

Use of Launches

Only individuals holding a valid RYA Powerboat Level 2 certificate may use a SUABC 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
 - Knife for removing entangled debris
 - 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
- 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 when applicable 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
- Lifejackets must be worn by all personnel on the boat at all times and must be properly fastened including the crotch strap.
- Launches must be used with due regard for other river users. Speeding past moored boats or fishermen is forbidden. Normal navigation rules apply.
- Coaches must not coach and drive the launch simultaneously, ideally a coach will have a driver with them for the outing.

3 – Return to Boathouse

- Return launch fuel to the flammable material store
- Return launch bag to shelf in boathouse

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 the boathouse.
- Help to move the boat to the bank and recover equipment