

Limited return to sailing by New Forest Sailability for skippers from Tuesday 2 June

1. NFS announcement and conditions

Apologies for the length of this email but it is important for everyone's safety that we have very detailed instructions as we return to sailing, which we are delighted to be able to do, even if only for our more experienced sailors.

We have been following the NHS, Government and RYA guidance on any return to boating and worked through these with Spinnaker Sailing Club, who have been extremely helpful. The interests and safety of New Forest and Spinnaker members are paramount and we must follow the NHS and Government regulations and guidance at all time and the procedures below do so. More than ever, individual members must take responsibility for their own safety and be very conscious of the safety of others. A significant proportion of our sailors and volunteers, either for themselves or in relation to a member of their household, will be people who are at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus (those aged 70 and over, those with specific chronic pre-existing conditions etc) and are being advised to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household. Other people on medical grounds have been told they are clinically extremely vulnerable to coronavirus and have been advised to continue shielding measures and keep themselves safe by staying at home and avoiding all contact with others.

Limited sailing will be available to certain of our sailors and volunteers from **Tuesday 2 June** provided this is done in strict accordance with the following:

1. Any regulations or guidance issued by Spinnaker Sailing Club as updated from time to time. The current regulations are set out below. Essentially we are following their process for the hiring of club boats and factors specific to NFS boats and our members have been **added in red** below.
2. Sailing will unfortunately only be open to signed off skippers sailing either single handed or with members of their household. This is because we cannot provide safety boat cover and **thus all sailing is at the individual's own risk**. Each individual member should assess their own risk taking account of their abilities and the prevailing conditions. Factors to consider would include sailing and boating experience, the wind and weather conditions and for example any need to reef, the impact of any disabilities on sailing, particularly if single-handed, and handling an incident such as being stranded or going aground and thus for example the need to be able to paddle.
A list of skippers is attached and please contact Richard Savill or Malcolm Bentley if you are not on the list and believe that you are a signed off skipper. If an NFS member, who is not a skipper, wishes to sail and has a household member that is an experienced sailor then please contact Richard Savill or Malcolm Bentley to discuss whether they may be signed off as a skipper and thus could take the member sailing. They would also need to join NFS as a volunteer member. As NHS and Government lockdown restrictions relax we will review this policy.
3. A member wishing to sail must join for 2020 as an NFS volunteer member and pay the £5 annual subscription.
4. A member wishing to use an NFS boat must book a specific time and date. See details below. Payment of the session fee of £5 per boat will be due at the end of the month together with the membership subscription. Sessions will be for 1½ hours to include time for cleaning either end of the session, although may be extended if no one else has the next session booked. Sessions are available only when a Spinnaker staff member is on site to supervise the disinfecting of the boats and this is expected to be Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 5pm.

2. Spinnaker announcement, regulations and advice

The Management Committee and James Osborne our Chief Instructor held a virtual meeting today to discuss the latest government advice about relaxing Covid-19 restrictions.

As always Spinnaker Club wants to act in the best interests of its members, staff and the general public. With this in mind we will always follow NHS and Government advice.

We are pleased that the new regulations acknowledge the benefits of outside activity and exercise.

As of 10 o'clock Wednesday 13th May the Club will be reopening to allow individuals to go sailing in their own boats, either single handed or with members of their family unit. There will be no racing, training or catering at this stage and the Club's boats will not be available for hire (*this has now changed*).

The combination locks to the gates are being reinstated today with the previous code. The code to the Clubhouse remains the same.

Please either arrive dressed to sail or change discretely in the carparks or your vehicle. Do not change in the clubhouse.

The lavatories and hand basins will be accessible but please do not use the changing facilities or showers. Also a maximum of 2 people can use each changing room any one time. Please use the hand gel in the lobby on entering the building or wash your hands thoroughly.

Club staff and committee members may be seen in the club house on club business, please do not enter the main area even if others are using it.

There will be no safety cover, all sailing is at your own risk. Please take the time to look at James' Safety video on Facebook/YouTube from tonight, and his boat maintenance checks video which will be available from Thursday. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1LX92i7GImQge3UvdC_ppQ

Do not attend the Club if you or anyone else in your household has symptoms of Covid-19 or you are quarantined following a contact. Do not attend the Club if you are in a high risk or shielded group. Maintain two metre social distancing advice. Please be sensible. If the site is overwhelmed or social distancing is not happening we may need to restrict access to the Club.

We hope that the next phase of the lock down relaxation will allow us to reintroduce racing and training at the Club. We are making active plans so that we can restart at the earliest opportunity, but obviously we are dependent on government advice and even this limited relaxation may be reversed if Covid numbers start rising again.

