

Fact Sheet – Dual Kill Cord for Powerboat Instructors

Typically, a Powerboat instructor will find themselves sitting on the tube of a RIB next to the controls whilst instructing. When teaching young students, it's often necessary to use a second Kill Cord to protect the instructor should they end up in the water. Some boats have a second Kill Cord mechanism fitted but many do not. The system below shows a method that enables the instructor to setup a second Kill Cord for any boat with an existing single Kill Cord mechanism.

RYA Training Centre Guidelines require the use of a 'second kill cord' for the instructor when teaching 8 – 11 year olds.



The picture on the left shows a typical Kill Cord setup on a small RIB used for teaching Level 2 courses. Plastic Kill Cords must have a central core and all Kill Cords should still have an 'elastic' quality, this helps stop the cord slipping down the leg and potentially failing to work.

Best practice when changing drivers is to remove the kill cord from the drivers' leg **and** from the boat. Hand the cord to the new driver, who then attaches it to their leg and then finally to the boat. This simple process ensures that there is **never** a Kill Cord attached to the boat but **not** to a driver. The whole procedure takes seconds, ask yourself the question; 'Why would you not do it like this'?



To setup a second kill cord for the instructor, you need to modify a standard Kill Cord by the addition of a 'carabiner' style clip. The clip must be big enough to allow the Kill Cord plastic attachment to pass through it easily. Test this, the size of the clip needed will depend on the make of the control box, a normal sized 'climbing type' carabiner seems to work for all types of Kill Cord fittings, but best to make sure the clip you have works in the boats being used.



To prepare the 'Instructor' Kill Cord, place it around the leg as normal then clip it **over** the drivers Kill Cord as shown in the picture on the left.

IT MUST ON NO ACCOUNT BE CLIPPED INTO ANY LOOP ON THE DRIVERS KILL CORD.



To test the setup, ask the driver to start the engine then pull the instructor Kill Cord sharply and the two Kill Cords should separate and the engine will stop. On successful operation, reassemble and continue with the planned training.

This is a simple solution to a problem that has several different solutions, we have found that this works across a wide variety of boats, it is cheap and easy to setup and more importantly works.

WARNING – it does not work on multi ended universal type Kill Cords.

ALWAYS USE A KILL CORD AND CHECK THAT IT WORKS