

# Shefford and District Angling Association Ltd

## RULES OF THE CLUB 2023/24 SEASON

*Please note this set of rules will apply from 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023*

### **1. MEMBERSHIP**

**1.1** Membership of the Club shall be open to any person completing an application for membership and paying the relevant subscription.

**1.2** There shall be 4 classes of membership available. These are:

**1.2.1** Full (aged 17 to UK State Pension age)

**1.2.2** Junior (aged 12 to 16)

**1.2.3** Concessionary (over UK State Pension age or hold an EA concessionary rod licence)

**1.2.4** Life (may be awarded by the committee to members who have shown meritorious service to the Club)

**1.3** Following its receipt by the Registrar, any application for Membership may be refused by the General Committee.

**1.4** Each Member of the Club is entitled to attend and vote at General Meetings.

**1.5** Membership is not transferable and is not refundable, unless refused by the General Committee.

**1.6** Junior members must be accompanied by a member aged 18 or over (authorised by a parent/guardian) occupying the same swim at all times. The only exception is that Junior members are allowed to fish unaccompanied during the daytime if they are in possession of a 'Permission Letter' issued by the Registrar.

### **2. ASSOCIATES**

**2.1** The General Committee issues complimentary Associate Club books to a number of individuals and organisations that allows them to fish Club waters (but not IPA waters).

**2.2** Associates cannot hold office or vote at General Meetings.

### **3. ASSOCIATE JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP**

**3.1** Children under 17 years of age can apply for free Associate Junior Membership by application via the Registrar.

**3.2** Associate Junior Members can only fish with a single rod when supervised by a member aged 18 or over occupying the same swim.

**3.3** Associate Junior Members cannot vote at General Meetings.

**3.4** Associate Junior Members are allowed to night fish SDAA waters under the supervision of the Member (aged 18 or over) named on their card, provided prior permission has been granted in writing by a parent/guardian. Adult Members (aged 18 or over) are limited to being accompanied by a single Associate Junior whilst night fishing and are responsible for their actions at all times.

### **4. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

**4.1** Members of the Club whose conduct is inappropriate or who decline to abide by any of the Rules or Bylaws may be expelled or suspended by a resolution passed at a meeting of the General Committee where their subscriptions may be forfeited.

**4.2** Members shall have the right to appeal in person to the General Committee with regard to any decision affecting themselves, providing that notice of such an appeal be submitted to the Club Secretary, in writing, within seven days of notification of the decision.

### **5. OFFICERS**

**5.1** The Officers of the Club shall be as follows:

President, Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Club Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Minute Secretary, Publicity Officer, Fisheries Officer, Head Bailiff, Match Secretary, Coaching Coordinator and Welfare Officer.

**5.2** All Officers (will have served at least two years as a committee member) shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, from, and by, the Members of the Club.

**5.3** With the exception of the President, all Officers are elected for a period of one year, but may be elected to the same office or another the following year. Their appointment may be terminated by their resignation, or they bring the Club into disrepute.

### **6. GENERAL COMMITTEE**

**6.1** Subject to the powers delegated by the Directors, the affairs of the Club shall be controlled by a General Committee comprising of the Officers, and not more than ten other members (who will have been a club member for at least 2 consecutive years) elected from, and by, the Members of the Club for a period of one year. The General Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not less than four times per year. Committee members must declare any potential conflict of interest and cannot hold a position with any other angling club, except with the express permission of the General Committee.

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**6.2** The duties of the General Committee shall be:

**6.2.1** To control the affairs of the Club on behalf of the Members.

**6.2.2** The accounts will be available for inspection at each AGM. The Club shall maintain a bank current account and two from the three Committee member signatories appointed by the Committee will be required to authorise cheques.

**6.2.3** To ensure the Club maintains adequate insurance at all times, including a minimum of £10m public liability insurance.

**6.2.4** To determine the subscriptions rates for membership of the Club.

**6.2.5** To co-opt additional members to the Committee as the Committee feels necessary. Co-opted members shall be entitled to a vote on the Committee.

**6.2.6** To make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

**6.2.7** A quorum for Committee meetings shall be five Committee members including one Director. If a quorum is not reached the meeting can still go ahead to exchange information, but no votes can be taken at the meeting.

**6.2.8** To provide minutes of all Committee meetings, which must be retained for a minimum of 10 years.

**6.2.9** Any Committee member failing to attend three consecutive committee meetings without satisfactory explanation shall cease to be a member of the Committee.

**6.3** The Committee (including Directors) has the power to seek legal action and to appoint a member to instruct a solicitor to represent and to take legal action on behalf of the Club. Any member so appointed shall be deemed to be indemnified against all personal liability in respect of such action.

