



Safety Alert - Launch pre-use checks

Many clubs use launches as safety boats and for coaches. We sometimes take it for granted that they are in good condition and safe to use but there are a few launch checks that should be made at the start of each outing.

Fuel tank

- The tank should be strapped or fixed into the boat so that it cannot move,
- The tank vent should be open
- The tank should contain sufficient fuel for the planned activity (and some to spare)
- Fuel pipes are installed so that they cannot be trodden on or be a tripping hazard
- There are no fuel leaks

Outboard motor see also [Safety Alert – Outboard Motor Safety Checks](#)

- The motor should be securely fixed to the transom
- It should start easily and run smoothly
- The kill cord should be effective (the motor stops as soon as the kill cord is removed)
- The gear selector and speed control move easily and smoothly

Steering

- Remote (wheel) steering works correctly and there is no play in the system
- Steering cables are installed so that they cannot be trodden on or be a tripping hazard

Battery

- Battery is in a battery box that is fixed in the boat
- Battery cables are installed so that they cannot be trodden on or be a tripping hazard

Navigation Lights (if the boat is to be used other than in daylight)

- Lights work correctly (all-round white light and port & starboard navigation lights)
- Cables are installed so that they cannot be snagged, trodden on or be a tripping hazard

Mooring and other ropes

- These should be secured out of the water so that they cannot foul the propeller.

Safety equipment

- Carry the safety equipment specified by the club's risk assessment

If the boat does not comply with any of these checks then do not use it.