Commencement of Club Racing at RCYC/RBYC from July 2020

It is proposed to start club class racing shortly, subject of course to the restraints of the law, government and RYA guidance. The first races will be an experiment to see what can be achieved and the arrangements will be reviewed regularly and may therefore change. Competitors are asked to race sensibly and responsibly so as to stop the possible spread of the corona virus. All skippers should ensure that their crews are made aware of amended Sailing Instructions and this document which will be published on each club's website.

Following guidance from the government and the RYA, it seems clear that outdoor sailboat racing is allowed subject to compliance with the rules on social distancing and group gatherings. The following is applicable for club class racing:

1. Anyone who is unwell with the symptoms of Covid-19 should avoid attending the club or racing.
2. Social Distancing and mitigating measures. Boat crews (other than those from the same household) are advised to continue to stay two metres apart. If this is not possible, a distance of at least one metre (1m+) should be observed, provided the risk of infection is mitigated by taking other precautions, such as: avoiding being face-to-face with people outside of your household, by use of face coverings (i.e. masks and sunglasses), wearing sailing gloves and by not shouting. Social Distancing should take place on the ramp, pontoon, boat sheds, sail and mast stores, toilets, car park and dinghy park, unless persons are from the same household. Crews are advised not to share water bottles, food or sun creams and to avoid more than one person touching sailing equipment such as, sheets, winch handles, paddles, bailers etc. Competitors are to act sensibly and responsibly towards other competitors and third parties. For example, by hand and sailing gear washing, covering one's mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, keeping your distance and avoid being face to face with people outside your household.
3. Rescue facilities may be limited and, not wishing to avail ourselves of the help of others (including the RNLI), the race officer, in addition to his/her usual discretion, may consider imposing a wind speed restriction on club class racing of between 2 knots and a maximum of 15knots and/or gusts of 20 knots.
4. Safety rib crews have been instructed on social distancing and will not assist you, unless it's absolutely necessary.
5. The changing rooms (but not the toilets) are all currently unavailable, so please change either at home or in your cars. The Large RCYC boat shed can be used by RCYC members for changing as long as Social Distancing is maintained. Changing facilities may not be private.
6. Those wanting to use a launch to go to their mooring shall queue along the pontoon and observe Social Distancing. Members of the same household can queue together, otherwise people are to queue separately whilst at all times observing social distancing guidelines.
7. Whilst on shore, competitors are asked to avoid public gatherings of more than 30 people from separate households, e.g. in communal areas, the dinghy park or pontoon.

17th July 2020