

Boating Guidance for Scotland, updated 5th January 2021.

From Tuesday 5 January, mainland Scotland moved from Level 4 to a Temporary Lockdown, with new guidance to stay at home except for essential purposes. Some islands will remain at Level 3.

Our updated guidance covers the essentials of the current restrictions as they affect boating in Local Authority areas in Level 3 and those within Temporary Lockdown. It should be read in conjunction with the most recent full guidance from RYA Scotland issued on 3 December 2020 noting specifically that Temporary Lockdown supersedes all Level 4 information.

The information within our guidance is tailored **towards RYA affiliated clubs and recognised training centres as well as individual members and the wider boating community across Scotland** and is designed to aid your decision-making process and planning, not replace it.

It is still possible to go boating as a form of exercise, following the outdoor gathering rules, but we remind everyone that that we are in the grip of a pandemic that has become significantly worse in recent weeks. The overriding message for Scotland's boating community is to 'Stay at Home' wherever possible and we must all do our bit to stop the spread of the virus.

Travel is severely restricted **by law** and you may only travel to your boat if it is kept in the same local authority area you live in.

Subject to a full risk assessment, facility providers such as Clubs, Training Centres, Marinas and Boatyards may open to allow access for boat owners but will each make their own decisions on whether or not they open their doors or gates to people in the locality. We encourage boat owners to utilise the services of staff at their storage facility if at all possible, in an effort to avoid making a journey, to respect that facility providers may not be able to open and advise owners to contact facility providers before travelling to confirm access.

If you are fortunate enough to live in an area within which you are able to get to your boat, please consider if you can help out someone else who cannot travel, by checking their boat for them.

Importantly in this lockdown, you may travel **within your local authority area** to go boating as your form of exercise or for essential maintenance on your boat. For the time being essential maintenance is work which if not undertaken would cause failure or become an imminent safety issue and we suggest examples in our updated guidance. Travel for essential maintenance should not be used as a pretext to spend the day onboard 'pottering' or for a weekend away. You should not stay longer than the length of time required to undertake essential maintenance.

To check what level of measures apply in your area or venue where you intend to participate in activity, please check the postcode on the Government webpage. You should be prepared for restrictions to change at short notice and this may result in activity being adapted, postponed or cancelled.

If you have any queries about this most recent guidance please do get in touch with the RYA Scotland Team.

Protection Levels		
	Level 3	Temporary Lockdown
Travel for boating activity, training, or events	<p>Participants aged 18 years or over (adults) living in a Level 3 area should only travel within their Local Authority Area to take part in organised physically distanced non-contact sport or exercise outdoors or for boat maintenance.</p> <p>You can also take part in local informal exercise such as walking, cycling, rolling, golf, running, including sailing, (up to 5 miles of their local authority boundary area) that starts and finishes at the same place but straddles the boundary of two local authority areas. This could include boundaries on the water as long as you depart and return to the same location and don't go ashore but cannot include any activity organised by a club/centre or National Governing Body.</p>	<p>All participants both children (Under 18) and Adults (18 years or over) should only travel within their Local Authority Area to exercise informally outdoors or for essential boat maintenance.</p> <p>You can also take part in local informal exercise such as walking, cycling, rolling, golf, running or sailing (up to 5 miles of their local authority boundary area) that starts and finishes at the same place but straddles the boundary of two local authority areas. This could include boundaries on the water as long as you depart and return to the same location and don't go ashore but cannot include any activity organised by a club/centre or National Governing Body unless for essential training.</p>
Indoor gathering	<p>No in-home socialising, this will include socialising below deck No Indoor gatherings. 6 people /2 households indoors in public places. Single Household / extended household only overnight</p>	<p>No in-home socialising, this will include socialising below deck No Indoor gatherings Overnight not permitted.</p>
Outdoor gathering	6 people/2 households Outdoors - 2m physical distancing.	2 people/2 households Outdoors (not including U12s towards the people) - 2m physical distancing.
Organised outdoor activity (Non-contact) Training, racing or Social sailing without contact	<p>Field of play bubble can be applied for all ages in non-contact situations.</p> <p>Maintain 2m physical distancing</p>	NOT PERMITTED
Organised outdoor activity (Contact) Training, Racing or Social Sailing with contact	<p>Field of play bubble can be applied for under 18s in contact situations.</p> <p>Adult contact sport not permitted.</p>	NOT PERMITTED
RYA Training	<p>If deemed necessary, RYA Training could take place using the non-contact field of play bubble as above.</p> <p>Essential Training or examinations for work purposes or leading to qualifications for employment will be able to continue providing the appropriate measures are in place to mitigate against the risk of infection.</p>	Essential Training or examinations for work purposes or leading to qualifications for employment will be able to continue providing the appropriate measures are in place to mitigate against the risk of infection.
Toilets	<p>Operators may open public toilets if they follow the guidelines outlined on the Scottish Government website Opening Public Toilets Guidelines</p> <p>Changing rooms and showering facilities should remain closed where possible, although they should be made available for participants who require additional support such as disabled people or those with special needs. If they are to be opened then specific guidance relating to use of 'Changing and Showers' is available at Getting Your Facilities Fit for Sport. This is applicable at all levels where facilities remain open.</p>	<p>Indoor sports facilities and club houses; closed including changing rooms and showers.</p> <p>Toilets may be open if they follow guidelines outlined on the Scottish Government website Opening Public Toilets Guidelines</p>
Hospitality	No sale of alcohol indoors or outdoors. Food may be consumed on the premises. Time restrictions may apply.	Not permitted (Exception for Hotel for work related stays).

RYA Guiding Principles – applying across Scotland and other Home Countries

These are the RYA and RYA Scotland's guiding principles that will underpin all guidance across the boating community. We would encourage decision makers to use these principles to inform their own decisions during the Covid-19 period.

1. We will always follow Government advice – [Scottish Government](#)

- The COVID-19 preventative measures are vital to protecting health and wellbeing and to minimising pressure on frontline services. We have a collective and individual role to play by following the Government guidelines.

2. We will, as a boating community, take a considerate and conservative approach

- **Considerate of others** 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 of risk:** help to minimise risk by taking an extra conservative approach to your boating.

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Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland.

- Face covering
- Avoid crowded places
- Clean hands and surfaces regularly
- Two metre distance from other people
- Self-isolate and book a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms

People who are symptomatic should self-isolate for 10 days and household members also for 10 days. No one who is self-isolating should attend a sports facility or activity.