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### 1. Overview

This guidance supersedes any preceding guidance during the period from 00:01 on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020. This is based upon guidance available to date, in the absence of legislation being published.

The NI Executive has clearly outlined the restrictions over this period are to help reduce the rate of infection (R rate). As a community, the RYANI fully supports the effort against COVID 19 and we would thank the boating community for doing their part in following the spirit of the regulations and guidance.

### 2. Our guidance

Covid-19 preventative measures are vital in keeping you, your family and others safe and to minimise pressure on frontline services. The RYA will continue to support the national effort to control the spread of Covid-19 and assist members of the RYA family with any variations that might develop at a local level. We support the Government's Winter Plan to return to normality in a measured way and we recognise that we have a role to play by providing guidance to the RYA community on the application of the 2020 regulations.

### 3. Our approach

Our guidance on safe boating remains unchanged: know your limits; look after yourself; keep in touch and, above all, have a plan; we advise boaters to think carefully about these factors.

As always, we should carefully consider the potential impact that we could have on other water users when we go afloat and ensure that we do not place any unnecessary strain on the RNLI, Independent Lifeboats and other emergency services. We can do this by helping to minimise risk and by taking an extra considerate approach to our boating.

#### 4. General guidance from NI executive

- The current advice is to **stay at home**.
- You should avoid all unnecessary travel.
- You are permitted to leave home for essential purposes, that includes outdoor exercise.
- Outdoor exercise is only permitted with members of your own household.
- The guidance below is specific to 2 time periods. These restrictions will be in place for 6 weeks and will be reviewed after 4 weeks

#### 5. From 26 December- 1 January (inclusive):

From 00:01 26 December to 1 January inclusive (ends at 00:01 on 2 Jan) the NI Executive has outlined:

- No sporting events permitted at all, even at elite level.
- Elite athletes permitted to train between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Outdoor sports and exercise facilities including activity centres, equestrian centres, Golf courses, marinas and venues relating to motor sport and water sport must close. Indoor sports and exercise facilities, including soft play areas, leisure centres, climbing facilities, rinks, gyms, swimming pools, equestrian centres and venues relating to sports activity must close.
- Outdoor exercise permitted only as an individual or with members of your own household.

#### 6. From 00:01 2 January 2021

- Outdoor gatherings for the purposes of exercise or sport are only permitted for elite athletes, for the purposes of P.E in or for schools, or if participants are members of the same household.
- Outdoor sports and exercise facilities including activity centres, equestrian centres, Golf courses, marinas and venues relating to motor sport and water sport must close.
- Indoor sport is only permitted for elite athletes or for P.E in, or for, schools.
- Indoor sports and exercise facilities, including soft play areas, leisure centres, climbing facilities, rinks, gyms, swimming pools, equestrian centres and venues relating to sports activity must close.
- Elite training and competition can continue, both indoors and outdoors. The definition of an elite athlete is set out in the Regulations.
- Spectators are not permitted at elite sporting events
- Only individual or household outdoor exercise is permitted. Physical activity such as walking, running, cycling, horse riding, or just walking the dog, bring many health benefits.
- You cannot participate in personal one-to-one training sessions or group activities such as running or cycling.

## 7. RYANI boating guidance

- Any self-organised activity should be undertaken as an individual (e.g. single-handed sailing or windsurfing) or in multi-handed craft only where members are from the same household, where access permits.
- All sports facilities (which includes yacht clubs, marinas and watersports centres) must close from 26<sup>th</sup> December.
- Individuals should check venue access to undertake any essential boat maintenance or to prepare boats for winter.
- You should not stay overnight other than at the place where you live, overnighting onboard is currently not acceptable, unless a) it is your main residence or b) in an emergency.
- School sport will be happening but only as part of organised school activity (apart from the period from 26<sup>th</sup> Dec- 1<sup>st</sup> Jan).
- Recreational and vocational shore-based courses can still run, however, this should be carried out virtually.
- There are continuing exemptions for elite athletes for them to train or compete - named RYANI High Performance Athletes may therefore continue to train under the outlined times from 26<sup>th</sup> Dec – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, and then from 2<sup>nd</sup> January onwards (without time restrictions).

## 8. Insurance

The RYA's advice to all our members is that you should check your insurance policy with your insurers no matter what the policy itself actually states, particularly if your policy pre-dates the Covid-19 pandemic measures and the latest restriction are preventing you from visiting your boat. Our understanding is that most insurers are willing to extend the period when boats are left unattended and we would be surprised if any insurer refused to extend this provision, although there is likely to be a condition that the vessel must have been adequately maintained prior to lockdown.

## 9. Further Information

Full guidance on the restrictions can be found on the NI Direct page [here](#).

The SportNI return to sport page can be found [here](#).

Further advice from RYA e.g. on entering and returning to the UK can be found [here](#)

## 10. RYANI Office

RYANI staff continue to work from home and certain aspects of RYANI activity have been curtailed with outlined restrictions in place. The RYANI office will be closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

*The above guidance to members is the RYANI's interpretation of the NI executive's position with regards to the new restrictions for Northern Ireland commencing 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Although we strive to ensure that all of the information is accurate and up-to-date, this cannot be guaranteed due to the developing and fast-moving situation. RYA members should review the Executive's full guidance themselves and follow the latest announcements at [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)*