



RYA COVID-19 FAQs valid in England

(Updated 11th February 2022)

These FAQs have been developed with the latest information from [Government](#) (including the [COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021](#)) and [Sport England](#).

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

Summary

- There are no restrictions on how many people can take part in boating activity
- All forms of boating activity can take place
- All facilities can open – there are no indoor capacity limits
- Organised events can take place outdoors with no capacity caps for participants or spectators

Are we free to run our normal delivery?

All boating and social activity can take place without any COVID-19 related legal restrictions. Our [guide to creating a COVID secure environment at your club](#) is a useful source of information on the measures necessary to encourage people to act carefully and keep each other safe.

We would encourage clubs to be mindful that some sections of our community may be extremely cautious over returning to sport. Sport England data tells us that “56% of people with a health condition are still worried about leaving the house to be active.” Similarly, many people who have been vaccinated are still cautious as the virus is still very much present in our communities.

What are the current rules on face coverings?

There is no longer a legal requirement to wear face coverings. However, Government still recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed settings where they come into contact with others they do not normally meet. Where worn correctly, this can reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Can we deliver activity with or for participants who are at higher risk of serious impact of COVID?

Yes. Outdoor exercise remains really important, particularly for people who have had to spend so much time at home isolating since the pandemic began.

People who are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill if they were to catch COVID-19 may still want to take additional precautions. They may limit the close contact they have with people they don't usually meet with, particularly if disease levels locally are high; they may prefer to meet outdoors; follow good personal hygiene; continue to practice social distancing where possible; wait 14 days after receiving a second dose of the vaccine before being in close contact with others; they may seek reassurance that those who they come into contact with have been vaccinated or taken a lateral flow test before the activity.

We advise clubs to plan for ways of delivering activity for people who are anxious about the easing of restrictions but who would still benefit from being on the water again.

How can we reassure people who are anxious about COVID-19?

Everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious. Clubs can provide reassurance by:

- Demonstrating that you have created a safe environment and the RYA guide to creating a COVID secure environment at your club will help you achieve this.
- Encouraging people to act carefully – test when you have symptoms, good personal hygiene, and follow self-isolation guidance.
- Help people manage their personal risk.
- Enabling people to be outside or let fresh air in.
- Helping people minimise the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.
- Consider retaining rules on social distancing (as much as possible) and one way systems.
- Where appropriate encourage the wearing of face coverings.

In doing so we create environments where people make their own choice about if and how to engage and participate again.

Are we able to provide support to other people, even if that means close contact?

Yes. Some people will need physical assistance to be active so it is important to create an environment where they, and those providing the support needed, can make a choice about whether to participate or not.

- Discuss a plan with the people involved and consider everyone's anxieties, needs and preferences.
- Consider ways to minimise the number, proximity and duration of social contacts and other mitigations such as face coverings.
- Check with everyone involved that they are happy to proceed.

Can we use our hoist to assist people in and out of boats?

Yes. There are no legal restrictions, however, it is still important to act carefully and provide reassurance to people who may still be anxious about COVID-19 and you may want to consider:

- Face coverings.
- Minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.
- Cleaning schedules.

Once you have created the protocols for hoisting, the individuals participating in the lift can make their own choice about being involved.

Don't forget to ensure the maintenance and check regime is up to date.

Can our club require members to maintain social distancing whilst at the club?

Yes, whilst this is no longer a legal requirement, clubs can determine their own internal policies reflecting the perspectives of members which may require all those using club facilities to continue to practice social distancing.

Is there a limit on the number of spectators to a sporting event?

There is no legal limit on the number of spectators. They are not legally obliged to wear face coverings but you can determine your own policy in respect of your venue/event and thus may insist that they do so. Where you are organising large grassroots sport events, or expect a significant number of spectators, you should review the Government [guidance for events and attractions](#) and follow any relevant measures to reduce the risk of transmission at your event.

Can indoor facilities and changing rooms open?

Yes all facilities can open. You may still encourage people to change at home and consider cleaning regimes, controlling numbers and ways of keeping indoor spaces well ventilated.

Are Test and Trace Regulations still in force?

There is no longer a legal requirement to collect contact details, however Government suggests that venues may wish to continue to display the NHS QR Code to allow those who wish to do so to continue to use the app.

If you continue to display a QR Code you should also include a system to collect contact details for those who do not have the app. Where you do collect contact details you need to retain them securely for 21 days.

There is no requirement to ask members to check in nor do you have to turn them away if they do not check in.

[The latest Government guidance on NHS Test, Trace can be found here.](#)

What should we do if we have confirmed/suspected COVID-19 cases at our club?

You should ensure that you have a plan in place to deal with anyone with symptoms at the club and/or anyone who has been at the club and later tests positive. This should include:

- Ensuring that anyone with symptoms leaves the facility immediately to self-isolate, following [Government guidance](#).
- Identify any close contacts in order to notify them.
- Ensure your facility is thoroughly cleaned; and
- Advise your [local authority public health team](#) of the suspected/confirmed case(s).
- Ensure your facility is thoroughly cleaned. Follow the measures set out in the [guidance for cleaning in non-healthcare settings](#).

What should we do if our club is in an area identified by the Government where a new COVID 19 variant is spreading or where there is an enhanced response to COVID-19?

The Government has issued guidance for areas [where the new COVID-19 variants are spreading](#). In order to prevent the spread of this more transmittable form of the virus clubs may want to review their risk assessments and procedures with a focus on access to indoor spaces, social distancing and travel.

Should a club make it a condition of entry for members to show an NHS COVID Pass/proof of testing?

Government has removed Plan B as such there is no longer a requirement to for members to demonstrate their NHS COVID Status at your venue/event. However you can still choose to require use of the NHS COVID Pass as a matter of internal policy. If a club does decide to adopt a policy that requires members to have a COVID Pass, such policy would have to consider several legal issues including those relating to data protection, equality, human rights, and employment. Importantly it would have to include provision for individuals who, for a variety of reasons, may be unable to have the vaccine or who are further down the vaccination priority list. Whatever they decide on the issue, clubs should ensure their policy is clearly communicated to members, guests, volunteers, and staff etc.

Arriving in the UK and travelling overseas

Government is monitoring the international situation closely and keeping its advice under constant review, so that it reflects its latest assessment of risks to the British public. More details advice can be found at <https://www.rya.org.uk/coronavirus/advice-for-boaters>. Follow the advice set out in the [guidance for travel abroad from England during COVID-19](#). Elite sport has a special status in terms of overseas travel, you can find further information on the RYA COVID-19 hub - RYA elite sport status.pdf

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.