

Botany Bay Yacht Club

Risk Assessment and Plan

The NSW Government has announced that restrictions regarding COVID-19 have been updated in the latest NSW Government Public Health Order. The revised restrictions include that sailing events are now permitted, on compliance with the Public Health Order. This document represents the BBYC risk assessment and plan for conduct of BBYC sailing events in a COVID-Safe environment. The risk assessment and plan is consistent with the BBYC Risk Register.

Background

COVID-19 is a serious infection that has hospitalised many and killed over 500 people in Australia. In addition, many individuals and businesses in the Australian community are enduring significant hardship as a result of the government restrictions imposed to protect the health of all Australians.

With the easing of restrictions, it is important that any BBYC-organised activities are managed in full compliance with the both the letter and the spirit of the government restrictions, in order to protect BBYC members as well as the wider community. In particular, BBYC membership includes some individuals who may be at higher risk of serious consequences of infection with COVID-19. It is therefore important that all participants in BBYC events take appropriate action that protects their own health, as well as that of their fellow members and the general community.

The updated Public Health Order continues to apply the 4 square metre rule to all land-based activities. However, for recreational boating, including racing, there is an on-water exemption to this requirement, such that *..any persons on a recreational vessel that are not members of the same household shall, so far as is reasonably practical, maintain a physical distance of 1.5m'.*

Updated advice from NSW Health to Community Sports Organisations, dated 16th July 2020, requires incorporation of the following steps (relevant to BBYC sailing events) into the club's COVID Safety Plan:

- Ensure processes are in place to exclude participants (including spectators and officials) if they have visited Victoria in the previous 14 days;
- Ensure processes are in place to exclude participants (including spectators and officials) if they have attended any of the reported case locations listed on the NSW Health website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>).

A further update issued on 14th August 2020 related to organisation of regional events by Community Sporting Organisations.

Risk Assessment

Risk Identification: that an individual infected with COVID-19 attends BBYC to participate in a club event. Based on the BBYC Risk Register, the likelihood for this is considered '*Possible – might occur at some time, perhaps every 2-3 years*'.

Risk Impact: The potential outcome of an infected individual attending a BBYC sailing event could range from one person on the same boat becoming infected, up to many people on multiple boats becoming infected. As a result, BBYC members, particularly those with increased susceptibility, could suffer serious consequences, and community transmission of COVID-19 could restart and be traced back to the BBYC event. Based on the BBYC Risk Register, the impact of this is considered '*Major - Significant injuries (requiring hospital treatment), or major inconvenience to the public, or definitely appear in the media*'.

Based on the Risk Rating Matrix in the BBYC Risk Register, a risk with Likelihood rated as 'Possible' and Impact rated as 'Major' scores a 'High' risk rating, indicating: '*Attention needed, preferably before applying for Aquatic Licence and certainly before any organised activity/event*'. The BBYC COVID-19 Sailing Safety Plan, which will be provided to all participants at BBYC events, details the operations considered appropriate to manage the identified risk.

Risk Management:

Based on the updated government restrictions, Australian Sailing has compiled the following guidelines for sailing clubs (further detail is available at: <https://www.sailingresources.org.au/covid-19/>):

- Get in, sail and get out;
- Club activities including racing can resume as long as the Public Health Order is complied with.
- Outdoor activities only;
- Limit activities to small individual groups with a maximum of 10 participants (inclusive of coaches and support staff);
- Practice good hand hygiene before and after sailing;
- Avoid physical contact;
- Changerooms, canteens and kitchens should remain closed – arrive dressed and ready to sail;
- Stay home if you are unwell
- Don't share drinks or towels;
- Sharing of equipment should be avoided and if necessary, should be kept to a minimum;
- Keep a distance of 1.5 metres where reasonably practicable; and
- Follow the one person per 4 square metres rule ashore to ensure sufficient physical distancing between people;.
- Contact Tracing records must be kept.
- Encourage the use of COVIDSafe App whilst at your club

BBYC recognises that there are few options to limit the risk of an infected individual attending a BBYC event, except to appeal to symptomatic individuals to stay away. The main focus of this document is to limit the potential for transmission of infection at BBYC. There are two areas for

potential transmission: on BBYC grounds, and on-board. BBYC operations must be designed to limit the potential for spread on BBYC grounds, while skippers must be guided to limit the potential for spread on-board. In terms of the impact of an infected individual attending a BBYC event, the best-case scenario for members, BBYC and the community generally would be that, if there is any disease transmission, it is limited to crew of one boat only. The basis of this plan, therefore, is to practise social distancing at all time, and to minimise any contact between crews from different boats, to reduce the risk of transmission among multiple boats. Specific detail is provided in the BBYC COVID-19 Sailing Safety Plan.

Risk Communication

All BBYC members will be advised of the BBYC COVID-19 Sailing Safety Plan, including the risk, via an email announcing the commencement of sailing at BBYC. In addition, skippers who register to participate in a BBYC event will be separately advised of the requirements.

Updated: August 2020