

Harwich Angling Club Rules

Revised April 2026

THESE RULES SUPERSEDE ALL OTHER PREVIOUS RULES Rule changes in RED

RULE 1

The name of the club shall be The Harwich Angling Club. (Hereafter called the Club.)

RULE 2 Objectives

To procure and manage fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of its members, and to always ensure the practice of fair angling, to protect the public waters of the district and to take all appropriate steps to benefit the sport.

RULE 3 Officers and Committee

The Officers and Committee shall consist of **Officers**

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Match Secretary, Health & Safety Officer, Fisheries Officers, Webmaster, and Club match Secretary.

Committee member

Minimum of two Bailiffs and no more than 6 committee members.

RULE 4

All officers / committee members will be voted in at the AGM each year.

If more than one nominee for a post a vote take place at the AGM by a show of hands.

Nominees must be proposed in writing to the Secretary 8 days before the AGM and seconded at the AGM.

Officers/Committee members who wish to stand again for re-election, will be voted in at the AGM each year. Nominees must be proposed and seconded at the AGM (this can be done en bloc)

Nominees for the role of Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary & Treasurer must have been an Officer/Committee member of the Club for 3 or more years. "At the discretion of a full committees' vote".

RULE 5

All Officers & Committee members shall attend monthly meetings, any member missing two consecutive meetings may be asked to resign post, at Committees discretion.

RULE 6

The Club financial year shall be from 1st March to last day of February. A statement of accounts, which have been independently audited, shall be presented to the members prior to the A.G.M.

RULE 7

That any member desiring to make any alteration to the rulebook must give the Secretary 8 days' notice in writing prior to the A.G.M. and such alterations must be duly seconded.

RULE 8

That any alterations to the rulebook shall be decided upon by the club at the A.G.M. or E.O.G.M. If anything arises which is not provided for in these rules, the same shall be laid before the committee who shall have full power to act and their decision shall be binding, any such action shall be voted on by members at the next A.G.M.

RULE 9

That all members of the club shall be entitled to vote on any resolutions at the A.G.M. or E.O.G.M.

RULE 10

That an E.O.G.M. may be called by a requisition to the committee of a notice signed by 20% of members, no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting, all members to receive fourteen days' notice of an agenda of such a meeting.

RULE 11

A copy of the club rules will be held on the club website. It will be each members duty to report any infringement to a committee member without delay.

RULE 12

That in the case of infringement of these rules, a member shall be liable to a suspension or expulsion from the Club, depending on the committee after a full investigation. The member shall have the right to give a full account of the alleged infringement.

RULE 13

That any member found transferring their membership card, security codes or parking permits to any other person or otherwise abusing the privileges granted by the Club, or acting in a manor deemed to be detrimental to the Club, shall be held responsible for their actions and may be expelled by a resolution of the committee.

RULE 14

That any person wishing to become a member should apply to the Membership Secretary. A joining fee will be paid at the current rate, and such subscriptions shall be laid down by the Club. Acceptance of membership shall be deemed as acceptance of all the Clubs rules. The Club reserves the right to refuse membership at its discretion.

RULE 15

All members shall pay an annual subscription fee. Any change to the annual subscription fee's along with all other types of tickets, membership fee's etc, shall be proposed by the committee of the Club, and any such proposals will require the endorsement of the members present at the AGM.

RULE 16

The Clubs membership will commence on the 16th June each year. All existing members must renew their membership by 1st July each year or a new joining fee will be payable.

RULE 17

Junior membership will cease at the end of the year in which the member reaches the age of 18 years. Juniors who reach 18 years between Jan 1st and June 16th wishing to assume senior membership. Such members must relinquish junior rights.

RULE 18

Membership shall be limited each year to the number of members set by the committee and endorsed at the AGM. This year's limit should be 150.

RULE 19

Current membership cards must be obtained before fishing Club waters. Members are warned to ensure that they have a proper rod licence to cover the water they are fishing. All Club waters are governed by the Environment Agency by Laws. All Club members shall be considered to have the power of bailiff on all Club waters. Any person found fishing in Harwich Angling Club waters without being duly authorised may be prosecuted by law.

RULE 20

All vehicles must be parked in the places indicated and, in a position, where they cause no obstruction. And must have a parking permit displayed in a prominent position.

