

Covid-19 Safe Sailing Policy May 2021 Version 3

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 During the Covid-19 pandemic Sidmouth Sailing Club will be following Government and RYA advice to support safe sailing.
- 1.2 Give the dynamic nature of the pandemic this document is considered a 'live' document and will change as guidance and advice from the Government and RYA is updated.
- 1.3 This Policy links with, and is still to be used in conjunction with the Club's Safe Sailing Policy, but this provides the current default information to support safe sailing.

2. Basic Principles

- 2.1 RYA advice: *"Participants will have to make their own decisions on whether they can sail their dinghy, keelboat or yacht whilst maintaining adequate social distancing. From the 17th May social distancing remains at 2 metres unless you use mitigating measures which will allow a reduction to 1 metre plus. On a boat, these mitigations could include (in addition to being outdoors) 1m separation marks on the deck, wearing face coverings (recommended), avoiding face to face contact, cleaning procedures, no shouting etc. The risk should be assessed case by case and with the correct mitigation in place, it may now be possible for up to 6 people from different households to sail certain boats.*

It is the responsibility of the members concerned to ensure they adhere to social distancing measures 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."

[Advice and information for recreational boaters \(rya.org.uk\)](https://www.rya.org.uk)

- 2.2 All sailors must carry their own bottle of 70% (or above) alcohol hand sanitizer. This is to be used before and after handling any boat (other than their own). It is also to be used before and after handling the patrol boat. Competitors not complying with this may be asked not to sail in future
- 2.3 Only a maximum of FOUR people should be in the patrol boat store at any one time.
- 2.4 Changing rooms and toilet facilities will reopen from 17th May 2021 and the following rules will apply and it is the individual members responsibility to ensure that they are adhered to.
 1. There is a limit of 8 people in the men's and 3 in the ladies changing rooms at any time.
 2. Only one person to shower at a time in the men's unless from the same family and the central cubicle is not to be used in the ladies.
 3. Masks should be worn except when showering and the normal 2 metre separation maintained.
 4. The last person showering must sanitise the showers with the spray used for the boats along with mopping the floor as normal.

3 Sailing Management

- 3.1 The ROs or OOD briefing for competitors and patrol boat helms is compulsory, and the Briefing Template for Club Racing has been amended to reflect implications of Covid-19 restrictions.
- 3.2 Boats should be rigged on the beach.
- 3.3 Sailing dinghies should (when possible) be parked in the boat park before the patrol boat is returned and stay socially distanced from patrol boat store and patrol boat area.
- 3.4 All sailors will have a long rope on their boat trolley. This should be marked at 2 metre intervals.

3.5 The OOD (officer of the day) and the race officer can be different people or the same person. The OOD has overall responsibility for the racing. The race officer has responsibility for starting and finishing the race and recording results and liaising with the patrol boats on shore. The OOD needs to make themselves known to all competitors and the patrol crew in the case of an emergency.

3.6 Crow's Nest

3.7 Races will be run from the race office (crow's nest). Limited numbers of people (or people from the same household) will be allowed into the race office. The door and window will remain open and social distancing rules and other mitigations followed where personnel are from different households. After racing the RO/assistant will clean down the main touch points in the crow's nest (including the stair hand rails) and ensure the radios have been cleaned.

3.8 Club Boats

3.9 Six club boats will be available. They are only to be used by sailing club members when a patrol boat is present. They will be paid prior to sailing on the day of use electronically to:

Sidmouth Sailing club

Sort code 40-42-02

Account number 41039660

Proof of payment need to be shown to the OOD.

3.10 Club boats must be washed with disinfectant before and after use and rinsed down with fresh water. Spares and sails will be kept on the club boat or in another designated boat (not in the patrol boat store). Care will need to be taken when using the disinfectant spray. Children need to be supervised.

3.11 Damages and/or breakages must be reported to the OOD

4 Patrol Boats

4.1 To allow for social distancing, patrol boats may be helmed by one person. This helm must be a designated level 2 (in 'green' conditions) or 3 (in 'amber' conditions). When helmed by one person, one patrol boat is required for up to 10 boats in 'green' conditions and up to 5 boats (experienced helms) in 'amber' conditions. It will be incumbent on the appointed Race Officer to maintain a visual watch over sailing and assist the patrol boats to any incidents.

4.2 The patrol boat helm or OOD is responsible for preparing the patrol boat with fuel and safety equipment. The patrol boat helm or OOD is to identify and instruct the launch and recovery team (5 people in total).

4.3 A procedure has been put into place to ensure the launch and recovery of the patrol boat with four people plus the patrol boat helm. This allows for social distancing to take place at all times. The use of face masks is encouraged. Hand sanitizer should be used before and after the patrol boat has been handled.

4.4 The patrol boat will be recovered using the electric winch. This may only be used by trained personnel.

4.5 The patrol boat will need to be washed with disinfectant before and after use. Care needs to be taken when using the spray and children must be supervised. Cleaning product must be washed off with clean water before launching and putting away.

4.6 Where two people are in a patrol boat (either from the same family or social bubble) the previous instructions will be in force "One patrol boat is required for up to 14 boats, in favourable conditions as per risk assessment from the Safe Sailing Policy. The Safe Sailing

Policy describes the competency levels required in the patrol boats. Above this number, two or more patrol boats will be required except at the discretion of the O.O.D.”

- 4.7 A face mask will be available in the patrol boat for use in a rescue situation (part of safety equipment). Patrol boat helms understand that, in an emergency situation, social distancing protocols may need to be broken.

5 Use of the Winch

- 5.1 The patrol boat will be recovered using the electric winch. This may only be used by trained personnel.