

# MK Sailability

## COVID-19 Policy Document

### Introduction

This document has been produced as an addendum to our operating procedures and members handbook. The latest copy is on our website ([www.MKSailability.com](http://www.MKSailability.com)) under Documents.

These guidelines should be read in addition to our current procedures and note that information in this Policy Document takes precedent over the existing procedures.

We are an affiliated member of Milton Keynes Sailing Club; therefore, we will abide by their guidelines and policies as per their website (<https://mksc.org.uk>).

The RYA have a lot of specific guidance and advice on how to return safely to sailing. Please see: [RYA Covid-19 Hub](#)

[The RYA Guidance](#) document identifies the specific steps to take when boating with mixed households – which will apply to Sailability.

### MK Sailability Covid-19 Policy

- 1. Nobody to participate if:** Showing any indication of symptoms or having been in contact with anybody showing or has shown coronavirus symptoms in last 14 days.
- 2. Comply with Social Distancing Guidance:** Wear face coverings in accordance with current guidance if within 2m when indoors, or under 1m distance outdoors. Covid-19 social distancing is in effect, with numerous signs to remind you in the clubhouse.
- 3. Group Sizes:** We will keep groups of people to 6 or less. Or as recommended by the current Government guidelines. Hence when people are together, they should remain in a group that is not larger than the limit. No more than two people on the pontoon at one time unless in the same social bubble.
- 4. Hand sanitizer:** stations have been installed on entry and in the changing rooms. **Please use them if you enter or leave the clubhouse if using the WC.**



5. **NHS Track and Trace:** All sailors, volunteers and other visitors to use the NHS Track and Trace application and scan the NHS QR code outside the Clubhouse Door. Everybody to record acceptance of risk and log attendance at session by completing and signing the Acknowledgement of Risk form. Ideally by downloading a copy and completing at home. MK Sailability will maintain a record for 21 days or as required by the Government of all people who attended a session.
  6. **Guidelines in case of Covid-19 case:** The secretary will advise all attendees at a session if an Positive Covid-19 test is reported. They will need to follow Government guidelines to be tested and self-isolate.
  7. **Boathouse/Toilets/changing rooms:** Clubhouse to be used on a one in, one out basis. The showers and hand driers will remain off, and the kitchen will be closed and off limits. Do not leave your clothes or any items in the changing rooms.  
  
If you need access to use the toilet, or to collect a life jacket please ask a volunteer to open the clubhouse door. Use Hand Sanitiser on entry and exit to the Club-house  
  
Please do not take a chair from the clubhouse for your use, bring your own folding chair.
  8. **Sailing will be by advanced Booking only:** Sailors must send an email to the secretary [SailabilityMK@gmail.com](mailto:SailabilityMK@gmail.com) and request a booking. Wait for an email to confirm your booking is accepted. The Secretary will publish the time slots for sailors. We will aim to stagger arrival times if we are running more than one boat. Sailor A may arrive on the hour, Sailor B to arrive at 15 mins past etc. This avoids congestion on slipway or pontoon.
  9. **Buddies / Accompanied Sailing:** No Buddying in the Access (Hansa 303) unless by a member of the sailor's support bubble/carer. Buddying on the Challengers is permitted if both parties wear a face mask or a face shield whilst sailing.
  10. **Sailing Conditions:** To minimise the need for intervention by the safety boat, we will sail only in wind strengths (gusts) of up to F3 (10 knots / 20 kph).
  11. **Hoisting<sup>1</sup> and Assistance:** Sailors to be assisted to board a boat only by those in the sailor's support bubble or carers. Hoist to be operated by the members of the sailor's support bubble or carer only. A Sailability helper will supervise hoisting, wearing a face mask or visor. It is preferable if a sailor who requires hoisting can use their own sling. Sailability slings to be used only once per session. Sailability volunteers are not to handle or move wheelchairs. A member of the sailor's support bubble or carer must move a wheelchair that is in the way.
  12. **Lifejackets and buoyancy aids:** Lifejackets or buoyancy aids must be worn at all times by anyone on the pontoon. To collect a lifejacket, ask for a volunteer to open the boathouse and to identify a suitable lifejacket. A carer or support bubble member is to provide assistance to fit the lifejacket, and a Sailability volunteer will confirm visually that the lifejacket has been fitted correctly. After a lifejacket has been used it should be placed in a container marked for lifejackets and only returned to the boathouse at the end of a session after being sprayed with
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disinfectant.

