

COVID-19: Instructions for Sailors for Club Racing

Mark Elkington: 23rd July 2020

The club wishes to provide racing for its members again, while ensuring that this is done in as safe a way as possible. This document should be read by all SYC members intending to participate in the scheduled races under the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. At all times please follow the instructions given by the OOD and/or Beachmaster.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented here - please post your question on the forum, and we can then provide an answer for everyone.

The race format and organisation will **largely be the same as a Wednesday Evening Series** race - with fast handicap, slow handicap, and multihull starts at 3 minute intervals, using the club start line and the lights box to signal the start sequence. Juniors will race in the slow handicap fleet. The courses will be displayed as normal on the course board - be aware that due to limits on safety boats the course options will be more constrained and all classes may be sailing the same course, and it is likely that we will not be using separate windward marks for dinghies and multihulls. The required amendments to the sailing instructions will be published in a separate document on the website.

Here are some specific instructions you should follow.

1. You will need to **sign on for the race online** at least 24 hours before the race. A web link and brief instructions will be provided on the Members Home Page / Quick Links - you will need to be logged in to access the link. Do NOT try to sign on using the computer in the Members room.

[Note: if there are *really good* reasons why you can't use the online system - send an email to racemanager@starcrossvc.org.uk - giving details of class, sail number and helm/crew.]

2. **Check the SYC website** before traveling to the club in case the racing has been cancelled.
3. Drive to and from the club **in your sailing gear** (or be prepared to change in the car park) - the changing rooms will not be accessible. The toilets will be open - but you should assume none of the other onshore facilities will be available.
4. **At all times** when onshore **maintain 2m distance** from people you are not living with.
5. 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.
6. **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. You can use the grass area by the sea wall - but **do NOT go down the slipways** until you are asked to by the OOD and/or Beachmaster.
7. You will be asked to launch in fleet order - fast handicap first, then slow handicap, then multihull. **Wait for the call to launch for your fleet.** It is expected that the fast handicap will start launching about 20 minutes before the scheduled race start time - so plan your arrival at the club appropriately. The beachmaster will control the flow of boats down the slipways to prevent congestion as boats prepare to launch. The race start sequence will not begin until all boats are launched. To ease congestion, boats berthed to the north of the boathouse should try to use the north slipway. Once on the foreshore - complete rigging your boat and launch immediately.
8. **Sail the race as normal.** While racing it should be relatively straightforward to maintain the 2m distance from crews in other boats, but be aware that starting and buoy rounding, especially in very light winds, might cause some issues and choose your course in these situations to mitigate the risk. Also be aware that all fleets might be using the same course (or parts of the course) - keep a good watch for boats from fleets other than yours.
9. If the wind increases above the permitted limit for racing (14 knots for at least 5 minutes) the **OOD may decide to curtail the race** using the flashing red beacon accompanied by 3 horn signals. You will be scored as if you finished at the end of your previous lap.

10. If you **need assistance** from the safety boat during the race follow the instructions of the crew.
11. Before going ashore **check that there is space for you to land** and maintain 2m distance from all other crews. If it is busy in the landing area, stay afloat until boats clear from the shore. The Beachmaster or Safety Boat crew may ask you to stay afloat - please follow their instructions. It may help if you can lower your mainsail while on the water so that you can leave the slipway area as soon as you have landed. If you are in a berth north of the boathouse - go ashore on the north side of the south slipway and use the north slipway (and its washdown facilities) to return to your berth..
12. If you wish to **retire from the race** after finishing - tell the beachmaster, who will forward the information to the OODs.
13. Do not attempt to use the changing rooms - either change in the car park or drive home directly.
14. **Results** will be available on the website in the normal way.