



RETURN TO BOATING – COVID-19

Introduction

1. The UK Government announced a first easing of Covid-19 lockdown measures effective from 13 May 2020; these only applied in England. The RYA welcomed this as a ‘welcome return to boating’ (in England) although the continuing restrictions on group gatherings meant that in practice this was boating by individuals or household groups only. The RNLI & Coast Guard modified their guidance at the same time from stay off the water to take all precautions to boat safely. The Scottish Government (SG) indicated on 21 May 2020 that lockdown measures will start to ease after 28 May, and these would be phased progressively over 4 phases. Phase 1 was confirmed as starting on 29 May and RYA Scotland (RYAS) issued guidance (SG approved) that morning allowing CSC to issue guidance to members at 1230 that day based partly on an earlier version (V1.1) of this paper.
2. CSC needs to be prepared to take advantage of easing under Phases 2 - 4 while strictly following SG guidance and considering any guidance from RYAS, other maritime agencies and the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association (SCRA).

Aim

3. The aim of this paper is to prepare CSC for a return to boating in a progressive manner as the SG announces the implementation of Phases 2 – 4.

Scope

4. This paper considers the constraints currently preventing the club from operating and provides options on a phased return to activities as lockdown measures are eased while acknowledging we will only be able to respond fully once firm announcements are made by the SG. Activities encompass not only formal club activities but also activities by individual club members using club facilities. This paper includes COVID-19 mitigating actions to allow operations as safely as possible.

Reputation

5. CSC operates in the community and for the community that is interested in boating. Our reputation, built-up over many years, is important to our acceptance in the community and is easily damaged and can take years to recover; therefore it is essential that we take the perceived general mood of the community into account (from social media) and are seen to be 'doing the right thing at the right time'. This means we need to proceed cautiously.

Waking up the club

6. The committee has agreed a paper ('Resumption of activities action list') that analyses the lead-in time required to re-activate the main club activities as these vary considerably; the paper is attached.

RYA Guidance

7. The RYA has issued recent and useful guidance to clubs in England as their lockdown eases and while this may not apply in its entirety to Scotland, it is a useful planning tool and can be found here: <https://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/news/Pages/Guidance-issued-for-English-sailing-clubs-.aspx>

The following stepped process is key and CSC formed a Covid-19 focus group (James Dargie, Richard Evans, Diarmid Hogan, Sandra Hogg & Richard Jenner) on 17 May 2020 to take this forward.



Constraints

8. Covid-19 restrictions introduced constraints that affected club operations:

- a. Restrictions on permitted travel.
- b. Restrictions on gathering of groups not in the same household.
- c. The need to apply social or physical distancing measures.
- d. The need to apply better standards of hygiene than pre-pandemic.
- e. Recommendations on the self-isolation (shielding) of certain vulnerable groups.

To allow individual or household activities at the club, 8a would need to be eased in such a way that travel for sport or recreation was permitted. To permit some organised club activities to go ahead, both 8a and 8b would need to be eased even if the size of gatherings

remains restricted. Social distancing measures (8c) would seem likely to remain in force to some extent for the foreseeable future and are likely to constrain the club. Applying constraints under 8e are a personal decision.

Covid-19 Mitigating controls

9. The following controls are in addition to those in the club Health & Safety document and while they deal mainly with Covid-19 specific risks (community transmission either directly or through the contamination of common use surfaces), they also include some to mitigate further the need for rescue on the water.

Area	Controls
1. General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Require anyone with the symptoms of Covid-19 to avoid attending the club. b. Always facilitate and encourage physical distancing as regulated. c. Encourage everyone to be conservative and considerate in their actions around the club. d. Encourage members to bring/use their own equipment. e. Encourage members to attend dressed ready to participate and to return home similarly when possible. f. Clean any shared equipment thoroughly and do not plan to re-use for 72 hours.
2. Clubhouse Access	<p>Options listed most severe first:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clubhouse to remain closed. b. Only allow access to the disabled toilet by one person at a time in the clubhouse¹. c. Control numbers in the clubhouse and open areas and introduce a one-way system².

¹ control access by front door position – closed means clubhouse empty and one person may access, open means one person in the clubhouse, no further access until vacated.

² at any one time, no more than 1 in the race office, 3 in each of the changing rooms and 1 in the disabled toilet. Enter via main door and exit via side door. Avoid corridor congestion by communication. Control numbers by a coloured tally system at the front door – take the coloured tally appropriate to the area to be used on entry and replace after exiting – no spare tallies mean no more to enter.

