

MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMODORE: NEW GUIDELINES PERMIT CAUTIOUS RETURN TO SAILING

TEMPORARY RULES APPLYING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MEMBERS ARE NATURALLY VERY KEEN to get back out onto the water as soon as it is safe to do so and as permitted by the authorities. Sailing and boating in the fresh sea air is most appealing right now but there are still obvious risks and gaps in even expert knowledge about the spread of this new virus.

Having taken into account the latest (11 May) guidance from central government, and further advice from the Royal Yachting Association and the RNLI, the club's Management and Sailing Committees have agreed that the following rules and guidance should apply during the first stage of emerging from lockdown, so with effect from Wednesday 13 May 2020:

All members visiting the club do so at their own risk and must practise social/physical distancing and high standards of hygiene - hand-washing, etc. And the clubhouse and balconies remain closed and out of bounds.

Boat and canoe berthing. Members with allocated berths who have still to occupy them are welcome to bring their boats to the club.

Members' own boats and canoes/kayaks. Members are free to visit the club's car park and boatpark to secure and maintain their vessels.

Sailing, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding and general boating. Members are free to use their own craft, provided that they are experienced and confident of performing their activity safely in the given conditions without club rescue cover, and that they:

- Go solo or in a family/household group only.

- Are prepared to change in the boat park or at home as the clubhouse and balconies remain closed and out of bounds.

- Wear buoyancy aids.

- Attach a masthead float if sailing a stayed monohull.

- Take their own water-protected mobile phone or radio in order to seek help in any emergency (999 or 112 for the Coastguard). Note that the NCI station on Peveril Point is currently unmanned.

- Should be aware that cold, damp, and smooth salty surfaces are likely to prolong survival of the virus, and therefore must not share or use any club or communal equipment.

- Avoid contact with common touchpoints and other members' craft and equipment.

- Maintain the 2-metre social/physical separation at all times.

- Have a painter and paddle on board.

- Ensure before attempting launch and getting afloat, that they are able to fully recover their vessel unaided at the end of their session.

- Leave a notice on the club door or on your launching trolley giving name(s) and activity plans, and let your family or friends know, too.

Subsequent stages. Your two committees are working on plans to enable a safe and responsible 'near-new normal' for all our members' sailing aspirations. We will keep you informed as the situation changes, and we thank all members for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times.

All members visiting the club do so at their own risk and must practise social/physical distancing and high standards of hygiene/hand-washing, etc.

Unfortunately, the clubhouse and balconies must remain closed for the time being.

Thank you

Howard Potter
Commodore, Swanage Sailing Club
13 May 2020