



# THE DURBAN SKI-BOAT CLUB

## DSBC LAUNCH PROCEDURE

**Please complete the launch register before you launch and after you return. Remember to call VHF ch.8 for radio check. Permission to launch must be obtained before proceeding to sea and before beaching on return. Marine safety requires you to call when launching even if the radio tower is not manned, to notify other vessels that you are about to launch and beach.**

### • TRACTOR TOW LAUNCH

- Drive in via the automated boom gate with PWC card access and drive up the ramp into the open gravel parking area on the right.
- Please keep the parking area closest to the sea clear and park on the harbour side of the rope demarcating the parking area. Be considerate – space is at a premium and be organised so we can clear the way for other boats ASAP.
- During duty hours, if the drivers are not currently attending to a boat they can be contacted at the launch control / bait room. The staff on duty at the launch control room will locate the drivers if they are not present.
- In order to arrange a tractor tow, you will need a tractor tow ticket which is obtained from the launch control / bait room. If you have paid the tractor levy, then you will need the membership card on which the levy is loaded in order for you to receive your tractor tickets.
- If you have not paid the tractor tow levy, you will need to pay the applicable tractor fee to the attendant who will then issue you with the tow tickets
- Boats will be towed in the order of the tickets issued – tickets are numbered. On weekends, there is usually an attendant who will assist in co-ordinating the tow sequence and procedures.
- This is a sheltered launch. You don't need to warm motors in a SW wind or calm conditions. However for 2 strokes in a NE wind or shore-break that need to warm motors, **you may warm your motors at the wash bay before launching only after 4am and before 6pm. Please don't rev your motors unnecessarily.**

Please be considerate of residents in our precinct and just warn them sufficiently to clear the small shore-break. **The committee will investigate complaints against skippers who cause unnecessary noise and sanction them if and when necessary.**

- Hitch up your own boat trailer when it's your turn – and secure with a chain which will allow speedy trailer recovery should your trailer come off the tow hitch during the launch.
- The tractor driver will launch you and leave your trailer on the beach.
- When you return let the tractor driver drop off 1 crew to sign the launch register while he tows your boat to the parking area. Please **don't ask the tractor driver to wait for you while you find your place in the register** and/ or cause congestion in the launch access area. **It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure his vessel does not cause congestion anywhere between the beach entry/exit point and the parking area.**
- **4 x 4's without a trailer are not allowed onto the beach. The guard has been instructed not to allow these vehicles on to the beach.**
- Your vehicle must be parked in the available club parking whilst you are at sea and your trailer is parked on the beach.

- **PUSH POLE LAUNCH**

- The DSBC encourages boats to launch via the push pole method. Local boat dealerships will attend to installations – it's not expensive.
- The tractor driver will launch you and leave your trailer on the beach.
- If you self-launch with a push pole, the tractor driver will push you in once you have your boat on the sand. If the tractor driver is not busy launching other vessels then ask him to follow you to the beach.
- During peak times when more than one tractor is operating, the drivers will organise themselves so that one driver will attend to a number of boats that have been un-trailered and are waiting for a push. They know the drill; please allow them to work efficiently.

- **SELF LAUNCH**

- Access to the beach launch site is via the access tunnel which is accessed through the club entrance boom and is activated by means of a club membership card.
- **Please do not stop between the boom & the beach or in the access tunnel for any reason.**

- **Please keep the entrance / roadway access clear while you are signing the register and preparing your boat.** Due to congestion and restricted access at this traffic point you need to prepare your boat on the beach. In the interests of safety and consideration for our tractor drivers please don't do this outside the launch register office.
  - It is in your interests to remember to deflate your tyres to avoid getting stuck in the sand which leads to congestion as others come to your recovery. The tractors will only attend to you after they have launched all boats in the queue. Please be considerate and only self – launch if you have the right vehicle and know how to drive on the sand. If not sure, ask for help from experienced 'self-launchers' outside of peak times.
  - When you return, **please keep the roadway outside the office clear while you sign yourself back in.**
- **NON DSBC / DUC BOATS**
    - If you are not a registered DSBC or DUC member boat then you must **pay to launch** whether you self-launch or require a tractor tow.
    - The schedule of fees payable is available in the launch control hut and at PWC offices and must be paid before launching. The launch control / bait room is open 24/7 and credit card payments are preferred.
    - **DSBC is responsible for safety at this launch site. You are not permitted to launch if your vessel does not have a valid COF and / or if the skipper does not have a skipper's certificate.** We do not check this or ask you to show the radio operator on duty, however **any DSBC committee member and the radio officer on duty is entitled to ask you to verify this before your launch or on your return. If you are found to have launched without complying with the required safety requirements the committee will investigate and sanction, if necessary, any skippers found to be violating safety regulations.** Your safety is our primary concern. No fish is worth risking life or injury to you, your crew and / or other people on the beach or in the water.
- **THE WASH-BAY**
    - The wash bay has been designed to wash 3 boats at a time and the water pressure is strong and consistent, but this only works IF skippers and crew follow some general guidelines:
    - Park your trailer straight in the demarcated wash-bays with your car in line, not at an angle preventing access to the adjacent bay.