**6.4** The Committee has the power to introduce or amend club rules (except those passed by special resolution at General Meetings), and to limit or suspend fishing on any water, without prior notice to members.

### **7. GENERAL MEETINGS**

**7.1** The Annual General Meeting of the Club (AGM) shall be held not later than the end of March each year. The time, date and venue of the AGM will be printed in the Membership Club book. Members must advise the Club Secretary in writing of any business to be moved at the AGM at least one calendar month before the meeting.

**7.2** The business of the AGM shall be to:

**7.2.1** Confirm the minutes of the previous AGM and any General Meetings held since the last AGM.

**7.2.2** Receive a financial report from the Treasurer.

**7.2.3** Receive the annual report of the Committee from the Club Secretary.

**7.2.4** Elect the Directors, Officers of the Club and General Committee.

**7.2.5** Transact such other business received in writing by the Club Secretary from Members one calendar month prior to the Meeting and included on the agenda.

**7.3** General Meetings may be convened by the General Committee, or on receipt by the Club Secretary of a request in writing, from not less than five percent of all Members of the Club.

**7.4** A notice of the business to be discussed at General Meetings will be sent to all members and/or advertised on the Club's official website at least 14 days prior to the meeting. Any member requiring a hard copy of the notice should contact the Club Secretary.

**7.5** Nomination of candidates for the election of Directors, Officers and to the General Committee shall be made in writing to the Club Secretary at least one calendar month in advance of the AGM together with notice signed by that person of their willingness to be appointed. Nominations can only be made by Members.

**7.6** At all Meetings the chair will be taken by the Chairperson or, in their absence, by a deputy appointed by the Club.

**7.7** Decisions made at all General Meetings shall be by a simple majority of votes cast by members present in person (or by proxy). In the event of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote. Where a special resolution is required it shall only be passed if supported by 75% of those members present in person (or by proxy).

**7.8** Each Member of the Club shall be entitled to one vote at General Meetings. Voting will be by card only. Proxies for General Meetings may only be appointed by prior notice in writing to the Club Secretary.

### **8. CLUB ASSETS** (rules passed by special resolution at 2017 AGM)

**8.1** All assets of the Club must be purchased on behalf of Shefford & District Angling Association Ltd and held in the name of Shefford & District Angling Association Ltd.

**8.2** Any purchase greater in value than two times the Full annual membership fee must first be approved by the General Committee.

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**8.3** Any proposal to sell, rent, lease or otherwise dispose of The Airman, or parts thereof, can only be approved by special resolution at a General Meeting.

**8.4** Any proposal to purchase a fishery or enter into, renew or terminate an agreement (lease, licences, etc) for fishing rights must be approved by a majority of the General Committee. All agreements must be signed by at least one Director on behalf of the Club.

### **9. WATER BAILIFFS**

**9.1** The Committee (who are all Water Bailiffs) appoint additional Water Bailiffs to enforce club rules.

**9.2** Water Bailiffs are authorised to issue verbal warnings, endorse or confiscate the Membership Card of any person believed to be in breach of club or EA rules and bylaws, and may also ask the person to leave the water.

**9.3** Water Bailiffs are authorised to inspect any member's rigs and tackle. Bailiffs can instruct members to cease fishing and leave the water if their tackle is considered inadequate or unsafe for the species being targeted. Use of any rig or tackle considered to be unsafe will be reported to the Committee.

**9.4** Members have the right to see the Water Bailiff's card, which is issued by the Committee.

**9.5** Argumentative, aggressive, or abusive behaviour directed towards a bailiff is unacceptable and will be reported to the Committee.

**9.6** Any complaints about a Water Bailiff's actions must be made to the Head Bailiff (or Chairperson) within 24h of the incident.

### **10. MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

**10.1** Membership Cards and EA licences must be carried at all times whilst on club waters, and must be produced if asked for by a Water Bailiff.

**10.2** Membership Cards must also be produced if asked for by any other member producing their own Membership Card.

**10.3** Membership Cards and Club keys are not transferable and remain the property of the Club at all times. If lost or damaged the cost of a replacement Membership Card is £15.

**10.4** Any cheque returned and/or not honoured by your bank will incur an additional administration fee of £15.

### **11. FISH THEFT**

**11.1** All fish must be returned alive to the water from which they have been caught.

**11.2** Fish deaths must be reported to an Officer of the Club.

**11.3** No fish should be taken away alive or dead without the express permission of the General Committee, to do so may give rise to a civil or criminal prosecution under Schedule 1 Section 2 of the Theft Act.

