



VEHICLE RECOVERY *Tow or snatch recovery using a rope.*

The guidelines for the Clerk of the Course (C-o-C) in the Club Rule book states:

- “7 Recoveries during the trial **must** be co-ordinated by the C-o-C or by a person nominated by the C-o-C. Anybody who has any suggestions to make during a recovery should ensure that they are made via the C-o-C or his nominated deputy”

It is essential that ALL recoveries comply with this rule: The C-o-C will need to STOP the trial if this is not complied with.

The Vehicle Competition Rules in the Club Rule Book States:

- “13. Adequate towing points must be fitted to the front and rear. Any tow jaws, ball hitches, etc. that are designed to be bolted, must be mounted securely using suitable high tensile bolts of the correct specification. (8.8 + or equivalent) Any fabricated towing points are subject to the scrutineer’s approval. Closed towing hitches are strongly recommended. Shackles are not to be used.
14. All vehicles must carry a tow rope of adequate strength with a spliced soft eye at both ends. Knotted ropes are not permitted. Hemp rope is not recommended”

In other words, CoC must ensure that VEHICLES NOT COMPLYING with the above ARE NOT BE RECOVERED by the snatch method.

Sequence of recovery operation	Potential problems	Recommendations to reduce risk
C-o-C or nominated deputy to co-ordinating recovery	People disregard C-o-C or deputy	C-o-C to stop trial until problem resolved
Ensure all bystanders are well to one side	Bystanders in line with vehicles are at risk	Marshals to help control unwanted “helpers”
Position recovery vehicle	Inappropriate position	C-o-C: stop, think, make a decision
Ensure both drivers understand recovery system & commands	Drivers try driving without signals	Agree a system for drivers of hand signals to follow
Attach tow rope	Bystanders “muck in”	Nominated rope man ONLY to step between vehicles
Give signal to tow / snatch	Signal given too early	Rope man retreats to safe zone to one side before giving signal
Repeat sequence if unsuccessful	Recovery driver tries again without being signalled	C-o-C or nominated deputy to ensure safe system is maintained
Stop vehicles once recovered to good ground	Vehicles not secure	C-o-C or nominated deputy to ensure vehicles in safe position
Release rope tension	Drivers attempt to drive backwards or forwards with rope man between	Ensure both drivers heed signals & rope man NOT in risk zone
Remove tow rope	Vehicles move and crush rope man	Ensure handbrakes are ON and vehicles secure before entering risk zone
Check & stow tow rope	Damaged rope is put away	Remove rope from service if damaged