

Current guidance for RYA Training Centres in Wales

Version 3.1 - 20 September 2020

In Wales, the current measures to stop the virus spreading include: staying at home as much as possible, limiting contact with other people, washing your hands regularly and keeping your distance from others outside your household (two metres (6ft) apart where possible). You should not leave home if you or anyone in your household has coronavirus symptoms.

- All forms of recreational watersports practiced on open waterways are permitted, including but not limited to: sailing, windsurfing and the use of motorised craft (in line with guidance issued by the relevant navigation authority).
- Where possible, people from different households should stay two metres apart. In situations where it is not possible, they should ensure that other reasonable measures are taken to minimise risk of exposure to the virus, in particular by limiting close face to face interaction and by improving hygiene; and provide information to those engaging in activity about how to minimise risk. Further guidance can be found [here](#)
- Young children (11 years old age or younger), it is less essential to attempt to maintain continual 2 metre distance between them, or between the children and any adults outside their household or extended household in an outdoor environment.
- Face coverings are required in all indoor public places, for members, volunteers, customers, and staff working in those indoor public areas. This includes anywhere that is open to members of the public.
- Groups of up to 30 people are allowed to meet in both indoor and outdoor spaces as part of an organised activity ¹provided those from different households follow social distancing guidelines.
- The activity must be organised by a business, a public body or charitable institution, a club, or the national governing body of sport. There must be a responsible person (over 18) in charge of organising and supervising the activity.
- RYA Training Centres must follow the risk assessments, control measures and test, trace, protect procedures they have adopted whilst running the activity.
- Changing rooms and showers, apart from toilets and throughways, should be kept closed and when accessing and leaving facilities care should be taken to wipe down areas of contact, hands should be washed and surfaces should be avoided touched where possible. Exceptions may be made where safety and safeguarding measures require their use e.g. supporting disabled participants.
- People can stay overnight away from their homes with members of their own household or extended household. This includes overnight stays on boats.
- You can only meet socially with people who are in your exclusive extended household group (bubble) indoors. Meetings or gatherings indoors within your extended household must be limited to six people at any one time (not including any children aged under 11). This applies in places like pubs and restaurants as well as in people's homes.
- Organisations are able to offer a catering or bar service.

FAQs and further details can be found on the GOV.WALES website:

- [Coronavirus Regulations frequently asked questions](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID 19\) social distance guidance for everyone in Wales](#)
- [Guidance on leaving your home and seeing other people](#)

¹ <https://gov.wales/sport-recreation-and-leisure-guidance-phased-return-html#section-46491>

- [Sport, recreation and leisure; guidance for a phased return](#)
- [Work Place Learning and apprenticeships: Coronavirus](#)
- [Five Key steps to Keep Wales Safe at Work](#)
- [Test, trace, protect guidance: for employers](#)
- [Face coverings: guidance for public](#)

Training centres, both practical and shorebased, must put in place appropriate measures to mitigate against the transmission of COVID-19 and comply with Welsh Government guidance.

It is important to remember that the COVID-19 crisis is far from over. We are not entering into a 'business as normal' phase, but rather an easing of restrictions. It is therefore essential that you properly assess all aspects of your operation and take whatever steps are necessary to safeguard yourselves, your employees, volunteers and your students.

What this means for RYA Training activity

The broad and diverse nature of the RYA's training schemes means that each training activity needs to be assessed by the individual RTC, in the context of its own operations, in order to determine whether it can recommence whilst still complying with Welsh Government restrictions. The RYA Cymru Wales does not intend to regulate Welsh Government advice but aims to support RTCs in making the best decision they can.

We believe that the following are pertinent to RYA training within Wales:

1. There is an exemption for organised activity ²consisting of no more than 30 persons in total whilst maintaining social distancing and good hygiene protocols. This is good news for RTCs.
2. There is nothing in the current Welsh Government legislation or guidance in relation to Sport & Leisure Facilities that prevents facilities from utilising their indoor class/lecture rooms for the delivery of the theory elements of Coach Education, or technical proficiency awards, providing that mitigating factors are put in place. The guidance for work place learning and apprenticeships also supports a return to vocational education³. This is good news for RTCs
3. The regulation also puts the emphasis on the person organising the activity to have carried out a risk assessment which would satisfy the requirements of regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, whether or not the person is subject to those Regulations, and complied with the requirements of regulations pertaining

² The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 Part 4, **Exception for organised outdoor activities, Regulation 15.** – (1) Despite the meaning of "gathering" given by regulation [2\(3\)\(a\)](#), regulation [14\(1\)](#) does not apply to any organised outdoor activity consisting of no more than 30 persons.

³ <https://gov.wales/work-based-learning-and-apprenticeships-coronavirus> "Every college and **training provider** must complete detailed risk assessments and thorough planning before inviting learners and staff to return. This includes looking at their facilities to make sure that they can follow social distancing requirements; putting guidance in place for staff and learners; planning timetables so that they can manage the numbers of people involved; and stepping up their cleaning and disinfecting arrangements"

to reasonable measures to minimise risk of exposure to coronavirus⁴ and guidance on minimising exposure⁵

4. Everyone must undergo a self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms. ⁶Activity organisers should ensure, upon arrival, that participants have completed a self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms
5. Centres must adopt a Test, Trace & Protect ⁷plan, in line with Welsh Government, and in line with GDPR procedures. Must be kept a minimum of 21days after the activity.
6. Overnight accommodation in hotels and other establishments is permitted.
7. Centres transporting participants are required to follow Welsh Government guidance on public transport⁸

Groups meeting indoors

Significant impact on classroom, enclosed steering positions or vessels with accommodation

It is possible to deliver classroom activity provided social distancing is in place and the area is COVID-19 Secure. Numbers may need to be reduced to ensure social distancing is possible.

