

## **RYA Covid-19 Q & A for English clubs restarting boating activity and managing Covid-19 V1.8 (Updated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020)**

These Q & A's do not take into account any local lockdown measures. They are designed to be read in conjunction with the following RYA Guidance documents:

- [Guidance for Clubs in England](#)
- [A Guidance on sailing & racing with participants from different households during Covid-19 in England](#)
- [Guidance on Major Events and Covid-19](#)
- [MYA Guidance on Competitive Radio and Free Sailing](#)

### **Q & A**

#### **What does the current HM Government guidance and legislation mean for clubs looking to run organised activities?**

The updated legislation brings the law in line with what was previously government guidance.

From the 14<sup>th</sup> September gatherings of more than six individuals will be prohibited by law in a public outdoor place, private dwellings or individual vessels (unless you are meeting as a household or support bubble). This will replace the limit of a gathering of 30 persons. However, it is permitted to have gatherings of more than six for organised sport and physical activity where this is conducted in accordance with the relevant RYA Guidance and the DCMS Guidance on a 'Return to Recreational Team Sport Framework'; for education and training or for youth groups and activities. Clubs are required to produce written risk assessments and implement suitable mitigations should they be relying on any of the exemptions to permit gatherings of more than six.

Venues which are Covid-secure can host activities with multiple groups of six, subject to their own capacity limits, although any individual groups of six should not interact with anyone outside of their own group. If a club offers hospitality they must make sure that staff, volunteers, members and guests abide by any test and trace obligations.

*\*A venue is deemed Covid-secure when the organiser has taken all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus, considering the requirements of Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999(14). A summary of what steps are required to become 'Covid-secure' are detailed within this notice which should be displayed in your venue once the steps are complete -*

*<https://www.rya.org.uk/SiteCollectionImages/club-zone/RYA%20COVID-19%20Poster%20ONLINE.jpg>*

#### **Are clubs allowed to run racing and if so, should it be restricted in any way?**

A club is allowed to run racing for an unlimited number of boats. However, clubs should carefully consider appropriate limits to maintain Covid security ashore. Clubs must ensure that gatherings ashore are in groups of six or fewer people (unless the gathering is from a household or support bubble) and they should plan carefully for social distancing, especially

any 'pinch points' such as launching, landing and any social interactions before and after racing.

### **Is it feasible for clubs to run events ?**

With no apparent legal limit to the number of boats that can take part in activity on the water it remains permissible to run sailing events. Organisers should be mindful that we remain in the middle of a global pandemic and should pay particular attention to all relevant Government guidance and legislation. Organisers should consider the likely impact of limitations on their facility provision and consider any potential impact on local communities. All organisers should be ready to strengthen or relax measures at short notice.

### **Is it appropriate for people from different households to sail together in the same dinghy, keelboat or yacht and is there a limit on the numbers onboard?**

Please read the '[RYA Guidance on Sailing and Racing with Participants from Different Households during Covid-19 in England](#)'. This guidance, which has been reviewed by DCMS as part of the 'Return to Team Sports Framework', provides context and helps you assess whether it is appropriate for you to sail with someone from a different household. The guidance recognises that in some situations whilst afloat it will not be possible to maintain normal social distancing and it helps skippers and participants to evaluate the risk and it suggests some mitigations which may need to be implemented. It is important that skippers (in particular) determine a suitable number of crew whilst balancing the risk of Covid transmission vs the risks involved whilst carrying out manoeuvres and generally sailing and racing short-handed. The maximum crew number should be decided by the ability for that crew to maintain social distancing afloat and race organisers are encouraged to limit crew numbers to level the playing field for all. The absolute maximum crew number by law on any vessel is 30.

Please visit the Training Support Site for all the latest guidance for RYA recognised training centres.

### **What responsibilities do we have as a club over members, staff and volunteers?**

Individuals within a club with responsibility for Covid-19 safety measures have a duty of care to carry out risk assessments and implement appropriate mitigation measures. To discharge a club's duty of care, the club management should ensure that reasonable steps are being taken to protect the health and safety of its members and relevant legislation is followed. The starting point should be complying with legislation and implementing guidance issued by relevant authorities: i.e. Government, public health authorities, local authorities and NGB's. However, in the context of Covid-19 and 'return to play', risk assessments are central and whilst a good risk assessment does not eradicate the risk of liability, a good risk assessment which is reasonable, in line with relevant guidance and delivered properly will reduce those risks significantly. (Updated 10th September)

### **Does a club increase their own liability / duty of care by providing rescue cover for activity at their club?**

Where a club provides safety boat cover it has a duty to those taking part in the activity and the safety boat crew to take reasonable steps to ensure that the safety boats are suitable and properly maintained and equipped. Safety boat crews themselves owe a duty of care towards

those taking part in the activity. We suggest clubs may wish to have safety boat crew sign a risk statement acknowledging that they understand the Covid-19 risks associated with carrying out the role. The issue of PPE must be addressed e.g. is it available, who will provide it, will the club mandate the wearing of it. Covid-19 safety rescue measures should be adopted.

### **Can a sailing club open its premises yet?**

The current guidance is that indoor facilities which aren't Covid-secure should remain closed apart from through-ways and toilets. Bars, restaurants and catering facilities can open but in line with the Government guidance developed for pubs, restaurants and other organisations which offer those services.

From the 25<sup>th</sup> July, clubs have been able to fully open their facilities; this includes changing rooms although for essential use only. This needs to be done in line with the Government guidance for providers of grassroots sports and gym/leisure facilities and relevant legislation. It should be noted, that particularly with respect to changing facilities, the guidance is detailed and could become onerous to implement and manage for volunteer-run clubs. Therefore, depending on their own individual considerations, clubs may wish to continue to keep changing rooms closed for the time-being.

### **Can a sailing club offer a catering or bar service and what restrictions apply?**

If a club wishes to open its bar and catering service, it can do so in line with the Government guidance developed for pubs, restaurants and other organisations which offer those services. As of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September, this now includes the mandatory collection of contact details of one member of every party who visits your club to support NHS Test & Trace. If a club would like to investigate whether it would be feasible, it should review the detailed guidance for restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services here.

### **Useful links**

Government Guidance for providers of outdoor facilities on the phased return of sport and recreation in England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/guidance-for-providers-of-outdoor-facilities-on-the-phased-return-of-sportand-recreation#reopening-your-outdoors-sports-facility>

Government Guidance for restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes or takeaway services:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offeringtakeaway-or-delivery>

### **Further Questions?**

We will endeavour to continue to answer the most frequently asked questions as they come in. If you have a question you would like answered, please send it to [sport.development@rya.org.uk](mailto:sport.development@rya.org.uk)