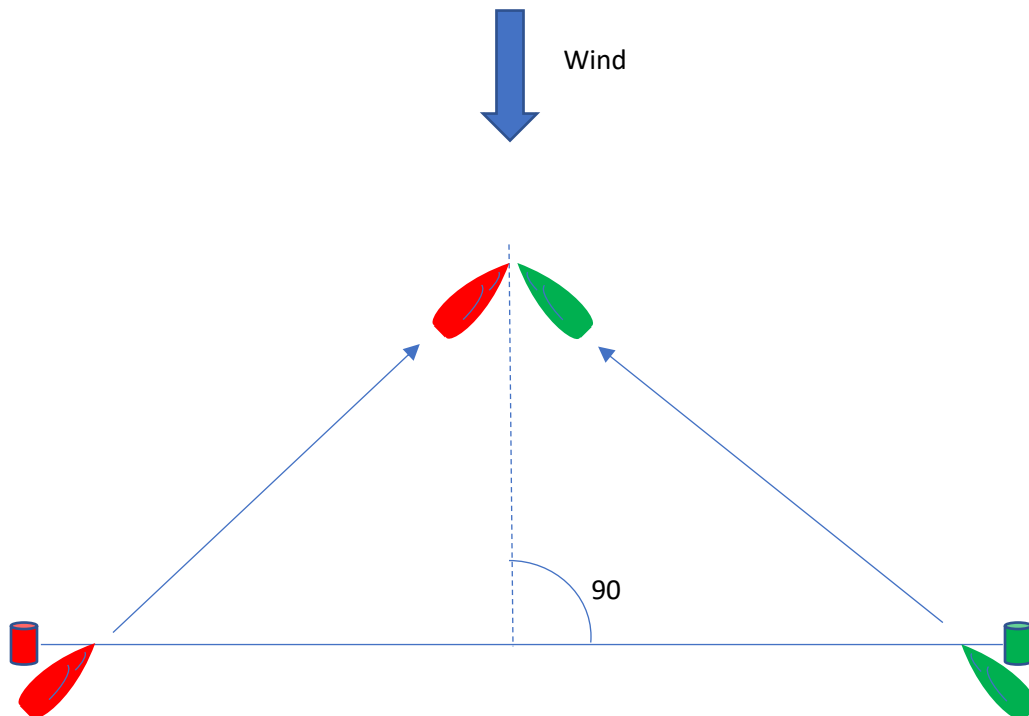


## The Starting Line: Why it is important

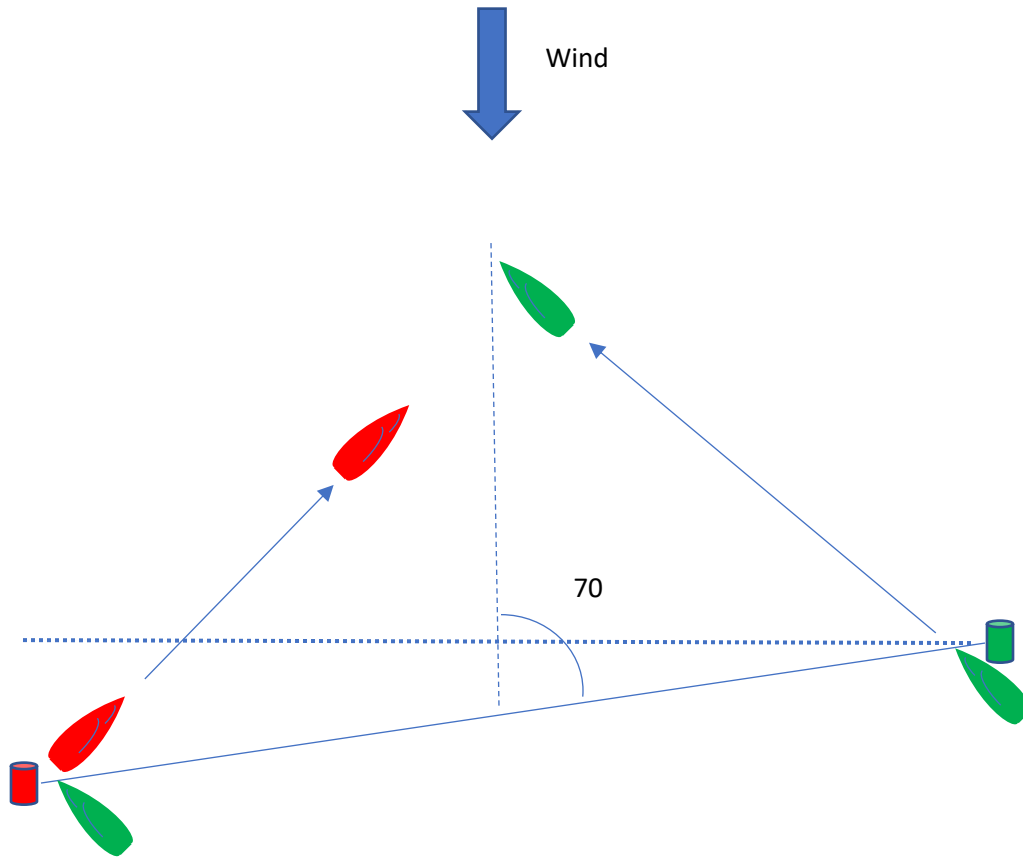
The orientation of the starting line has a major effect on the fairness of the competition and subsequently the outcome of the race. The length of the ideal starting line is 1 to 1.5 times the length of the boat times the number of boats, so if 15 boats of 1m in length are competing, the line should be 15 to 22 meters in length.

