

Dear BKL Competitor,

We look forward to welcoming you to Berthon's Lymington Marina this Friday.

There will be more written communication with this event than a "normal" event. It will be sent by email, [WhatsApp](#) or both. Please make sure that you take the time to read it as it is very important. We will try to make short videos helping to explain the situation as well, these will be posted on the British Keelboat League Facebook page and we will try to post a link to any videos in the [WhatsApp](#) chat.

We will be publishing Sailing Instructions shortly and will circulate the race schedule once we have confirmed teams including all crew details for Track & Trace by the end of the day on Thursday.

There are opportunities for training in the boats on Friday morning, subject to weather and approval by the RS Sailing bosun. If you wish to train then there are slots from 0900-1030 and then 1030-1200. You will need to book these by emailing [lucy@rssailing.com](mailto:lucy@rssailing.com) and they are on a first come, first served basis and are limited to 12 teams so one team will not get an opportunity to train.

Below is a list of key points for you that you will wish to digest, this is not intended to replace the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, Risk Assessment or any other official document.

The RYA will always follow guidance related to the sport and we recommend you familiarise yourselves with the [guidance on the return to mixed household sport](#) including the first section on your own personal responsibilities.

We will be operating in a more conservative way than you may be used to. Safety of you the sailors, the volunteers and our staff is of paramount importance and we will always err on the side of caution.

We must remind you that it is now law that you may not gather in groups of more than six, this means that as much as you may wish to discuss the races you have just won or lost with your competitors when you are back ashore unless you split up to clearly defined gatherings of less than six, and comply with social distancing requirements, although we would encourage you not to mix as frustrating as that is.

Before attending the British Keelboat League Championship we ask that you do the following in line with the [guidance on the return to mixed household sport](#)

- Carry out a Self-symptom check before leaving home (and do not attend if you are symptomatic)
- Assess personal risk and that of your team
- Limit car sharing
- Register your attendance with the host club for test and trace
- Arrive in sailing kit where possible (there are no changing facilities on site, only toilets)
- Sanitise hands on arrival and prior to touching any shared surface
- Maintain social distancing at all times whilst ashore before launching and after recovery and comply with the "Rule of Six"

We will be requiring the wearing of appropriate face coverings under the following circumstances

- When on pontoons
- When on a transfer rib
- When on an RS21 and within 1 metre of a team mate or any other person on board.

- In the event your face covering gets wet and makes breathing difficult you should wring it out and put it back on as quickly as possible (I have tested this and it doesn't take long)
- Each team will be given their bibs and a red flag either on rigging up or when they first get on a transfer rib. Please keep these with you at all times until the end of the event, do not leave anything behind when you get off an RS 21
- We are unable to store any food or clothing on any support boat so you need to have everything you need with you at all times

#### Rigging up

- All the boats are berthed on the end of D pontoon at Berthon Marina
- Teams must ensure that they know which boat they are sailing before going on to the pontoons
- Teams must ensure that they do not transit the pontoons with any other teams to ensure that they do not breach the "rule of six"
- If teams meet any berth holders or other members of the public while on the pontoons we ask you to step on to one of the finger pontoons to allow the other users to pass out of courtesy
- The boats are all berthed in one bay at the end of D pontoon
- 3 boats will be berthed outside the umpire ribs on the seaward side of the pontoon, the other 3 boats will be berthed outside of the transfer ribs. It is important that you only access your boat from the side that it is berthed and do not board any other RS21 other than the one you are allocated
- Once ready to go afloat we will have to release the shore side boats first to allow the transfer ribs to dock out and ensure that it is safe to exit the berth.
- Please let the bosuns (peter Aitken or Tim Anderton, we will introduce them to you by video later) or the transfer drivers (Roy McCubbin or Jack Fenwick, again to be introduced by video) know that you are ready to go so that we can coordinate launching
- Please note, you may not leave any equipment, lines fenders etc on the dock. Everything must go with the boat.
- There are notes in the Sailing Instructions about ensuring that you do not obstruct the Wight Link Ferries, this is paramount as they have very limited manoeuvrability and will not be able to avoid you.
- The plan is to run racing to the East of the Lymington River entrance but this will be confirmed by the Race Officer (Keith Sammons) one hour before racing begins
- Any change to the race area will be delivered in person by either an umpire or changeover rib

