

Overview

This guidance supersedes any preceding guidance during the period of 2 weeks from 00:01 on 27th November. This is based upon guidance available to date, in the absence of legislation being published or answers to questions RYANI has raised with the relevant Department.

The NI Executive has clearly outlined the restrictions over this period in addition to those of the Active Period are to help reduce the rate of infection (R rate). Full guidance on the restrictions can be found [here](#).

As a community, the RYANI fully supports the effort against COVID 19 and we would thank the boating community for doing their part in following the spirit of the regulations and guidance.

From 27th November The NI Executive has outlined:

1. **Stay at home.** There should be no household gatherings, other than those involving support bubbles. You should work from home if at all possible.
2. Only leave for essential purposes such as education, healthcare needs, to care for others, or outdoor exercise.
3. Avoiding meeting people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.
4. Closure of certain businesses and venues.
5. When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we reduce the spread of the infection. That is why the following restrictions will apply from 27 November 2020, for two weeks.

RYANI understands the following key elements relating to boating:

- You can form one bubble with one other household; a household cannot be part of more than one bubble.
- Any activity should be undertaken as an individual (e.g. single-handed sailing or windsurfing) or in multi-handed craft only where members should be from the same household or bubble.
- All sports facilities (which includes sailing clubs and watersports centres) must close during this period*.
**At this stage RYANI has raised the question as to whether club members may be able to launch from the club slipway for recreational purposes. It is currently unclear whether members can access their boats which are situated at their club boat park / launch boats on private slipways / waterways. RYANI will update this once the legislation has been published and we have had an opportunity to review it.*
- Recreational boating may take place from a public outdoor space for single households and support bubbles (e.g. public slipway).
- Recreational and vocational shore-based courses can still run, however this should be carried out virtually. Where a course is vocational, 'face to face' learning can take place but only where this is essential and unavoidable.

- You should not stay overnight other than at the place where you live, overnighing onboard is currently not acceptable, unless a) it is your main residence or b) you meet one of the “reasonable excuse” exceptions to the rule.
- School sport will be happening but only as part of organised school activity.
- There are continuing exemptions for elite athletes for them to train or compete - named *RYANI High Performance Athletes* may therefore continue to train.

RYANI staff continue to work from home and certain aspects of RYANI activity have been curtailed with outlined restrictions in place.

The above guidance to members is the RYANI’s interpretation of the NI executive’s position with regards to the new restrictions for Northern Ireland commencing 27th November 2020. Although we strive to ensure that all of the information is accurate and up-to-date, this cannot be guaranteed due to the developing and fast-moving situation. RYA members should review the Executive’s full guidance themselves and follow the latest announcements at www.nidirect.gov.uk