



RYA Covid-19 FAQs valid in England from 20 December 2020

(Updated 23 December 2020)

These FAQs are designed to be read in conjunction with the following RYA Guidance documents:

- [Club Guidance to create a Covid secure environment](#)
- [Guidance on what is possible in each English tier](#)
- [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](#)

These FAQs have been updated in accordance with the Government's Covid-19 Winter Plan published on 23 November 2020 and [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(All Tiers\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#).

Whilst we aim to provide a useful resource for clubs, members and other stakeholders, the decision to go boating ultimately lies with the individual concerned (or with the associated club or marina if it's from their premises). 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 (or permit activity in the case of a marina or club) you have properly assessed whether it is permitted within the most recent Government guidance and regulations. It would be prudent to keep a written record of how you reached your decision in case questioned by the enforcement authorities.

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?

Boating remains permitted as a form of exercise and/or outdoor recreation in all 4 tiers but 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.

Even though boating activity is legally permitted, you should think very carefully about the risks to yourself and others caused by the new variant of the virus.

The exemption to the rule of 6 for organised outdoor sports applies in tiers 1, 2 and 3. Informal or self-organised sport is not covered by any exemptions and can only take place within the legal gathering limits applicable to the relevant tier.

In tier 4 organised sporting activity is not permitted, except for under-18s and disabled people.

Who can I go boating with?

In tiers 1 – 3, crews should be:

- From the same household or support bubble, or
- Up to six individuals from separate households, or
- When undertaking organised sporting activity, crew numbers should comply with RYA Guidance on sailing & racing with participants from different households

In tier 4, crews should be:

- From the same household or support bubble, or
- Two individuals from separate households in accordance with RYA Guidance on sailing & racing with participants from different households, however, you should think very carefully about the risks to yourself and others caused by the new variant of the virus

In all tiers, before boating with those from a different household you should familiarise yourself with the RYA Guidance on sailing & racing with participants from different households and carefully consider the risks associated with undertaking exercise with those from another household.

Will all waterways be open?

You should check with the water authority before travelling.

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

This is permitted in tiers 1- 3, but in tier 4 organised activity is only permitted for under-18's and disabled people.

What are the limits to numbers for race training or similar organised sessions?

In tiers 1-3 there are no limits above your normal safety considerations providing you following the RYA Guidance on sailing & racing with participants from different households. However, clubs may wish to consider whether to introduce limits based on venue size to ensure social distancing can be maintained onshore.

In tier 4, organised sporting activity is only permissible for under-18s and disabled people.

Can we run events such as open meetings?

Organised sporting events are permitted in tiers 1 - 3, however, care should be taken that participants do not contravene government travel or overnight stay restrictions. Organisers are advised to consider the risks any events may bring, including reputational risk and any potential impact on the local community.

In tier 4, organised sporting activity is only permissible for under-18s and disabled people.

Can club facilities open?

Sailing clubs may open their outdoor facilities for boating. Indoor facilities in tiers 1 and 2 can be open subject to the limits on gathering for the specific tier and that the venue is Covid secure. However, in tier 3 indoor facilities, with the exception of toilets and changing rooms, must close (see below).

Indoor facilities (with the exception of toilets) in tier 4 must close.

Changing rooms and showers are permitted to open in tiers 1 – 3, but clubs should encourage members to change at home where possible and may choose to impose capacity limits to ensure social distancing can be maintained. Access should be maintained for those with disabilities and will be important in bad weather.

Can club boat parks and slipways remain open?

Yes, outdoor sport and individual recreation is allowed in all tiers so associated amenities such as boat parks and slipways can also open.

Can the club open the bar and catering facilities?

Bar and catering restrictions for each tier differ and can be found within the Government guidance related to businesses and venues.

Please refer to this guidance to understand whether your bar and/or catering facility can open and what arrangements you will have to make.

Can shoreside activities can take place?

In tiers 1 – 3 activities related to the facilitation of the sport such as briefings, working parties, committee meetings are permissible however, we recommend that if possible, these be held virtually or deferred.

In tiers 1- 3 when socialising or spectating ashore at the club you are limited to the rule of 6 outdoors i.e. you must not socialise in a group of more than 6.

When ashore, minimising the number of people in distinct separate groups is advisable to help prevent both the spread of the virus and reputational damage.

In tier 4 organised activity is not permissible (with the exception of under-18s and disabled people), as such there is no requirement for activity briefings. Activity briefings for under-18s and disabled people should be held virtually wherever possible.

In tier 4 work or volunteering is permitted so some shore side activities may be possible, however we recommend that these be minimised or deferred where possible.

Are members able to travel to a club or marina from an area in a different tier?

Those living in tier 1 and tier 2 areas can travel to clubs within tiers 1 and 2 however, they should avoid travel into tier 3 areas unless this is necessary to enable individual exercise and open air recreation (or exercise for people from the same household or

support bubble) or to enable sport for disabled people, sport for educational purposes or organised sport and physical activity for under-18s .

Those living in tier 3 areas should avoid travel out of tier 3 areas, unless this is necessary to enable individual exercise and open air recreation (or exercise for people from the same household or support bubble) or to enable sport for disabled people, sport for educational purposes or organised sport and physical activity for under-18s to take place.

You can travel through tiers 1 to 3 as part of a longer journey, however, those in tier 4 should only travel between adjacent tier 4 areas.

You should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make overall.

People in tier 4 areas should not travel out of their tier to a sailing club or marina in tier 1, 2 or 3 unless it is for one of the exceptions set out in law for example to enable individual exercise (or exercise for people from the same household or support bubble) or to enable disabled sailing and organised sailing for under-18s.

Can I stay overnight on my boat?

You may stay overnight on your boat in tiers 1, 2 and 3 subject to the legal gatherings limits applicable to the relevant tier.

In tier 3 areas you may only stay overnight with your household or bubble if it is in your local area.

If you live in a tier 4 area, or if your boat is located in a tier 4 area, you may not stay overnight onboard other than for legally permitted reasons (for example it is your main residence).

There are restrictions on who you can stay with dependant on the tier you are in and you should also check relevant travel restrictions.

Can under-18s and those with a disability travel and stay overnight if taking part in organised sport/training/competition?

Under-18s and those with a disability (and therefore parent/guardian or carer) from all tiers may travel and stay overnight when participating in organised sport. However, it's for the individual to decide whether travelling/staying overnight is strictly necessary for the activity.

The exemption for under-18s includes young people who were under-18 on 31 August 2020, even if they have since turned 18.

What about elite sport?

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' sailors and professional sailors.

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.