

Policy & Arrangements for Running Covid-Secure Racing at FFSC

Statement of FFSC General Policy

The health and safety of the club's members, volunteers, and staff should be the number one priority at all times. All necessary measures should be taken to be Covid-secure and reduce the risk of infection in accordance with current Government guidance.

Policy

The purpose of this Racing Policy is to define the basis upon which COVID-19 secure racing at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club (FFSC) will be available.

The arrangements described below are based on the published 'Guidance for the public on the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation in England' (updated 3 Jul 2020). When those guidelines are amended this Policy will be reviewed.

The Policy maintains FFSC position that members should 'be considerate' and 'be conservative':

- Observe Social Distancing of 2 metres
- Only sail on your own, or with members of your household/social bubble
- Take personal responsibility and plan to be self-sufficient, including taking a phone or VHF radio afloat with which to contact the emergency services or a relative
- Use common sense and courtesy
- All HSE advice regarding hygiene must be observed

Responsibility

FFSC will arrange the racing in a way that maintains the requirements for social distancing and provides for the health and welfare of the race official(s) and competitors.

Health & Welfare

Nothing in this Policy should be interpreted as encouraging members to sail with people who are not from their household.

The Race Officer (RO) and Crows Nest Team should arrange their Race Management tasks so as to allow them to operate without the need to share of equipment. PPE of Hand sanitizer, Surface Sanitizer, Gloves and Masks will be provided to those volunteers.

Members wishing to speak to the RO/Crows Nest Team must wait outside at the front of the Crows Nest until the RO responds to their hail.

If the sailing conditions are such that, in the opinion of the Race Officer, the probability of boats requiring assistance has become unacceptably high, racing will be cancelled or abandoned.

Racing will be started and monitored from the Crows Nest, and the start flag sequence will follow standard procedure. The Course be displayed on the whiteboard in front of the portacabin classroom, but competitors must not approach closer than 2 meters, and must not touch this board in any circumstances.

Access to the race board must be under socially distanced 2m guidance. It is recommended a one-way system to view the board is maintained. Walking down the road, past the club entrance to the board outside Riverside and then once read return to the dinghy park along the river and over the ramp

Provision of Patrol Boats

To give more members the confidence to come racing we have resumed volunteering for Patrol Boats. We believe we can achieve the guideline 1m+ distancing with guidelines for both members of the Patrol Boat, Tractor Driver and launch assistants to stay safe and with robust sanitisation.

However, if rostered volunteers have concerns about this we will make other arrangements on the day.

Racers please note that as there is neither a guarantee that assistance can be rendered to any competitor in need, nor an acceptance of any responsibility for rescue of competitors. The primary tasks carried out by the Patrol boat will be capsized recovery and towing to shore.

Format of Racing

Racing is for Members only. To avoid gatherings and assist with social distancing there is electronic signing on via an online form. Boats approaching the start area at their start time will be designated as starters.

You must remain in the dinghy park until you are ready to go racing. Do not go onto the road or enter the launch area unless launching.

When you have finished racing, be considerate and do not approach the slipway unless you can see that there is a sufficient space to land and recover your boat. There is a 5 boat limit on both club and public slipways. If this looks to be at capacity, you will need to abort your landing and return when it is clear.

As soon as you have landed and dropped your sails, please immediately return to the dinghy park and your space. Do not leave boats on the slipway unattended and please take particular care when crossing the footpath for members of the public.

Single handed small double handers that do not have a single-handed handicap may be acceptable on approval of the sailing committee – sailing@ffsc.co.uk