



Monmouth Rowing Club

REGATTA EVENT

Launch Driver “SOP”

Standard Operating Procedure for Launch Drivers at MRC Rowing Events

References:

1. This SOP should be read in conjunction with “British Rowing – Club Based Introduction to Launch Driving” (Which takes precedence)
2. Monmouth Regatta – Course Layout and Contacts
3. MRC Radio Protocol (limited chat, channel #1; end statement with “Over” or “Out”).

Familiarise with the Launch and its equipment.

To Start with:

- Before Setting Off:
 - Check the boat is Fuelled (Breather Open) and has the necessary kit (See list below)
 - **Always attach the Kill Chord**
 - Check all lines/ropes are inside the boat before setting off
- Familiarise with the Course Layout and landmarks (including nearest landing points, other nearby Launch positions and overall Course Layout)
- Arrive in suitable attire (The club has a few sets of “Foulies” if it is raining. Remember caps, suncream, drink (non-alcoholic!), snacks). Be prepared to enter the water!
- It is OK to warn crews if they are at an increased risk of hitting the bank/foliage/another boat
- Whilst driving keep a good “360” view around you and be conscious of what (depth of water) is under you. Have a good look around (especially behind) before moving off.

Remember:

- Primary Role is to Assist Crew(s) in the Event of Capsize / other emergency
- Secondary Role is to Marshall crews
- Tertiary Role is to have a good day and support a fun Regatta! 😊

Positioning Launch During Operations

When travelling to/from Station position, do so at a speed appropriate to the conditions and vicinity of rowing boats (ie slowly when passing boats or faster, planing, when course is free)

Priority is to find a location that has a good clear view of racing and of adjacent launches (upstream and downstream) whilst not interrupting racing boats. Due to the river current, tie-up to a tree where possible, or hold position by tick-over propulsion.

In the Event of a boat capsize (Or other boat emergency):

1. **Raise the Alarm** and Evaluate if Racing should be stopped? (Radio / Loud Hailer / Phone / Voice)
2. **Go and assist.** Approach from downstream, slowly (Engage Neutral in your final approach), On contact, switch off engine, work the casualty to the side of the boat (port side, opposite the driver position is best) and both launch crew haul the casualty in ("Bounce" the casualty to get torso in over the side of the boat). Direct what you want the casualty to do (they may be confused or in shock). Broadcast on the Radio "Casualty on board Launch, Condition....".
3. Prioritise medical emergencies (Other in-the-water casualties to stay with their row-boat whilst others arrive).
4. Call for additional assistance if required.
5. Account for all crew then get them to shore.
6. Secure Boat, if possible, but leave it for others if casualty appears injured or multiple casualties (**Prioritise**)
7. Try to avoid passing through Wye Bridge, or if this happens ensure people float through the bridge rather than try to hang on around it. Familiarise with the Various Landing places available but aim to land at the clubhouse when possible.

In the event of a boat capsize resulting in a launch recovering rower(s):

Once crews racing on course have finished, and been marshalled to safety, bridge launch to take the place of the recovery launch.

Either a spare launch to be deployed to replace the bridge launch or the launch having deposited the recovered crews can do so [this should allow racing to recommence sooner].

All launches listen to "Race Control" to coordinate commencement of racing.

Launch Lit/Equipment Checklist:

Prior to leaving the Shore check over the Launch and It's Equipment, which, as a minimum should include:

1. Launch in good working Order and with Bow Rope Ladder
2. All personnel wearing Life-jackets
3. Fuel Can (at least half full)
4. Kill Cord (Securely fastened to limb of driver at all times when away from shore)
5. Radio & Loud Hailer
6. Knife & Throw Line
7. "TPA" (Foil Blankets, 4 Minimum)
8. Paddles or Oars
9. Bailer

In addition, try to ensure that you have:

- Mobile Phone (fully charged)
- Good Playlist 😊