

General Angling Rules of B.W.A.C

The following rules are the general rules of the club and applied to all Club waters, in addition there may be other rules specific to certain waters, these will be included appropriately in the Club waters list

1. All members must familiarise themselves with the general rules and with rules specific to certain waters before fishing. This membership book now incorporates proof of current subscription payment and as such should be in each member's possession when he or she is on a Club water. Ignorance of the rules therein will not be accepted as an excuse when any of these rules have been transgressed
2. All members over the age of 12 must be in possession of a current EA rod licence prior to fishing.
 - 2b On all waters junior members under 15 must be supervised by an adult or by one of the club's coaches.
3. All members shall observe the bye-laws and regulations of both the local authority and the Environment Agency
4. Members must cause no damage to club property or lease waters and wherever possible are expected to prevent such behaviour in others.
- 5a. Members must, at all times, act in a responsible manner and cause neither conflict nor disturbance to any form of wildlife, other water users, nor must they act in any manner in which may bring the Club into disrepute
- 5b. Any member, or group of members, making any threat to the Club or any officer of the Club or any other member shall, at the discretion of the committee, have their membership revoked immediately.
6. Each angler must willingly produce his or her membership book on request from Club bailiffs or any other member who shows proof of their own membership or authority to so request.
7. The close season may vary from water to water and members should refer to the pages in this handbook featuring each water where dates are given
8. The length and breadth of keep nets must comply with current water authority bye-laws. Only knotless keep nets and landing nets thought to be used on Club waters.
9. Absolutely no trespassing onto land adjoining Club waters. Such action may jeopardise the Club's relationship with its landlords and therefore the Club's leases. Members are expected to follow the country code and leave all gates (through which they have permitted access) closed behind them.
10. Lighting fires is strictly prohibited, though judicious use of proprietary camping stoves for cooking is allowed. Such stoves should never be left unattended when lit
11. The leaving behind of litter is strictly forbidden. It is unsightly, dangerous to wildlife, and gives the Club a bad name. Any litter in a swim is deemed to belong to the person currently fishing within that swim. Take your own and any inherited litter home with you for safe disposal.

Any member found leaving litter on Club waters will be banned from the Club, in the first instance, for a period of one year. A second offence will result in a life ban. Any member found discarding fishing line will be banned from the Club for life.

12. When using tinned bait (such as sweetcorn, luncheon meat, pulses etc) remove the contents from the tin at home and take it to the venue in a bait box.

13. All matches will be fished to the National Federation of Anglers rules, any modifications of which will be announced at matches.

14. No swimming will be allowed in Club waters.

15. No forms of watercraft at all, including model boats, are allowed on any of the Club's waters, except at the discretion and under supervision of the committee.

16. The use of live baiting in all forms is forbidden.

17. The use of bent hooks is prohibited.

18. The use of bloodworm and joker is banned.

19. All coarse fish to be returned safely at the end of the fishing session

20. No trout or other game fish to be kept in keep nets.

21. No poaching or firearms. Such action by others, if witnessed, is to be reported to the authorities and to the committee. Members are reminded to always put their own safety first.

22a. The retention of carp in keep nets, whether match or pleasure fishing, is strictly forbidden (see match rules). Members are advised to return carp immediately, but where it is felt necessary to retain a large fish e.g. for photographing or witnessing, a proprietary carp sack must be used. The retained carp should be placed upright, within the sack, in cool, deep, well oxygenated water and the length of time of its retention should be kept to a minimum. Under no circumstances may more than one carp be placed in the same carp sack

22b. All members specifically fishing for carp must use a designated unhooking mat for the fish's well-being. On other occasions when a carp isn't intentionally caught by a non-carp angler, carp angling members present on the water will be expected to lend assistance and equipment to ensure the fish's safe return to the water. When no such assistance or equipment is available, emergency improvisation is required. This may include using an angler's chair or splayed out unerected umbrella as a makeshift unhooking mat, or simply a soft grassy area. Under no circumstances should carp or other big fish be replaced on hard, gravelly, or sparsely grassed ground. Nor should large fish be left unattended to thrash about and injure themselves.

22c. Landing nets must be used at all times for large fish.

22d. No coarse baits for Pike fishing. Pike anglers must have all necessary unhooking and fish care equipment.