RULE 21

Removal or introduction of any fish or any plants is strictly prohibited without the approval of the committee.

RULE 22

Fishing is only allowed from proper swims or numbered pegs.

RULE 23

Anyone found leaving litter in the swim, or in any area under control of the club, or adjacent to any such area, or fishing with litter in the swim or nearby, shall come before the committee and will subject to disciplinary action.

RULE 24

Fishing is only allowed from dawn to dusk on Club waters However where Night Fishing Permits are allowed, see rule 24a. New member cannot obtain a night permit in their first season "at the committees' discretion".

RULE 24a

Members may obtain a permit to night fish Bradfield Lake by paying an additional fee as proposed by the committee, and endorsed by the AGM. This Night Fishing Permit will allow the member to fish in the season in which it is purchased for a maximum period of 24 hours at any one time. This permit, along with said members, membership card must be shown on request to any other Harwich Angling club member. **(24 hour currently suspended)**

RULE 24b

Members who obtain a night fishing permit for Bradfield Lake, must keep noise and lighting down to a minimum and under no circumstances light any type of fire. Must make the necessary arrangements for toilet requirements and not foul any area around or adjacent to the lake.

RULE 25

Fishing is not allowed in any other manner than with rod and line, or pole. No member shall have more than two lines in use at any one time. At Bradfield Three lines may be used between the following dates 31st October to 31st March. Members are requested to be mindful of other anglers and not to fish in a manner that is detrimental to other members.

RULE 26

That all types of braid be banned from use on all club waters, while fishing the pole or whip.

RULE 27 (See also Match Rule W)

When pleasure fishing for Carp (excluding Crucians) they are to be returned to the water as soon as possible. If considered a 'Specimen' fish, it must be kept in a carp sack until witnessed and returned to the water, as soon as possible. Keepnets are not to be used at Lanes Pond between 15th March to the 15th June in line with close season on rivers. Except in official club matches.

RULE 28

No bait shall be taken to the water's edge in any type of metal or glass container. But must be taken in a recognised non-toxic plastic bait container.

RULE 29

All forms of nut baits are banned on club waters.

RULE 30

Bloodworm & jocker may be used from October 1st to March 15th, limited to half kilo, for both match and pleasure angling.

RULE 31

Pre baiting in the close season is banned on any section of a river leased by the club.
Pre baiting in the close season is banned (except in Bradfield Hall Reservoir)

RULE 32

No person may erect any tent or camp on any bank, but may use a recognised 'Bivi type shelter'. Members using any such shelter must ensure that they do not put the welfare of the fish in the water being fished, or any other wildlife in jeopardy.

RULE 32a

No person shall cause any wilful damage to the banks or herbage on fisheries controlled by the Club. No member shall at any time light a fire on or adjacent to the bank.

RULE 33

No member is allowed to carry a gun or be accompanied by a dog unless special permission is granted by the committee.

RULE 34

Bait boats are banned on all club waters, as is the playing of audio equipment without headphones.

RULE 35

A Junior member must be accompanied by Parent, Relative or Nominated Adult (who is a member of the Club -see Rule 35a) when fishing any Club water.

RULE 35a

The Parent, Relative or Nominated Adult accompanying a Junior Member must either be a Member, or a Non-Fishing Member.

RULE 36

There will be no close season at Bradfield Hall Reservoir and Lanes Pond.

RULE 37

Barbless hooks must be used on all club waters.

RULE 38

All sections of club waters are available for all types of Official matches.

RULE 39

All on the club matches must be posted on the club website & the club notice board in the lake car park.

RULE 40

Specimen fish

Any fish to be entered for the specimen cup, must be weighed on scales which are made available for checking by the committee, and the weighing in of fish to have been witnessed by a Senior Club Member.

RULE 41

That no angler shall discard unused bait of any kind into the water at the end of any fishing session.

RULE 42

Any gate which must be opened to gain access to any Harwich Angling Club controlled water, must be re-closed after entry, and on exit, and likewise if fitted with a Harwich Angling Club lock. This must be re-locked after entry, and again on exit. Members must use the gate at Lanes Pond and not the gap in the hedge. This is for farm machinery only. Any member found using the gap will be expelled from the club.

RULE 43

If at any committee meeting of the Harwich Angling Club, a resolution is passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the Club to be held not less than one month hereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.

