



## RYA Covid-19 FAQs valid in England from 2 December 2020

*(Updated 2 December 2020)*

These FAQs are designed to be read in conjunction with the following RYA Guidance documents:

- [Club Guidance to create a Covid secure environment in England](#)
- [Guidance on what is possible in each English tier](#)
- [Guidance on sailing & racing with participants from different households during Covid-19 in England](#)
- [Guidance on Major Events and Covid-19](#)
- [MYA Guidance on Competitive Radio and Free Sailing](#)

These FAQs have been updated in accordance with the Government's Covid-19 Winter Plan published on 23 November 2020 and [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(All Tiers\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#).

**Please note** - the guidance within these FAQs is not intended to cover RYA Recognised Training Centres. RYA Recognised Training Centres should refer to the [COVID-19: Guidance for restarting RYA training activity](#).

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### Can I go boating?

Yes, outdoor activities are permitted in all 3 tiers. The exemption to the rule of 6 for organised outdoor sports and related sporting activity essential to its facilitation is permitted.

When participating in organised boating activity, it is possible to sail with people from different households. Care should be taken to follow the RYA Guidance on sailing with participants from different households and we continue to urge boaters to take a conservative and considerate approach, particularly at this time of year.

Informal or self-organised sport is not covered by any exemptions, and can only take place within the legal gathering limits which otherwise apply.

### Will all waterways be open?

Yes, although you should check with the water authority before travelling.

### Can we run organised on the water activity such as club racing?

Yes, this is permitted in all 3 tiers.

## **What are the limits to numbers for race training or similar organised sessions?**

There are no limits above your normal safety considerations.

## **Can we run events such as open meetings?**

Organised sporting events are permitted in all 3 tiers, however, care should be taken that participants do not contravene government travel or overnight stay restrictions. Organisers are advised to consider the risks any events may bring, including reputational risk and any potential impact on the local community.

## **Can club facilities open?**

Sailing clubs may open for boating. Indoor facilities in tiers 1 and 2 can be open subject to the limits on gathering for the specific tier and that the venue is Covid secure. However, in tier 3 indoor facilities with the exception of toilets and changing rooms (see below) must close.

Changing rooms and showers are permitted to open, regardless of tier, but clubs should encourage members to change at home where possible and may choose to impose capacity limits to ensure social distancing can be maintained. Access should be maintained for disabled people and will be important in bad weather.

## **Can club boat parks and slipways remain open?**

Yes, outdoor sports are allowed in all three tiers so associated amenities such as boat parks and slipways can also open.

## **Can the club open the bar and catering facilities?**

Bar and catering restrictions for each tier differ and can be found within the Government guidance related to businesses and venues.

Please refer to this guidance to understand whether your bar and/or catering facility can open and what arrangements you will have to make.

## **Can shoreside activities can take place?**

Activities related to the facilitation of the sport such as briefings, working parties, committee meetings are permissible however, we recommend that if possible, these be held virtually or deferred.

When ashore, minimising the number of people in distinct separate groups is advisable in order to help prevent both the spread of the virus and reputational damage.

When socialising or spectating ashore at the club you are limited to the rule of 6 outdoors i.e. you must not socialise in a group of more than 6.

## **Are members able to travel to a club or marina from an area in a different tier?**

Those living in tier 1 and tier 2 areas can travel to clubs within tiers 1 and 2 however, they should avoid travel into tier 3 areas unless it is necessary to enable disabled sailing, sailing for educational purposes or supervised sailing for under 18s to take place.

Those living in tier 3 areas should avoid travel out of or into other tier 3 areas, unless it is necessary to enable disabled sailing, sailing for educational purposes or supervised sailing for under 18s to take place. You can travel through other tiers as part of a longer journey.

Those living in tier 2 and tier 3 areas should aim to reduce the number of journeys they make.

## **Can I stay overnight on my boat?**

You may stay overnight on your boat in tiers 1 and 2. There are restrictions on who you can stay with in tiers 1 and 2, you should also check relevant travel and accommodation restrictions. In tier 3 areas you may only stay overnight with your household or bubble if it is in your local area.

There are restrictions on who you can stay with dependant on the tier you are in and you should also check relevant travel restrictions.

## **Can under 18s travel and stay overnight if taking part in training/competition?**

Under 18s (and therefore parent/guardian) from all tiers may travel and stay overnight when participating in educational or supervised sport.

It's for the individual to decide whether travelling/staying overnight is strictly necessary for the activity.

The exemption for under-18s includes young people who were under 18 on 31 August 2020, even if they turn 18 during the remainder of the academic year.

## **What about elite sport?**

There are continuing exceptions for elite athletes so that they can train or compete. Within RYA activity, this currently relates to the British Sailing Team, selected youth performance or transitional squads' sailors and professional sailors.

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*The above guidance to members and affiliates is the RYA's interpretation of the Government's current position. Although we strive to ensure that all the information is accurate and up to date, this cannot be guaranteed due to the developing and fast-moving situation. RYA members should review the Government's full guidance themselves and follow the latest announcements at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).*