

COVID19 Secure Policy

Last updated: 10 September 2020

The purpose of this document is to detail the steps taken to minimise the risk to Starcross YC (SYC) members and guests with respect to the COVID-19 virus. The document has been produced following assessments of risk conducted by members of the General Committee and the Sailing Committee.

This document will be updated as necessary in response to changes in local conditions and updates to the Government and RYA guidelines.

The Government Guidance on Social Distancing is currently 2m, or 1m with additional mitigation. Additional mitigation could be a physical barrier, a face covering, or not facing each other directly as well as minimising the time spent within 1m of each other.)

Remember that some club members may be facing higher risks if infected by COVID-19 - please be respectful of others and be considerate in your behaviour at all times.

The club will be open for sailing/kayaking/fishing and boat maintenance by any individual member and individual family groups during daylight hours. The club will also be open for programmed racing and free sailing events as detailed on the club's website (<https://www.starcrossyc.org.uk/sailing-programme>). The club will not be running social events or 'open' sailing events for visitors while the COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

ACCESS / BEHAVIOUR AROUND THE SITE.

Members must maintain 2m social distancing at all times when on the club site, including the foreshore above the low water mark. Hand sanitiser stations and external wash basins have been installed at several locations on site.

Access Gate

For club events (racing, free sailing etc.) the security gate will be opened by one person and will remain open for the duration of the event. For individual sailing the security gate should be opened and immediately closed after entry by the individual member.

Car parking

Park as normal but be aware when leaving your car that you must socially distance from people in neighbouring cars.

Changing Rooms

The changing rooms are closed and must not be used. If you are planning to sail you should either travel to and from the club in your sailing gear or be prepared to change in your car.

Toilets

The toilets will be open for use. External hand wash basins are provided for use when accessing and leaving the toilet area. The toilets will be disinfected twice a week.

A disabled toilet is currently being constructed as an extension to the changing room. This will include facilities for treating hypothermia. This facility should be available by early October.

Clubhouse

The clubhouse will be closed apart from the access for two individuals who have been allocated galley duty on event days and to club officers for security purposes. Galley duties will be allocated to family members. An external kiosk window will be used for serving drinks and food. Contactless card or cash (no change) payment will be required.

Members Room

The Members Room should not be used, unless for special activities sanctioned in advance by the Club Rear Commodore (Internal). This is to allow disinfection to be arranged.

Boat House

The only people who should enter the boathouse are the Safety Boat Co-ordinator, people undertaking maintenance of the safety boats, members allocated Safety Boat duty for that day, and sailors who need to recover sails stored there. Special care must be taken to maintain 2m distancing in this area by all involved.

Race Box

The only people who should enter the race box are the two or three members tasked with organising a specific club race. At the end of each race the working surfaces should be disinfected by the OOD team and/or the room not used for at least 72 hours. While in the race box the duty officers (if not from one family group) should maintain social distancing and/or wear face masks.

Dinghy Park

Social distancing rules to be observed; the layout of the dinghy park into three separate areas aids this. If the boat next to yours is being rigged or worked on, then either wait until the action is complete and the people have moved away sufficiently to enable your own rigging/work to take place safely, or move your boat to a safer area for rigging.

Working Parties

If a working party is organised, equipment should not be shared and must be disinfected after use. The work activity must be designed so that social distancing can be maintained.

SAILING AND ON THE WATER ACTIVITIES

In all cases members should only sail if they feel competent and safe to do so in the conditions at the time without requiring external assistance. There is a mean wind speed upper limit for organised sailing events (as forecast by the UK Met Office) - racing - 16 knots, and free sailing - 14 knots.

Double-handed sailing dinghies may be crewed by members of different households, provided that both helm and crew have reviewed the *RYA Guidance on Sailing & Racing with Participants from Different Households during COVID-19 in England* (published 29th July 2020) and have assessed the risks and satisfied themselves that both parties are comfortable with sailing together. Remember that should a COVID incident occur, your household, as well as the other sailor, will be required to self-isolate.

The club's RIBs may now be crewed by members from different households under the same conditions as sailing a dinghy referenced above. After use the RIBs (and VHF radios) must either be disinfected or left for 72 hours before being used again. Specific instructions for a safe procedure to launch a RIB while maintaining social distancing is available on the club website.

The club's dinghies for hire should be sanitised after use - the materials are stored in the external porch entrance to the Members Room (instructions for use are posted next to the materials).

When participating in a club organised racing event, members must register online before the event to provide a record that can be used for subsequent track and trace activities if that becomes necessary. Detailed instructions for participants are available on the club website. For free sailing events a paper record of boats sailing will be maintained by the Beachmaster.

For individual sailing, no assistance should be given in rigging or launching/retrieving unless the person is a member of the same household. In situations where it becomes necessary to assist for safety reasons, keep at least 1m away from the other person and do not face directly (*wear a face covering if available*).

For club events particular care must be taken during the launching and recovery activities due to the typical number of people involved - specifically:

- Dinghies must be rigged in the dinghy park or on the grass in front of the clubhouse as far as possible (in exceptional circumstances where social distancing cannot be maintained in the dinghy park they can be moved to area adjacent to the slipway entrances if social distancing can be maintained).
- Members must not proceed down the slipway to launch unless it can be done while maintaining social distancing from crews already on the foreshore. The Beachmaster may ask you to wait if the foreshore does not have room for more boats.
- For recovery after a club event members should not approach the recovery area of foreshore unless it can be done while maintaining social distancing from crews already on the foreshore recovering their boats. Once ashore your boat must be moved up the slipway as soon as possible. The Beachmaster may signal to you to stay afloat if the foreshore does not have room for more boats.
- Particular care must be taken to maintain social distancing when using the boat wash down facilities. When busy consider using the wash down facilities adjacent to the north slipway or the entrance tunnel.
- Members should at all time follow instructions from the duty Beachmaster and/or the OOD

Results from club race events will only be available on the club website.

For club events, the duty “officer of the day” must at all times consider these guidelines. If you are OOD and have concerns (e.g. overcrowding on the foreshore), make a PA announcement and make adjustments to the race management (e.g. delay the start so that crews have more time to launch).

EMERGENCIES

In cases of emergency dial 999 and follow the standard procedure. Ensure that someone is sent to check the gate is open and to help guide the emergency services to the club. An automated external defibrillator and first aid kit is available in Members Room (same access code as the toilets). Remember that CPR can be given without mouth to mouth contact.