



YBC Launch Competency

YBC Coaching Launch Driving Competency

This course/test is aimed at non RYA2 qualified members to enable them to drive a launch for coaching purposes under the supervision of a RYA2 qualified coach/passenger and a stepping stone to taking the RYA2 qualification. It covers basics of launch operation and manoeuvring, but not emergency or recovery procedures where the qualified person would be expected to take over.

The test is to be completed/signed off before being allowed to drive a coaching launch under supervision of a suitably RYA2 member/coach.

Content:-

Keys:

- Keys located in Key safe in the back boathouse in the key safe. The code is available from the Club Captain, Vice Captains or the Secretary on request.
- Fuel store key is in here too and should be returned as soon as the fuel has been taken from the store and the store locked.

Fuelling:

- Check the fuel tank has sufficient fuel for outing, if not more than half full, fill from the Jerry cans to around $\frac{3}{4}$ full using the funnel that is also in the fuel store. Ensure that you fill the cans either in the boathouse doorway with the doors open or outside.

Safety Bag Check:

- Always take the safety bag in the launch. The safety bag (bright green) is located in the front boathouse under the desk by the noticeboard. Check it contains:
 - Knife
 - Whistle
 - Throw rope
 - Spare clothing
 - Wrap around silver blanket
 - Mini Tool kit (10mm, 13mm spanners, adjustable spanner, pliers, cross head and flat head screwdrivers.
 - Basic first aid kit
 - Waterproof Tape

Ropes Check:

- Check Painter (bowline), mooring rope and anchor rope are untangled and securely tied to the boat.

Bungs:

- Check the bung is properly fastened tightly into the boat

Paddles, Boat hook:

- Check there is at least one paddle in the boat in case of engine failure, and also check there is a boat hook.

Anchor:

- Check the anchor weight is secure on its rope (untangled) and the rope attached to the boat

Engine Check:

- Oil
- Water leaks
- Loose Cables

Life Jackets:

- Ensure that you and any passengers are wearing life jackets.

Kill Cord:

- Always ensure the kill cord is present, there should also be a spare in the tool kit.

Knots – Ability to tie:

- Painter - Cleating off
- Clove hitch
- Bowline

Launching:

- How to get the boat into the water!

Powering on/starting:

- Power switch on side of console
- Lowering engine, trim button on side of throttle in the silver launch and by a manual lever on the green launch.
- Attach the kill cord to yourself
- Engine must always be lowered into the water before starting
- Apply a small amount of choke if the engine is cold
- Turn key to start
- Check water cooling pump running, should be a small jet of water coming out of the engine.
- Warm up the engine for 2-3 minutes on idle and take the choke off
- Pull the kill cord off to check the safety switch is working, then restart the engine

Driving:

- Engaging gears
- Moving to neutral
- Moving off
- Coasting/driftng
- Stopping
- U-turn
- Spinning the boat with forward and reverse
- Turning the boat around a buoy
- Spinning the boat around a buoy nose on
- Maintaining position against wind/current
- Accelerating
- Running at speed
- Slowing from speed

- Stopping quickly
- Wash awareness
- Manoeuvring in reverse

River Navigation:

- General Rules and slow running areas. Refresh as all members should be aware of these already.

Following a crew:

- Pay attention to the crew, and in particular the coach's instructions. The coach will use hand signals to instruct you, but you should also be able to predict requirements when listening to the instructions they give to the crew. When following a crew, do not get distracted by other events on the river as you will be following in close proximity. At the same time you need to be aware that you are responsible for checking your course and for looking out for other craft to ensure you keep safe and do not obstruct or collide with other river users. The coach will be concentrating on the crew primarily, you can override their instructions at any time in the interests of safety.
- You are also responsible for the wash on the boat and you should be aware of the slow running areas of the river, and ensure you reduce speed when other crews are around. As we all know, it only takes a very small amount of wash to put a sculler in difficulties and possibly sink them!

Positioning with a crew:

- Ensure you know where to position the launch with respect to crews. The coach will advise and will be consistent in his or her requirements. General advice is to keep the launch close but trailing the crew, and on the central river side of the crew. This ensures the launch is more obvious to other river users and protects the crew from other following craft when stationary.

Mooring the boat:

- Reverse
- Forwards
- Angled
- Collecting a buoy, rescue a person (theory)
- Driving onto trailer
- Raising engine
- Securing on trailer
- Power off
- Petrol removal/storage
- Putting away!