

## 707 Scottish Championships

Rhu

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## EVENT MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

### Preamble

Currently we are in Phase 3 of Scotland's Route Map and this means social distancing rules are still in place. RYA Scotland guidance includes;

- **Physical distancing requirements are still in place** - *As far as possible people must stay a minimum distance of 2m apart when meeting others from outside their household.*
- **People can meet in extended groups outside with physical distancing** - *Up to five households at a time and up to 15 people*
- **People can meet indoors with up to two other households with physical distancing** - *Total 3 households at a time and up to 8 people.*
- **Public gatherings beyond the numbers above are not permitted.** *However physical distancing for participants and officials can be suspended during organised activity with a "field of play bubble" which does not include any social activity.*

Covid-19 is clearly still in circulation and we must not forget this. That said, Phase 3 does give us the opportunity to run some organised events and it is within the parameters set out by the Scottish Government that it is proposed to do this. The following protocols are a framework for structuring and running the event. It is envisaged that they will evolve as the situation changes and guidance is updated.

RNCYC and its officers will take all necessary precautions to make the event safe for competitors, race management team, clubhouse staff, staff and visitors to Rhu Marina.

A sailing event with a large number of boats is classed as a major event and, due to the type of activity aboard, it is deemed to be a contact sport.

The co-operation of all involved in the event is expected and all participants must act responsibly and in accordance with all Scottish Government advice and requirements. Crews should familiarise themselves with the content of this document and only attend if they are entirely comfortable with the provisions made. The decision to attend rests with the individual.

Please also consult [RYA Scotland Guidance on sailing & racing with different households during COVID-19 in Scotland.](#)

All attendees shall be required to provide full contact details in advance and RNCYC shall hold these for 21 days in compliance with Test and Protect requirements.

## **Principles**

Key to running the event safely will be the establishment of field bubbles as provided for in the guidance and advice published by the Scottish Government on 2nd September 2020. For competing boats, the intention is to form bubbles containing a number of boats/crews. We have set a maximum entry of 20 travelling boats and these will form up to 6 competitor bubbles, each comprising a maximum of 20 persons. Boats based locally and not berthing in Rhu Marina will form a separate bubble. The constitution of all bubbles will be fixed throughout the event and must not change. The Race Management Team will comprise a separate bubble. Procedures will be adopted to prevent contact between bubbles. The bubble principle applies only to the sailing and marina based activities.

The organising authority will take a cautious approach and shall do everything in its power to avoid reliance on emergency services. In reality, this shall probably result in a lower high wind threshold for postponement/abandonment than might otherwise be expected.

## **Individual responsibility**

Participants travelling by car should only do so with members of their own household (or extended household)

Anyone showing symptoms of Covid-19 must not attend the event. If anyone develops symptoms during the event, they should notify the Race Committee immediately, self-isolate and book a test.

## **Marina based activities**

Individual bubbles will be allotted a time frame in which to prepare and launch the boats, do not arrive before your allotted time. On arrival, you will be directed to the holding area, from this point the bubble system is in operation and you must avoid contact with other bubbles. The Club will endeavour to place crews in bubbles that suit their timing, but this may not be possible in all cases.

Individual boats/crews will be called to the hoist from the holding area and must follow the instructions of marina staff, following social distancing guidelines at all times. Once launched the boats must go to the allotted space in the marina and remain there unless racing. Trailers must be stored in the allotted space and must have a label displaying the name of the boat. Do not handle other trailers.

There must be no interaction between bubbles, for example, no sharing of tools.

Access to, and egress from, the pontoons at peak times will be managed by bubble. Communication with crews to advise when bubbles are permitted access to/egress from the pontoons will be by VHF radio. All VHF communication will be on the channel advised in the SIS for general announcements. During operation of the bubble system, social distancing principles must still be followed.

Crews must not come ashore until directed. This will be on a bubble by bubble basis. The bubble system is in operation until you leave the marina.

If sailing is postponed or abandoned, crews should not congregate in the marina or at the clubhouse, they should disperse.

Whilst in the marina and on the pontoons, all crews are requested to wear face coverings. The primary reason for this is to give other marina users some reassurance when presented with a large assembly of people.

Lifting out will be the reverse of launching with each bubble allotted a time frame. Boats may be prepared at the pontoon in readiness for being called forward to the hoist.

## **Preparation**

Owners should ensure boats are thoroughly clean and sanitised before bringing them to the event. Hand gel, antibacterial wipes etc should be available aboard.

## **Sailing**

Close contact should be avoided aboard and there should never be more than one person below at any time. It is recommended that access below is restricted to one individual for the duration of the event.

Crews are encouraged to leave the confines of the marina at the earliest opportunity and get out into the open sailing area.

If ever there was a time to avoid contact with other boats, this is it. Harsh penalties will be applied to any boat found to be at fault in the event of a collision. If boats do come into contact, protest or not, the Race Committee must be notified.

## **Briefings and Prizegiving**

All briefings will be by VHF as advised in the NOR.

The Club may set up a communication arrangement using a phone app but it will be very important to have a good working vhf for the duration of the event, including during launching and recovery operations.

There will be no prizegiving.

## **Protests**

Protests will be held via Zoom. Completed protest forms should be photographed/scanned and forwarded to the protest committee chairman by email. Protest forms will be distributed electronically before the event with submission details. It will be the competitors' responsibility to print and carry forms for their use.

## **Committee Vessel**

The CV should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised prior to the Race Management Team going aboard. Hand gel, antibacterial wipes etc should be available aboard. Only the designated crew will be permitted aboard. Individuals on the CV will be allocated specific tasks. These should not change, and equipment should not be shared, thus avoiding the potential for cross contamination. There should never be more than one person below decks at any one time and preferably one individual should be assigned to duties that involve going below. On deck, social distancing should be observed between households. All necessary equipment shall be delivered to the CV in the marina and sanitised before putting aboard. Common hard surfaces should be sanitised. VHF radios should not be shared.

## **Mark Laying**

Two mark laying boats will be provided. The boats should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised prior to use. Each will be allocated to specific marks and this should not change for the duration of the regatta. Roles of the crew should also remain the same for the duration of the regatta. The marks will be delivered to the marina and sanitised before loading into the boats. Portable equipment, such as compasses, wind speed indicators etc should not be shared. At the end of day 1, fuel tanks should be taken to the marina car park. They will be sanitised and uplifted for refuelling and returned to the boats.

## **Camping/Campervans**

Limited space is available for overnight parking and camping. Pre-booking is essential and a separate list of all persons staying overnight will be maintained for Track and Trace. All units should be at least 5m apart and contain members of no more than 3 households. Social interaction between occupants of separate units should be avoided. Showers and changing rooms will not be available. One toilet will be available. Hands should be sanitised before and after use. There is an outside tap but no power available.

Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the Club grounds at any time.

## **Summary**

Covid-19 remains a significant threat. The Organising Authority has sought advice from RYA Scotland in drafting these protocols. Whilst these will mitigate risk it is incumbent on everyone to comply with social distancing rules and act responsibly.

These protocols have been drafted in accordance with the guidelines and advice available at the time. The situation is continually evolving, and it will be essential to amend the protocols to remain in step.

Currently, we believe it is feasible to run this event, but nothing is guaranteed. If circumstances dictate that it becomes necessary to cancel the event, the organisers will hope to give at least seven days' notice.

10<sup>th</sup> September 2020