



RYA Covid-19 FAQs following Government announcement on 31 October 2020 of lockdown restrictions in England

(Updated 11 November 2020)

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

- [Guidance for Clubs in England](#)
- [A 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 new National Restrictions set out in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 which are in place for four weeks from 5 November until 2 December.

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 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 this FAQ is not intended to cover RYA Recognised Training Centres. RYA Recognised Training Centres should refer to the [COVID-19: Guidance for restarting RYA training activity](#).

Can I go boating?

Yes, you can leave or be outside the place where you live to take exercise as long as you are doing so:

- On your own
- With the people you live with (your household)
- With your support bubble
- In a public outdoor place with one other person from another household – this could be a coach or instructor for 1:1 coaching/instructing

Children under the age of five, as well as disabled people dependent on round-the-clock care, aren't counted towards the limit on two people meeting outside.

A “public outdoor place” if it is an outdoor place to which the public have, or are permitted, access (whether on payment or otherwise).

Care should be taken to follow the RYA Guidance on sailing with participants from different households.

We continue to urge boaters to take a conservative and considerate approach, particularly at this time of year.

Can we run organised activity as long as we launch from a public outdoor place?

No. Organised activity is not permissible at this time except for 1:1 coaching as outlined above.

Can club facilities remain open?

No. All outdoor sports centres and amenities (which includes sailing clubs and watersports centres) must close during this period.

It is possible that charities can continue to operate under Regulation 6(4) of [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(England\) \(No. 4\) Regulations 2020](#) which provides an exemption for the purposes of work or to provide voluntary or charitable services, where these cannot be conducted from home.

Can club boat parks and slipways remain open?

Our understanding is that boat parks and their slipways are part of a sporting facility and its amenities and therefore must be closed. However, we believe those that are situated in public outdoor places are not subject to the closure restrictions.

Can I take my yacht or powerboat out on the water from a marina?

We understand that a large majority of marinas have stated that until further clarity is available, they will remain open at this time for their berth holders but are leaving it to them to make their own choices based on Government guidance.

Will all waterways be open?

Public waterways and beaches will remain open during the lockdown.

Can I stay overnight on my boat?

No overnight stays are allowed on boats except for residential berth holders (where the boat is their primary residence) or for business purposes.

What about school and university students?

School sport can take place and access to facilities can be provided, but only as part of organised school activity. Curriculum sport at universities may continue but extra-curricular sport may not take place.

Are there any exceptions to the rules?

There are continuing exceptions for elite athletes so that they can train or compete. Within RYA activity, this only relates to the British Sailing Team senior sailors and professional sailors.

Can club maintenance take place?

Where maintenance is critical (and cannot therefore wait until after the lockdown restrictions are lifted) it can be carried out in accordance with the Government's Regulations. However, organised working parties are not considered appropriate at this time.

Can I access my boat to maintain it?

There is debate as to whether it is permissible for owners to access boats for maintenance purposes during this period of lockdown. Government advice issued by the Department for Transport and DEFRA takes the view that it is not, we however take the view, having considered the latest legislation, that where it is critical i.e. it cannot wait until after the lockdown restrictions have been lifted, it may constitute a reasonable excuse for leaving home provided that it is done alone, with members of your own household or support bubble or with one other person in line with Government Guidance.

Are there any related insurance issues for clubs whilst shut?

This will depend on your individual club's insurance policy. We would recommend you check with your club's insurers regarding any unoccupancy conditions (which means that premises must be inspected within a certain timeframe). We would recommend you consider reducing your insurance cover to laid-up only (reduced premium).

Clubs should look to advise members to speak with their insurers in relation to seaworthy conditions. Some policies include a check condition, but this should be capable of being extended in the circumstances.

If you decide to provide a boat checking service for your members during this period of lockdown, you are advised to check you have liability cover.

The above guidance to members is the RYA's interpretation of the Government's position with regards to the new national restrictions for England commencing 5 November 2020. Although we strive to ensure that all of 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.