

MARS Mid Argyll Radio Sailing

COVID-19 Policy

Introduction

Covid-19 is here for the foreseeable future and as a club we need to do everything we can to ensure that members keep safe and to minimise the transmission of the virus whilst enjoying radio sailing. It is the responsibility of the Club and individual members to ensure that they comply with the prevailing laws and regulations in the country and local area. The Club have carried out risk assessments which state control measures to reduce risk. These control measures must be followed by all members. The situation with regard to Covid-19 changes rapidly, and updates and amendments may be needed in future. Members are to ensure they remain up to date with the latest advice.

Background

The RYA legal team have advised that as Radio and Free Sailing is an integral part of the sport of sailing, the MYA (Model Yachting Association) is able to rely on the exemption that applies to recreational sports throughout the whole of the UK. <https://mya-uk.org.uk/mya-guidance-for-the-resumption-of-competitive-radio-and-free-sailing/> This link is to an MYA webpage which has a link to the document.

Members need to be aware that if there is an instance where there is an insurance claim against the club due to someone contracting COVID-19 through the decision of the club to resume sailing and any part of that process is deemed to be outside of the government law/regulations, then the MYA third party insurance policy may be invalid.

Safety Measures

Any member who has COVID-19 symptoms or a household member with symptoms or is self-isolating, should not attend radio sailing.

Radio sailing is an outside sport but social distancing of 2m with non-household members, must be followed. However, when sailing members should have their pitches 3m apart, in accordance with guidance from MYA Scotland. This is because members tend to be in a more vulnerable group and it is easy to lose concentration on distancing when focusing on sailing. Members must stand, or sit on their own seat, at their place throughout the duration of a race or during practice.

Any sheltering from the weather must be in members' vehicles not under cover.

If there are occasions when two people need to be closer than 2m to carry out a brief activity, such as to launch a large boat, then additional precautions should be followed and participants should wear face masks.

Hygiene measures need to be followed on all shared hard surfaces such as hand rails. Equipment should not be shared and if it is unavoidable then it must be sanitised between users. Members should wash their hands before leaving home and on their return. Members should bring their own hand sanitiser, disinfectant spray and face mask. Cough etiquette (using a tissue or the crook of the arm) should be followed.

It is required that the club maintains a record for 21 days of all participants and their contact details (in much the same way that pubs and restaurants do) in case this is required for contact tracing in the event of a case of the virus. Therefore, all members going radio sailing at Loch a Bharain must afterwards email the secretary secretary@midargyllradiosailing.org.uk with their name, contact phone number and the time of arrival and departure at the Loch. If asked for contacts following a positive COVID-19 test then the member can tell the NHS Scotland contact tracing team to get in touch with the Secretary who will provide details of when and who was present on a particular date.

The attached risk assessment is important and the control measures must be followed.

In summary:

Bring hand and surfaces sanitiser to the loch.

Wash or sanitise your hands frequently and before and after touching anything which is not your own or when someone else has touched your equipment.

Sanitise things like the pontoon railings, safety boat and oars before using. Sanitise equipment eg your boat if it's been in contact with other surfaces such as the pontoon.

Observe distancing of 2 metres or 3 metres if sailing. If, briefly, you need to be within 2 metres of another, wear a face covering.

It's hard to observe the rules but try hard. Think, be aware.

Email the secretary when you have been sailing.

Let's try and have fun!