



**RYA Scotland Guidance for boating in the context of COVID-19 measures
Level 3 (some Islands*) and Temporary Lockdown ('Stay at home' mainland Scotland
& Skye**)
January 2021**

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Version Control

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*The following islands in Argyll and Bute are at level 3: The Isle of Coll, the Isle of Colonsay, the Isle of Erraid, the Isle of Gometra, the Isle of Iona, the Isle of Islay, the Isle of Jura, the Isle of Mull, the Isle of Oronsay, the Isle of Tiree, and the Isle of Ulva. ** All islands in Highland are in level 3, except the Isle of Skye.

Introduction

From Tuesday 5 January, mainland Scotland moved from Level 4 to a Temporary Lockdown, with [new guidance to stay at home](#) except for essential purposes. Some islands will remain at [Level 3](#).

This document covers the essentials of the current restrictions as they affect boating in Local Authority areas in Level 3 and in Temporary Lockdown. It should be read in conjunction with the most recent full guidance from RYA Scotland issued on 3 December 2020 noting specifically that Temporary Lockdown supersedes all Level 4 information.

The information within this document is tailored **towards RYA affiliated clubs and recognised training centres as well as individual members and the wider boating community across Scotland** and is designed to aid your decision-making process and planning, not replace it.

It is still possible to go boating as a form of exercise, following the outdoor gathering rules, but we remind everyone that that we are in the grip of a pandemic that has become significantly worse in recent weeks. The overriding message for Scotland's boating community is to 'Stay at Home' wherever possible and we must all do our bit to stop the spread of the virus.

Travel is severely restricted **by law** and you may only travel to your boat if it is kept in the same local authority area you live in.

Subject to a full risk assessment, facility providers such as Clubs, Training Centres, Marinas and Boatyards may open to allow access for boat owners but will each make their own decisions on whether or not they open their doors or gates to people in the locality. We ask everyone to respect that facility providers have no obligation to open and you may find access to your boat restricted for the time being.

If you are fortunate enough to live in an area within which you are able to get to your boat, please consider if you can help out someone else who cannot travel, by checking their boat for them.

Importantly in this lockdown, you may travel **within your local authority area** to go boating as your form of exercise or for essential maintenance on your boat. For the time being essential maintenance is work which if not undertaken would cause failure or become an imminent safety issue and we suggest [examples](#) below. Travel for essential maintenance should not be used as a pretext to spend the day aboard 'pottering' or for a weekend away. You should not stay longer than the length of time required to undertake essential maintenance.

To check what level of measures apply in your area or venue where you intend to participate in activity, please check the postcode on the [Government webpage](#). You should be prepared for restrictions to change at short notice and this may result in activity being adapted, postponed or cancelled.

If you have any queries about this most recent guidance please do get in touch with the RYA Scotland Team.

James Allan

CEO RYA Scotland

RYA Guiding Principles – applying across Scotland and the Home Countries

These are the RYA and RYA Scotland's guiding principles that will underpin all guidance across the boating community. We would encourage decision makers to use these principles to inform their own decisions during the Covid-19 period.

1. **We will always follow Government advice – [Scottish Government](#)**
 - The COVID-19 preventative measures are vital to protecting health and wellbeing and to minimising pressure on frontline services. We have a collective and individual role to play by following the Government guidelines.

2. **We will, as a boating community, take a considerate and conservative approach**
 - **Considerate of others** be mindful of the potential impact that you could have on other water users and local communities. Do not place unnecessary extra strain on the RNLI and emergency services
 - **Conservative of risk:** help to minimise risk by taking an extra conservative approach to your boating.

The COVID-19 preventative measures are vital to protecting health and wellbeing and to minimising pressure on frontline services. We have a collective and individual role to play by following the Government guidelines.

Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland.

- Face covering
- Avoid crowded places
- Clean hands and surfaces regularly
- Two metre distance from other people
- Self-isolate and book a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms

People who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 10 days and household members also for 10 days. No one who is self-isolating should attend a sports facility or activity.

