

COVID-19 UPDATE FOR ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND & WALES

20 December 2020

1. The NHS Covid-19 App in England and Wales

The NHS Covid-19 App is a useful way to check if you have been in close proximity for an extended period to someone who tests positive with Covid-19 and the MYA recommends all members who participate in Radio and Free Sailing to download and enable it when sailing. It is also useful for Clubs to prominently post a QR code for their location so that participants may log their arrival for sailing. You can create a QR code for your venue using the following [link](#).

2. England and the widened Tier System

On the 20th December 2020, the UK Government added a new Covid Alert Tier for all areas in England. There are now 4 Tiers and an overview of these is on the [BBC website](#):

Tier 1 - Medium

Tier 2 - High

Tier 3 - Very High

Tier 4 - Stay at Home

Organised Sport can continue within Tiers 1 to 3 and for MYA Clubs this means using the Guidance issued on 18th September and available on the MYA website. This allows for up to 13 participants in organised racing alongside steps to maintain social distancing. At other times, i.e. before, after or between races or when there is no organised club activities the "Rule of 6" and social distancing will apply (groups meeting outdoors). Additional guidance from the government on organised sport is available [here](#)

One of the main differences between the Tier Levels is associated with travel to a club location and what is allowed. The following is our understanding of what is allowed within the 4 Tiers for England (Full Government Guidance for Tiers 1 -4 in England is [here](#)):

- If you live in a Tier 4 area, you are not allowed to travel except for the Government listed exemptions (which can be read within the full guidance see link above). Clubs in Tier 4 should close as outdoor sports are not allowed in this Tier level.
- If you live in a Tier 3 area and your club is in the same (named) Tier 3 area, you may travel to it and compete, but should not travel outside of that area to compete (even into another Tier 3).
- If you live in Tier 1 or 2 and your club is in in a similar Tier level, then you may travel to it to compete, but do not travel unnecessarily.
- If your club is in Tier 3 and you live outside of that area (in Tier 1 or 2) , then you are advised to NOT travel to the club to compete.

In addition (and in line with RYA guidance), we recommend that clubs consider very carefully whether to hold Open Events, especially if they are located in a Tier 3 area to

Page 1 of 3 Covid Update 20 December 2020 V0

minimise the chance of unnecessary travel into that area from lower Tier levels. Clubs located in Tiers 1 and 2 should also review whether they should organise Open Events whilst Tier levels are in place as there is still a request to minimise the number of journeys made. Organisers are advised to consider the risks any events may bring, including reputational risk and any potential impact on the local community.

3. Wales (from 18/12/20)

The whole of Wales is in a Tier 4 level as of the above date. You must not travel without reasonable excuse and stay at home. Sports Clubs (including Radio Sailing Clubs) are now required to close. Welsh Covid-19 Alert Levels are described [here](#)

4. Scotland

Saturday 19th December 2020 brought announcements of changing UK and Scottish government legislation. In Scotland, this is summarised as follows:

[New guidance issued for the festive period](#)

[Restrictions tightened due to spread of new variant of COVID-19.](#)

Scotland will significantly tighten protections against Coronavirus (COVID-19) to prevent the spread of the new, highly contagious strain of the virus.

Following confirmation that the new variant of COVID-19 spreads substantially more quickly, the First Minister announced that Scotland needs to act now.

To keep people safe, the First Minister announced:

- the planned easing of restrictions around Christmas will be limited to Christmas Day itself, and not the previous 5-day window that was planned
- legal household limits will still apply:
 - a maximum of 8 people from 3 households - however advice is to minimise the numbers.
 - Where possible, people should celebrate the festive period at home in their own household and meet with others outdoors
- other than for specific exemptions, travel between Scotland and the rest of the UK will not be legal
- travel within Scotland will be allowed on Christmas Day
- from Boxing Day, all of Scotland will have Level 4 restrictions applied, including the closure of non-essential retail and hospitality.
 - The only exceptions will be Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles, and the other island communities where restrictions have been reduced in recent weeks, who will be placed in Level 3
- from Boxing Day, in line with existing law, travel across local authority boundaries between areas in Level 3 or 4 will not be legal other than for specific exempt purposes

5. Northern Ireland

The NI Executive has released new regulations for the Christmas period and beyond. For the Christmas period Wednesday 23rd to Sunday 27th December, the following [link](#) identifies what you need to know.

New restrictions will come into force at the start of Saturday 26th December for a period of 6 weeks and reviewed after 4 weeks. The regulations are available on the NI Department of Health Website accessed by the following [link](#).

As part of this, all sports facilities should close and only individual or household outdoor exercise is permitted. Clubs will therefore have to close during this period.