

**THESE RULES ARE RECOMMENDED FOR UNIVERSAL USE BY  
MEMBER CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF THE ANGLING TRUST.  
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1. Every competitor must fish from within one metre either side of his/her designated peg. On flowing water, the competitor may fish in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg. On still water, he/she may fish as far as half the distance between his/her peg and the pegs on either side. Where competitors are drawn on opposite banks, the limit of the swim is the line midway between each bank.

The competitor will restrict their activities completely to these boundaries, neither his/her person, his/her tackle, his/her hookbaits or groundbaits may intrude into his/her neighbours swim.

In an extreme situation eg snagged tackle of a snagged fish, an angler must seek permission from his/her neighbour/s before moving from his/her designated peg to try and remedy the situation.

A competitor must not cause annoyance to, or seek to interfere with another competitor or use mobile phones during the course of the competition, and must act in a sporting manner at all times.

2. No competitor may move his/her peg or exchange his/her peg or draw card with another without the organiser's official consent.
3. A competitor shall have in use one rod or pole, one line and one single hook at one time, but may have other rods or poles and tackle assembled for use in position behind him/her, if possible, providing that no such other tackles are baited.
4. Any bait, subject to local rules, can be used except live or dead fish, frogs spinning baits or artificial lures.
5. No competitor shall have live or dead fish in his/her possession before a match. All competitors must submit to a search if requested by a contest official.
6. Before the starting signal no competitor must on any account groundbait or loose feed the swim but will be allowed to wet a line, plumb the depth and test the float, mix and wt groundbait, clear his/her ground of weed or obstructions and position his/her equipment.
7. All groundbait may be thrown in by hand, or by use of one or two handed catapults, throwing sticks, swim feeders, bait droppers and bait cups, but no other mechanical means of projecting groundbait is allowed. No bait shall be introduced with a pole cup or bait dropper attached to an extra rod/pole whilst continuing to fish.

8. Braid Hook lengths are not allowed
9. Maximum permitted length of poles is 16 metres
10. Floating poles are not permitted
11. Floating baits either hookbait or feedbait are not permitted
12. A competitor must strike, play and land his own fish.
13. Hand lining fish is not permitted ,this includes handling elastics and line , also not allowed is the practice of trapping stretched elastic with the hand down the length of poles sections. Fish should never be bullied like this. **This does not affect the use of Pulla bungs and similar devices.**
14. Keepnets should be dry when arriving to fish as dry nets do not spread disease. Fish must never be handled with gloves or towels.
15. Any competitor who abandons his/her peg having decided to cease taking part in the match but who decides to continue fishing must do so outside the confines of the length being used for the match.
16. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees unless he/she can touch the bank with fingertips, in which case the water can extend above the knees. When platforms are used, the water must not come over the knees when standing on a river / lake bed.
17. A competitor must cease fishing at the finishing signal. Should he/she still be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, he/she will be permitted no more than fifteen minutes after time has been called to land the fish.
18. All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of game fish and crustaceans. Any fish suspected of being weighted or any fish considered suspicious by the weighers must be laid before the match organisers and the angler's weight be not confirmed until a ruling has been obtained.

If stewards recommended the disqualification of a competitor they will weigh his/her fish in case the ruling is not upheld.

19. Each competitor will be responsible for ensuring the correct weight of their catch is recorded by the Steward and sign the sheet to that effect. In any dispute the decision of the weighers and the organisers will be final.
20. All fish must be weighed at the competitor's peg. Unless the bankside terrain renders impossible, no catch shall be carried more than ten yards to the scales.
21. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor may have his/her catch weighed in who has litter lying on the banks of his/her swim.

22. Any objection to an angler's conduct, for whatever reason, must be lodged in writing with a match official or weigher within one hour of the end of the match. In all cases the objector shall inform the offender of his/her intentions at the time in order that he/she may speak in his/her own defence. Should an offender after receiving such a warning leave the match scene, the objection shall be deemed to have been sustained and the match organisers must inform him/her of their findings and punishment (if any) within seven days.
23. All the foregoing rules are subject to the byelaws of the Environment Agency, and any local rules applicable to a fishery.