

# Largs Sailing Club Social Sailing Post COVID-19 (9 Oct 2020)

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## General Situation

- This document provides the measures implemented for Social Sailing at LSC and draws on RYAS guidance documents and the latest Scottish Government guidance. Your attention is drawn to the following RYAS documents and all are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the sections regarding understanding the risk and advice on mitigation:

<https://www.rya.org.uk/scotland/about-us/Documents/RYA%20Sailing%20and%20Racing%20in%20Mixed%20households%20SCOTLAND.pdf>

<https://www.rya.org.uk/scotland/about-us/Documents/RYA%20Scotland%20Guidance%20for%20Clubs%20and%20RTCs%20V%203.6.pdf>

<https://www.rya.org.uk/scotland/about-us/Documents/Additional%20Guidance%20-10th%20Oct%202020%20v1.1.pdf>

- The last document above has some points that supersede the guidelines in the first two documents.
- Mixed Household double handers are not permitted to sail.
- 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.
- 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
- For Social Sailing the “field of play bubble” includes the Club Slip and Dinghy Park and on the water avoiding any other organised activities 0900-1900 daily. There is a limit of 30 pers per bubble and bubbles may not interact.
- The important principle is for all club members is that of how our sailing activities are perceived by the wider public. Therefore at all times everyone should consider “**How do the activities look to the non-sailing public?**” We wish to avoid walking into conflict.

- The Clubhouse will be open at weekends for use of toilet facilities only. Changing rooms may be opened on Sunday afternoons for club racing only. Access to and use of the Dinghy Park and Slip are, of course, permitted except for when launching and recovery of racing boats is taking place. Social sailors are asked to avoid using the slipways during any organised launch/recovery activity (i.e. RYA Academies) in order to avoid crowding and also out of bubble contact.

## Sailing

- All sailors are responsible for ensuring that their craft are properly prepared for safe sailing and remember at all times to watch out for others and be willing to provide assistance if required (ideally maintaining social distancing in the process).
- All sailors go out on the water at their own risk.

## Track and Trace

- All sailors are required to notify the club if they are going out on the water in order to comply with Track and Trace requirements.
- **An e-mail should be sent to the following address just prior to launching stating time, type of boat (and sail number), name of helm and crew:**

[tracker@largssc.co.uk](mailto:tracker@largssc.co.uk)

## Safety

- Sailors should consider using an App such as the RYA SafeTRX so they can be tracked in the event of problems on the water.
- **Wind speed:** The limit for sailing under these instructions is a mean speed of 15 knots or less (average speed for the last 10 minutes can be obtained from the club weather page.) Please apply common sense for Easterly winds where the club anemometer can under read. The aim is to stay below wind speeds where equipment failures become more frequent.
- **Minimum boat numbers:** Boats should ideally not go out alone and although acceptable, the preferred minimum is 2 boats to ensure that observers will see the capability for providing assistance on the water without recourse to the RNLI.
- **Essential Equipment:** All boats must go out with the capability to self-rescue. Therefore the following minimum equipment should be carried by every boat –
  - Paddle/praddle,
  - Tow line (ideally 10m)
  - Some form of communications (radio or mobile phone), especially if a single boat.
- Gloves are to be worn by all sailors to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission on trolley handles.

- **Dinghy-dinghy towing:** Tow lines should be connected to the stern of the towing craft.

### Rigging Boats

- Boats should be rigged as far as possible in the dinghy park in order to minimise the time spent on the slip prior to launching.
- Boats will be taken to the club slip keeping to the left side of the approach ramp down to the slip itself and finish rigging on the slip at least 2m clear of any other boat. Tide state will dictate the number of boats that can be on the slip itself at any given time.

### Launching

- For launching, boats should move into the water whilst respecting social distancing.
- Singlehanders may tie the boat off on the mooring lines running down each side of the slip and take their own trolley up the slip.
- If handing off a boat to be held by someone else, the person holding should receive the boat by the front of the boat (forestay, mast or shrouds) and the person handing the boat over should guide the boat from the stern, thus maintaining a 2m min distance.
- Handing the boat back should be done from the same relative positions keeping distancing in place.

### Landing and Recovery

- On returning to the slip all boats should initially stand off the slip at an appropriate distance that allows them to wait their turn to go onto the slip whilst retaining the space to manoeuvre safely.
- Adopting the reverse process to launching, two boats at a time approach the slip and whilst one holds two boats (or boats tie up onto the mooring lines) the other retrieves both trolleys.
- Each boat is then pulled up the slip maintain at least 2m between boats and sailors.
- Once sails are dropped then boats should immediately be taken up the approach ramp keeping to the left.
- Wash down boats one at a time, if required, then proceed across to the dinghy park maintaining separation from all others in the process.
- As soon as the boats have been pulled out of the water then the next boats can approach the slip from the holding pattern and follow the same procedure until all boats have been recovered.

### Whilst afloat

- Boats should give a bit more space between others so that from the shore it is clear that social distancing is being adhered to.
- Bearing in mind that most of our sailors going out are by nature competitive individuals they will inevitably be testing themselves against their fellow sailors as well as performing individual sailing manoeuvres some informal races will inevitably develop. These should be of an ad hoc nature, with a course agreed using fixed buoys within the sailing area for the session. No records will be kept of these races

and they will not count towards any formal race series run by the club.  
**Please try and maintain a bit more distancing between boats than you might for serious racing.**

### Packing Up

- Boats should be packed away and sailors depart the club as soon as possible as social gatherings are not encouraged.