

Safety Statement.

It has come to the attention of the AMPBA that some of our members may be putting others at risk unknowingly.

Pit Safety should be prime for all our members, ensuring the safety of not only yourself but also of your fellow members.

The starting and launching of boats for many of you is a routine done almost without having to think about it. Unfortunately something that is done so routinely must be reviewed regularly to make sure everyone, new, old, or in between, are still following basic safety procedures.

Listed are a few issues that have arisen from various clubs:

- ALL boats are to be started on designated starting tables and promptly launched by a SINGLE person. There is NO excuse for this not to be happening. Starting boats outside pit areas for a heat, or starting boats already placed in the water will be putting other members and yourself at risk. This will be viewed as a blatant disregard of safety rules and disqualification from heat.
- All members are to enlist the help of a pit person to launching their boat **as stated in the Rule Book**. Boats are not to be thrown in by their driver for any reason on a club day or race event. The risk to other people, and their boats, posed by a driver getting up to the drivers stand whilst their boat is already on the water is massive. Even if your boat has a clutch, a drifting boat is a danger to other members boats, and to other members trying to launch boats. Therefore have a pit person launch your boat, so you are able to drive it as soon as it hits the water, leaving the launch area free for others to be safe.
- Boats are to be driven from the drivers stand or designated drivers area at all times. Driving from a launching/pit area is putting other members and their boats at risk due to poor visibility.
- All boats when approaching the start line must be at planing speed moving forward. With the presence of boats now that can basically come to a standstill then accelerate over the start line the incidence of idle boats lining up for a start is becoming more prevalent. In all fairness to other members and for the safety of all boats any boat which is stopped in the water for any period of time should be called as a 'dead boat'. A drivers true skill can be judged by them getting a good start at reasonable speed, not how well they can take off from a standing start (whether a clutched engine or electric).
- Rescue Boat usage – please ensure life jackets are in your clubs rescue boat for member usage at all times during a club day or event.
- Fire extinguishers should also be in a pit accessible place at every club day or event.
- Fuel bags should be no bigger than 1 litre (preferably 500ml) for those members who run petrol boats under Oval Racing rules. The danger from fire, and 'out of control' boats, is reduced with lower fuel capacities.