The direction of the starting line should be at 90 degrees to the average wind. If so, each boat is equal distance from the upwind mark regardless of where she starts on the line.



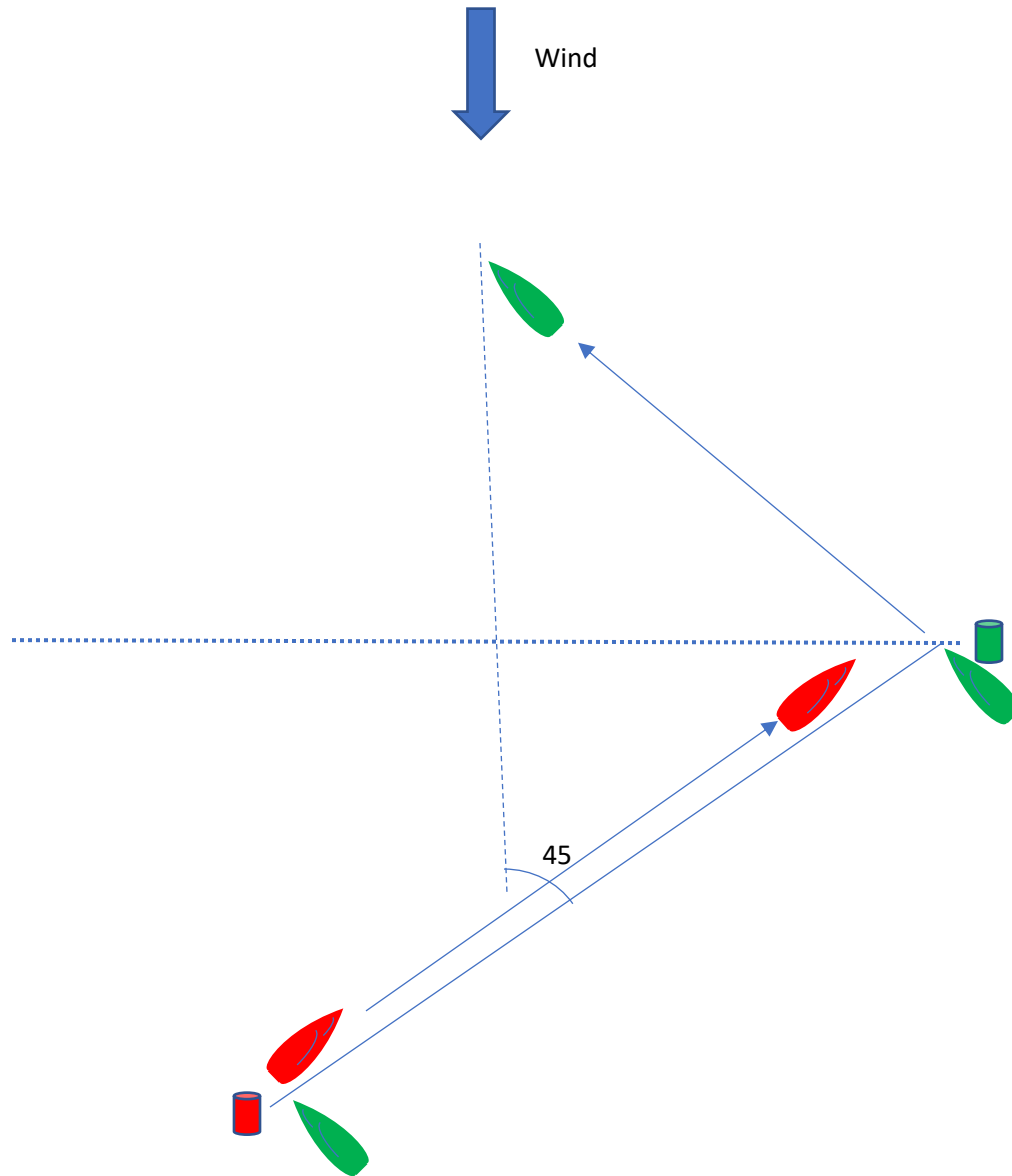
## The Starting Line: Why it is important

