

# VESPER BOAT CLUB

## LAUNCH POLICY



The goal of this Policy is to provide for the safe operation of launches, protect the launches from damage/loss and abide by any applicable laws and regulations.

Anyone who operates a launch owned, rented, lent, or otherwise utilized by and for Vesper Boat Club operations must abide by this Policy and otherwise stipulated by the Vesper Captain, an appointed Lieutenant, or Club Officer.

- Only Vesper Members in good standing, and Vesper Coaches, may operate Vesper Launches unless otherwise approved by the Captain.
  - Captain may refuse anyone the use of a Vesper Launch at the Captain's discretion.
- All launch operators must be knowledgeable with the PA Boating Regulations, Schuylkill Navy Regulations and Vesper Launch Policies.
  - PA Boating Regulations: <https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingRegulations>
  - Schuylkill Navy Rules: <https://boathouserow.org/safety/>
- Operators may only drive a launch when they are experienced in its proper operation.
- Launches are reserved and must be signed out/in via iCrew. (coming soon)
  - Vesper Coaches and Tenants have priority on launch usage.
- Launches are not to be used for private for-pay coaching without approval.
- Launches may not travel above the twin bridges.
- Operators must verify that a launch is safe to operate prior to departure:
  - Operators are responsible for checking fuel levels prior to launches and refilling the tank when returning if it is less than ½ full. Refilling is to be done in the side yard only.
  - Operators must check that the hulls are free from water prior to departure. Launches with water in the hulls can not be used and must immediately be reported to the Captain.
  - Vesper Members and Coaches must not operate any launch without all navigation lights properly functioning between sunset and sunrise, and during inclement weather (rain, snow, fog, etc.)
  - Operators must verify all proper equipment is on Launch. This includes life jackets, throwable buoyant device, paddle, reach pole, bilge pump, whistle, flashlight, dock/towing lines.
  - Operators must NOT move any equipment from one launch to another without Captain's permission.
  - Operators must carry a mobile phone.
  - Lifejackets must be worn by any passenger 12 years of age or younger.
  - No more than a total of 3 people may be on board the 16 foot launches and 4 people on the 21 foot launches. (Includes the operator)
- All damage to the launch, or any safety incidents on the river, must be promptly reported to the Captain upon return.
- When returning, launch must be primarily and properly tied off to the dock or other permanent structure NOT OTHER LAUNCHES.