



## RYA Northern Ireland Return to Boating

### Guidance

**Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

With the nature of NI Executive and Department announcements, RYANI will now be updating guidance based on the latest announcements and published regulations.

We recommend checking the 'Current Situation' on the Return to Boating webpage, outlining the latest announcements.

We remain engaged in seeking clarification on specific elements of guidance and will share this further once received. Different scenarios can also be found through our [FAQ](#) section.

These considerations are the RYANI's interpretation, but clubs, individuals etc. may also apply their individual context and circumstances when deciding upon activity. We will take a conservative approach to this as we look to keep within the guidance in order to best help eliminate COVID 19 and urge the boating community to continue to do so.

All activity should be consistent with the government guidance regarding health, social distancing and hygiene.

For the purpose of this guidance our interpretation of '**contact**' means coming within Social Distancing measures (currently guidance is an optimum 2 metres, but 1 metre with appropriate mitigations in place).

Specific Guidance for Racing, Recognised Training Centres and Club Guidance (including facilities) can be found on the [RYANI Return to Boating](#) webpage

Major amendments shall be underlined

## Guidance for Boating Activity

Area	Guidance
<b>Group sizes</b>	<p>Group sizes now vary depending on format of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>‘Gatherings’</b> indoor or outdoor(e.g. ashore) should not exceed 30 unless for recreational, outdoor sports, educational purpose which fulfils certain conditions.</li> <li>- Groups for a <b>training</b> purpose (e.g. race coaching, RTC schemes ‘educational’) can exceed 30 as long as the organisers fulfils certain conditions.</li> <li>- <b>Racing/ competition</b> may exceed 30 as long as the organisers fulfils certain conditions.</li> <li>- RYANI recommend following the DCMS guidelines within NI and that limited access may be permitted for boating-related activity* (e.g. RTC/ Racing) – please refer to Facilities section below.</li> <li>- <b>Bars and restaurant</b> areas should comply with relevant guidance from <a href="#">Tourism NI</a></li> </ul> <p>For gatherings at the club, the organiser (one person) for each ‘gathering/event’ is responsible for fulfilling the government conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must carry out a risk assessment</li> <li>- Must take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus, including implementing the preventative and protective measures.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<p><b>Travel guidance</b> The Regulations do not set limits for the distance that you may travel for any purpose. You should act responsibly and reasonably.</p> <p>Outdoor Activity remains cited as a ‘reasonable excuse’ to leave home.</p>
<b>Recreational</b>	<p><b>Group afloat</b> Where possible, activity should be undertaken as an individual (e.g. single handed sailing or windsurfing). <u>Multi-handed craft (dinghies, keelboats, powerboats, PWCs, motor boats etc) may have members from different households where suitable mitigations are in place.</u></p> <p><u>RYA Northern Ireland has uploaded <i>Guidance on sailing and racing with different households</i> in the same craft. This may take place where appropriate COVID 19 mitigations and conditions are in place and adhered to.</u></p>

	<p>It is the responsibility of the members concerned to ensure they adhere to social distancing measure, public hygiene and mitigations when sailing together. Clubs should encourage safe sailing, but are not responsible for enforcing social distancing measures between members on the water sailing together in the same boat.</p>
<b>Structured</b>	<p><b>Safety</b> Safety provision can be considered, where suitable protocols are in place (please refer to the <a href="#">RYANI Club Guidance</a>). <i>Emergency situations can break this guidance.</i></p>
	<p><b>Training Groups</b> Groups of <i>30 or more</i> (inclusive of instructors/ group leaders) can get afloat whilst maintaining social distancing. Suitable cleaning and public hygiene protocols must be in place.</p>
	<p><b>Participant level</b> Considerations can be given to the level of activity participants can take part in and the conditions under which they may be afloat.</p>
	<p><b>Further Guidance</b> Recognised Training Centres should refer to the <i>RYA Guidance on Restarting Training</i> and Coronavirus Guidance. In particular, considerations for Northern Ireland includes the limited access to facilities and the implications that may have on courses.</p>
<b>Competition</b>	<p><b>Racing</b> From 11<sup>th</sup> July competition is now permitted for groups of 30+ individuals. This will allow racing with suitable mitigations and risk assessment in place.</p>
	<p><b>Type of Racing</b> The level of activity to be considered by club committee following risk assessment and consideration of government advice.</p> <p><u>Clubs may wish to assess the possibility of racing for those from different households, where suitable mitigations are in place. Please refer to the <a href="#">RYA Club Guidance</a> for further information and risk assessments.</u></p>
	<p><b>Permitted access</b> Only participants or ‘essential personnel’ assisting with its delivery (e.g. safety, race officers etc) can be present. “All persons present will be there either in a working capacity to assist in the delivery of the event or as a participant. Spectators are not permitted to attend”.</p> <p>Parents of U18 - where a parent is transporting a child to an event they are deemed to be assisting with that event and therefore allowed to attend.</p>
	<p><b>Further Guidance</b> Please refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>RYA Return to Racing Guidance (NI Version)</i></li> <li>- <a href="#">RYANI Guidance on Sailing and Racing from different households</a></li> </ul>