Protection Levels		
	Level 3	Temporary Lockdown
Travel for boating activity, training, or events	<p>Participants aged 18 years or over (adults) living in a Level 3 area should only travel within their Local Authority Area to take part in organised physically distanced non-contact sport or exercise outdoors or for boat maintenance.</p> <p>You can also take part in local informal exercise such as walking, cycling, rolling, golf, running, including sailing, (up to 5 miles of their local authority boundary area) that starts and finishes at the same place but straddles the boundary of two local authority areas. This could include boundaries on the water as long as you depart and return to the same location and don't go ashore but cannot include any activity organised by a club/centre or National Governing Body.</p>	<p>All participants both children (Under 18) and Adults (18 years or over) should only travel within their Local Authority Area to exercise informally outdoors or for essential boat maintenance.</p> <p>You can also take part in local informal exercise such as walking, cycling, rolling, golf, running or sailing (up to 5 miles of their local authority boundary area) that starts and finishes at the same place but straddles the boundary of two local authority areas. This could include boundaries on the water as long as you depart and return to the same location and don't go ashore but cannot include any activity organised by a club/centre or National Governing Body unless for essential training.</p>
Indoor gathering	<p>No in-home socialising, this will include socialising below deck No Indoor gatherings. 6 people /2 households indoors in public places. Single Household / extended household only overnight</p>	<p>No in-home socialising, this will include socialising below deck No Indoor gatherings Overnight not permitted.</p>
Outdoor gathering	6 people/2 households Outdoors - 2m physical distancing.	2 people/2 households Outdoors (not including U12s towards the people) - 2m physical distancing.
Organised outdoor activity (Non-contact) Training, racing or Social sailing without contact	<p>Field of play bubble can be applied for all ages in non-contact situations.</p> <p>Maintain 2m physical distancing</p>	NOT PERMITTED
Organised outdoor activity (Contact) Training, Racing	<p>Field of play bubble can be applied for under 18s in contact situations.</p> <p>Adult contact sport not permitted.</p>	NOT PERMITTED

or Social Sailing with contact		
RYA Training	<p>If deemed necessary, RYA Training could take place using the non-contact field of play bubble as above.</p> <p>Essential Training or examinations for work purposes or leading to qualifications for employment will be able to continue providing the appropriate measures are in place to mitigate against the risk of infection.</p>	Essential Training or examinations for work purposes or leading to qualifications for employment will be able to continue providing the appropriate measures are in place to mitigate against the risk of infection.
Toilets	<p>Operators may open public toilets if they follow the guidelines outlined on the Scottish Government website Opening Public Toilets Guidelines</p> <p>Changing rooms and showering facilities should remain closed where possible, although they should be made available for participants who require additional support such as disabled people or those with special needs. If they are to be opened then specific guidance relating to use of 'Changing and Showers' is available at Getting Your Facilities Fit for Sport. This is applicable at all levels where facilities remain open.</p>	<p>Indoor sports facilities and club houses; closed including changing rooms and showers.</p> <p>Toilets may be open if they follow guidelines outlined on the Scottish Government website Opening Public Toilets Guidelines</p>
Hospitality	No sale of alcohol indoors or outdoors. Food may be consumed on the premises. Time restrictions may apply.	Not permitted (Exception for Hotel for work related stays).

Definitions

For these definitions refer to definitions section in guidance issued on 3 December 2020

Informal Boating

Organised activity

Field of play bubble

Organised Boating activity without contact/non-contact

Organised Boating activity with contact

Essential training – Essential training is described by **sportscotland** as;

An essential requirement for employment or deployment, paid and voluntary.

The retention or completion of a formal qualification.

The retention of a license or endorsement.

Safe delivery or supervision of sport and physical activity

Essential training for Key Workers can take place in all levels providing there are mitigations put in place for reducing contact, increasing separation and maintaining good hygiene measures. These should be documented in a risk assessment and adhered to by participants and deliverers.

Essential Maintenance - Essential maintenance is work which if not undertaken would cause failure or become an imminent safety issue. Some examples are;

Repairs to prevent water ingress

Winterising engines

Pumping out bilges

Maintaining/Replacing mooring and berth warps

Essential maintenance should be completed as quickly as possible. Travel for essential maintenance should not be used as a pretext to spend the day aboard 'pottering' or for a weekend away. You should not stay longer than the length of time required to undertake essential maintenance.

Cleaning Information

We recommend you carry and use hand sanitiser which should be at least 60% alcohol based. Regularly washing of hands with soap and water is still preferable where there are the facilities to do so.

Detergent wipes need to be appropriate for the surface they are being used on.

Cleaning products should conform to EN14476 standard or any detergent will need to be followed by chlorine releasing agent. However, be wary of cleaning requirements for specialist boating equipment such as life jackets and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Be mindful of our fragile marine environment, do not release bleach products into the water and dispose of used wipes, gloves and masks responsibly. In addition, it may be worthwhile looking at best practice for general cleaning of equipment via - [The Green Blue](#).

Local outbreaks or clusters

Scottish Government travel advice and guidance relating to local outbreaks or clusters of coronavirus cases is available at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local advice and measures](#).

Where a local outbreak has been reported, clubs and training centres within this locality should review Scottish Government 'local measures' guidance, their facility/operational risk assessment and consider if additional mitigating actions should be put in place to reduce risk. This may, for example, include suspending activity, enhancing hygiene and physical distancing measures or introducing additional activity restrictions. Please do not hesitate to contact us to ask for further support in this situation