

### Updated: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (subject to updates upon further guidance publication)

With the nature of NI Executive and Department announcements, RYANI updates guidance based on the latest announcements and published regulations. We recommend checking the **Current Situation** on the Return to Boating webpage, outlining the these announcements.

We remain engaged in seeking clarification on specific elements of guidance and will share this further once received. Specific areas can also be found through our [FAQ](#) section.

These considerations are the RYANI's interpretation, but clubs, individuals etc. may also apply their individual context and circumstances when deciding upon activity. We will take a conservative approach to this as we look to keep within the guidance in order to best help eliminate COVID 19 and urge the boating community to continue to do so.

All activity should be consistent with the government guidance regarding health, social distancing and hygiene.

For the purpose of this guidance our interpretation of 'contact' means coming within Social Distancing measures (currently guidance is an optimum 2 metres)

Specific Guidance for Racing, Recognised Training Centres and Club Guidance (including facilities) can be found on the [RYANI Return to Boating](#) webpage

Major amendments shall be underlined

Localised restrictions may supersede this Guidance. Where this is the case, RYANI shall share relevant guidance with clubs etc for considerations of activity in their settings.

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## RYA Guiding Principles

The RYA's guiding principles will underpin all guidance across the boating community.

### 1. Our guidance

Covid-19 preventative measures are vital in keeping you, your family and others safe and to minimise pressure on frontline services. The RYA will continue to support the National effort to control the spread of Covid-19 and assist members of the RYA family with any variations that might develop at a local level. We support the Government's desire to return to normality in a measured way and we recognise that we have a role to play by providing guidance to the RYA community on the application of the 2020 Regulations.

### 2. Our approach is considerate and conservative

**Considerate:** be mindful of the potential impact that you could have on other water users and do not place unnecessary extra strain on the RNLI and emergency services.

**Conservative:** help to minimise incident and accidents by taking an extra cautious approach to your boating.

Our guidance on safe boating remains unchanged: know your limits; look after yourself; keep in touch and, above all, have a plan. As the restrictions are relaxed, we advise boaters to think about these factors.

## 1. Definitions

- “active period” – period of 4 weeks from 1800, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- “elite athlete” has the meaning given in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020(b); For sailing this is for named high performance athletes or development athletes over 16 on the RYANI Performance Academy;
- “social distance” means a distance of at least two metres between participants;
- “sporting event” means a gathering for the purpose of exercise, competitive sport, recreational sport or sport training;

## 2. Group Sizes

Group sizes now vary depending on format of activity:

- **‘Gatherings’ indoor or outdoor should not exceed 15 for any activity (including training or racing) during the ‘active period’ from 16<sup>th</sup> October**
- **Facility access.** RYANI recommends that limited access may be permitted for boating-related activity where absolutely necessary\* (e.g. RTC/ Racing) – please refer to *Facilities* section below.
- **Bars and restaurants are to close at this time - please refer to Facilities section below.**

\*Please refer to the Section 2 on Risk Assessment and responsible person.

## 3. Risk Assessment

For gatherings or activity at the club, the organiser (one person) for each ‘gathering/event’ is responsible for fulfilling the government conditions<sup>1</sup>:

1. They must carry out a risk assessment;
2. They must take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus, including implementing the preventative and protective measures;
3. The risk assessment must be available upon request by a relevant person and provide an account of the measures in place ‘as soon as reasonably practical and within twenty-four hours of that request’<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions)(No.2) Regulations NI 2020

<sup>2</sup> The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions)(No.2)(Amendment No.5) Regulations NI 2020

## 3. Travel

- The latest guidance stipulates you should not undertake any ‘unnecessary travel’. Individuals should act responsibly and reasonably.
- Outdoor Activity remains cited as a ‘reasonable excuse’ to leave home.
- Local restrictions may change what is advised in terms of travel into/ out of and within areas. Individuals must check local restrictions.

## 4. Recreational Activity

- Where possible, activity should be undertaken as an individual (e.g. single handed sailing or windsurfing), as a group from the same household or with a ‘linked household’.
- Multi-handed craft (dinghies, keelboats, powerboats, PWCs, motor boats etc) may have members from different households where social distancing of 2m can take place. If for short periods it is necessary to come closer than this, suitable mitigation must be in place. The total accumulated time spent under 2m should be limited.
- Please refer to [Guidance on sailing and racing with different households.](#)
- It is the responsibility of the individuals/ participants to ensure they adhere to social distancing measures, public hygiene and mitigations when sailing together.
- Individuals should not have visitors onboard their boat below deck/ ‘indoors’ from another household.
- Regulation 3<sup>3</sup> prohibits staying overnight other than at the place where you live, overnighting onboard is currently not acceptable, unless a) it is your main residence or b) you meet one of the “reasonable excuse” exceptions to the rule.

