

FFSC COVID-19 Operating Procedures

Disclaimer

Whilst FFSC continues to make every effort to comply with both the letter and the spirit of government guidance, members must accept that they attend the site, and sail, at their own volition and risk. FFSC will not be liable for any illness or other impairment arising from Covid-19 infection.

General precautions to ensure the safety of yourself, other club members and the general public

Below are links to latest Government guidelines on social distancing and staying safe. Please take the time to ensure you are absolutely familiar with them before visiting the Club site.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home>

If you are unwell with the symptoms of Covid-19 do not attend the Club.

If you have had contact with a family or household member who is unwell with the symptoms of Covid-19 do not attend the Club for a minimum of 14 days.

- Wash or sanitise your hands after touching common surfaces – and always after coughing, sneezing and before and after arriving and leaving the Club. Hand sanitiser is available at various points around the club when open.
- Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, and avoid touching your face, nose and eyes.
- Keep your distance and avoid being face to face with people from outside your household.
- Maintain the two metre rule and the limit on gatherings of up to 6 people
- Do not share water bottles or food with people from outside your own household

You are advised to bring some disposable gloves with you and use them if touching common surfaces. Also consider bringing a first aid kit with you so you can attend to minor cuts and injuries yourself.

Arrival and Parking

We are fortunate to have a large site so parking even with the current restrictions should not be a problem. But please make sure you park well apart from the next car, sufficient to ensure social distancing when getting in or out of your vehicle. Consider parking in the car park across the road if the dinghy park is full.

Rigging and access to the water

Adhere to the social distancing principle of 2 metres separation. If somebody in the adjacent boat space is rigging their boat at the same time, come to an arrangement with them whereby you can both do this safely. At this time the Government guidance to be followed allows groups of up to six people, adhering to the 2 metre separation guideline. Larger gatherings are not permitted and this must be observed in the dinghy park.

When launching be sure to adhere to the 2 metre separation guidelines. Remain away from the slipway/ramp until the person in front has sufficiently far away, has moved down the shore (low tide) or has returned their trolley to top and is afloat. Do not stack trollies on top on each other.

As a guiding principle you should avoid touching other persons' boats or trollies at any time. If you have to do so, e.g. to help somebody launch where otherwise it would be impossible for them to do so, wash your hands (or gloves) immediately afterwards. Avoid queueing on slipways and do not park trollies for others unless it is unavoidable.

The Clubhouse is closed

There is no access to the clubhouse or its facilities. This includes toilets and changing rooms. When the club reopens the one way system devised to maintain social distancing must be used. The upstairs area is out of bounds. The Club and club toilets are locked and not available, however, the public toilets are open

There will be no facility for changing on site. You should arrive ready changed or change in your car. You may want to invest in a dry robe or similar.

There is no access to the container or classroom except for those volunteers managing the activity.

Sailing

- Social distancing: maintain the two metre rule
- Respect the guidance on gatherings, which says you may now meet in groups of up to six. This applies both on the water and off the water.
- Personal hygiene: use the sanitisers as provided. Bring your own tools. Do not share anything. You may wish to use personal disposable gloves.
- Those competing in club racing should [pre-enter online](#). This is a one off entry. Boats in the start area at time of start will be automatically entered.

On the water

Single-handed sailing, or sailing in the same boat by persons living together in the same household or within the same support bubble, is permitted.

Beyond that double handed sailing may be possible in accordance with the following:

As a Club our policy is to follow Government and RYA guidance. The Government has published revised guidance on social distancing to take effect from 4 July, recognising that 2m separation may be decreased to 1m in certain circumstances and where appropriate mitigating measures are adopted. The RYA have issued a guidance note on double handed sailing. In the light of these developments the Club's revised policy is as follows:

Double handed boats sailed at FFSC come in many shapes and sizes and it is not appropriate for the Club to issue blanket guidance covering all. Double handed sailing is clearly consistent with Government guidance for those living in the same household or within the same support bubble. In other cases individuals will need to make their own judgements as to whether they can sail their boat in a way that is compliant with Government guidance. Before making a decision to sail together we would expect individuals to have considered all the issues concerned, and be in a position to justify their actions if challenged. For help the full RYA guidance note of 30 June is set out below:

Is it appropriate for people from different households to sail together in the same dinghy or keelboat?

The Government is trusting people to continue to act responsibly, and follow the guidance on what they should and should not do. Therefore, participants will have to make their own decisions on whether they can sail their dinghy or keelboat whilst maintaining adequate social distancing. The current guidance, which is to maintain 2m social distancing, would make it impossible for two people from different households to sail most dinghies and small keelboats. It may well be possible in larger keelboats if extra care is taken. From the 4th July social distancing remains at 2 metres unless you use mitigating measures which will allow a reduction to 1 metre plus. On a boat, these mitigations could include (in addition to being outdoors) 1m separation marks on the deck, wearing gloves or face coverings, avoiding face to face contact, cleaning procedures etc. The risk should be assessed case by case and from the 4th July, with the correct mitigation in place, it may be possible for 2 people from different households to sail certain dinghies and small keelboats. As an example, a risk assessment may deem the risk to be low enough in a trapeze dinghy in strong winds, but too high in a 2 person hiking boat where the crew sit side by side for prolonged periods of time. Similarly it may be easier to manage the risk when not under the pressure of racing.

In addition, where a particular class has issued guidance specific to that class, we would expect individuals to adhere to this guidance.

Support Patrol Cover

We will not be providing Safety cover but Support Patrol Boats will be on the water for club organised activities but the service they are expected to provide is extremely limited. Patrol boat tasks are primarily limited to capsize recovery and towing to the shore. In the event of emergency, priority will be given to people over boats/equipment. Only go on the water if your sailing skills are of a self-sufficient standard i.e. you are able to right your boat unaided and return to the shore under the prevailing weather conditions on the day.

Consider using your own VHF radio to make contact with the Patrol Boats, on channel 37A. This should be a VHF marine radio.

The Patrol Boat Team or Activity Organiser is entitled to impose limits based upon people's level of skill which will vary according to weather conditions; these limits will be applied more conservatively than usual. It is suggested that boats that normally are crewed by two, when sailed single-handed use mast head floats.

Use of Patrol Boats

RIBs are currently only in use by the Patrol Boat Team and specific drivers who have been given additional training. Boats are left for 3 days and/or sprayed with disinfectant before/after use.

Patrol boat drivers should socially distance, wear the provided masks and make use of the hand sanitiser provided on the boat. A supply of masks and hand sanitiser is available in the rib cupboard in the classroom.

Private Sailing

Boats should maintain two metres distance on the water. Be careful of people hiking or out on the trapeze especially when crossing tacks.

Club Boats

- A limited number of club boats are available for hire
- 2x Dart 16, 1x Laser 2000
- Boats are to be booked at least 24 hours in advanced by contacting sailing@ffsc.co.uk
- Invoices will be sent via email and can be paid online.
- Club boats must not be used in greater than 14 knots with gusts of 20 knots.