	<p>- <u><i>RYA Major Events Guidance</i></u></p>
<b>Facilities</b>	<p><b>Clubhouses</b> Indoor sporting facilities can open with suitable public health protocols in place.</p> <p>In the absence of NI- specific guidance on indoor numbers, RYANI recommend following the DCMS indoor guidelines within NI and that limited access may be permitted for boating-related activity* (e.g. RTC/ Racing): *Please note; this may be subject to change based on updated guidance produced by DfC/Sport NI. We would therefore recommend that clubs restrict numbers ensure minimal disruption if other measures are provided specific to NI.</p> <p><i>Capacity and overcrowding</i> <i>Objective: To ensure distancing is possible by limiting the number of customers able to access the facilities. Maximum capacity should be based on the government requirement for social distancing, nature of activities (i.e. if the activity is static vs. requiring a range of movement) and equipment layout and the configuration of facilities.</i> <i>Particular attention should be given to ventilation and sufficient circulation space especially around equipment and between groups and classes and instructors.</i></p>
	<p><b>Toilets/ Storage Areas</b> Limited access is permitted to small, shared facilities e.g. storage area / toilet / through-ways that are disinfected regularly with sanitation products available.</p>
	<p><b>Changing Rooms</b> Clubs can now open their facilities –including training and changing rooms *The caveat to allow this is that clubs/operators must ensure that for each event (or gathering) one person, who is responsible for the gathering, must have appropriate Risk Assessments and take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus, including implementing the protective measures identified in its risk assessment and complying with any relevant guidance issued by a Northern Ireland Department.</p> <p>Please refer to the ‘RYANI Club Guidance’ document, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider not opening communal showers (if possible) or limit the number of people permitted in communal</li> <li>- showers / changing rooms at one time</li> <li>- Encourage participants, volunteers and staff to change and shower at home rather than in changing rooms where possible</li> <li>- Limit to essential use only, including making available changing facilities for disabled people and for participants who are cold and need immediate assistance</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where shower and changing facilities are required, set clear use and cleaning guidance to ensure they are kept clean and clear of personal items and that social distancing is achieved as much as possible.</li> <li>- Introduce enhanced cleaning during and at the end of the day</li> <li>- For additional reassurance, providing cleaning materials and hand sanitiser for use at touch points.</li> <li>- Providing additional signposting in these areas to maintain social distancing.</li> <li>- Schedule times available in changing areas for groups</li> <li>- Limit time in changing areas</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Bars/ Restaurants</b> Bars/ restaurants in Registered Clubs can open alongside the hospitality sector from 3rd July. A register should be kept of those present on the premises to assist in contact tracing if necessary.</p>
	<p><b>Alcohol</b> Bars, including those in members’ clubs (registered clubs) which only serve alcohol, are not permitted to open at the present time unless they have outdoor spaces, such as beer gardens and (where their licence permits them to do so) they will be able to serve alcohol in these spaces on a table service basis.</p>
	<p><b>Further Guidance</b> Please refer to the <i>RYANI Club Guidance</i> for further facility considerations.</p>

Further Considerations for boaters:

- Check Access - Are car parks, slipways, marinas, boat parks etc open and what guidelines are in place? Each venue, including council-owned facilities, will make their own decisions about when their facilities are ready to open and can be operated safely.
- Check the latest [Government Guidelines](#)
- Can you be Prepared before undertaking activity prior to arrival at any shared space. (e.g. can you change prior to arrival? Have you checked your equipment prepared?)

Useful links

[COVID 19: Cleaning and storing your lifejackets](#)

[COVID 19: Cleaning for Non Healthcare setting guidance](#)

[RYANI Coronavirus and Return to boating guidance page.](#)