- Be considerate of other boats waiting to be washed. Get on with the job without delay – remember this facility is provided for a wash up after fishing, not a full valet – you can do that at home.
  - Save water – please don't leave the tap running while you chat.
  - Remove your vehicle and boat as soon as you have finished – please don't go and have a beer and leave your boat blocking the wash bay preventing other boats from washing up.
  - **You can flush your motors up to 9pm at night – NOT after that please** in consideration for our neighbours across the road. We do not want our privileges removed due to complaints. **Please do not rev your motors excessively when flushing - this is not necessary as motors can be flushed at idle speed. The committee will investigate and sanction, if necessary, any skippers found to be violating this point.**
- **TANDEM PARKING BAYS FOR BOATS ATTACHED TO TOW VEHICLES**
    - Skippers are welcome to make use of the demarcated area on the beach to park their vehicles and boats after fishing while they enjoy the club facilities and services.
    - Tandem parking in the car park for tow vehicles with boats on trailers is limited and reserved on weekends and public holidays when the weather forecast is good for fishing.
    - A rope will cordon-off the tandem parking area for boats / tow vehicles returning to the club after fishing:
    - The parking attendants on duty will not permit any vehicles without a trailer to park in the tandem parking area, even if the driver claims to have a trailer on the beach. **Only tandems can park here – meaning a tow vehicle with trailer attached.**
    - Signage on the fence will make this clear to all drivers looking for parking – **“NO TRAILER – NO PARKING”**
    - These reserved bays will be un-reserved when / if the weather deteriorates and / or when there are no more trailers on the beach.
    - **Please make sure you park your tandem as close as possible to the others already parked there and that your tow vehicle is aligned with your trailer – not at an angle that blocks off other bays.** We know the parking area is congested and reversing a trailer is tricky at the best of times but please make the effort to **STRAIGHTEN UP YOUR TANDEM** before going off to enjoy refreshments.
    - When all the tandems are full, then sorry for you, that's the best we can do!

- **This will be a learning curve for staff and members, many who do not have ski boats – please help us get this right. Please don't fight with the car guards or security or other non-boating members – raise your concerns with club management on site at the time, who will attend to issues where non-tandems have parked in reserved tandem bays.**
- **LAUNCHING IN THE DARK**
  - Only allowed if both the vessel & skipper are night rated.
  - **Tractor drivers' duty hours are 4am – 6pm 7 days/week.** Their shifts are posted in the launch control / bait room. If a tractor driver is not awake at the launch control hut there is a club staff member on duty 24/7 who will call the driver on duty for you. If you want to make a night launch after tractor duty hours the skipper needs to make arrangements with the driver on duty.
  - **Please pay the driver R50 for any tractor tow services outside standard duty hours** as their PWC remuneration does not cover this. **Even if you are 1 minute before 4am or 1 minute after 6pm you are required to pay R50 to the driver – no exceptions & no debate.** The time on the tractor drivers watch will be the club time. **If you are caught short for cash and can't pay him before you leave the club, then he will take your S/DUC number and hand it in at DSBC accounts who will debit your account and settle with the driver.**
  - **The drivers will not tow non-members unless you pay for a tractor tow at the launch control / bait room before you launch. You will receive two receipts which are handed to the tractor driver – one ticket for launching and one ticket for recovery.**
  - Vessels and / or skippers that are not night rated can only launch after first light. For practical reasons **we define FIRST LIGHT as once we can clearly see the end of north pier.** If you are unsure please get clearance from the radio / safety officer on tower duty on weekends.
  - **Warming motors** – This is a sheltered launch. You don't need to warm motors in a SW wind or calm conditions. For 2 strokes in a NE wind or shore-break that need to warm motors, **please do this on the beach using a hose coupled to your live bait tank or bucket on the boat.** If you are unclear how to do this, please ask one of the committee members who will gladly explain how this works.

**If there is anything you are not clear about, please get in touch with one of the committee members. Safety at sea is our primary concern and we are proud of a clean safety record at this site and want to keep it that way. Thank you for your co-operation. If you have any suggestions how to improve our launch procedure, then please get in touch with one of the committee members. Thank you. - DSBC committee.**