If the starting line is skewed 20 degrees to the left, then boats starting on the starboard end will have a **7 boat length** advantage over boats starting at the port end if the line is 20 boat lengths long



## The Starting Line: Why it is important

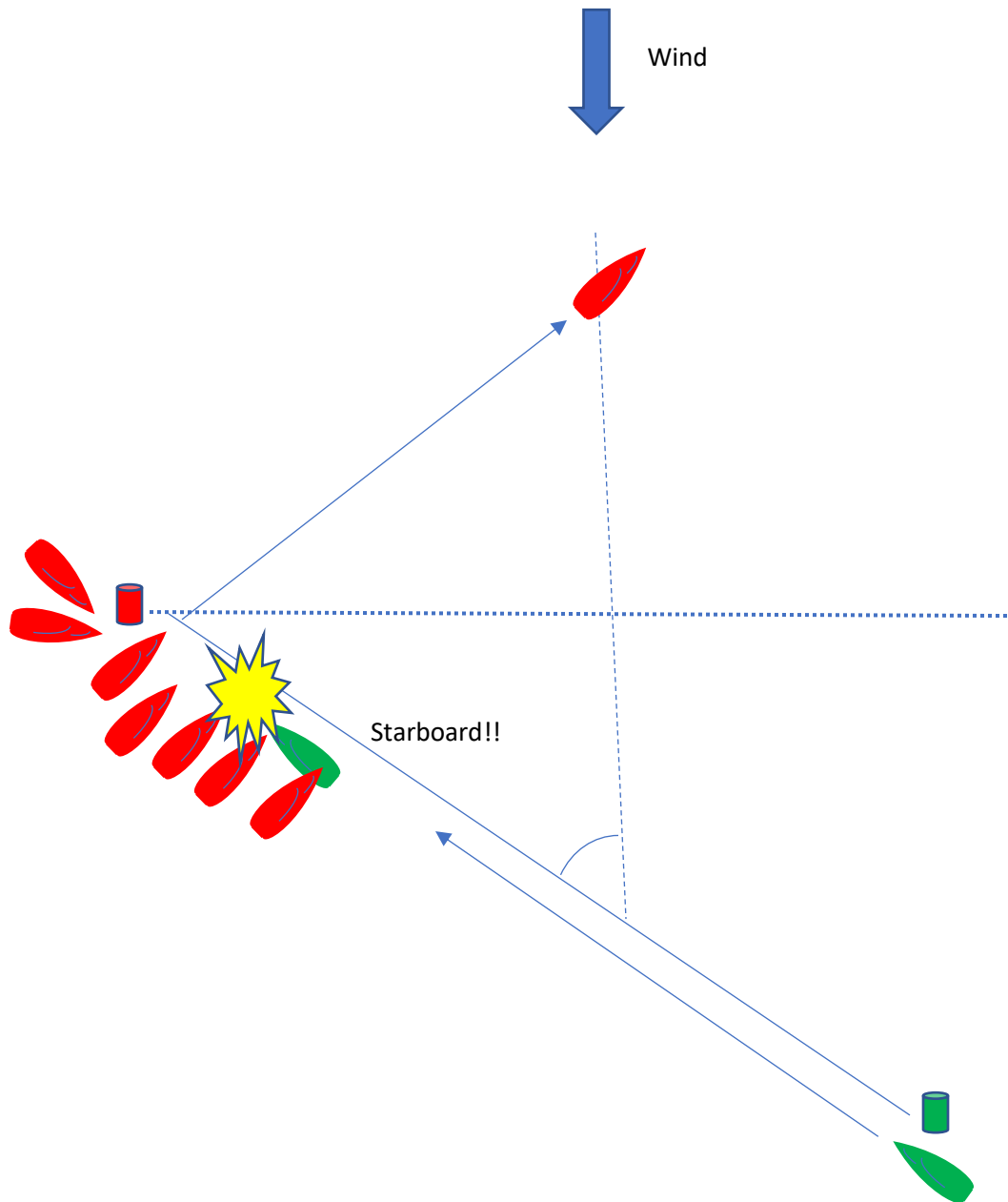
If the starting line is skewed 45 degrees to the left, then boats starting on the starboard end will have a **20 boat length** advantage over boats starting at the port end if the line is 20 boat lengths long



## The Starting Line: Why it is important

### >>Worst case scenario !

If the starting line is skewed 45 degrees to the right, then boats starting on the port end will have a **20 boat length** advantage over boats starting at the starboard end if the line is 20 boat lengths long



The result is usually a jam of port tack boats at the pin end, with collisions caused by barging boats and right of way starboard boats! Result? Damage, bad language, fouls with no turns, and reinforcement of bad habits.