



Rules 11–18: Overtaking, Crossing & the Pecking Order

Conduct in sight of one another — the eight rules that decide who gives way, who stands on, and who outranks whom. The single highest-yield section of any oral exam.

R · 11 Application

- Rules 11–18 apply only when vessels are **in sight** of one another
- "In sight" = observed visually, not just by radar
- Pair with Rule 19 the moment visibility closes in

R · 12 Sailing vessels

- Different tacks: vessel with wind on **port** gives way
- Same tack: **windward** vessel gives way to leeward
- Port-tack can't determine windward's tack → give way

R · 13 Overtaking

- Coming up from **more than 22.5°** abaft the beam
- Overtaker keeps clear — **overrides Rules 14–18**
- Stays an overtaking until **finally past and clear**

R · 14 Head-on

- Two PDVs reciprocal/near-reciprocal courses, risk of collision
- Both alter course to **starboard**, pass port-to-port
- If in doubt, **assume head-on** and act

R · 15 Crossing

- Vessel with the other on her **starboard side** gives way
- Avoid **crossing ahead** of the stand-on vessel
- Alter to starboard — pass under her stern

R · 16 Action by give-way vessel

- **Early** and **substantial** action
- Keep well clear — leave no doubt in the other's mind
- One bold alteration, not a string of small ones

R · 17 Action by stand-on vessel

- Initially: **keep course and speed**
- May act when give-way clearly not acting; **avoid altering to port** for a crossing vessel on own port side
- In extremis: **shall** take best action to avoid collision

R · 18 Responsibilities between vessels

- PDV gives way to NUC · RAM · **fishing** · sailing
- Sailing gives way to NUC · RAM · **fishing**
- All **avoid impeding** a vessel constrained by her draught

TIP Pecking-order mnemonic

- "New Reels Catch Fish So POW"
- NUC → RAM → CBD → Fishing → Sailing → PDV → WIG
- Higher on the list = lower on the give-way order

ORAL Phrasing the examiner wants

- "I am the **give-way / stand-on** vessel under Rule..."
- "Alter course to **starboard**, sound **one short blast**"
- Name the rule, name the action, name the signal — every time

FOUNDATION JUDGEMENT REQUIRED ACTION EXAM TRAP ORAL TIP

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