

Going afloat places unique demands on boat owners and crew to manage the many risks inherent in our sport. The advent of Covid-19 and its associated public health implications has added to this responsibility.

The following guidelines which are in-line with National and Governing Body guidance are offered to help boat owners and crew assess the risk presented by COVID-19 to aid their decision to go afloat and stay safe.

“Responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”,
(Part 1 –RRS).

Fundamental Principles for Going Afloat

- **COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS**
The need for full compliance on the phased lifting of restrictions
- **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** - Take personal responsibility for your own safety and decision making
- **SELF HELP** - Ensure that you have the means to return to shore without assistance (alternative means of propulsion) in the event of the unexpected in non-distress situations
- **RISK ASSESSMENT** - Individual and Activity Organisers to assess the risks associated with the conditions, equipment, experience of sailors, sailing area, and risk of virus spread, before making the decision to go afloat.



Guidelines for Boat owners and Crew

- **RISK MANAGEMENT** – To assist Skippers manage this risk, it is requested this notice is displayed on board their boat and they encourage crew to read it prior to going afloat
- **CREW WELFARE** – Skippers are encouraged to enquire as to the welfare of their crew prior to going afloat. Any member of crew displaying COVID-19 like symptoms should not go afloat
- **CONTACT TRACING**– Skippers are required to maintain a log detailing the names and contact numbers of their crew and the dates sailed. A digital register is preferred to ensure any contact tracing activity can be expedited. e.g. iPhone notes.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING**- Where possible maintain social distancing guidelines.
- **CREW “POD’s** – The return to sailing is assisted through the implementation of crew “Pods”.



Are you experiencing any symptoms of Covid 19?

Have you made self-rescue assistance arrangements or non-distress situations?

Has your Sailing/ Boating activity been planned and risk-assessed?

Seek medical assistance Do not Sail

Go Sailing but exercise caution & follow guidelines

Go Sailing under conditions set out by organisers

Follow current social distancing & social gathering guidelines

“POD GUIDELINES

- A ‘pod’ is a group of 2 or more household units involved in an activity together where social distancing may not be possible.
- Although there is no limit on numbers, pod size should be kept to a minimum
- People within the pod should maintain social distancing where possible
- Pods should remain together for a minimum amount of time
- People within the pod should change position as much as possible
- People within the pod should be aware of slipstream effect and avoid being directly down wind of others
- People from different pods should not mix with people from another pod

Further information:

Sailors are encouraged to keep up to date by visiting Irish Sailing - <https://www.sailing.ie/Coronavirus>
KYC Web site – www.kyc.ie