If at that special general meeting, the vote is carried by at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting, the Officers and Committee shall thereupon, or at such a date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club.

After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining if any assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having similar objectives to those of Harwich Angling Club.

RULE 44

That anyone intentionally fishing for carp or pike on any Harwich Angling Club waters, should be equipped with a 42 inch landing net, a large unhooking mat and forceps for unhooking of at least 10 inches in length. All anglers need to read and abide by the addendum about fish care on the website.

RULE 44A

When landing large fish such as Carp, Tench or Bream, and where bankside conditions make it safe to do so, unhook the fish while still in the water/landing net and before lifting the fish onto an unhooking mat. This will prevent mouth damage in cases where the hook may become snagged in the net.

RULE 45

When photographing any fish held in hand, anglers must be kneeling and holding fish over a wet unhooking mat to reduce risk of damaging fish. When unhooking fish, mats must be wet.

RULE 46**RULE FOR FIXED LEAD, DEATH RIG SETUPS**

The use of fixed leads, death rigs is not permitted on any of the club waters. A fixed lead setup is any setup that will leave a lead attached to the fish if a breakage occurs. A setup where the lead CANNOT be dropped, can include helicopter, inline or pendant setups. For a helicopter rig if there is an issue where the rig and/or the lead can't be ejected in the event of a break off, then it is a fixed lead setup. An inline lead setup where the lead CANNOT slide off the mainline is a fixed lead setup. A pendant lead set up where the tail rubber is pushed on too far, or is glued in place is a fixed lead setup.

RULE 47

Deleted

RULE 48

The club reserves the right to partially limit fishing or close the fishery if it deems necessary.

MATCH RULES**RULE A**

After the drawing of pegs for all anglers has completed, competitors may proceed to their peg, they cannot do so until the end of the draw. This peg will remain their peg throughout the competition and until the weigh-in is finished.

RULE B

Competitors may not move or exchange their pegs without the consent of the Match Secretary or appointed Officer.

RULE C

Competitors fishing in Silver Fish only matches may use only one rod or pole, one line and a single hook at any time.

Competitors fishing in All Fish Count matches, carp only or pike only matches may use 2 rods. Likewise in pike matches 2 hooks per line maybe used. Other rods etc. maybe assembled for use providing that they are not baited.

RULE D

Only baits allowed under club rules are permitted.

RULE E

Competitors may not ground bait or loose feed the swim before the competition begins. They may wet ground bait, plumb the depth, place keepnets and bank sticks and clear weed from the swim.

RULE F

All fish will be weighed in at the competitor's peg. No catch will be weighed in if more than 10 meters from the peg.

RULE G

Competitors must strike, play and land any fish in their own swim. A fish being played in any other swim will be disqualified.

RULE H

If any person abandons their peg and decides to cease taking part in the competition, they must not fish for pleasure within the stretch of water that has been booked for the said match.

RULE I

Any angler may wade out, provided that the water does not at any time extend above the knee.

RULE J

A competitor who has hooked a fish before the final whistle will be allowed a further 15 minutes to land the fish.

RULE K

Any person found with litter in their swim will not be allowed to weigh in.

RULE L

Any complaints about the behaviour of another angler or dispute regarding the weights or infringements of the match rules must be made to the Match Secretary or appointed Officer/Steward before the results are announced.

RULE M

No lines are to be left unattended in the water or baited on the bank.

RULE N

Competitors must be present at the draw or they may be ineligible to fish.

RULE O

The match Secretary will be responsible for the number, date and purpose of each competition to be held. A list of events will be forwarded to each member. They will also be responsible for the selecting the Team to represent the Club where necessary. The Match Secretary may appoint Officers and/or Stewards if necessary and they shall act with the authority of the Match Secretary

RULE P

A points system will be determined by the Match Secretary prior to the start of the season. This will determine the Fisherman of the Year.

RULE Q

Competitors must be at their peg at the weigh in or they may be disqualified.

RULE R

People required to do the weigh in will be decided at the draw.

RULE S

A peg fee will be charged for all home and away matches. This will be decided by the committee.

RULE T

The decision of the Match Secretary, Assistant Match Secretary, or appointed Officer/Steward will be final.

RULE U

That any carp caught during matches when allowed, must be kept in a separate keepnet from all the other types of fish.

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