22e. The length of time that fish are to be kept out of the water for the purpose of weighing, measuring, photographing or witnessing is to be kept to an absolute minimum. At all times, whether match or pleasure fishing, the fish's welfare must come first. The causing of undue

stress to any of our precious stocks, either through ignorance, bad practises or deliberately, may result in disciplinary action.

Rule 22 is included in these general rules to protect our valuable stock Santa agenda continued good relations and understanding with the general public with whom we share some of our waters and without whose sustained support angling as a whole might be at risk.

23. No encroachment into adjacent swims when using either single or multiple rod setups is allowed. On 'open swim' waters each member should feel entitled to 10 yards of bank to himself. This area must extend into the water he or she is fishing.

24. The reserving of swims by any member is absolutely forbidden. Leaving tackle in a swim for the purpose of reserving that swim is not allowed, nor is the reservation of a swim by a friend. As a special dispensation it is permissible for a member to leave a club water with his tackle in the swim for a period of up to two hours to deal with personal business. However, rods, rod pods and bank sticks etc must be removed from their fishing position and placed, for example broken down in the members bivvy or under their umbrella. If the member concerned has not returned within that time, the swim shall be deemed vacant by any other paid up member who wishes to fish in it.

This rule, like all the others, is a general rule and applies to all club waters. It has specific significance to the Big Waters and has been drawn up to counter past problems on there and also to cover the fact that there has been a recent upsurge within the membership of carp anglers but no corresponding increase in carp fishing bankside space.

The committee continues its quest to acquire quality waters but with such bankside space at a premium, members are expected to recognise the equal right of all fellow members to fish club waters, irrespective of seniority, status or species sought.

Rule 24 is a common sense opportunity for carp and long session anglers to maintain the status quo. The very last thing the committee wants is to have to enforce restrictions on specialist or long stay anglers. But if all members are not given equal consideration the committee will not hesitate to bring in more draconian measures to protect the more casual angler. Such measures will almost certainly include rod restrictions, session length restrictions and a limit on the number of bivvied or night anglers at any one time. Therefore it is in your best interest to comply with rule 24 and other relevant rules and to engender harmony with all fellow members.

25. Baited rods must not be left unattended. Anyone wishing to go 'walkabout' must first wind in their rod(s) Under no circumstances should anyone ever be more than one swim away from his or her baited rod or rods. On 'open swim' waters this can be up to 25 yards away. Leaving baited rods in the charge of another member whilst answering the call of nature is acceptable. Any infringement of this rule will be harshly dealt with as it puts our stocks at risk. Any member who leaves a club water with his baited rod still cast out will be banned for life.

26. Guest anglers will be allowed at the discretion of the committee. Applications for guests' tickets must be made to either the Club Secretary or Treasurer.

27. Fish deaths or incidents of suspected pollution on Club waters should be reported without delay to the Club secretary or any other committee member.

28. Some members like the company of radios, many don't, therefore the use of headphoned radios or cassette players is permitted. Standard radios may also be used but only if a member is alone on a Club water or where he or she sought and received the express permission to do so from all other paid up members fishing at the time. Members using standard radios or cassette players should consider all other water users when doing so. Complaints from other members of the Club or the general public will result in all radios being banned.

29. No alcohol or non prescription drugs are allowed on Club waters. Any persons caught under the influence of these substances or in the possession of them will be asked to stop fishing and will appear before the committee to explain their actions.

These common sense general rules have been drawn up to protect each members enjoyment and to preserve the much valued And hard earned leases on our various Club waters. Angling is many things to many people and there is no room in this Club for those with no consideration for either their fellow members or the Club's longstanding reputation both in the community and with our various landlords. The committee will take whatever steps it deems appropriate to preserve good fishing and good relations, and anyone transgressing any of the general rules or theirs specific to certain waters can expect to be dealt with harshly.

Reasonable responsible anglers have nothing to fear and are most welcome additions to the membership. The committee remains totally approachable and as such invite any constructive suggestions designed to improve the overall package offered by the Club. It is the committee's sincere and primary wish that all BWAC members continue to enjoy success on all club waters and elsewhere.

These are the recognised general angling rules of the Big Waters Angling Club.