

Use of Launches

Only individuals holding a valid RYA Powerboat Level 2 certificate may use an ERC Launch

1 - Preparation – Checks

- The launch driver is assessed and approved for the boat and knows the rules of the river and any special requirements.
- The maximum number of people expected to be in the launch (including any recovery plan) is within the capacity of the boat.
- All launch equipment is available, working and in good condition:
 - Megaphone (if required)
 - Paddle
 - Launch rescue kits including space blankets, throw lines etc.
 - Buoyancy aids for all in boat
 - First aid equipment
 - Mobile phone in waterproof container with emergency phone numbers
- Launches must always be booked out and back in the record book.
- Check Oil and that Fuel Levels are sufficient for twice the intended use to ensure that there is plenty for any casualty recovery
- Ensure the kill switch is in position and functioning.
- Ensure any drainage bung is in place before launching

2 – Boat Handling

- Launching the boat must be done with a sufficient number of people to prevent injury and damage
- Ensure the engine is not grounded before it is started to prevent damage.
- The kill switch lanyard must be attached to driver at all times whilst the engine is running
- Launches must be used with due regard for other river users. Speeding past moored boats or occupied fishing stands is forbidden. Normal navigation rules apply.

3 – Return to Boathouse

- Refill the tank
- Return launch fuel to the flammable material store

4 - Use of Coaching Launches during Casualty Recovery

- Coaching launches are not designed to carry-out a full recovery of a capsized crew but they may, and should, play a significant part in assisting crews to follow capsize and recovery procedures.
- Sufficient fuel must always be available for rescue activities and shall be checked as part of a recovery plan
- Ensure launch has enough capacity (people) to carry out the recovery plan
- Plan how to bring people into the launch (consider high sides, instability, unguarded propeller, etc).
- During recovery assist crews as much as possible e.g. communicate with the recovery team and help ensure that the effects of cold water and weather are minimised whilst waiting for recovery. Bring the most distressed people on board the launch if possible and either ferry them to the bank or return them to ERC
- Help to move the boat to the bank and recover equipment