B has the space she needs to start taking the penalty and is not preventing Y from continuing to sail her current course. So at Position 4 B meets the requirement to get well clear of other boats. B then promptly makes a turn including one tack and one gybe as required by rule 44.2.

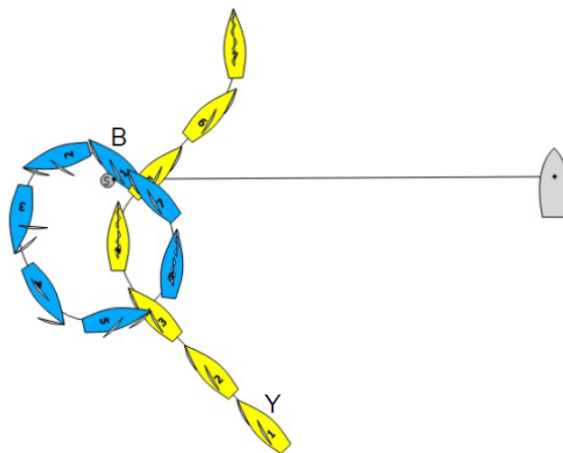
However, if a boat passes head to wind or gybes before she is well clear, that tack or gybe is not part of her penalty turn.

Question 3

Shortly after the starting signal, a keelboat B touches a starting mark that Y is approaching on a close-hauled course, but not fetching. All other boats have *started* between B and the committee vessel.

As soon as B is clear of the mark, she bears away. After position 3, Y tacks and *starts*. B promptly gybes, passes astern of Y, and then tacks.

Has B taken a One-Turn Penalty that complies with rule 44.2?



Answer 3

Yes. At Position 3 B is sailing in a direction to give herself the space to take the penalty to leeward of Y as soon as possible. When Y luffs to tack, B has the space she needs to start taking the penalty and is not preventing Y from either continuing to sail her course or approaching the line to *start*. B therefore has met the requirement to get well clear of other boats.

B then promptly makes a turn including one gybe and one tack as required by rule 44.2.