

## **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 '**Coronavirus (COVID-19): grassroots sports guidance for the public and sport providers**' (updated 23rd March 2021). 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
- Where not sailing on your own, or with members of your household crews should follow the guidelines set out in [RYA Guidance on sailing & racing with participants from different households during COVID-19 in England, updated 26th March 2021](#).
- 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 their Team should arrange their Race Management tasks so as to allow them to operate without the need to share equipment. PPE of Hand sanitizer, Surface Sanitizer, Gloves and Masks will be provided to those volunteers.

The RO & team should be kept to the minimum number of people required to run the event. Where possible the RO team should be from the same household or bubble. Social distancing should be observed in the crows nest and windows kept open.

Members wishing to speak to the RO/ Team must wait outside at the front of the Crows Nest until the RO responds to their hail. *(Not applicable for club open events – see event specific guidance).*

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.

## 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 and approved Day Sailing only.

To avoid gatherings and assist with social distancing there is electronic signing on via an online form. If you are unable to sign in online you may notify the crows nest of your intention to race by communicating through the window on the front of the crows nest. For club racing boats approaching the start area at their start time will be designated as starters. *(Not applicable for club open events – see event specific guidance).*

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](mailto:sailing@ffsc.co.uk)

**RETURN TO BOATING**

**BE CONSIDERATE**

Avoid placing extra strain on the RNLI and emergency services:

-  Consider the impact of your boating
-  Be mindful of others on the water or beach
-  Watch and be ready to assist others if needed

**BE CONSERVATIVE**

Minimise risk in our approach to boating:

-  Know our limits
-  Prepare before getting out on the water
-  Keep in touch