Following a detailed risk assessment to establish suitable measures, it may be safe to deliver training in a classroom environment. These measures must be in line with COVID-19 guidance and should ensure that sufficient space is available to make sure adequate social distancing and hygiene is maintained.⁹

The conduct of SRC assessments and invigilated navigation courses can take place indoors in line with the restrictions in place.

Centres operating vessels with enclosed areas may need to limit the numbers in these spaces to ensure compliance with social distancing measures for meeting indoors. This may mean a more regulated system of who can access these areas at any one time.

Groups meeting outdoors

⁴ The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 Part 3, **Reasonable measures to minimise risk of exposure to coronavirus 12 -(2)**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2020/725/regulation/12/made>

⁵ The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 Part 3, **Guidance on minimising exposure 13** <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2020/725/regulation/13/made>

⁶ Sport, Recreation and Leisure guidance phased return **Pre-Attendance official symptom check** <https://gov.wales/sport-recreation-and-leisure-guidance-phased-return.html#section-46491>

⁷ **Test Trace Protect** <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect.html>

⁸ **Restarting public transport: guidance for operators** <https://gov.wales/restarting-public-transport-guidance-operators.html>

⁹ **Five Key steps to Keep Wales Safe at Work** <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-08/keep-wales-safe-at-work-five-key-steps.pdf>

Impacts all practical schemes

In the case of dinghy sailing and windsurfing, it is clearly possible to arrange on-the-water sessions with ratio, providing appropriate social distancing occurs, and relevant measures are in place with regards cleaning of equipment and so on. It is possible to have multiple groups of activity taking place simultaneously as long as they are visibly separate from each other and maintain clear social distancing. Each group must have a separate responsible person in charge of it.

Dinghy sailing would need to occur in single-handers, other than for helm and crew from the same household. It may be necessary to consider a minimum level of experience, and possibly age of students given restrictions in areas such as changing rooms and shower facilities.

Similarly, with the temporary relaxation in the requirement for the instructor to share a personal watercraft (PW) with a student during the first session ([find out more](#)), in some situations it may be possible for PW training activity to recommence, provided the measures listed above can be followed. Please note that the maximum ratio of one instructor to six students on a maximum of three PWs remains. Under current restrictions, only those from the same household may share a PW.

Powerboat, Cruising and Inland Waterways training centres may be able to deliver practical courses provided they are able to maintain social distancing whilst onboard. This may limit numbers.

For further guidance on running practical courses during the coronavirus pandemic [click here](#).

Crews from different households

Whilst the recent RYA Cymru Wales Guidance on a [COVID 19 Guidance on Sailing and Racing with Different Households](#) was written for the competitive and racing elements of our sport, where the actual sailing activity and therefore contact with others is by definition relatively short lived, some of the principles can be applied in an RYA training environment.

When considering this framework centres should carefully read and familiarise themselves with the RYA Guidance, considering the current situation, ability to put the required mitigations in place, and most importantly risk versus benefit to individual students.

Ultimately, it will be the responsibility of the RYA recognised training centre to risk assess each and every activity it undertakes to determine whether or not the activity should go ahead and if so what additional mitigating measures may be needed in order to do so safely.

Dinghy sailing

We believe it may be possible for RYA training centres to use this guidance and method of risk assessment to restart improver (Stage 4/Level 3) and above training in double-handers.

Centres would need to risk assess the individual class of boat and courses they are looking to run in conjunction with the [COVID 19 Guidance on Sailing and Racing with Different Households](#), especially in accordance with the RYA Flow Chart and Risk Assessment. Centres should pay careful consideration to areas such as the type of boats this may be possible in, the proximity of the students in the boat, possible mitigation required, timeframes

in which students will find themselves in certain situations and the benefit over teaching in a single-handed craft.

Students must be provided with sufficient information to be able to make an informed decision regarding their participation on the course, including expectations when in the boat and what the course will entail.

RYA Dinghy Instructor training and RYA beginner courses (Youth Stage 1-3 and Level 1&2), are currently not included within this framework or guidance due to lack of knowledge and experience held by the individuals leading to an additional duty of care. The nature of this level of training requires prolonged periods of face-to-face contact, compromising the ability to maintain distance, as well as a high level of cross contact.

Staying onboard overnight

We do not believe that the accommodation in vessels used for the RYA Yachtmaster™ scheme are suitable for overnight stays. However, the relaxation of the residential requirement of these courses ([find out more](#)) means these courses could be possible if the social distancing and other COVID-19 Secure measures are applied.

Further information:

In addition to the Welsh-specific information above, centres should ensure they are familiar with the [temporary adjustments to the RYA Conditions of Recognition](#) and the [General and scheme-specific considerations for running RYA training activity](#).

RYA Guidance

- [Guidance for restarting RYA training activity](#)
- [Temporary adjustments to the RYA Conditions of Recognition](#)
- [General and scheme-specific considerations for running RYA training activity](#)
- [Return to training webinars](#)

RYA Cymru Wales

- [Cyfarwyddyd cyfredol ar gyfer Canolfannau Hyfforddi'r RYA yng Nghymru](#)
- [RYA Cymru Wales COVID-19 Q&A for Clubs](#)
- [Return to boating in Wales](#)

If you have any questions, or want to discuss any of the guidance in further details, please contact the RYA Training team by emailing training@rya.org.uk or calling +44 (0) 23 8060 4181. You can also contact RYA Cymru Wales admin@ryacymruwales.org.uk