

Leisure Sailing at RNIYC – COVID 19

Members are now permitted to access some Club facilities to enable them to take their own boat and go leisure sailing.

The vast majority of sailing at the club usually happens in a racing format and many of us only sail when racing- with sailing instructions, a race officer, rescue cover, a launch and so on organised by the club. The recent easing of social distancing restrictions still prevents organised club racing but now allows members sail individually or with crew from the same household.

Members may bring their boats to the yard and use the slipway for leisure sailing but should ensure they have read and comply with the current “use of the yard” protocol, as this is updated regularly.

Members are free to use their own boats and sail at their own risk.

It is important members understand that there will not be any rescue cover.

We urge that any such activity is undertaken in a conservative and considerate manner complying with current social distancing guidance. If considering sailing, please err on the side of caution at this time, and recognise your own, and your family’s limits before heading out.

Please remember to:

- **Realistically assess your own ability, that of your crew and your boat’s capability to sail in the conditions. Sail well within your comfort zone and don’t take unnecessary risks. Don’t go out if you have any doubts**
- Check the weather forecast, tide times and heights.
- Double check your boat’s buoyancy, equipment, rigging and fixings
- If possible, arrange to go out with another similar boat and watch out for each other and for other boats afloat. Don’t stay out alone after your sailing partner/s come in.
- Dress appropriately for the conditions – it is easier to take off a layer than put it on. Ensure you are wearing a buoyancy aid or lifejacket when afloat.
- Carry a mobile phone in a waterproof bag/container or a VHF radio. Tell a contact ashore that you are going out on the water and when you should be expected back.
- Dinghies should carry a paddle for self-rescue.
- Make sure you have long painters and masthead floats if necessary.
- Have a plan for the unexpected.
- If you capsize and are unable to right the boat, remain with the boat. Do not try to swim to shore.
- Contact someone ashore if you or another sailor get into difficulties. Provide them with information as to your status and location, and, if available an alternative means of contact.
- Be vigilant of your surroundings, particularly for other vessels/craft and obstacles.

This is a very flexible situation and may change at short notice.

As further guidance is issued and the situation becomes clearer consideration will be given to the use of club RIBs for support to leisure sailing and organised Cadet sessions.

Please also read the current RYA guidelines before going sailing and abide by the advice given.

<https://www.rniyc.org/rya-ni-safe-return-to-boating-guidelines/>

RNIYC

26/5/20

RYANI Covid-19 Guidelines

BE CONSERVATIVE

BE CONSIDERATE

CHECK ACCESS

Compliance with Covid-19 restrictions

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 NI Government guidelines..



Considerate approach

Be mindful of the potential impact that you could have on other water users and do not place unnecessary extra strain on the RNI and emergency services.



Conservative Approach

Help to minimise risk by taking an extra conservative approach to your boating. Our guidance on safety remains unchanged: know your limits; look after yourself; keep in touch and, above all, have a plan



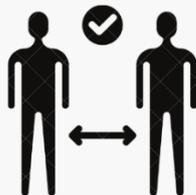
Symptoms

If you are symptomatic, living in a household with a possible COVID-19 infection or if you are classified as extremely vulnerable on health grounds, the guidance is that you should remain at home.



Social Distancing

Social Distancing will remain in all steps during the phasing out of lockdown. You must stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times.



CHECK

CHECK Access
CHECK Equipment
CHECK Out/In with someone
CHECK Your limits
CHECK your clubs policies and procedures
CHECK Government Guidelines



All Covid-19 information is on the RYANI website www.ryani.org.uk

Make safety your priority

