

Sussex Yacht Club – Sussex Sailability

Sailability approach to COVID-19

Sussex Sailability will follow the roadmap towards easing COVID-19 restrictions as set out by the Government. Local guidance from Sussex Yacht Club medical advisors, the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and the Port Authority will continually influence the guidelines to minimise risk to all participants.

To this end Sailability has set out an operational policy that aims to enable the restart of activities from the end of March 2021 while keep everyone as safe as possible.

The operational policy takes into account the RYA guiding principles of considerate and conservative approach to boating.

- **Considerate:** be mindful of the potential impact that you could have on other water users and local communities. Do not place unnecessary extra strain on the RNLI and emergency services
- **Conservative:** help to minimise risk by taking an extra conservative approach to your boating.

The Sailability Operational Plan

In order to ensure protection for all sailors and volunteers, there will be several limitations to what can be done and who will be able to take part when we do re-start sailing. A risk assessment with the detailed list of mitigations is attached.

Key mitigations that have a particular impact on Sailability operations are:

- We will not be able to provide close personal assistance, in particular, we will not be able to operate the hoist. Therefore only those who can get into or out of a boat on their own should attend.
- We will operate the boats with a lower number of people on them than normal:
 - One person on an Access (unless sailing with a member of your household)
 - Two people on a 16 foot boat (RS Venture and Stratos)
 - Three people on a Drascombe or Sonar.
- Sailors on single-handed (Access) or two-handed (16 foot boats) need to be able to sail independently - ie sailing skills should be at approximately RYA Level 3 standard (can come alongside a jetty or safety boat or return to a man overboard).
- Those who are shielding or are at high risk of requiring medical assistance while sailing should not attend.
- A buoyancy aid will be allocated to an individual for a session - this should not be shared.
- Antiseptic wipes will be available and must be used for cleaning shared surfaces (eg tillers).
- All sailors and volunteers should have a face covering (mask, snood, scarf).

Sussex Sailability risk assessment and mitigations

Risk	Mitigations
Transmission between people in close proximity	<p>Activities to take place outdoors</p> <p>Social distancing to be maintained at 1 metre plus mitigations.</p> <p>Multi-sailor boats to be marked up with 1m separation indicators</p> <p>Face coverings to be worn when at 1m separation</p> <p>Sessions to be split into groups of six people who will form a self contained unit. Units will work together on the boats assigned to them and not with other units. When units have finished putting away their boats they should leave.</p> <p>Maximum session size of 30 people</p>
Transmission through contact with shared surfaces – notably tillers, wheels and boat equipment	<p>Regular use of hand cleanser</p> <p>Antiseptic spray / wipes to be used when transferring equipment to another person</p>
Transmission through shared equipment – notably buoyancy aids, wheelchairs, hoist	<p>Non-essential shared equipment (eg tea urn) not to be used</p> <p>Buoyancy aid to be allocated to an individual for a sessions. Wiped down with anti-septic at end of session and left for at least 72 hours.</p> <p>Seats to be placed 2m apart and marked for use by an individual for that session.</p> <p>Wheelchairs and hoist not currently available for use – separate protocols for these will be required</p>
Transmission due to personal contact – notably if there is a medical emergency on the water or a man overboard and safety boat crew are required to be in contact with a casualty	<p>Low medical risk sailors only to attend sessions</p> <p>Reduced max wind strength for session to F4 – 16kts</p> <p>Keel boats only to be used so low risk of capsize</p> <p>Independent sailors only (ie skills at approximately RYA level 3 – they can come alongside a jetty or safety boat and return to a man overboard) on single or double handed boats.</p> <p>Reduced area of operation to the river so that any casualty or boat could be quickly recovered ashore</p>

Reviewed: March 2021