- 13. Cleaning:** Boats to be disinfected between each sail. They will be sprayed, and the main contact areas wiped with a disinfectant wipe. Lifejacket to be used only once per session and will be put aside in a container to be sprayed and returned to the Boat House.

Safety Boat to be cleaned at the end of the session. Disposable gloves to be worn when rigging boats and hand sanitiser used.

- 14. Payment for Sailing:** We will no longer take cash. We will ask Sailors who have not paid an annual membership to make a payment via an on-line banking transfer or Localgiving payment. Each sailor will be given a slip when they book in requesting payment for the session is made, this will include Bank Details, and Local Giving Details.

- 15. Safety Boat:** MK Sailability will restrict sailing to light winds only with no gusts greater than Force 3 (Max 10 knots 20kph). This will minimise risk. We will operate a minimum of the Grey RIB safety boat managed by an experienced powerboat helm. A single helm can provide assistance as appropriate. A helm and crew are allowed provided they are from the same support bubble. The Yellow RIB can be used if there are sufficient volunteers to assist in launch and recovery. Face masks to be worn when assisting in launch and recovery.

**Note that the Safety of life is the number one priority and if a sailor is in immediate danger then the risk is such that a second person can crew the Safety boat in order to affect a safe recovery and that COVID-19 precautions are of secondary important to a safe rescue.**

Powerboat helm must have a Face mask with them to use if they are in close proximity (<1m) to others and a spare face mask for any person they are in close contact with while on the water.

- 16. Sailing on Pippa:** The Drascombe Dipper can take 4 people in the boat. It is important to wear face coverings when sailing Pippa as there are occasions when people will be inside the social distance of 1m. Pippa must be helmed by an experience Sailability volunteer. The crew for Pippa should be able bodied and have some sailing experience.

Sailors in Pippa will sit opposite each other and wear a face mask or visor. This could be a career or another member of the sailors support bubble. They must have ability to sit unsupported. The crew will sit at the front and be able to move from side to side to balance the boat as necessary.

Note that Pippa can be sailed with a reefed sail area (in stronger winds) or used with the Outboard Motor in very light winds.

- 17. Staffing of Volunteers:** In order that we can run a safe Sailability session we need to ensure we have a minimum number of 4 volunteers. All volunteers to have a radio.

Pippa – Crew -2 (Helm with relevant experience + crew to assist)  
Beach Team – 2 for a Challenger launch or 1 if only an Access (also to assist safety boat in event of an incident)  
Safety Boat – 1 (RYA Powerboat Qualified)  
Shore Based Meet and Greet - 1

It is essential that volunteers can commit in advance to a session to ensure we can match the number of boats available in a session.

## Appendix – Wind Strength Risk

Wind Speed*	Miles per Hour Km per Hour	Beaufort *	Risk	Action
0-10 kts	0 – 12 mph 0 – 19 kph	1 - 3	Low	All sailing permitted
11-16 kts	13 - 18 mph 20 - 28 kph	4	Med	Access dinghy 1 – 2 Reefs Challenger sailing with caution
17-21 kts	19 – 24 mph 29 – 38 kph	5	Med	Challenger sailing restricted Access Sails 4 reefs (50% sail)
22-27 kts	25 – 31 mph 39 – 49 kph	6	High	Very experienced sailors only on water. Access Sails 4 reefs
> 28 kts	> 32 mph > 50 kph	> 6	V High	No Sailing allowed

*Table of Wind gust Strengths and Risk*

- Note that the wind strengths are the gusts. During the period of COVID risk we will not generally sail if the wind Gusts strength is greater than F 3

<https://www.windguru.cz/station/1271> gives max wind strength at Caldecotte Lake in real time.

### References:

Milton Keynes Sailability - [www.MKSailability.com](http://www.MKSailability.com)

Milton Keynes Sailing Club - [mksc.org.uk](http://mksc.org.uk)

RYA: RYA Covid-19 Hub [coronavirus-covid-19 Hub](#)

RYA Guidance on Mixed Households. [The RYA Guidance Club Guidance Covid19 v1.2.](#)