



# Model Boat Association Dover COVID-19 Policy

The following MBA Dover policy applies to **all** club members participating in Model Boating or Radio Sailing activities, either Social or Club organised, on the Boating Lake at Kearsney Abbey, Dover. This policy is not intended to replace current Government & National Body Covid-19 **Guidance**, but to complement it and give a framework of how it should be applied when Model Boating or Radio Sailing at Kearsney Abbey, to ensure it remains a “Covid Secure” activity

## 1. Prior to all Sailing Activities

- a) Check for symptoms of COVID-19 before travelling to Kearsney Abbey. In line with current Government **Guidance**, if an individual is symptomatic and/or living in a household with a possible COVID-19 infection, they must remain at home and follow current Government **Guidance**. In addition, anybody who has been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace because they are a contact of a known COVID-19 case, must not exercise outside their home or garden and must not exercise with others and must therefore also not travel / attend
- b) Follow Government **Guidance** on best practice for travel, including minimising the use of public transport and avoiding car sharing
- c) Comply with all public health restrictions and avoid high risk behaviour outside of the sailing setting to reduce the risk to their fellow members when they do attend at Kearsney Abbey
- d) Personal hygiene measures (such as hand washing) must be carried out at home before and after sailing activity and regularly whilst sailing using proprietary wash and sanitise all-in-one products that do not use water
- e) Bring your own hand sanitiser and maintain strict and frequent hand hygiene measures at all times
- f) Personal Rubbish & Litter should be taken home for safe disposal. Use rubbish bins provided around the park as a last resort
- g) Enter Kearsney Abbey and prepare boats whilst maintaining social distancing.
- h) Ensure all equipment and boats are in good working order and batteries fully charged before attending an event to reduce the risk of break down and need for recovery from the lake
- i) Be prepared to carry or have a small trolley to transport personnel equipment and boats to the sailing area
- j) Be aware of the current maximum number of people that can meet in public parks, in line with current Government **Guidance**. Be prepared to leave if your presence in the group then exceeds this number.
- k) For club organised events a maximum number of members able to attend will be published ahead of the event, in line with current Government and National Body **Guidance**, as this, under certain circumstances, could be greater than for ad hoc “Social Sailing” e.g. if a members only “compound” or “sailing control area” is put in place. This area would separate club members from the public in the park and allow for social distancing to be maintained for the maximum number of members that could attend.



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- l) Prior to any organised event a Club representative must make all participants aware of:
  - Expected social distancing to be used before, during and after the event together with potential hygiene measures to follow.
  - Make all participants aware of the increase in transmission risk associated with partaking in even socially distanced sailing activity. They must ensure that all participants are clear they are opting into participating in this activity at their own risk.
  - Maximum event duration will be specified to limit social interaction times.

## 2. Storage and Use of Club Equipment

- a) Club storage areas must only be accessed, and equipment moved outside by one person at a time unless they are from the same household.
- b) Club storage area doors must remain open while the area is being accessed and/or occupied to increase ventilation
- c) Anyone handling club equipment must sanitise their hands prior to and after handling it. Where possible small pieces of equipment should only be handled by one person throughout their use at an event (marks, start timers, clipboards and writing implements).
- d) Boats that require two persons to lift into or out of the water may be used as long as each person sanitises their hands before and after handling the boat, minimising their time in close contact. Consideration should be given to the additional use of gloves and where 2m social distancing cannot be achieved, wearing face coverings for this activity.
- e) After each event all stored club equipment must be left for 72hrs before being used again.
- f) At "Club" organised events and within the club storage areas, Hand Sanitiser, Cleaning Wipes and Gloves will be available to supplement members own personal hygiene products

## 3. During All Sailing Activities

- a) Be considerate of other club members and the public using the park
- b) Shouting is actively discouraged due to the increased droplet transmission it generates
- c) It is recommended that sailors must not share equipment (boats and transmitters etc.). If they do, they must practise strict hand hygiene before and after use and the equipment must be cleaned before use by another person.
- d) Maintain 2m Social Distancing measures were possible, 1m+ with extra precautions (wearing of face masks, all facing the same direction, not face to face, etc for short periods of time only)



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- e) If a “Sailing Control Area” has been established, ensure you remain within the designated area whilst sailing and have all your personal equipment with you within the area.
- f) If required, boat repairs must be undertaken whilst following social distancing measures, using their own tools and equipment or if borrowed with all tools or equipment sanitised before and after use.
- g) Competition start countdowns should be limited to 1 minute to keep close social interaction times to a minimum. Competitors should all be facing the water during the competition start period “countdown”.
- h) Hand sanitiser must be used at all breaks in sailing and prior to consuming any food or drinks
- i) If at any time during an organised event, the club officer in charge, feels that members are not following the requirements of this policy or current Government **Guidance** the individual(s) will be requested to leave or the event will be immediately Cancelled

## 4. After All Sailing Activities

- a) All participants must sanitise their hands after the completion of sailing
- b) Participants must leave the site whilst maintaining social distancing
- c) Social gathering after the activity must only be undertaken in line with current Government Guidelines and social distancing must be maintained
- d) Participants are encouraged to report any post event infection within their household to both a Club representative and the NHS Test and Trace system to limit the spread of the virus
- e) Club records of all those attending organised events must include those competing and any other members present helping to run the event. This information must be held for 21 days and made available to NHS Test & Trace when requested

*Notes: “Radio Yacht Sailing”, is classified as part of the sport of sailing and is therefore able to rely on the Government **Guidance** exemptions that apply to “Recreational Sports” throughout the whole of the UK to operate under. Consideration to public perception of these activities should be given when operating in a public park.*

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