

ROYAL SOUTHERN YACHT CLUB
POWERBOAT OPERATING PROCEDURES

V26.10 – last updated 07/01/2026

Royal Southern Yacht Club Powerboats, including the Launch, are defined as *pleasure vessels* under the Merchant Shipping Regulations and are operated under these Operating Procedures and other relevant rules within the RSrNYC Safety Management System.

These procedures apply to:

- a. Any person on a Royal Southern owned powerboat at any time.*
- b. Royal Southern staff, at any time, whilst on a powerboat.*
- c. Any person on a powerboat being used in an official capacity to support a Royal Southern event of any type.*

Rules

1. The Skipper of a Powerboat must hold a RYA Powerboat Level 2 (PB2) or above. They must share a copy of their certificate with the Sailing Office before departure.
2. The Skipper is wholly responsible for following this policy - and for the safety of their vessel and their crew.
3. Powerboats must be equipped as described in Appendix 1.
4. Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) must be worn by all crew at all times whilst afloat except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing.
5. The helm must attach the kill cord around their leg, or attach it to their PFD, before setting off and must keep it attached at all times whilst underway. This applies to all powerboats except for heavy displacement craft, such as the Launch, where a kill cord is not fitted.
6. Powerboats must have a minimum of two crew including the Skipper whilst involved in any of the following:
 - a. A dinghy event - acting in any capacity
 - b. A junior/youth event - acting in any capacity
 - c. Any event - acting as a mark layer
 - d. Any event - acting as a safety vessel
 - e. At anytime when conditions are deemed rough by the Event Director, or are forecast to become rough during the course of the day
 - f. At anytime when directed by the Event Director
7. The Operating Area for Powerboats is within the Solent.
8. Skippers must follow all instructions issued by the Event Director, Race Officer, or anyone acting on behalf of the Organising Authority (or Committee) or Race Committee.

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Fuel

9. RIBs can be refuelled from the MDL Fuel Berth adjacent to the Club. Depending on the expenses policy for the individual event, Royal Southern staff can authorise the cost to be allocated to the Club credit account if appropriate. Please liaise with a member of Club staff regarding refuelling arrangements.
10. The fuel cans for the Club Rigiflex vessels are stored in the fuel store near the container. These can be refuelled from the MDL Fuel Berth as above. Fuel should **not** be decanted or transferred between containers whilst on the Club site.

Launch Only

The following rules apply only to the Royal Southern Launch – in addition to the rules listed above.

11. The Launch must only be driven by Royal Southern staff, or suitably qualified members with explicit permission from the Sailing or Haven Manager.
12. The Operating Area for the Launch is the River Hamble between Hamble Point and Universal Marina. This area may be extended with explicit permission from the Sailing or Haven Manager.
13. The Launch is primarily to be used for picking up and dropping off members from boats on the river. Shore/marina trips are not normally permitted except with explicit permission from the Sailing or Haven Manager.
14. Engine revs should be restricted to <2000 rpm. Be careful not to create excessive wash.

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Appendix 1 - Powerboat Safety Equipment

All Powerboats being used to support Club activity must be equipped with the following:

- Paddles
- Bucket or bailer
- Towline
- Adequate anchor, chain and warp
- Fire extinguisher
- Boat hook
- Pump (RIB only)
- VHF Radio
- Compass
- GPS
- Contained within safety box:
 - Throwline
 - Tool kit
 - Survival bag
 - First Aid kit
 - Sharp knife
 - Spare kill cord
 - Mouth horn
 - Chart of operating area
 - Distress flares (2 orange smoke, 2 red pinpoint)
 - Radio emergency procedure card
 - Tide tables