Do enjoy your return to Spinnaker but in the government's own words "Stay alert."

Happy Sailing

3. Hiring Club Boats/use of NFS boats During Covid-19 Pandemic

General Principles:

- Boats must be disinfected between users
- Payment must be taken prior to use, in a contactless manner **See Booking procedure below**
- Boats may only be used when a **Spinnaker** staff member is on site – to ensure cleaning procedure followed.
- Sailors must be able to operate independently of staff except for advice/supply of equipment
- Sailors must provide own Buoyancy Aid/clothing **NFS members may take a buoyancy aid from the shed, which they should retain for their sole use throughout this pandemic. It should be washed prior to use in line with this guidance**
<http://www.lifejacketassociation.org/life-jackets/covid-19-virus-cleaning-storing-your-pfd/>
- **Sailors should have an operating walkie talkie radio with them and should take one from the shed and retain it for their sole use. They are responsible for providing the batteries (3 x AA) and should not use the NFS rechargeable ones. The Spinnaker staff member on duty will have one of our walkie talkies should a member wish to talk but it is important to remember that safety cover is not being provided.**
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Cancelling of arranged hire/use of NFS boats:

The **Spinnaker** club **and/or NFS** must retain the right and absolute discretion to cancel a member's hire/use of an **NFS boat** at any time either on their arrival at the club or during their time afloat. All members should be made aware of this at the time of booking.

Hiring/use of boats procedure:

1. Member books boat via SCM and pays **See NFS booking and payment procedure below.**
2. Member comes on site and locates **Spinnaker** staff member.
3. Member cleans boat prior to rigging using sanitiser provided by **Spinnaker** club under direction of **Spinnaker** staff.
4. Members rigs and launches boat with no staff assistance. **NFS boats will be moored on the south pontoon. They will not have mast or boat covers, helping to kill any residual virus if present. Centre boards will be down and rudders installed. Thus preparation required will be:**
 - a. **Unfurl sails and make ready**
 - b. **Ensure all equipment is in the boat (tiller, paddle, baler)**
 - c. **Check centre board retaining pin is properly inserted**
 - d. **Turn on radio and check battery**
5. Member goes sailing.
6. Member recovers boat and de-rigs with no staff assistance.
7. Member cleans boat following de-rigging using sanitiser provided by **Spinnaker** club under direction of **Spinnaker** staff.
8. **Any boat faults should be noted on the fault sheet in the shed and notified to Richard Savill.**

Suggested other controls **not applicable to NFS:**

On 2 x Visions and 2 x Fevas no covers put on to allow sunlight to reach cockpit area, helping to kill any residual virus if present. Should demand be high more covers left off during this phase of the pandemic.

Cleaning Procedure:

All necessary cleaning equipment will be in one box, which Spinnaker staff member will place on the ground so member can access materials when required. A bin will also be placed close by for the disposal of gloves.

1. Sailor puts on disposable gloves
2. Disinfectant sprayed over all areas of cockpit, rudder/tiller, boom, lower mast, accessories and launch trolley.
3. Wait 1 minute
4. Liberally hose boat down with low pressure freshwater, care must be taken to not cause excess spray after water hits the boat
5. Remove gloves and dispose of

Safety Boat Provision:

No safety cover to be provided. All sailing at individual's own risk. Work on going to identify and source appropriate PPE and put in place suitable procedures so safety cover can be provided.

Sanitiser to be used:

<https://www.ecoworksmarine.com/products/eco-natural-sanitiser>

The Sanitiser at the above link is proven/tested against Coronavirus and is approved safe to use in a marine environment, also recommended by RYA's Green Blue Initiative. It is available to purchase in bulk 20 litre containers.

4. NFS booking and payment procedure

1. We have set up a Word document as shown in the example attached on Google Docs, an online file sharing system. This should hopefully be accessible to anyone with a computer, tablet or smart phone on most systems. The names shown as booked in this example are for illustrative purposes only.
2. If you are interested in booking a boat please email Malcolm Bentley on malcolmsbentley@gmail.com and he will invite you to share the booking document and give you permission to edit it in order to add your name in a booking.
3. To book a boat, click in the vacant cell of your choice and insert your full name. No consecutive bookings please. If you wish to cancel you should do so at least 48 hours in advance by deleting your name. Those cancelling within 48 hours or not turning up to sail are asked to pay the £5 session fee. This does not apply if the conditions are unsuitable for sailing.
4. Payment for all sessions at £5 each per boat is due at the end of the month and should be paid, together with the £5 membership subscription in the first month, ideally online to New Forest Sailability 55-70-05 a/c 86899694. Give your name as the reference.