

UNDERSTANDING THE RACING RULES OF SAILING THROUGH 2028

However, rule 43.1(c), Exoneration, states that a right-of-way boat or one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled is exonerated (freed from penalty) if the contact does not cause “damage or injury.” “Damage” is what a boat suffers; “injury” is what a person suffers (see Case 110). Therefore, if the contact causes no physical damage or injury to any boat or person, the right-of-way boat or the one sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled can be found to have broken rule 14 but cannot be penalized for doing so (see rule 43.2, Exoneration).

On the other hand, if there is any damage or injury at all to **any** boat or person involved in the incident, no matter how slight, and regardless of whether the damage or injury has any effect on the speed or handling of the boat or whether the damage or injury was to the right-of-way boat, the right-of-way boat or the boat sailing within the *room* or *mark-room* to which she is entitled will be penalized if it was found that it was reasonably possible for them to have avoided the contact.

Note that if the keep-clear boat fails to avoid contact, she technically can be disqualified under this rule; however, this is a moot point because she will be disqualified under the Section A rule she broke, and a boat can only be disqualified once in a race. Likewise, if she took a penalty for breaking one or more rules in the incident, she cannot be further penalized under rule 60.5(c); see rule 60.5(c)(2) (Protest Decisions).