

COVID Free Sailing at SYC

As a tentative first step to a return of organised sailing at the club we propose to run some free sailing sessions for members in the coming weeks. The proposed programme is available on the club website. The sessions will have safety boat cover and are scheduled for neap tide weekends so that we have more room for launching and recovery of boats. The sessions will be cancelled if the duty OOD estimates the mean wind is or will be above 14 knots.

The club has a duty to make these sessions as safe as possible for members and also do everything we can to avoid burdening external services (RNLI, hospitals etc.). In that regard if you are going to participate - please follow the instructions listed below. We have kept these instructions as short as possible, relying mostly on your common sense to do the right thing, specifically:

- | On shore, maintain at least 2m distance from non-cohabiting family members and non-crew members at all times.
- | Wash/sanitise your hands regularly, and specifically if you touch equipment handled by other members - e.g. Safety boats. A number of hand sanitiser stations have been installed
- | Wearing a mask and/or gloves while onshore is not mandatory but may help to protect others.

We will only launch one safety boat and therefore the sailing area will be limited and displayed on the club notice board. If you are asked to help launch or recover a safety boat - please follow the instructions of its crew or the Beachmaster. If you and your crew are experienced sailors you are, of course, free to sail wherever you want, but please let the Beachmaster know that this is your intention, so that we can keep the safety boat patrolling in the designated sailing area.

Current guidelines from RYA/PHE suggest that non-cohabiting teams can sail together as long as suitable mitigating steps are taken, such as wearing masks, visors, gloves etc. Competitors should make their own decisions on what level of risk they feel comfortable with when on the water. Stay apart as far as practically possible and observe the SYC rule of 2 metre social distancing when ashore.

Instructions to Sailors

1. Check the SYC website before traveling to the club in case the free sailing session has been cancelled.
2. Drive to and from the club in your sailing gear (or be prepared to change in the car park).
3. The toilets will be open - but you should assume none of the other onshore facilities will be available. Bring any food and drink that you may want with you.
4. If this is your first sail this year - please do a detailed maintenance check on your boat with the focus on avoiding breakages while sailing (check rudders, halliards, standing rigging etc.)
5. Rig your boat as far as possible in your berth - if the crew of a neighbouring boat are also trying to rig at the same time, work out a solution between yourselves so that you can remain socially distanced.
6. Do not enter the entire rigging / launching area with your boat until there is space for you to do so safely. The beachmaster will control the flow of boats down the slipway to prevent congestion as boats prepare to launch. To ease congestion, boats berthed to the north of the boathouse should try to use the north slipway.
7. If you need assistance from the safety boat follow the instructions of the crew.
8. On returning to the shore - try to lower your mainsail, wash your boat and return to your berth as soon as possible. Complete the derigging in your berth. There should be no more than two boats in the wash down areas at the top of each slipway at any one time. Follow the instructions of the beachmaster.