



RYA Covid-19 FAQs valid in England from 5th January 2021

(Updated 6th January 2021)

These FAQs have been updated in accordance with the National Lockdown: Stay at Home Government guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

We will need to review the latest legislation once published, however in the meantime we believe the following guidance applies.

Whilst we aim to provide a useful resource for our stakeholders, the decision to go boating ultimately lies with the individual concerned. There are fines in place for those deemed to be in breach of the regulations and it is essential that, in the event you do decide to participate in boating activity you have properly assessed whether it is permitted within the most recent Government guidance and regulations.

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](#).

Can I go boating?

It is our interpretation that boating is permitted as a form of exercise (The government guidance is that you should limit exercise to once per day).

We continue to urge boaters to take a conservative and considerate approach by complying with the Government's guidance, particularly at this time of year.

Who can I go boating with?

You may go boating on your own, or with members of your household, childcare or support bubble. You may also go boating with one other person who is not a member of your household. You should adhere to social distancing rules i.e. 2 metres or 1 metre with extra precautions.

Will all waterways be open?

You should check with the water authority before travelling.

Can we run organised on the water activity such as club racing?

Organised activity such as racing is not permitted apart from a few specific exemptions listed below.

What organised activity is allowed?

There are exemptions for organised outdoor sport for disabled people, activity for schools that is part of their normal provision and for elite athletes.

Can clubs and facilities remain open?

No, clubs along with all indoor and outdoor sports facilities must close.

However, some venues or facilities may be permitted to open for a small number of reasons:

- Boat parks and slipways to which the public have, or are permitted access (whether on payment or otherwise) are public outdoor places and can remain available for use
- Venues will be permitted to be open for the small number of exempt activities (outdoor sport for disabled people, schools' activity where it is a normal part of their provision, and elite athletes)
- Clubs are able to provide food and non-alcoholic drinks for delivery (including alcohol), takeaway, click and collect, or drive-through.

Can marinas open?

The Yacht Harbour Association has issued guidance to its member marinas which, whilst it does not specify the closure of marinas, advises marina operators to support Government guidance by 'not encouraging' either berth holders to visit their boats, nor public access which in reality is likely to result in its members preventing berth holders from utilising their boats for exercise as well as access to boats for maintenance purposes; although marinas themselves may stay open to carry out safety checks on customers boats.

Is it possible to travel to go boating?

Travel for outdoor exercise (including boating) is permitted, the government guidance is that you should not travel outside your local area.

Can I stay overnight on my boat?

Not unless your boat is your primary residence.

What about elite sport and professional sailors?

There are continuing exceptions for elite athletes so that they can train or compete. Within RYA activity, this currently relates to the British Sailing Team, selected youth performance or transitional squads and professional sailors.

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.