

# ROYAL TORBAY YACHT CLUB



## **Policy and Procedures for use of club RIBs for Recreational and Social Sailing during Coronavirus (Covid 19) pandemic.**

### **Scope**

This document sets out the club policy, procedures and guidance to be followed whilst the club is operating under Coronavirus (Covid 19) government restrictions and related guidance.

It covers availability and use of club RIBs, booking, recording and safe operation.

The policy is limited to the use of club RIBs to support informal recreational and social sailing as described in GOV.UK "Guidance for the public on the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation in England" updated May 25<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Further guidance for all other club on water activities will be issued as and when restrictions are further lifted and appropriate government and RYA guidance has been published.

### **Context**

Social Distancing is likely to remain as the main tool for reducing the spread of coronavirus for the immediate future, certainly for the summer sailing season.

Individual sailing (singlehanders) and two-handed or team sailing is now permitted as long as crew members are from the same household, 2m distance is maintained between groups and hygiene precautions are observed.

Government advice is that outdoor sports activities such as sailing have an inherently low risk of spreading the virus as long as social distancing measures are maintained.

There is understandably a widespread desire to re-start sailing at RTYC but this limited for now to individuals and household pairs/teams, participating in informal and self-organised activities.

The use of club ribs to support such activities is now permitted subject to the terms of this policy.

Mary Gurine remains unavailable for use for social distancing reasons.

Club building. The club is not yet open.

### **Local facilities.**

Harbourside WCs are now accessible but only by card payment, there are no other hand washing facilities on the harbour.

Harbour office is now open but with staffing still is reduced.

### **Rib Authorisation**

Requests for Rib use must be made to and be authorised by Bob Penfold – Sailing Secretary

### **Booking System**

Use of the RIBs is to be pre-booked by emailing [sailingsecretary@rtyc.org](mailto:sailingsecretary@rtyc.org) or calling 07970353660. The names of drivers and family members will be required at time of request.

Keys for the boats will be made available at required times by the Sailing Secretary and will be placed in the yellow safety boxes of the appropriate rib.

Arrangements for access to Town Dock will be advised when booking is confirmed.

### **Availability and conditions**

Two RIBs will be available for use, the designated rib will be advised when booking. Harry is currently away for repair.

Boats may only be used by suitably qualified and experienced members in support of dinghy recreational sailing activities by club members.

They are **not** available for leisure or any other use.

An additional dry bag will be provided on each rib, containing hand gel, disposable gloves and face masks, sanitising spray and spare bags for disposal of used materials.

Please use the spray on the wheel, key, kill cord, isolator switch, throttle and seats or hatches opened after use and wash other areas to minimise risk before use.

Whilst cleaning products will be available on each boat to ensure complete protection boats will only be available for use 72 hrs after its previous use and the covers will not be used.

### **Manning of Ribs and Qualifications for use.**

In the current conditions, higher than normal qualifications for the use of the RIBs will be required in order to reduce the risk of accidents and minor breakdowns whilst supporting sailing activities.

Where a driver and crew are available from the same family group normal club rules apply, (i.e club members and PB2 for driver) provided they have pre-existing knowledge of the particular vessels being used (no-one is available to give instruction).

Where two drivers are available from different households it is preferable to use two RIBs (this is in accordance with RYA safety boat guidelines) however at least one of those should have a higher level of qualification (as below) or experience while the other may have only PB2 qualification.

Where only one driver is available they should be an experienced safety boat driver with any of the following qualifications: RYA Safety Boat, RYA Senior Instructor, RYA Powerboat Instructor, RYA Dinghy Instructor and RYA Race Coach level 2 (both are subject to the approval of Sailing Secretary, whose decision will be final)

The provision and manning of a club rib(s) in support of recreational sailing does not absolve sailors of their sole responsibility whether to sail. Sailors are responsible for making their own individual decisions based upon their ability and experience, conditions and weather forecast. In the case of Junior sailors (under 18) parents/guardians are responsible for decisions to sail.

RIB drivers and crews must also make their assessments based upon their own experience, conditions and weather forecast in deciding whether to launch a club rib.

It is important at this time that the club is seen to be acting responsibly to minimise risks to sailors and other harbour users bearing in mind that Harbour boat-staff and RNLI are operating at reduced levels and there are fewer vessels using the bay than normal.

**Be considerate and conservative in your assessment.**

### **Additional equipment**

Operationa are now equipped with: -

An additional dry bag, containing hand gel, disposable gloves and face masks, sanitising spray and spare bags for disposal of used materials.

Swim ladders (rope loops) and associated line.

### **Access to Town Dock**

Access details will be advised when the rib booking is confirmed

### **Policy Review**

This policy and associated guidance is additional to the RTYC 2020 Risk assessment and Safety Management Plan. It will be reviewed and updated as necessary, and in line with current and future GOV.UK and RYA advice and guidance.

## **Guidance in providing support to recreational sailors during Coronavirus (Covid 19) pandemic and social distancing period.**

Laminated guidance sheets can be found in the Yellow Safety Box in each RIB, please read this guidance carefully and act accordingly.

Use gloves when driving the RIB. This will reduce the risk of infection both to yourself and the next user of the RIB.

Recovery methods: -

1. Rather than coming alongside a capsized boat in order to assist, use the mast-tip righting method to maintain distance from the sailor, scoop the sailor into their dinghy as the boat is righted.
2. Where an appropriately dressed crew is available on the RIB, they may use the daggerboard of the capsized dinghy to assist righting but should avoid coming into close contact with the sailor as the boat is righted.

Where it is necessary to retrieve a sailor from the water rather than the normal heaving over the side use a Swim ladder (rope loop) or ask the sailor to climb over engine (**remove killcord!**).

Within the RIB it may not be possible to maintain 2 metre distance so rib crew and driver should both wear a face covering and face the opposite way whenever possible until the sailor is returned to their boat.

When it is necessary to tow a dinghy, it is preferable to tow behind using floating towlines provide and not alongside. With certain classes of dinghy this can be difficult (e.g. high-performance skiffs) so where it is necessary to tow alongside the RIB team must wear face covering and gloves.

When instructing coaches should remain in the RIB and not join the sailor(s) in their dinghy.

Face coverings should be worn by driver and/or crew in all situations where it is likely to be impossible to maintain 2 metre distance from a sailor being assisted.

Where RIB team and sailors are from the same household it may not necessary to follow all of the above procedures.

### **After use**

Following use of the RIB, the driver should spray the following: wheel, key and killcord, isolator switch and seat or hatches opened. Spray sanitiser will be found on the RIBs.

If sanitiser is found to have run out, please advise Sailing Secretary

Key, killcord and key fob to be left in the Yellow Safety Box or handed to Bob Penfold.

Remove and dispose of all rubbish

**Refuelling** - Code for fuel store is unchanged

Please re-fuel RIB after use and advise Bob Penfold or Barry Jobson if fuel supplies in locker is running low.

Use gloves and spray locker and fuel cans after use.

Boat covers have been removed; UV helps kill the virus.

**Incident reporting**

The details of all incidents involving recovery of persons and assistance given should be reported without exception to Bob Penfold –Sailing Secretary as soon as possible.

[sailingsecretary@rtyc.org](mailto:sailingsecretary@rtyc.org) Mobile 07970353660

If a driver or crew feels they may have been in too close contact with a sailor in the course of assisting them they should also advise the sailor or a parent (if under 18).

If either subsequently think they may have developed Covid 19 symptoms either/both should seek medical advice and advise the Sailing Secretary

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