#### When sailing

- Teams must maintain half metre separation at all times when sailing
- Teams should plan manoeuvres to minimise close contact or crossing
- Face coverings must be worn when less than one metre from a team mate or any other person on board
- It is recommended to sanitise your hands as often as possible, you should have your own hand sanitiser for this
- The umpires can and will penalise for failure to wear a face covering, don't get caught out

We have two large transfer ribs both of which are capable of taking driver plus eight sailors at one metre separation. The procedure for transferring to the race boats is as follows:

- Currently we have planned to do changeovers from the pontoon that we are berthing the boats on but we are investigating the possibility of using the "Dan Bran" pontoon just

downriver of the Royal Lymington YC. IF we change the pontoon then we will circulate this information by WhatsApp.

- The “Dan Bran” pontoon is a six minute walk from Berthon’s Marina, if we use this pontoon please make sure you are there in plenty of time.
- We have hand sanitiser on each rib and a large “weed killer” spray bottle with disinfectant
- Transfer ribs will be disinfected before you get on board
- Teams should separate themselves such that one team is on the port side and the other is on the starboard side
- Face coverings should be worn at all times when on the transfer ribs
- Before you leave a transfer rib, it is your responsibility to disinfect the rib before you get off, cleaning down all surfaces that you have been in contact with before you get off
- When you transfer on to an RS 21, take the spray bottle with you and disinfect the surfaces, ropes, sails and fittings that you will use. Once you are satisfied, hand the spray bottle back to the change rib

#### Shore side

- To prevent groups of sailors gathering before or after racing we shall adopt the following procedures
- The first sailors to race on a given day should turn up on site one and a half hours before the first start on that day
- They should rig up and aim to be afloat one hour before the first start
- The four crews who are in the first two groups of change overs should arrive, dressed ready to go sailing, one hour before the first start but should wait until they are called to the boats in the WhatsApp. Special care should be taken to ensure that teams do not mix and break the “rule of six”
- All remaining teams should aim to arrive at the venue, dressed and ready to sail, ten minutes before the start of the first race. Again, care should be taken to ensure that teams do not mix, breaking the “rule of six”
- Teams should keep an active watch on the WhatsApp chat to ensure that they are ready to be collected as soon as the change rib arrives on the pontoon.
- Once sailors are brought ashore they should disperse and ensure that they avoid mixing so as not to break the “rule of six”
- At the end of the day we will communicate the last possible race number as soon as practical so that we are able to identify teams who will not go afloat again that day
- Once we have identified the final race, we ask that any teams who are ashore and have finished for the day make best efforts to leave the venue and certainly to ensure that they avoid mixing with other teams to avoid breaking the “rule of six”
- As we complete the final change overs we ask that as teams come ashore they leave the venue and ensure that they avoid mixing

#### Returning to shore at the end of the day

- The umpire ribs and transfer ribs need to be docked before the RS 21’s can go along side. There will need to be a short pause while these boats are disinfected.
- You should prepare your boat to be ready to come alongside before you reach Berthon’s Marina. Halyards should be ready to run and you should have a plan for coming alongside
- When you reach the pontoons do not come alongside until either the bosuns or transfer drivers have indicated that you should do so.
- Once you are securely tied up please bag the sails and take them to the RS Sailing Van which will be in the car park
- You may be asked to help disinfect the sails before they are stored for the evening

- The sheets should all be coiled and stored in the spinnaker bag, we will then disinfect them and the boats once you have left so they are ready for the next day
- When you leave the boats you must ensure that you do not mix with another team to comply with the “rule of six”

We are doing everything that we can to ensure your safety and that of our volunteers and staff. We ask that you make an extra effort in helping us set the gold standard in how to have a sailing event during COVID times, it is only by working together that we will make this happen and for this we thank you.

We hope that you feel confident in attending our event and so if you have any suggestions on how we can help you feel more confident then please email [jack.fenwick@rya.org.uk](mailto:jack.fenwick@rya.org.uk) as we are always looking for ways to improve our events.

Finally, could I ask that you reply to this email to let us know that you have received it and understood it’s contents? If we don’t get a reply we will have to contact you by phone to ensure that you have the information so your help is appreciated.

Kind regards

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