### **12. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

Members may be banned for breaking any club rule (see 4.1) including carrying out any of the following prohibited activities (unless the activity has been authorised by the General Committee):

**12.1** The deliberate disfigurement or mistreatment of any fish.

**12.2** Conducting any act that may cause nuisance to any other member or rightful users of the water and adjoining land.

**12.3** Bringing the Club into disrepute.

**12.4** Being in possession, or under the influence, of alcohol, illegal drugs or chemicals (e.g. solvents) whilst on club waters.

**12.5** Fouling or leaving litter of any kind at club waters, car parks or the adjoining land. Discarded plastic bags, glass, tins, cans, line, fishing tackle, etc all pose a serious hazard to wildlife and farm animals. All Members must ensure they are equipped to deal with all the foul waste and litter they generate, which must be bagged and removed from the fishery by the Member. Bailiffs are instructed to immediately remove the membership documents of any member breaking this rule and refer the incident to the committee.

**12.6** Leaving a rod and line with its bait or hook in the water, such that you are unable to take immediate control of the rod. It is unacceptable to leave baited rods under the control of another angler who is already fishing.

**12.7** Leaving gates unlocked after entering or leaving a water.

**12.8** Camping in tents, vehicles or caravans whilst on club waters.

**12.9** Swimming, using a dinghy or boat (including bait boats), or remote controlled drone (both above and below water) on club waters.

**12.10** Causing damage to banks, shrubs, trees, fences, mowing-grass or any other crops adjoining the fisheries.

**12.11** Being accompanied by a dog or carrying a firearm or weapon on the land adjoining the fisheries.

**12.12** Digging bait on the banks of club waters.

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- 12.13 Lighting fires or barbecues (the use of small camping stoves is permitted).
- 12.14 Using audiovisual equipment without a personal earpiece.
- 12.15 Obstructing farm roads or gateways.
- 12.16 Prebaiting on stillwaters (except Willington Lake).
- 12.17 Breaking the rules governing use of Broom Lake track.

### 13. NIGHT FISHING

13.1 A member is deemed to be night fishing if they are present at a club water between the times stated in the table below, whether actively fishing or not.

13.2 The maximum permissible fishing session is 72h on any club water, after which a break of at least 24h must be taken before returning to any club water. Members can apply in writing or via email to the Registrar for permission to fish an extended session up to a maximum of 5 consecutive nights. Applications must be received at least 7 days in advance, stating the dates and venue of the intended trip. The Registrar will impose a strict limit on the number of extended sessions granted.

Month	Night Fishing Starts	Night Fishing Ends
JUNE	10.15pm	3.45am
JULY	10.15pm	4.00am
AUGUST	9.15pm	4.45am
SEPTEMBER	8.15pm	5.30am
OCTOBER*	7.00pm	6.30am
NOVEMBER	5.15pm	6.15am
DECEMBER	5.00pm	7.00am
JANUARY	5.15pm	7.00am
FEBRUARY	6.15pm	6.15am
MARCH#	7.00pm	5.15am
APRIL	9.00pm	5.00am
MAY	9.45pm	4.15am

\* Subtract 1 hour for days in October following the end of BST

# Add 1 hour for days in March following the start of BST

13.3 Junior members can only night fish if occupying the same swim as a member aged 18 or over (authorised by a parent/guardian), who will be responsible for the Junior member whilst they are night fishing.

13.4 Members can only night fish at The Airman, Broom Lake or Willington Lake if they are in possession of a valid Night Permit.

### 14. NIGHT PERMITS

14.1 Special Membership Cards incorporating a Night Permit watermark are required to night fish The Airman, Broom Lake or Willington Lake that must have a passport style ID photo attached.

14.2 Applications for Membership Cards incorporating a Night Permit can only be made via the Registrar.

14.3 The Committee has the right to refuse applications for Night Permits.

14.4 Night Permits for Full and Concessionary members cost £65 a season. Night Permits for Junior members cost £25 a season.

14.5 Night Permits are valid until 10.15pm on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

14.6 Night Permits are not transferable and remain the property of the Club at all times. If lost or damaged the cost of replacement is £15.

14.7 Night Permit holders (but not juniors) can be accompanied by a single non-fishing guest whilst night fishing The Airman, Broom Lake and Willington Lake, provided they obtain a Non-Fishing Night Guest Permit, which cost £25 a season (only available by postal application to the Registrar). Night Permit holders must accompany their non-fishing guests at all times and will be held responsible for their actions.

14.8 Only Night Permit and Non-Fishing Night Guest Permit holders are allowed to be present at The Airman, Broom Lake and Willington Lake during the hours that define night fishing (i.e. no additional guests or visitors, whether fishing or not with the exception of Associate Junior Members having obtained prior permission in writing from a parent/guardian).

