**Otley Sailing Club: Covid-19 statement: 15th April 2020**

This guidance is based on the RYA publication “Club Guidance on restarting boating activity and managing Covid-19” Version 1, dated 12/05/2020.

To all members:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

THE CLUBHOUSE REMAINS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

MEMBERS NEED TO ENSURE THEY HAVE PROVIDED THEMSELVES WITH ADEQUATE MEANS OF WASHING OR SANITISING THEIR HANDS. (THE CLUBHOUSE IS CLOSED).

THERE WILL BE NO ORGANISED SAFETY BOAT COVER OR RACING TAKING PLACE.

GENERAL

All members and visitors should maintain social distancing of 2 metres from each other.

Everyone to be conservative and considerate in their actions around the club.

Members to use or bring their own equipment.

No Club owned equipment or personal flotation devices will be available for use.

If you think any of your equipment has been exposed to virus, clean thoroughly and do not re-use for at least 72 hours.

Social distancing may become difficult if the club becomes busy. Please consider limiting your time at the club during popular hours, both for everyone’s safety and so that all members are able to get a fair share of time on the water.

REDUCING THE RISK OF VIRUS TRANSMISSION

If you are unwell with the symptoms of Covid-19 please do not attend the club.

Anyone who has had contact with a family or household member who is unwell with the symptoms of Covid-19 please do not attend the club for a minimum of 14 days.

Please cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, and avoid touching your face, nose and eyes.

Members to ensure they have provided themselves adequate means of washing or sanitising their hands. (THE CLUBHOUSE IS CLOSED).

Everyone to wash their hands after touching common surfaces– and always after coughing, sneezing and before and after arriving and leaving the club.

Please keep your distance and avoid being face to face with people outside your household always respecting social distancing.

Members should not share water bottles or food.

Avoid surfaces and shared equipment (including seating) that are likely to be frequently touched and consider whether usage is appropriate.

Sanitize hands before and after unlocking/locking the gates.

LAUNCHING AND SUPPORT

Members to maintain social distancing in the dinghy park and on the jetty or slipways while launching / recovering craft.

Assistance with trolleys, launching / recovery to be limited to household groups

Members to maintain social distancing when rigging, final preparation, launching.

Exercise extreme care on the slipway and pontoons – they are very slippery from lack of use, and still flood damaged.

Mind the gap in the slipway under the waterline – flood damaged.

SAFETY ON THE WATER

There will be no organised safety cover.

Solo sailing - we strongly advise you to buddy sail if possible (shore spotter is OK, consider keeping to a sailing area visible to your spotter)

Kayaks/Paddleboards – solo paddling is fine. Exercise caution, see guidance below.

Powerboats/safety boats are not to be used by any member except in an emergency.

ON THE WATER GUIDANCE

Be conservative – stay within the limits of your ability.

Be confident in your ability to self-recover.

Factors to consider when deciding to go afloat include: forecast, temperature, wind speed, direction, water state, visibility, participants’ competence, types of craft involved and the lack of organised safety cover.

Use righting lines, long painters and mast head floats.

Restrict your sailing area activities to make it easier for shore support.

Members should have a plan, letting someone know where they are and what they are doing, and being in communication – mobile phones.

Carry a sailing knife and whistle

Members to stay in their own boats and maintain social distancing afloat.

You accept that you use the lake at your own risk – be cautious and honest about your capability.

If in doubt don’t go out.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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