

—INLAND— Steering and Sailing Rules

Subpart II—Conduct of Vessels in Sight of One Another

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RULE 11: Application

Rules in this subpart **apply to vessels in sight** of one another.

RULE 12: Sailing Vessels

(a) When **two sailing vessels** are approaching one another, so as to involve risk of collision, one of them shall keep out of the way of the other as follows:

(i) ... port tack “give way” ... to starboard tack;

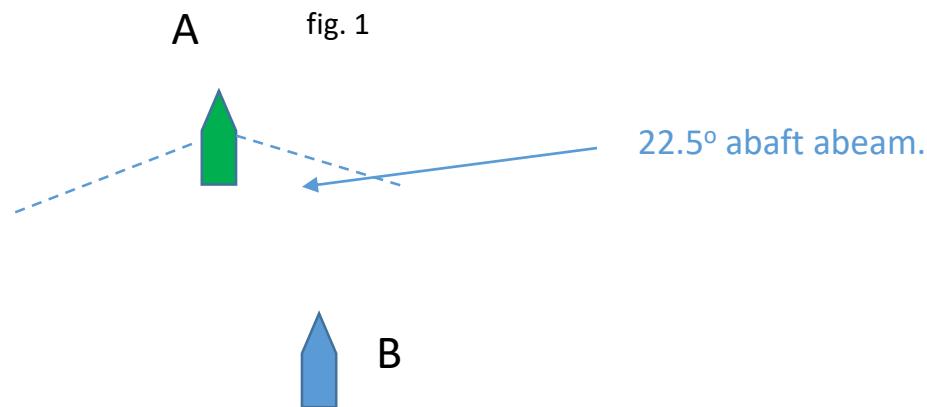
(ii) ... wind on the same side, the vessel which is to windward “give way” to leeward; and

(iii) if ... port “tack” sees vessel to windward and cannot determine ... other vessel “tack”, she shall “give way”.

(b) For the purpose of this Rule the **windward side** shall be deemed to be the **side opposite** to that on which the **mainsail** is carried or, in the case of a square-rigged vessel, the side opposite to that on which the largest fore-and-aft sail is carried.

RULE 13: Overtaking

- (a) Notwithstanding anything contained in Rules 4 through 18, any vessel **overtaking** ... shall keep “give way” to vessel being **overtaken**.
- (b) A vessel shall be **deemed to be overtaking** when coming up ... **more than 22.5 degrees abaft her beam**; ..., **at night** see only the **stern light** of that vessel **but neither** of her **sidelights** (fig 1, B is overtaking A and is the give way vessel).
- (c) When a vessel is in **any doubt** as to whether she is overtaking another, she shall **assume** that this is the case **and act accordingly**.
- (d) **Any subsequent alteration of the bearing** between the two vessels **shall not make the overtaking vessel a crossing vessel** ... or relieve her of the duty of keeping clear of the overtaken vessel until she is finally past and clear.



Port to port, one whistle.

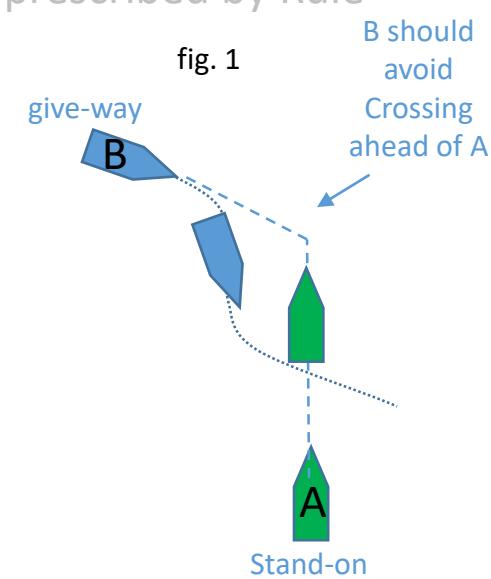
RULE 14: Head-on Situation

- (a) Unless otherwise agreed, when two power-driven vessels are meeting on reciprocal or nearly reciprocal courses so as to involve risk of collision each shall alter course to starboard so that each shall pass on the port side of the other.
- (b) Such a situation shall be deemed to exist when a vessel sees the other ahead or nearly ahead and by night she could see the masthead lights of the other in a line or nearly in a line or both sidelights and by day she observes the corresponding aspect of the other vessel.
- (c) ... in any doubt as to whether such a situation exists she shall assume it exists and act accordingly.
- (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this Rule, a power-driven vessel operating on the Great Lakes, Western Rivers, or waters specified by the Secretary, and proceeding downbound with a following current shall have the right-of-way over an upbound vessel, shall propose the manner of passage, and shall initiate the maneuvering signals prescribed by Rule 34(a)(i), as appropriate.

RULE 15: Crossing Situation

- (a) When two power-driven vessels are crossing so as to involve risk of collision, the vessel which has the other on her starboard side shall keep out of the way and shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid crossing ahead of the other Vessel (fig 1.).
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), on the Great Lakes, Western Rivers, or water specified by the Secretary, a power-driven vessel crossing a river shall keep out of the way of a power-driven vessel ascending or descending the river.

How to remember this rule:
B has A to starboard so is the give-way vessel.
B sees A's red port sidelight. Red means stop, no right of way



RULE 16: Action by Give-way Vessel

Every vessel which is directed to keep out of the way of another vessel shall, so far as possible, take **early and substantial** action to keep well clear.

A large course change is the easiest action to discern from the stand-on vessel's perspective

RULE 17: Action by Stand-on Vessel

(a)

- (i) Where one of two vessels is to keep out of the way, the other shall **keep course and speed**.
- (ii) The latter vessel **may**, however, take action to **avoid collision** by her maneuver alone, as **soon as it becomes apparent** to her that the vessel required to keep out of the way is **not taking appropriate action** in compliance with these Rules.
- (b) When, from any cause, the vessel required to keep her course and speed finds herself so close that **collision cannot be avoided by the action of the give-way vessel alone**, she shall **take such action** as will best aid **to avoid collision**.
- (c) A power-driven vessel which takes action in a crossing situation in accordance with subparagraph (a)(ii) of this Rule to avoid collision with another power-driven vessel shall, **if the circumstances** of the case **admit**, **not alter course to port** for a **vessel on her own port side**.
- (d) This **Rule does not relieve the give-way vessel of her obligation** to keep out of the way.

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RULE 18: Responsibilities Between Vessels

Except where Rules 9, 10, and 13 otherwise require:

(a) A **power-driven vessel** underway shall keep out of the way of:

- (i) a vessel not under command;
- (ii) a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver;
- (iii) a vessel engaged in fishing; and
- (iv) a sailing vessel.

(b) A **sailing vessel** underway shall keep out of the way of:

- (i) a vessel not under command;
- (ii) a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver; and
- (iii) a vessel engaged in fishing.

(c) A **vessel engaged in fishing** when underway shall, so far as possible, keep out of the way of:

- (i) a vessel not under command; and
- (ii) a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver.

(d) A **seaplane** on the water shall, in general, keep well clear of all vessels and avoid impeding their navigation. In circumstances, however, where risk of collision exists, she shall comply with the Rules of this Part.

Rule 9: Narrow Channels

Rule 10: TSS

Rule 13: Overtaking

In order of who gives way to whom:

1. Seaplane
2. Power-driven vessel
3. Sailing
4. Fishing
5. Restricted in ability to maneuver
6. Not under command

It is interesting that the rules don't state restricted in ability to maneuver keep out of the way of vessel not under command. Of the two titans, restricted in ability to maneuver is the only one that can possibly avoid a collision.