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<sup>3</sup> The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (Amendment No. 9) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

## 5. Structured Activity

This section should be read with [Section 2](#) on Risk Assessment requirements above. This section includes training and organised activity e.g. by a club.

### **During the active period:**

- Where any courses are being delivered and can be done remotely, they should do so (e.g. shore based). Any essential face to face engagements should only be a necessary and unavoidable part of the course.

### **Track and Trace**

- Contact details of participants taking part in any activity should be recorded and kept for 21 days for track and trace purposes.

### **Safety**

- Safety provision can be considered, where suitable protocols are in place (please refer to the [RYANI Club Guidance](#)). *Emergency situations can break this guidance.*

### **Training Groups**

- Groups of 15 (inclusive of instructors/ group leaders) can get afloat whilst maintaining social distancing. Suitable cleaning and public hygiene protocols must be in place.

### **Participant level**

- Considerations can be given to the level of activity participants can take part in and the conditions under which they may be afloat.

### **Further Guidance**

- Recognised Training Centres should refer to the **RYA Guidance on Restarting Training** and Coronavirus Guidance. In particular, considerations for Northern Ireland includes the limited access to facilities and the implications that may have on courses.

## 6. Racing Activity

This section should be read with the [Section 2](#) on Risk Assessment requirements above. It includes any organised competitions by a club or organisation.

### **During the active period:**

- Gathering numbers must not exceed 15 irrespective of risk assessment.
- Any such activity, participants should aim to keep a distance of 2 metres, unless suitable mitigations are in place and extended periods are avoided.
- Participants should ensure public health sanitising guidelines are adhered to.

### **Track and Trace**

- Contact details of participants taking part in any racing activity should be recorded and kept for 21 days for track and trace purposes

### **Type of Racing**

- Where possible, activity should be undertaken as an individual (e.g. single-handed sailing or windsurfing), as a group from the same household or with a 'linked household'.
- Multi-handed craft may have members from different households where social distancing of 2m can take place. If for short periods it is necessary to come closer than this, suitable mitigation must be in place. The total accumulated time spent under 2m should be limited.
- The level of activity to be considered by club committee following risk assessment and consideration of government advice.

### **Participating in Racing**

- All participants are encouraged to undertake a pre- attendance symptom Check and follow RYANI Essential First Steps outlined in *Guidance for sailing and racing for those in different households*.
- Guidance for participants taking part in racing with those from mixed households can be found here: [RYANI Guidance for sailing and racing for those form different households](#)
- It is the responsibility of the individuals/ participants to ensure they adhere to social distancing measures, public hygiene and mitigations when sailing together.
- Wherever possible, the relevant UK Government social distancing guidance should be adhered to at all times, apart from a few limited circumstances afloat where mitigations should be implemented.

## Permitted access

- Only participants or ‘essential personnel’ assisting with its delivery (e.g. safety, race officers etc) can be present on site. “All persons present will be there either in a working capacity to assist in the delivery of the event or as a participant. Spectators are not permitted to attend”.
- Parents of U18 - where a parent is transporting a child to an event they are deemed to be assisting with that event and therefore allowed to attend.

## Further Guidance

- [RYA Return to Racing Guidance \(NI Version\)](#)
- [RYANI Guidance on Sailing and Racing from different households](#)
- [RYA Major Events Guidance](#)

## 7. Facilities

This section should be read with the [Section 2](#) above This section covers access to clubhouse facilities, changing and club bars/ restaurants.

### **During the active period**

- a) Hospitality announcements will affect club bars and restaurants, which must close unless for delivery or take away service of food.
- b) We advise that clubs/ facilities should only have restricted access and where any use would be deemed absolutely essential at this stage. This may be e.g. in an emergency situation.

### **Toilets/ Storage Areas**

- Limited access is permitted to small, shared facilities e.g. storage area / toilet / through-ways that are disinfected regularly with sanitation products available.

### **Bars/ Restaurants**

- Bars/ restaurants in Registered Clubs must close during the active period.

### **Further Guidance**

- Please refer to the *RYANI Club Guidance* for further facility considerations.

## 8. Further Considerations for boaters

- Check Access - Are car parks, slipways, marinas, boat parks etc open and what guidelines are in place? Each venue, including council-owned facilities, will make their own decisions about when their facilities are ready to open and can be operated safely.
- Check the latest [Government Guidelines](#)
- Can you be Prepared before undertaking activity prior to arrival at any shared space. (e.g. can you change prior to arrival? Have you checked your equipment prepared?)

## 9. Useful links

[COVID 19: Cleaning and storing your lifejackets](#)

[COVID 19: Cleaning for Non Healthcare setting guidance](#)

[RYANI Return to boating guidance page.](#)

[SportNI Return to Sport](#)



**TRAIN SMART, PLAY SMART,  
BE COVID SMART**

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