

Bolton Sailing Club -Supernova Open Competition COVID-19 Protocol for Compliance in relation to Social Gatherings - Rule of Six Update.

Club Statement:

Bolton Sailing Club has a fantastic Supernova Fleet and we are enthusiastic to host an enjoyable open event within a season that has been significantly restricted. The recent local restrictions across Greater Manchester and Blackburn with Darwen, coupled with changes to law in relation to social gatherings has presented as a challenge in enabling this event to take place. Ultimately the BSC Committee want to ensure the safety of members and visitors in the context of the current pandemic. While this protocol is somewhat dictatorial in terms of how competitors will have to behave at the event, without such measures we do not believe the event can take place safely, and in compliance with the law.

Competitor and guest responsibilities:

The following essential protocols are based upon the clubs most recent Risk Assessment (09 09 20) provided to the Supernova CA and must be adhered to by all at the event. By assisting with or entering the event, or attending the site as a guest, agreement to comply is implicitly implied.

This protocol will be provided to competitors prior to the event and upon arrival.

Should individuals not comply with this protocol they may be disqualified and / or asked to leave the event by any club or CA official.

Background Advice:

The RYA has issued the following guidance in respect of the changes to be imposed from Monday 14th September 2019.

*From the 14th September gatherings of more than six individuals will be prohibited by law in a public outdoor place, private dwellings or individual vessels (unless you are meeting as a household or support bubble). This will replace the limit of a gathering of 30 persons. **However, it is permitted to have gatherings of more than six for organised sport and physical activity where this is conducted in accordance with the relevant RYA Guidance and the DCMS Guidance on a 'Return to Recreational Team Sport Framework'**; for education and training or for youth groups and activities. Clubs are required to produce written risk assessments and implement suitable mitigations should they be relying on any of the exemptions to permit gatherings of more than six.*

*Clubs must ensure that **gatherings ashore are in groups of six or fewer people** (unless the gathering is from a household or support bubble) and they should plan carefully for social distancing, especially any 'pinch points' such as launching, landing and any social interactions before and after racing.*

The full guidance is available [here](#).

General:

Do not visit the site if you are feeling unwell or you or anyone in your household are displaying symptoms associated with Covid-19.

It is recommended that those that are clinically vulnerable should consider their own individual risk and not visit the site under the current circumstances.

All visitors should NOT travel with anyone outside of their own household/bubble.

All entrants should comply with all recommended Government Guidelines around Covid-19 Protocols, including (but not limited to) local lockdowns which are in place in the entrants home town.

At the Club:

In order to maintain compliance with the revised law in terms of social gatherings, and prevent the need for a limit on the number of competitors attending, BSC will operate the following protocol. Pinch Points of the club are considered to be:

- i. The shore during launch/landing
- ii. The south east facing side of the club house (outside the OOD Box)
- iii. Inside the club house

Registration:

Via the system of on-line pre-registration all entrants will be allocated to a '*competitor group*' of no more than 6 others - this will form the group ashore with whom they are able to gather while still maintaining social distancing. Competitors will be expected to take personal responsibility for not socialising outside their competitor group.

The OOD and safety boat crews will be considered a separate group.

Parking and Rigging:

The main car park will be divided into '*competitor areas*' to accommodate the competitor groups and their boats while ashore. Cars will be parked on the grass area to the left on entering the club.

Briefing:

The briefing will take place in the car park (rather than as usual outside the OOD Box) to prevent the pinch point in accessing the back of the clubhouse. Similarly the course for each race will be displayed at the front of the clubhouse before each race.

Launching and Recovery:

Prior to the race each competitor group will launch separately in order that there are no more than 6 people on the shore at one time.

On return to shore, competitors must only land if there are less than 6 boats on the shore.

Once returned to shore competitors must de-rig their boats and return to their competitor areas as quickly as possible to allow other competitors still on the water to return to shore.

WC and Changing Rooms:

The club will be accessible for toilet and changing facilities though limited to 6 people at any one time. A one way system will be in operation to prevent pinch points. Note: shower facilities **will not be** available except in hypothermia emergencies.

Track and Trace:

All visitors/guests must be signed in using open meeting online entry form provided.

Track and trace information shall be captured and retained for 21 days.

Anyone that has visited the club and later tested positive for Covid-19 within 10 days of their visit should inform the club immediately.

The club will then inform all members and visitors.

Safety Boat Cover:

Essential safety cover is defined as when a sailor/windsurfer is unable to retrieve a boat/windsurfer safely themselves and/or life is at risk.

No equipment will be rescued until conditions allow for it to be safe to do so by the safety team.

All those on site, on shore or on / in the water, must do what the safety team instructs at all times for their own and the safety teams safety.

Weather Conditions:

Anyone taking to the water must only do so in conditions that are within their own capabilities to sail in and they must be confident of their own ability to self rescue in the event of a capsize.

Note: The maximum mean wind strength over the course for this event is 20 knots (for safety reasons related to the Covid 19 Pandemic).

Equipment Condition:

All craft and equipment should be checked to be in good condition at the time of launching.