	<p>d. In addition to 'c' above, include access to the clubroom (1st floor)³ excluding the galley.</p> <p>e. In addition to 'd' above, include galley access.</p>
3. Clubhouse hygiene	<p>a. Cleaning fluid and wipes to be provided in every area where access is permitted and members encouraged to wipe-down hard surfaces, switches, door & window handles, before & after use. Waste to be placed in a lined open bin.</p> <p>b. Hand sanitizer to be provided and members encouraged to use this before and after touching surfaces.</p> <p>c. Windows to be opened in occupied spaces.</p> <p>d. Members encouraged to use face coverings in confined spaces when practicable to protect others.</p> <p>e. Club cleaner to disinfect switches & door & window handles in addition to normal cleaning.</p>
4. Rigging, launching, recover of boats (not safety boats)	<p>a. Use dinghy park as well as carpark to rig to allow for social distancing.</p> <p>b. Maintain spacing on slipway and after launching, drag trolleys up the beach not the slipway (to permit a one-way system).</p> <p>c. Stand-off on recovery to avoid congestion.</p> <p>d. If help is needed beyond household members to haul boats up the slipway, household members and helper should be at opposite ends of the boat.</p> <p>e. Hose-off equipment thoroughly after use and queue with distancing for the hose. Provide buckets & washing-up liquid and sponges to decontaminate hard surfaces.</p>
5. Safety boat operations NB use of the safety boat will be constrained	<p>Options listed most severe first:</p> <p>a. Consider single crewing of safety boats but crew would need to be strong enough to recover a casualty single-handed in extremis and skilled enough to do a mast head lift from the driving seat.</p> <p>b. Consider household crewing of safety boats provided the requisite skills exist.</p> <p>c. Kitting/de-kitting of safety boat to be performed only by the crew. All equipment to be wiped thoroughly after use with soapy washing-up liquid before rinsing.</p>

³ numbers controlled by extra coloured tallies (10). Entry by main stairs, exit by sail store stairs, entry to other parts of club would require a fresh tally as per 'footnote 2'.

<p>by tide to allow social distancing while launching & recovering</p>	<p>d. Launching to be done by crew at rear side (s) of boat, a helper steering the jockey wheel and one or two 'brake' helpers using a long rope tied to the jockey wheel (helpers spaced 2 meters plus from each other).</p> <p>e. Recovery to be done with crew at stern, a helper winching then steering the jockey wheel and two helpers pulling a rope secured to the jockey wheel and spaced 2 meters plus.</p> <p>f. Mast head lifts to be the preferred option to assist with capsized recoveries.</p> <p>g. Any tows to be astern.</p> <p>h. Casualties to only be recovered to the safety boat when all other options have failed.</p>
<p>6. Additional safety measures on the water</p>	<p>a. Encourage members not to sail if conditions actual or forecast may mean they need external assistance.</p> <p>b. Encourage members to use masthead floats to reduce the chance of an inversion on capsized.</p> <p>c. Encourage members sailing unsupported to carry a means of summoning help and anchoring if necessary.</p> <p>d. During organised activities, a recall signal of 3 whistle blasts, possibly accompanied by pointing ashore, will be used to mean 'proceed ashore as soon as possible'.</p> <p>e. Brief (open air, spaced 2 metres plus between household groups) for organised activities, the limits of the sailing area and the recall signal.</p>
<p>7. Cruisers</p>	<p>Options listed most severe first:</p> <p>a. Access to cruisers restricted in line with continued constraints</p> <p>b. Access to cruisers by owners to undertake maintenance and preparation in line with social & physical distancing requirements wearing face coverings where appropriate; hygiene provisions in line with those for clubhouse (ie external electricity point, hose tap and bin etc).</p> <p>c. Permit preparation of moorings, dive works and crane in provided a Covid-19 secure working practice can be applied.</p>
<p>8. Controlling numbers</p>	<p>a. Apply any limits to numbers permitted to gather or participate for organised activities through on-line booking using the club calendar.</p>

Activities

10. The club activities encompass dinghy recreational sailing, dinghy racing, cruiser sailing and racing, coastal rowing, training and social. Additionally, individual members sail unsupported from the club. Supporting activities include boat maintenance (club and individual), grounds maintenance, building maintenance, mark maintenance and laying, moorings maintenance and cruiser craning. All these activities were suspended under SG legislation or guidance. Phase 1 has allowed unsupported sailing to resume provided members only travel locally, physically distance from everyone not in their household and only meet socially in the outdoors and then with only one other household; the clubhouse remains closed. Phase 1 has also allowed maintenance outdoors to resume under the same constraints as unsupported sailing and for the purposes of ground maintenance, the dinghy park and harbour area can be considered separate areas and could be worked upon by 2 groups.

Phases

11. From <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-phase-1-update/>

Protections advised in each phase:

Physical distancing requirements in place.

Frequent handwashing and hygiene measures for all.

Cough etiquette is maintained.

Face coverings in enclosed public spaces.

The table below summarises the relevant measures proposed in each phase:

Phase 1 (implemented 29 May)	Meeting up with another household outdoors , in small numbers (max 8) but with physical distancing required. Permitted to travel short distances for outdoor leisure and exercise but advice to stay within a short distance of your local community (broadly within 5 miles). Non-contact, outdoor activities in your local areas e.g. golf, hiking, canoeing, outdoor swimming, angling.
Phase 2	Able to meet with larger groups including family and friends outside with physical distancing. Meeting people from another household indoors with physical distancing and hygiene measures. People are permitted to drive locally for leisure purposes. Reopening of sports courts.
Phase 3	Able to meet with people from more than one household indoors with physical distancing and hygiene measures. Can drive beyond local area for leisure and exercise purposes. Gyms open subject to physical distancing and hygiene measures. People can meet in extended groups subject to physical distancing.
Phase 4	Physical distancing requirements to be updated on scientific advice. Further relaxation on restrictions on gatherings. Further relaxation of restrictions on live events in line with public health advice (sport & leisure). Mass gatherings resume in line with public health advice.

