



Covid-19 and MYA Scottish District activities.

The current advice from the MYA Council is that “[All MYA events are currently suspended until further notice](#)”. As the Scottish District Committee we recommend that all our clubs and MYA members follow this guidance.

We all want to get back sailing, but only if it can be conducted in a safe and controlled manner without putting our members at risk. A quick look at our membership shows that a lot of us fall into the “at risk” category and so this must be taken into consideration when arranging anything at your club.

2020 MYA SD events

Given this advice, the forthcoming training event and Scottish District IOM Championship scheduled for 6th & 7th June at Forfar Loch are postponed. It is hoped that the other events beyond June on the MYA SD calendar may be held dependant on the changes to rules which the Scottish government may implement. It may also be possible to reorganise events we have previously postponed.

When government guidance permits, and we are able to rearrange any Scottish District sailing, we would endeavour to give skippers 3 weeks’ prior notice of event details including date, hosting club, special arrangements, etc.

MYA SD club activities

The MYA SD Committee anticipates that at some future time, the first element of model yacht sailing (radio or free) to resume will be club sailing. MYA SD clubs usually operate on waters that are controlled by third parties, i.e. Water Authorities, Councils, RYA dinghy clubs or private landlords. Without consultation and agreement with these parties, individuals and clubs could put future access to these venues at risk. Therefore, it is incumbent on each club to assess their own circumstances and to make their own decisions when to restart club activities in line with the Scottish and Northern Ireland government guidelines. Clubs should also develop their own safety measures which may involve changes to normal practices to achieve social distancing.

When it becomes active, the Scottish government’s decision framework for Phase 1 proposes a slight lift of lockdown to allow more exercise and meetings but with **no public gatherings permitted except for meetings of two households, outdoors and with physical distancing**. Clearly, this does not signal the resumption of club sailing. A breach of government guidelines would invalidate MYA third party insurance. Carrickfergus, in Northern Ireland, will follow their government’s laws and regulations.

So, until government guidelines change, we recommend that club committees look at your sailing facilities and diligently assess the possible risk areas to Covid-19. We are, after all, going to have to consider Covid-19 for some time to come.

The Scottish government has produced a detailed document “[COVID-19 – Framework for Decision Making](#)”. It is summarised from page 37 onwards. The framework and any forthcoming Scottish government announcements control Scottish activities.



Although it does not use Scottish or Northern Ireland government guidance, the RYA has developed a [four stage risk assessment form](#) to help produce four steps to return to sailing activities. Page 13 onwards gives you an example of what to consider. It shows just how many areas Covid-19 affects our normal sailing activities. Please note that government laws and regulations take precedence over the RYA advice, interpretations, etc.

Keep safe, keep healthy and all the very best during these very challenging times.

MYA Scottish District Committee

22nd May, 2020