

17 July 2020

Guidance for a Further Re-opening of Outrigger

The government has announced a further re-opening of the sport and recreation sector in order to meet its commitment to increasing people's access to physical activity for health and wellbeing.

We were all hoping that July would see us all paddling again in V6s and V12s and that the COVID-19 situation would be at a stage where outrigger in crew boats would be possible. The government is taking an, understandably, cautious approach.

Facility Re-opening

From 25 July, indoor gyms and training facilities may open, as long as government advice on protecting against COVID-19 is followed.

For on-water paddling, the government's '1m plus' rule only allows for 1m distancing where there are mitigating circumstances. These include requirements to sit back-to-back and to wear a face mask. For outrigger crews, the former is impossible and the latter impractical because the mask will saturate with condensation from heavy breathing, restricting airflow.

With the exception of co-habiting members of the same household, paddling in an OC2, V3 or V6/OC6, is, unfortunately, still not possible.

Who Can Go Outrigger Paddling?

You can paddle V1/OC1 subject to the policy of your club and any restrictions imposed by the waterway authority. Social distancing, at 2m should be observed at all times, and paddlers in need of the support of a safety boat should not go out. Ideally all equipment should be used by one paddler only and should be washed with soap and water thoroughly before and after use.

Subject to your facility's policy:

- Up to six members of **different households** can paddle V1/OC1.
- Members of the **same household** can paddle in a V6/OC6, V3 and OC2 together.

GB Outrigger paddlers on an **elite pathway** should contact the GB Outrigger Secretary for specific guidance.

Please paddle at your normal club or training area, rather than travelling to an unusual place to paddle. Please follow GB Outrigger Safety Guidance and ensure you have assessed all risks.

Restarting Outrigger in Teams

Great Britain Outrigger, as a national governing body, needs to submit a plan for government permission to [restart outrigger in teams](#), for both training and for competition. We are considering options for how outrigger in crew boats can be COVID-19 secure, whilst ensuring that all of our Ohana can be safe participating in the sport we all love. It is important to realise that as much as we wish for things to be different, the two may not be compatible.

Outrigger Events in OC1 and V1

Outrigger competition is suspended at minimum until 31 August. Upon a review of the national COVID-19 situation in September, Great Britain Outrigger plans a phased return to OC1/V1 on-water competition:

On-Water Competition Phases

Phase 1 (Current Phase)	Competition suspended
Phase 2	Competition within a club, between club members
Phase 3	Competition between clubs and individuals nationally.

Outrigger Events in OC6/V6, V3 and OC2

Currently, there are no plans to resume outrigger team competition in 2020. However, if the COVID-19 landscape dramatically changes, we will revisit this plan.

A hui hou, mālama pono.

Kindest regards,

Great Britain Outrigger Executive

The above information is correct at time of circulation but as and when the Government and WHO advice is updated, we will provide an update.