

Marlow Rowing Club – Enjoy Rowing Safely Policy



Status: DRAFT FOR REVIEW

TITLE:
Launch Driving

Ref No:
Safety 001

PURPOSE: To ensure that launches are safe to use and that launch drivers are competent to both drive and provide emergency rescue.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Launches must be maintained to be in a safe condition to use
2. Launch drivers shall be competent to drive a launch
 - a. Having achieved a RYA Level 2 Powerboat Handling certificate for non-tidal conditions
 - b. Having achieved (a) above and RYA Safety Boat
3. Launch drivers must complete an induction on the club procedures for launch use
4. Launch drivers must use a kill cord
5. Launch drivers must ensure they have an emergency paddle on-board
6. Launch drivers must declare any medical condition which may prevent them from driving a launch
7. Launch drivers must carry lights in conditions of low visibility or in the dark.
8. Launch drivers and passengers must wear an appropriate lifejacket
9. Launch drivers must have an appropriate means of communication to raise or receive alarm.
10. Launch drivers must carry with them a launch safety bag
11. Launches must be marked to show the safe maximum weight they can carry
12. Launch drivers must drive safely with care and concern for other river users obeying the code of conduct
13. Launch drivers must check the launch prior to use to ensure it is in a safe condition
14. Launch drivers must only use a launch in safe weather and water conditions observing the Weather and Water conditions notifications.
15. Launch drivers should be trained first aiders with a current certificate
16. Launch drivers should complete an annual practice of rescue techniques.
17. Launches for use as Safety Cover in competitions should:
 - a. Be suitable to rescue the appropriate number of people
 - b. Be fitted with a propeller guard
 - c. Be driven by a suitable qualified rescue driver holding the appropriate RYA qualification
 - d. Be driven by a driver who has completed rescue practice in the previous 12 months
 - e. Have a minimum of one crewman on-board
 - f. Have a suitable trained first aider on-board
18. Driver approval should be withdrawn in the ultimate if there are repeated or material breaches.

Other Relevant Policies or Guidance:

- MRC Launch User Induction
- MRC Launch Driver Code of Conduct
- Rowsafe
- MRC Safety Policy xxxx Personal Flotation Device
- MRC Safety Policy xxxx Weather and Water Conditions
- MRC Safety Policy xxxx Launch Safety Bags

First issued:	Revision No: 1	Date:	Approval:
Nature of Revision:			

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ACCOUNTABILITY:

Launch Driver

- Ensure you are competent to drive and handle the launch in the conditions you anticipate
- Check your launch prior to use
- Ensure you are competent to effect a rescue if you are coaching
- Ensure you and your passengers wear a lifejacket
- Ensure you use and carry the required equipment – this includes a launch safety bag
- Report and incidents, accidents or equipment issues
- Check you have sufficient fuel to complete your trip

Club Captain

- Ensure that launch drivers are aware of this policy
- Ensure compliance with the policy

Club Water Safety Advisor

- Maintain the register of approved drivers, keeping copies of the RYA 2 licences on the club's behalf
- Review this policy each year

[Launch Coordinator]

- Periodically inspect launches to ensure they remain safe to include a check of the kill switch.
- Maintain the launches in good working order, removed from use if ineffective and serviced at the appropriate frequency.

Competition Organiser

- Ensure safety launch cover is suitable and adequate for the Competition Safety Plan
- Check the records of qualifications, training and experience of safety launch drivers if using own safety cover.

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