

Who are Sailability?

RYA Sailability is the Royal Yachting Association charity supporting people with disabilities and offering ways for them to get afloat. RYA Sailability are compiling a database of organisations able to offer opportunities to get afloat. The majority of these organisations will then be listed in the Sailing Site Guide.

I can only provide opportunities to those that can help themselves. Does this exclude me?

Not at all, there are several different categories of disability. Not everyone with a disability requires help. Sometimes all that is required is an adjustment of what you ask them to do or the time that it takes to do it.

What is a 'disability'?

Someone with a disability need not necessarily be confined to a wheelchair requiring assistance. There are many different categories of disability from Ambulant, a person with a disability that does not greatly affect their mobility, to Non-ambulant (assisted) someone in a wheelchair who needs assistance in the activities of daily living, and everything in between as well as visual/hearing impairments and learning disabilities. At present there are a lot of service personnel who are incredibly fit but may have lost a limb or part of their sight or hearing but would love the chance to get afloat. More information available by clicking the link below:

www.rya.org.uk/programmes/ryasailability/bestpractice/Pages/publications.aspx

What training do I need to take disabled sailors out sailing?

You require no training, however Sailability offer disability awareness training which can help with your understanding and approach to working with some disabilities. Further details available here:

www.rya.org.uk/programmes/ryasailability/Pages/AwarenessTraining.aspx

What is foundation status and how can I get it?

RYA Sailability approves sailing sites around the UK for the accessibility of their shore based facilities. Once approved, they receive Sailability Foundation status which can lead to new funding streams. More information is available by contacting RYA Sailability or online:

www.rya.org.uk/programmes/ryasailability/Pages/Shorebasedfacilities.aspx

Details of grant funding and application forms for Foundation Sites are available on the Sailability Trust website: www.ryasailability.org.uk/about/grants_.php where there is also access to best practice, expert support and guidance.

Do I need to convert my boat?

Not necessarily, it depends on the level of the disability that you feel comfortable taking out. You may only need to make modifications to the way you communicate or in the way you organise the boat. Alternatively you may offer lifts and wheelchair strapping points, if you can cater for Non-ambulant. RYA Sailability have lots of

information about how modifications are made, if required.

www.sailability.co.uk/directory.php?sector=6

How can I assess what types of disability I can take out?

Brief details are provided on the listings form which give an overview of the categories of disability used by RYA Sailability. If you need further guidance please contact RYA Sailability.

I provide motor or power boat trips, can I be involved?

Yes, RYA Sailability is about giving people with disabilities the opportunity to get afloat. Tasters such as this are a great way of getting people on the water.

How can Sailability help?

Sailability are on hand to give help and advice both to providers and sailors with disabilities. There are lots of useful resources available online:

www.rya.org/sailability as well as through the Regional Sailability organisers. RYA Sailability also offer disability awareness training for providers for a nominal fee.

What does it cost?

To be listed on the RYA Sailability database and have the opportunity to appear in the Sailing Site Guide and website is free. There may be some cost involved in adapting boats and procedures, if required, however RYA Sailability are able to advise on any grants or funding available to assist with this. You are not expected to get disabled people afloat for free, normal course fees would still apply.

Where can I find out more about Sailability?

www.ryasailability.tv

www.rya.org.uk/Sailability

[Facebook](#)

Who's who at Sailability?

Debbie Blachford	Sailability Manager
Morna Hughes	RYA Sailability Trust Manager
Connie Lebrun	Sailability Project Assistant
Matt Grier	Disability Racing Development Coach

RYA Sailability have a team of Regional Organisers around the UK, they hold a wide range of information and advice to support clubs, volunteers and sailors with questions involved with disabled sailing, contact details are available in the Sailability section of the website.

www.rya.org.uk/programmes/ryasailability/Pages/contact.aspx

RYA Sailability Contact details

RYA Sailability

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