



General Guidance for boating activity for Phase 1

Key notes from The Scottish Governments Routemap for Phase 1 which apply to all boating activities:

Phase 1 is an extension to exercise

Some sporting activities can now be undertaken outdoors, providing all activity is consistent with current Scottish Government guidance on health, physical distancing and hygiene.

Physical distancing requirements are still in place

People must stay a minimum distance of 2 meters apart when meeting others from outside their household.

Travel is still restricted.

You are permitted to travel short distances for outdoor leisure and exercise but strongly advised to stay within a short distance of your local community (broadly within 5 miles) and travel by walk, wheel or cycle where possible.

Meeting others is limited

You may meet up with another household outdoors in small numbers, less than 8, but with physical distancing required and only meet with one other household per day.

You may not meet up with others indoors.

No public gatherings are permitted

Except for meetings of two households which must be outdoors, less than 8 in number and with physical distancing.

General RYA principles applying to all boating activity:

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 Scottish Government guidelines

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

Additionally:

- Individuals should only sail singly or as a crew with members of their household group.
- Boating activity must be local to the household with the point of leaving (Club / marina / beach / loch etc) accessible within the current transport restrictions. Local means within about 5 miles with access preferably being on foot or by bike.
- Individuals or household groups should use only their own equipment and arrive at their point of leaving ready to go afloat.
- Participants must only take to the water in conditions well within their ability and which assume a self-sufficient approach to their activity.
- Check your equipment thoroughly, particularly engines and fuel, as they may not have been used for some time.
- Consider using a device to keep in touch such as [RYA SafeTRX](#) on a mobile or carry a VHF and notifying someone ashore of your intended activity, anticipated time afloat and calling them when you are back ashore safely.

Specific guidance for types of boating in Phase 1

Dinghy sailing including dinghy cruising:

Physical distancing applies to arriving, rigging, launching and recovery.

There will be no facilities for changing/showering or toileting so arrive ready to go afloat.

You may only sail on your own or with members of your own household as crew.

You must return to your point of leaving on the same day of departure – no overnight stops.

Check your boat over thoroughly – it has not been used for some time.

We recommend sailing in a buddy system to ensure safety but be mindful of physical distancing.

Yacht Sailing/ Motor Boating (Cruising / Canal boating):

Physical distancing applies to all activities of arriving, rowing out / walking along pontoons.

You should only sail with members of your own household as crew; do not sail on your own if you are not an experienced single-handed sailor.

You must return to your point of leaving on the same day of departure – no overnight stops.

You may anchor for a break, for example lunch, but must not go ashore as this will break the 5 mile rule and could put communities at risk.

Owners of canal-based boats should read the current Scottish Canals advice

(<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/news/coronavirus-update/>). Boats movements are not permitted in this phase.

Check your boat over thoroughly – it has not been used for some time.

Pay particular attention to your engine and fuel system.

Club / Marina / Mooring providers:

Be aware that your club, marina or mooring provider is trying to provide you and their staff with a safe environment that is Covid secure. They may not be ready to give access to members or customers yet. Contact your provider to find out if they are open and what measures they will require of you.

There will be no club or marina facilities for changing/showering or toileting so arrive ready to go afloat.

Do not pump toilets directly into marinas.

Be aware that moorings may not have had annual servicing checks completed.

Powerboating (RIBS / Sports boats / PWCs)

Physical distancing applies to arriving, setting up, launching and recovery.

There will be no club facilities for changing/showering or toileting so arrive ready to go afloat.

You may only set out / ride with members of your own household as crew/passengers.

You must return to your point of leaving on the same day of departure – no overnight stops.

You may anchor for a break, for example lunch, but must not go ashore as this will break the 5 mile rule.

Check your boat/PWC over thoroughly – it has not been used for some time.

Pay particular attention to your engine and fuel system. Use fresh fuel.

We recommend going out in a buddy system to ensure safety but be mindful of physical distancing.

Windsurfing:

Physical distancing applies to arriving, rigging, launching and recovery.

There will be no club facilities for changing/showering or toileting so arrive ready to go afloat.

Check your kit thoroughly especially UJs and fin heads.

If sailing off a beach – be mindful of other beach users and the need to maintain physical distancing.

Stick to what you can do confidently – now is not the time to learn to loop.

We recommend going out in a buddy system to ensure safety but be mindful of physical distancing.