12. The table below attempts to analyse what further activities may be allowed per phase based on the issued SG guidance. There are no timescales for implementation beyond Phase 1 and the SG has indicated that activities may be staged within phases. Furthermore, RYAS guidance may place additional restrictions or requirements above those of the SG. For activities supported by a safety boat, members will need to sign a declaration accepting that physical distancing may not be possible in some rescue situations.

Activity	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4 ⁴
Unsupported sailing* (dinghy or cruiser) *ie not a club organised activity and without safety cover and no club access before Phase 3 or 4.	Yes, provided boats sailed single handed or crewed by one household or 2 households if physical distancing is possible. Only open to those travelling locally. Gatherings limited to 2 households (outdoors only).	As per Phase 1 except gathering size may be relaxed.	As per Phase 2 except travelling distance relaxed.	As per Phase 3 except larger gatherings will be permitted (with physical distancing).
Club Recreational Sailing	No (limit on groups meeting).	Will depend on clarification of larger groups. Would require either single crewing of safety boat or household crewing (and the same for	Probably OK for single handed or household crewed dinghies depending upon how extended groups are defined (may require	OK for single handed or household crewed dinghies (may still require control of total numbers). Safety boat crewing as per Phase 2. Access to clubhouse will

⁴ The SG has stated 'physical distancing requirements to be updated on scientific advice' in Phase 4 and if the '2 metre rule' is relaxed, we will need to review all activities.

		sailing dinghies). Would be only open to those travelling 'locally'. Not practical to open changing rooms.	control of total numbers). Safety boat crewing as per Phase 2. Probably possible to reopen changing rooms with control of numbers and enhanced hygiene.	probably still be subject to control. Enhanced hygiene still applies.
Dinghy Racing	No (limit on groups meeting).	Will depend on clarification of larger groups. Would require either single crewing of safety boat or household crewing (and the same for sailing dinghies). Would be only open to those travelling 'locally'. Not practical to open changing rooms.	Probably OK for single handed or household crewed dinghies depending upon how extended groups are defined (may require control of total numbers). Safety boat crewing as per Phase 2. Probably possible to reopen changing rooms with control of numbers and enhanced hygiene.	OK for single handed or household crewed dinghies (may still require control of total numbers). Safety boat crewing as per Phase 2. Access to clubhouse will probably still be subject to control. Enhanced hygiene still applies.
Cruiser on-the-water group activities	As per Unsupported sailing entry.	Will depend on clarification of larger groups. Would be only open to those travelling 'locally'. Not practical to open changing rooms.	Probably OK provided boats sailed single handed or crewed by one household or 2 households if physical distancing is possible. May require control of	OK provided boats sailed single handed or crewed by one household or 2 households if physical distancing is possible. May still require control of total numbers. Water taxis not possible.

			total numbers. Water taxis not possible. Probably possible to reopen changing rooms with control of numbers and enhanced hygiene.	Access to clubhouse will probably still be subject to control. Enhanced hygiene still applies.
Coastal Rowing	No unless skiff can be crewed by one household. Only open to those travelling locally.	No unless skiff can be crewed by one household. Only open to those travelling locally.	No unless skiff can be crewed by one household.	No unless skiff can be crewed by one household.
Dinghy practical training.	No (limit on groups meeting).	Unlikely (group size limited, travel limited).	Limited training may be possible but not for beginners. Safety boat would require household crewing with at least one instructor onboard. Students would need to rig/launch/de-rig either unassisted or as a household. Probably possible to reopen changing rooms with control of numbers and enhanced hygiene.	As per Phase 3.

Moorings Preparation ⁵	Shore-based preparation of moorings possible provided physical distancing maintained.	As per Phase 1.	Laying of moorings may be possible (diver work) if a physical distancing protocol can be developed.	As per Phase 3.
Craning ⁶	No (limit on groups meeting and travel restrictions).	No (possible limit on groups meeting and travel restrictions).	Yes, but only provided physical distancing can be maintained including fitting masts.	As per Phase 3.

13. As the SG ease restrictions, the Covid-19 focus group should consider which activities could be re-instated and under which controls from the table at 9. The focus group will need to meet by Zoom. The focus group should then draft a message to members for approval and release by the committee.

Communicating with Members

14. Dutyman mailer is the preferred method for communicating with most members and any message approved at 11 above, should be released by this method. It can also be repeated on the club website and posted to the two club Facebook Groups.

Richard Jenner

On behalf of the Covid-19 Focus Group

Attached:

Chanonry Sailing Club resumption of activities action list

⁵ Following consultation with moorings holders, the Committee decided on 15 June that the moorings will not be re-instated in 2020.

⁶ Following consultation with owners of cruisers on the hard, the Committee decided on 15 June not to crane-in in 2020.