



## **RYA Covid-19 FAQs valid in England from 5 January 2021**

*(Updated 13 January 2021)*

These FAQs have been updated in accordance with the National Lockdown: Stay at Home Government guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Whilst we aim to provide a useful resource for our stakeholders, the decision to go boating ultimately lies with the individual concerned. There are fines in place for those deemed to be in breach of the regulations and it is essential that, in the event you do decide to participate in boating activity you have properly assessed whether it is permitted within the most recent Government guidance and regulations.

**Please note** - the guidance within these FAQs is not intended to cover RYA Recognised Training Centres. Please refer to the [COVID-19: Guidance for restarting RYA training activity](#).

### **Can I go boating?**

It is our understanding that boating is a permitted form of daily exercise. However, to support the implementation of the national lockdown and to prevent the spread of the virus, the Government legislation and guidance places restrictions on the organisation of and participation in physical exercise which includes boating. Aside from a few exemptions (which are covered later in this document) boating will only be possible if -

- you are able to launch and recover your boat from a publicly accessible place
- you are able to do this without leaving your local area
- the relevant waterway authorities permit boating, and
- you do so alone, with members of your household, childcare or support bubble, or you do so with one other person who is not a member of your household respecting social distancing requirements at all times.

We continue to urge boaters to take a conservative and considerate approach by complying with the Government's guidance, particularly at this time of year. Whilst some activity may be permissible, we would continue to urge you to question whether or not it should take place at this time.

### **Can clubs and facilities remain open?**

No, clubs along with all indoor and outdoor sports facilities must close.

However, some venues or facilities may be permitted to open for a small number of reasons:

- Boat parks and slipways to which the public have, or are permitted access (whether on payment or otherwise) are public outdoor places and can remain available for use

- Venues will be permitted to be open for the small number of exempt activities (outdoor sport for disabled people, schools' activity where it is a normal part of their provision, and elite athletes)
- Clubs are able to provide food and non-alcoholic drinks for delivery (including alcohol), takeaway, click and collect, or drive-through.

### **Are people able to collect equipment from facilities to enable individual exercise? (e.g boat parks).**

Yes, personal equipment belonging to an individual should be made accessible. However, the facility must be closed for public use and must not be used to hire out equipment.

### **Can we run organised on the water activity such as club racing?**

Organised activity such as racing is not permitted apart from a few specific exemptions. These are -

- organised outdoor sport for disabled people
- activity for schools that is part of their normal provision
- activity for elite athletes

### **Is volunteering possible?**

Whilst volunteering at a club, centre or marina is permissible, in light of the escalating crisis, we would strongly advise you to defer the task/project until the lockdown restrictions have been eased.

### **Can marinas open?**

The Yacht Harbour Association has issued guidance to its member marinas which, whilst it does not specify the closure of marinas, advises marina operators to support Government guidance by 'not encouraging' either berth holders to visit their boats, nor public access which in reality is likely to result in its members preventing berth holders from utilising their boats for exercise as well as access to boats for maintenance purposes; although marinas themselves may stay open to carry out safety checks on customers boats.

### **Can I stay overnight on my boat?**

Not unless your boat is your primary residence.

### **What about elite sport and professional sailors?**

There are continuing exceptions for elite athletes so that they can train or compete. Within RYA activity, this currently relates to the British Sailing Team, selected youth performance or transitional squads and professional sailors.

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*The above guidance to members and affiliates is the RYA's interpretation of the Government's current position. Although we strive to ensure that all the information is accurate and up to date, this cannot be guaranteed due to the developing and fast-moving situation. RYA members should review the Government's full guidance themselves and follow the latest announcements at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).*