



STOKES BAY SAILING CLUB

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8th January 2021

Dear Members,

Re: English Lockdown 3

On 4th January, the prime minister announced a third national lockdown which came into effect on the 5th January. A review of the updated legislation and guidance from the Government, RYA and Sport England has been undertaken by the management committee.

The current rules relating to sailing activity are similar to those whilst Tier 4 restrictions were in effect. However, the introduction of a national lockdown serves as a reminder of the vigilance required.

Exercise should be taken locally. We all have a duty to limit the spread of the virus as much as possible. Members should not travel out of their local area in order to exercise at Stokes Bay.

If you go sailing and there are other members on the water, remember that we are all responsible for the reputation of the sailing club and the sport in making sure we behave responsibly. Any on the water breach of coronavirus legislation will be obvious to observers from the shore; landing those involved, the club and the sport in hot water. Stokes Bay is large enough that an accidental breach can be easily avoided.

Do not sail together in a group of more than 2 boats. You must be mindful of your compliance with restrictions and how your activity looks from the shore at all times.

Members must not visit the sailing club if they are not going sailing 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. If you are not local to the club, consider if this can be carried out on your behalf by someone who is.

Key messages

1. You can go sailing once per day:
 - On your own
 - With the people you live with (your household)
 - With your support bubble
 - With one person from another household – this could be a coach or instructor for 1:1 coaching/instructing
2. Do not sail in a group of more than 2 boats.
3. Do not travel out of your local area in order to exercise at Stokes Bay.
4. You cannot go sailing with more than one other person, unless all are within your household or bubble. Remember that boats should only be seen in pairs. 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.
5. The clubhouse and toilets will be closed and must not be accessed. The public toilets on the promenade are open.
6. The beach gate must be shut after you have used it, both to and from the beach.
7. 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/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

RYA guidelines

https://www.rya.org.uk/training-support/Pages/coronavirus_guidance.aspx

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.
2. **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