

WANTAGE AND GROVE ANGLING CLUB (founded 1961)

RULES and BYLAWS

Wantage and Grove Angling Club General Rules and Bylaws

1 General – All waters, All times.

- 1 All correspondence to the club should be made formally in writing or by representation in person at committee meetings.
- 2 All members at all times when fishing must have with them a valid permit and a valid Environment Agency Non-Migratory trout and coarse licence.
- 3 All members are entitled to act as water bailiffs. Persons found not in possession of a valid permit can be politely requested to stop fishing and to leave the water. In the case of any dispute, refer the situation directly to the committee. If members wish to check others permits, they must first show their permit and be polite and courteous at all times.
- 4 Junior Members must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- 5 A maximum of 2 (two) rods or poles can be used at any one time (or combination of 1 of each).
- 6 Pets are not permitted at club waters.
- 7 Playing of music systems (Radios, MP3 players, wireless/Bluetooth speakers etc) out loud is not permitted at club waters.
- 8 Members are responsible for the tidiness of the area in and around their peg/swim All pegs/swims must be left tidy after fishing. Members are required to take all litter home with them regardless of how it may have been deposited.
- 9 The club accepts no responsibility for accidents or loss of or damage to property or person to members, guests or others whilst using club-controlled waters.
- 10 Unhooking mats MUST be used at all times.
- 11 Fish safe (approved) Landing nets MUST be used at all times.
- 12 Barbless hooks must be used at all times for any size 14 or larger (bona fide only, no pinched or flattened barbs), micro barb hooks can be used size 16 and smaller (sizes 18, 20 etc.).
- 13 Braided lines and/or hook lengths are NOT permitted.
- 14 Hook lengths are to be used at all times with a breaking strain less than the main line.
- 15 Any member who introduces fish and/or aquatic plants without the full written authorisation from the club and all necessary legal permits will be banned
- 16 That members take all reasonable steps to ensure that the rules of the club are upheld
- 17 That members act in accordance with the best interests of the club and at no time shall bring the club, its officers or members, into disrepute

2 Station Road Pond Specific

- 1 Swim feeders and leads must be free running and must not exceed 30g (unladen).
- 2 Keep nets are only permitted during club organised matches.
- 3 Pegs 11, 12 & 13 are pole only. Poles must not be pushed back through the railway demarcation fence.

3 Swift Ditch Specific

- 1 From 14 March 2023 Swift Ditch is no longer a Wantage and Grove fishery.

4 Match Rules - Additional rules for matches.

- 1 Match dates for each coming season will be determined by the match secretary and ratified by the Club committee prior to the AGM. This information will then be communicated at the AGM.
- 2 Peg Fees and pools money for each season will be proposed by the match secretary and ratified by the Club committee prior to the AGM. This information will then be communicated at the AGM.
- 3 Pools Pay out:
 - 1 angler = no match
 - 2-4 anglers = win only
 - 5-9 anglers = 1st 2nd only
 - 10+ anglers = 1st 2nd 3rd
- 4 All fish must be weighed in. If you catch but don't weigh in you will be deemed not to have fished that match. (it will not count as entry to the Christmas match)
- 5 All fish to remain in keepnets in the water until the weigh in.
- 6 Competitors must always fish within the boundaries of their peg or swim regardless of whether adjacent or opposing swims are occupied.
- 7 Boundaries
 - 7.a Still water peg boundaries are deemed to be halfway between adjacent or opposing swims.
 - 7.b End swims are limited to 15 Metres in length and half the width of the water.
 - 7.c Running water peg boundaries are one metre upstream of his/her peg to one metre above the next peg downstream.
 - 7.d A downstream end swim is limited to 25 Metres in length.
- 8 Competitors must position themselves within 1 metre of the centre of their peg.
- 9 No pegs will be drawn after the official draw. Competitors arriving late will not be allowed to compete in the match.
- 10 The rule of first come first served will be observed in the case that there are more competitors than pegs available/fishable.
- 11 No competitor shall break the water prior to the commencement of the match , except for wetting groundbait, plumbing a swim, positioning of rod rests and bank sticks, setting keepnets, setting up of seat boxes and platforms.
- 12 Only 1 (one) hook and line can be in the water at any one time.
- 13 If a fish is hooked before the end of a match an additional 15 minutes will be allowed for the angler to land the fish safely. If the fish cannot be landed in this time the angler can be assisted with his weigh in, but the hooked fish will not form part of his catch.

- 14 No assistance may be given in landing a fish during a match, with the exception of junior matches or where it might be required by an angler with a disability.
- 15 Two Keep nets MUST be used in the case of a mixed catch. 1 (one) for Carp and Tench. 1 (one) for Bream and Silvers.
- 16 Top weights and Top Specimen fish only count towards trophies if caught during an aggregate match.
- 17 Before, during and after the match all fish must be treated in such a way as not to cause undue stress and suffering and keepnets at the weigh-in must be placed on unhooking mats when required.
- 18 Pike do not count towards final weight in a match.
- 19 Christmas match:
To qualify for the Christmas Match Competitors must have competed in a minimum of 4 (four) aggregate matches in the season leading up. The match is stand alone with no points contributing to the aggregate cup or counting towards the top weight or specimen cups.
- 20 If there is any doubt or dispute over any rules, the Match Secretary will make a decision and their word is final.
- 21 Keep nets are allowed for use in matches only. They must be fish-safe (approved) and dry before placed in club waters.
- 22 A maximum of 60lb weight is allowed in any one net (subject to 10% tolerance). Any member found to have more than this any their net at the end of the match will have the whole net weight disqualified.
- 23 There will be 10 matches per year for the aggregate trophy.
22 points will be awarded to the angler with the highest weight on the day, 21 points to the second, and so on. In the event of a tied weight the points for those places will be added and evenly divided amongst those anglers.
- 24 The aggregate match trophy will go to the angler who has the highest points score (top 8 results only).
In the event of a tie on points the winner will be the one with the most wins, if still a tie then the heaviest aggregate weight (for the 8 eligible matches) will be taken into account.

Rules Revision and change history		
Issue	Reason	Date
1	Consolidation of constitution and rules into single document, addition of GDPR and child protection status. Additions to communication media	3 July 2018
2	Split rules from constitution. Make changes to rules and add numbering system, as agreed at the AGM 4 Feb 2019	13 Feb 2019
3	Changes and additions as agreed at AGM 3 February 2020 General rules 1.2 changed, 1.12 changed, New rules 1.15, 1.16 & 1.17 added	04 Feb 2020
4	Change to rule 2.1 concerning use of swim-feeders at Station Road pond	11 Aug 2020
5	Change rule 2.1 to limit the size of lead weights to conform with swimfeeders.	5 April 2022
6	Change rule 3 to remove Swift Ditch specific rules	9 Mar 2023
7	Match rule 23 changed to use split rather than whole points in the event of a tied weight in aggregate matches	5 Feb 2024