

Safety Alert - Launch driving

This Safety Alert summarises the key points in British Rowing's current advice to Launch Drivers. All launch drivers should hold as a minimum the RYA Level 2 powerboat certificate (appropriate to water conditions; tidal v non-tidal) or equivalent. Do not drive unless you are sure that you are competent to drive and handle the launch in the conditions you are likely to encounter. Ensure that you are aware of the rules of the water and the speed limits and adhere to them at all times except in an emergency. If you are not sure then stay ashore.

Report any incidents or defects associated with use, storage, and handling of the launch.

Always carry a Safety Kit and a paddle. Ensure all the necessary safety equipment provided for the launch is available all the time (check the list in Rowsafe section 2.4).

Always use a kill cord. Ensure that one end is connected to the driver and the other end is connected to the engine or control console at all times when afloat. Carry a spare kill-cord for use in the event of the driver going over-board.

The basic rules are:-

- Test kill cords regularly to ensure that the engine stops when the kill cord mechanism is operated
- Make sure that the cord is in good condition
- Always attach the cord securely to the driver, ideally before the engine is started but certainly before the boat is put in gear
- Stop the engine before transferring the kill cord to another driver



There is further information available from this link

<http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/safetyinfo/Personalsafetyequipment/Pages/KillCord.aspx>

Always wear a life-jacket. All launch drivers and passengers must wear appropriate lifejackets at all times. *(Please refer to the lifejacket safety alert for more information on appropriate lifejacket use)*

Carry an appropriate communication device to summon help where necessary (eg, mobile telephone or marine VHF, in a waterproof case if needed) and leave information ashore about where you are going and when you should return.

Always use the correct lights in darkness and reduced visibility.

Do not forget that you are not only responsible for the safety of others, **you are also responsible for your own safety.**

For further information see the following documents on the British Rowing Website:-

Rowsafe section 2.4, Launch Driving at <http://www.britishrowing.org/sites/default/files/rowsafe/2-4-LaunchDriving-v1.pdf>

Rowsafe+ 2.4c Driving a launch at <http://www.britishrowing.org/publication/row-safe-plus-driving-launch>

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