14.9 Night Permits and Non-Fishing Night Guest Permits must be carried whilst night fishing at The Airman, Broom Lake and Willington Lake, and must be produced if asked for by a Water Bailiff or any other member producing their own Membership Card.

14.10 Failure to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Club and the EA may result in a Night Permit being withdrawn.

### 15. SWIMS

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**15.1** On waters where pegs are provided, fishing is only permitted from marked swims. On waters without marked swims, no member shall fish within 15 metres of another member without mutual consent.

**15.2** Members are responsible for the swims they occupy and any litter must be removed before and after fishing.

**15.3** Members can only occupy a single swim at any one time and tackle must not be cast in such a way as to interfere with any adjacent swims, including those on the opposite bank.

**15.4** When a swim is not actively being fished, all items of tackle must be removed and the swim vacated. Swims cannot be reserved by any means.

**15.5** Members may fish any vacant swim. If another member has a baited line in that swim they must remove it as soon as the swim is occupied by the incoming angler.

### **16. ROD LIMITS**

**16.1** No more than two rods may be used by any angler (with the exceptions detailed in **Rules 3.2, 16.2 & 16.3**).

**16.2** From 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> March, members (but not juniors) are permitted to use three rods at The Airman, Broom Lake and Willington Lake, provided they have the appropriate number of EA licences.

**16.3** In addition to **Rule 16.2**, Night Permit holders (but not juniors) are permitted to use three rods at The Airman, Broom Lake and Willington Lake at all times.

**16.4** When fishing with multiple rods and lines, rods must be placed so that the distance between the butts of the end rods does not exceed three metres.

**16.5** Where anglers share a swim, the total number of rods used must never exceed four.

### **17. RIGS**

**17.1** Fishing is by rod and line only. Magnet fishing is not permitted.

**17.2** A wire trace must be used when pike fishing, and whenever lure fishing or using fish baits where pike are present. If double or treble hooks are used, semi-barbless or barbless patterns are recommended.

**17.3** No 'bent hook' rigs are allowed on club waters.

**17.4** All terminal rigs must be constructed so as to prevent leads and excessive lengths of line remaining attached to fish in the event of a line breakage. The use of leadcore is not permitted.

### **18. TACKLE**

**18.1** Anglers must always be in possession of an assembled landing net whilst fishing. The use of 'lip grippers', gags or gaffs is banned.

**18.2** All landing nets, keepnets and keepsacks must conform to EA bylaws.

**18.3** You are allowed to put one fish in a single keepsack or floating weigh (retainer) sling to aid recovery or whilst preparing to weigh and photo the fish. Keepsacks and floating weigh slings must be carefully secured so they cannot drift away. They should not normally be used to retain fish for longer than 30 minutes.

**18.4** All members must carry an unhooking mat (or cradle) appropriate for the species they are targeting, which must be used to prevent any fish being placed on the ground.

**18.5** Only shelters specifically designed for fishing (e.g. bivvies and umbrella overwraps) can be used.

### **19. FISH BAIT**

**19.1** Fish for use as live bait must only be used on the water from which they have been caught, and only during the same period of fishing. Eels must not be used as bait. Fish live baits must only be retained in a standard keepnet conforming to EA bylaws or a well-filled bucket  $\geq 15$  litre capacity, which must be fitted with a functioning aerator.

**19.2** A maximum of ten live baits can be used in any one day, and any unused live baits or fish showing signs of distress must be returned to the water from which they were taken.

**19.3** No live bait must exceed 15cm in length (measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail).

**19.4** Fish for use as dead bait must be sea fish or commercially frozen dead baits.

### **20. CRAYFISH**

**20.1** It is illegal to use crayfish, of any species, whether alive or dead, and whether whole or in part, as bait.

**20.2** To prevent the spread of alien species, the EA recommends that signal crayfish if caught are immediately killed and carefully disposed of. However, anglers unsure of the difference between native white-clawed crayfish and signal crayfish should immediately return any crayfish caught alive to the water from which they were caught.

**20.3** Crayfish traps must not be used without the express permission of the Committee.

### **21. NON-FISHING GUESTS**

**21.1** Members (but not Juniors) are allowed to be accompanied by a single non-fishing guest during the daytime.

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**21.2** Members must accompany their non-fishing guests at all times and will be held responsible for their actions (please note that non-fishing guests are not covered by the club's liability insurance).

**21.3** Any non-fishing guest staying at night must be in possession of a Non-Fishing Night Guest Permit (see Rule 14.7).

### **22. REPORTING RULE BREAKING**

Any member being a witness to the infringement of these rules or the rights and liberties of the Club shall at once inform an Officer of the Club.