STOKES BAY SAILING CLUB

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19th December 2020

Dear Members,

**Re: Tier 4 Restrictions in Gosport**

The Prime Minister has today announced that Gosport will be placed into Tier 4 restrictions, effective 20th December 2020. At present, limited information is available. However, guidance published this evening suggests legislation relevant to sailing club activity will closely resemble that of the November lockdown.

Please note that the Tier 4 legislation has not been published at the time of writing. Therefore, the actions set out in this letter may be subject to change. The management committee will make informed decisions as information becomes available and relay them to members as soon as practicable. Your patience is recognised and appreciated.

**Our view**

With the information available, it appears a significant change to the November lockdown is travel in and out of tier 4. Our current understanding is that those living under tier 1,2 and 3 restrictions are not to travel to tier 4 areas and sport and exercise does not appear to be an acceptable mitigating reason. Members living in the Gosport Tier 4 area may access the compound for sailing.

Members should not visit the sailing club from Tiers 1, 2 and 3 unless it is essential, e.g. that you tend to unsafely stored equipment, or are concerned that your property is at risk / requiring immediate repair.

**Key messages**

We are all responsible for the reputation of the sailing club and the sport in making sure we behave responsibly.

1. You can go sailing:

* On your own
* With the people you live with (your household) . We would request that this is limited to 2 boats.
* With your support bubble
* With one person from another household – this could be a coach or instructor for 1:1 coaching/instructing

1. You cannot go sailing with more than one other person. Even though you are allowed on the water you should not set up races in any form. Free social sailing is permitted only as part of daily exercise and is not an opportunity to run informal racing.
2. The clubhouse and toilet will be closed and must not be accessed. The public toilets on the promenade are open.
3. The beach gate must be shut after you have used it, both to and from the beach.
4. We will not be accepting day members.

**Measures to take**

* Stay away from the compound if you have any Covid-19 symptoms or feel unwell.
* Follow government advice at all times.
* Respect all physical distancing and hygiene guidelines.
* Carry out a thorough check of equipment before going afloat.
* Be considerate and conservative.
* Think long and hard before launching to take into account the winter conditions.

Links to the relevant guidance and RYA guiding principles are below.

Government guidance

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home

RYA guidelines

<https://www.rya.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/clubs/england-lockdown-faqs-nov-2020.pdf?utm_campaign=English%20Club%20guidance%20-%2006%2F11%2F20&utm_source=emailCampaign&utm_content=&utm_medium=email>

**RYA Guiding Principles**

These are the RYA’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

* The COVID-19 preventative measures are vital to protecting health and wellbeing and to minimising pressure on frontline services. We all have a role to play by following the Government guidelines. Sailing is highly visible and we do not want our actions to appear to be rule breaking.

1. We will, as a boating community, take a considerate and conservative approach

* **Considerate**: be mindful of the potential impact that you could have on other water users and do not place unnecessary extra strain on the RNLI and emergency services. This is a gradual, phased return to sailing.
* **Conservative**: help to minimise risk by taking an extra conservative approach to your boating. Only sail if there is another club boat sailing within your vicinity who could assist you if required. Take a mobile phone afloat in a waterproof bag with pre dialled numbers of the sailing club office or other shore-based contact.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Best wishes

The Management Committee