

Covid 19 Guidance boating activity in Northern Ireland

Last updated: 11th January 2022

This is subject to ongoing review and should be read alongside our Return to Boating page and **FAQs**.

Guidance is primarily based upon [NI Direct](#) and [SportNI](#) advice in conjunction with the [Covid 19 Regulations](#).

This Guidance is designed to be read alongside relevant resources for both individuals and activity organisers, including:

- *RYANI Club Guidance,*
- *RYANI Training Guidance,*
- *RYA Major Event Guidance,*
- *RYA Mixed Household Guidance.*
- *Ni Direct Guidance on Testing for Events & Large Gatherings*

More detailed guidance is available at the NI Direct website under the Exercising and Sports section

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) regulations and guidance: what they mean for you | nidirect](#)

A suite of documents with more guidance including sharing transport, sharing equipment, showering and changing facilities and COVID safe behaviours can be found here: - [Covid-19: Guidance on the safe return of sport | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Current Guidance	
Travel	Guidance for travelling both internationally and within the Common Travel Area during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at: Travel advice and guidance
Social Distancing	Latest guidance currently states for both indoor and outdoor gatherings: Where possible, you should maintain social distancing, as well as good hand and respiratory hygiene practices
COVID 19 Status Checks	COVID certification status for entry to the following, with 100% checking arrangements in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Licensed areas of club premises - Indoor events (where some or all of the audience are not normally seated) with 500 or more attendees; - outdoor events (where some or all of the audience are not normally seated) with 4,000 or more attendees; - events where more than 10,000 people will be present, regardless of whether or not they will be seated.
Events	Indoor standing events are prohibited from 8 p.m. on 26 December.

	<p>It is strongly recommended that, given the high transmission rates of the Omicron Variant, everyone attending a sporting event should take a Lateral Flow Test prior to attending.</p> <p>Venue operators should promote and encourage the wearing of face coverings on the way to, during and when leaving an event. It is strongly recommended that all those present at a sporting event wear a face covering at all times including staff, club officials and spectators.</p> <p>Other mitigations should be considered to reduce the risk of transmission including one way systems, sufficient queuing arrangements to avoid congestion and track and trace arrangements.</p> <p>Those travelling to a sporting event should not share transport with anyone outside of their own household and should where possible travel in their own car, walk or cycle.</p> <p>Ticket purchase should be advance, use of cards and scanners are preferred and handling of cash or paper tickets should, where possible, be removed.</p> <p>Good hygiene, including hand sanitising, is strongly recommended and venue operators should ensure sanitisation stations are widely available and regularly filled.</p> <p>Good communications is essential and venue operators should ensure that attendees understand, in advance attending an event, what to expect and regularly remind attendees at the event of the need to fully comply with COVID mitigations including wear face coverings, practicing good personal hygiene and limiting social interactions.</p> <p>Other mitigations should be considered to reduce the risk of transmission including one way systems throughout venues, sufficient queuing arrangements to avoid congestion and track and trace arrangements.</p> <p>Venue operators must ensure that they follow the current guidance and regulations for their hospitality offerings and social clubs.</p>
<p>Risk Assessment requirements for organised activity</p> <p>Sailing, windsurfing or powerboating formally organised by a club or training centre, including training and events</p>	<p>1. A risk assessment must be carried out as appropriate:</p> <p>To determine the maximum number of people permitted to attend an outdoor gathering, in a non-domestic setting, the organiser or operator must carry out a risk assessment. Outdoor gatherings of 30 people or fewer do not need a risk assessment.</p> <p>The number of people permitted to attend an indoor gathering, in a non-domestic setting, is determined by a risk assessment, carried out by the organiser or operator. Indoor gatherings, in non-domestic settings, of 15 people or fewer, do not need a risk assessment.</p> <p>The organiser must also take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus.</p> <p>A person responsible for organising a gathering must, if requested to do so by a relevant person, provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · a copy of the risk assessment <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · an account of the reasonable measures taken

	<p>It is important that indoor spaces are well ventilated at all times, by leaving doors and windows open. Frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, should be cleaned regularly.</p> <p>Where possible, you should maintain social distancing, as well as good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.</p>
<p>Recreational activity</p> <p>Activity falling outside the definition of organised activity</p>	<p>Mixed household guidance for sailing and racing applies.</p>
<p>Safety</p>	<p>Safety recovery mitigations in place to prevent contact unless absolutely necessary. PPE should be available.</p>
<p>Clubhouse Facilities</p> <p>Use of facilities outside of organised activity and hospitality</p>	<p>Access to clubhouse/ indoor facilities is permitted in line with venue risk assessment and Public Health Agency (PHA) measures in place.</p> <p>Wider gathering limits no longer apply. A risk assessment for the facility/spaces being used to determine safe occupancy that minimises the risk of Covid spread must be in place</p> <p>Guidance on Face Coverings can be found here</p>
<p>Changing rooms</p>	<p>Changing rooms are permitted to open for use. Participants should be encouraged to arrive and depart changed wherever possible or to limit time in the changing area.</p> <p>Use of shower facilities is allowed. (please check RYA advice on Legionella).</p> <p>Further Guidance: DfC guiding Principles on restricted access and safe use of shower and changing facilities</p>
<p>Hospitality</p>	<p>Full details and guidance for hospitality venues can be found on the relevant section of the NI Direct Webpages.</p> <p>COVID Status checks</p> <p>From the 29 November it will be a legal requirement for certain organisations / venues to take all reasonable steps to verify the COVID[1]19 status of those who visit the organisation / venue, prior to allowing entry. The use of the app is one such method of confirming proof of vaccination status.</p> <p>Currently this requirement applies to licensed areas of club premises.</p> <p>From 27 December the following legal requirements will apply:</p> <p>A maximum of six people are permitted to be seated together in hospitality settings. More than six are permitted if they all belong to a single household, as long as it is not more than 10. Children aged 12 and under are not counted in the total.</p> <p>This requirement does not apply to weddings and civil partnerships.</p>

	Table service is required. Apart from entering and leaving the premises, the only movement allowed indoors is to access toilet facilities, to select food from a buffet or to pay.
Overnight Stays	From 27 December , you are strongly advised to limit the amount of social contact you have with other households. It is recommended that no more than three households should meet together in a private home.