

Shearwater Sailing Club Covid – 19 Instructions to Members – 29 March 2021

These Instructions are for the initial return to sailing at Shearwater. They will be revised and reissued by the Club if the Shearwater Committee determines that changes to Government Policy and RYA advice permits a return to racing and a relaxation of some of the measures. The Committee have a responsibility to work with you, to ensure as far as possible a safe environment, to start to enjoy our sport. Before travelling you should take account of the latest government guidance on Covid-19 and social distancing.

Personal Responsibility

You must be free from Covid symptoms and completed self- isolation if required. You must be competent and physically able to sail, recover yourself from a capsized or gear failure and get back to shore. It is your responsibility to assess the conditions, sail within your limitations and reduce the risk of needing to call for help. A safety boat may be provided. Do not travel if you are in any doubt. In terms of the decision to sail, be particularly cautious to avoid putting unnecessary additional pressure on other Club members. No sailing will be permitted at the Club if wind gusts exceed 20 knots. Wherever possible cancellation of sailing because of excessive wind speed will be shown on WhatsApp and the Shearwater Sailing Club Facebook page but please check weather forecasts before you travel. You must wear a life jacket when on the water.

You are responsible for keeping up to date with the following:

Government Policy

Specific RYA advice in relation to Covid 19: Guidelines on the RYA website

You should take account of general RYA advice on the RYA Website; Know your limits; look after yourself; keep in touch and, above all, have a plan and their practical advice on detailed preparation before sailing: in particular boats prone to inversion should consider the use of masthead floats, and you may wish to carry a paddle on board so you can get to the shore if you experience a problem.

Any Covid-19 Instructions issued to Members by Shearwater Sailing Club on the Club Website

Who can come to the club? We must avoid overcrowding the club grounds, so:

Only come to the club if you are a 2021 member. No guests are permitted.

Only come to the club to sail if you have successfully pre-booked a time to sail. There will be five types of booking Each is for a Club member not a boat. The categories are OOD Duties, Racing, Racing with Club Boat, Social Sailing Own Boat, Social Sailing Club Boat. For racing there are no limits to the numbers participating. A total of six members may social sail at any one time. There are separate bookings for Sunday AM 10am to 1230am and Sunday 1PM to 4PM. For social sailing there are two boats available on Sunday AM and PM and each may be booked for a crew of up to two. Please ensure you have booked by 6pm Saturday for Sunday sailing.

The barrier at the entrance to the Lake is locked. The member on duty will have a key that will enable him/her to let in members who have booked in. The gate will be open from 10 to 1030, 1230 to 1300 and 1600 to 1630 on Sundays. Of course the leaving time can be changed if everyone wants to go earlier/later. Members can walk through when the barrier is closed.

If all the slots are taken do not come on the off chance that someone does not turn up; you will not be able to sail.

Before you travel: bring hand sanitiser and gloves, and any food/water you may need. Do not plan to arrive at the Club ahead of your booked slot. Leave promptly at the end of your booked session.

At Shearwater:

Change into your kit prior to travelling if you live locally or change in your vehicle. There are no changing facilities as the clubhouse is closed except in an emergency or use for the toilets.

The gear for the Club-owned boats will be kept in the main Club house room and the key in the usual place.

There will be no shower or catering facilities as the clubhouse will be shut. If you have to use the toilets be aware that they have not been sanitised. Ensure that you wash or sanitise your hands after touching anything in the Clubhouse. There are paper towels and soap in the toilets and hand sanitiser in the main room. If you need to access the gear for the Club boats in the Club house please arrange for their issue by the Officer of the Day.

The First Aid kit in the Clubhouse will contain gloves, face mask and sanitiser for use when giving first aid.

Where possible avoid touching anything that might have been touched by other Club members or the general public. Ensure that if you have to touch anything that may represent a risk you use gloves and use hand sanitiser afterwards.

Only launch one boat from the slip and only one boat crew on the jetty at any one time. As far as possible rig boats in the boat park.

The safety boat has a masks and gloves in the white storage pot. If you have to take a sailor/sailors on board they and you must wear masks.

Only members from the same household may share a boat.

Maintain social distancing at all times. It is your responsibility to follow the Government's policies and conduct your own risk assessment.

Members on Duty must check the weather forecast and issue a cancellation if the wind gust forecast exceeds 20 knots via Shearwater Facebook Page and/or WhatsApp. The cancellation message should be issued on Saturday evening based on the Met Office Forecast for 8PM for Sunday sailing. The OOD has the right to cancel sailing on the day if the wind is stronger than forecast. On sailing days the OOD should check who has pre-booked for sailing and open the barrier at the designated times to let them in and out. Please ensure that the barrier is not left unlocked and unmanned. If Club boats have been booked please issue the gear in the main Clubhouse and the key to unlock the boat locks.