

CONSTITUTION

GENERAL NOTES:

- a) *A Club Constitution should be as simple and as flexible as possible to all for developments or amendments without the need for constant alterations.*
- b) *One or two people should draw up the first draft for discussion and approval by the Club Committee or members.*

1. TITLE

1.1. The Clubs full title is **Droitwich Spa Angling Club.**

2. OBJECTS

2.1. To create an active membership of people wanting to fish on a regular basis.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. The following are eligible for membership:

Membership of the club shall be open to any person completing a membership application form and paying the relevant subscription and/or joining fee as determined by the Annual General Meeting of the Club Members.

3.2. There shall be three classes of membership available:

Adult Match 18 years to 64 years , Senior Match 65 years and above , Junior 14 years (minimum) to 17 years.

4. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

4.1 Members of the Club whose conduct is inappropriate or who declined to abide by any of the Rules or Bylaws may be expelled or suspended by a resolution passed at a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee where their entrance fee and subscriptions may be forfeited. Members shall have the right to appeal in person to the Management Committee about any decision affecting 4.1 themselves, provided that notice of such appeal submitted to the administrator, in

writing, within seven days of notification of the decision.

5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

5.1 All officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, and by, the Members of the club.

6. **GENERAL COMMITTEE**

6.1 The affairs of the Club shall be controlled by a General Committee comprising of the Executive Officers of the Club and other members elected from, and by, the Full Members of the Club. The General Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not less than four times per year.

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 To keep accurate accounts of the finances of the Club through the Treasurer. These should be available for reasonable inspection by members and should be audited before every Annual General Meeting. The Club shall maintain a bank current account and the following shall be authorised to sign Club cheques: two persons from the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.

6.2.3 To co-opt additional members of the Committee as the Committee feels this is necessary. Co-opted members shall not be entitled to a vote on the Committee.

6.2.4 To make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

6.2.5 Decisions made at a General Meeting shall be by a simple majority of votes from those Full Members attending the meeting. In the event of equal votes, the Chairperson shall be entitled to an additional casting vote.

6.2.6 A quorum for a general meeting shall be 3 Full Members and 1 Officer of the club including from the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

6.2.7 Each Full Member shall be entitled to one vote at the General Meetings.

7. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

7.1 Any proposed alterations to the Club Constitution may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting, convened with the required written notice of the proposal. Any change must be proposed and seconded by Full Club Members.

Changes can only be passed if supported by no less than two-thirds of those

Full Members present at the meeting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved.

CODE OF CONDUCT

ALL MEMBERS

1. All members must not verbally or physically abuse other members or user of the waterways.
2. All members have a responsibility to keep the banks clear of any rubbish that may be found. Dispose of the litter in a bin or take it home.
3. All members are to keep to the paths and tracks provided on all venues.
4. Dog fouling is strictly prohibited. Anyone caught must be reported.

COACHING STAFF

5. All coaching staff must adhere to all club and venue rules.
6. All coaching staff must be CRB checked and have completed a Safeguarding Children workshop.
7. All coaches must make sure the venue is clear of litter and hazards prior to commencing a session. Any damage must be reported to the Club Secretary at the earliest opportunity.

PARENTS AND JUNIORS

8. All parents and juniors must not abuse the coaching staff or volunteers who give up their time to help develop our children.

9. All parents and juniors must respect all other users of the waterways.
10. All parents and juniors must make sure they leave nothing behind. They must ensure the site is free from any litter or anything that may harm the wildlife.

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THIS CODE OF CONDUCT WILL RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE CLUB.

Droitwich Spa Angling Club Match Rules

1. All members must book in prior to any Match with the Match Organiser, No later than Thursday 1930 hrs, either by text or phone call. The Match Organiser will not ring round chasing members. It is up to all members to make contact and Book In.
2. Any members that have not booked in by 1930 hrs on the Thursday will not be allowed to fish. No exceptions.
3. All pool monies to be collected 15 minutes prior to draw times.
Summer 0830am and Winter 0845am.
4. Weighing in at matches. Members that are nominated on Match Days, must return scales and match boards to the Match Organiser at the end of all matches. **This must NOT be left to others.**
5. Pegging of Porters Mill may include all pounds on 'Match Days' (Pounds to Be used should be notified before Match Days). Although Pound 4 is Generally reserved for disabled and pleasure fishing, this rule can be Amended by the committee at any time should the match dictate.
6. Bloodworm and Joker are not permitted on any club venue.

7. River Pegs should be 29 metres apart, or more if possible. Porters Mill Canal pegs are sufficient.
8. All Pool matches – **Fishery Rules Apply**
9. All anglers **MUST** fish to our fishery and local fishery rules.
10. To compete in a Club Match, members must have paid their subscription For the current entry year. **N.B. All members must pay subscriptions Before the AGM.**
11. The draw for pegs will be made on the morning of the match.
12. The Match Officials will have the right to examine all containers carried by Competitors prior to commencement of the match, at their pegs
13. All pegs used under normal conditions must be of a state to give competitors a practicable and reasonable chance to fish his or her swim. And must be a minimum of 30 metres from overhead power cables.
14. No Competitor will change his or her section or peg. Any angler fishing At the wrong peg will be disqualified.
15. Any angler may bring a caddy to assist them to get themselves and their Tackle to their peg.
16. No competitor shall have live or dead fish in their possession before a match. All competitors must submit to a search if requested by a contest official.
17. The signal to commence and cease fishing will be given by the match Organiser or nominated official.
18. The duration of the competition will be decided by the match organiser.

19. Every competitor must fish from within one metre either side of their designated peg. On flowing water, the competitor may fish in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg. On still water, they may fish as far as half the distance between their 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 their person, their tackle, their hookbaits or groundbaits may intrude into their neighbour's swim. In an extreme situation eg snagged tackle of a snagged fish, an angler must seek permission from their neighbour(s) before moving from their designated peg to try and remedy the situation. MODEL MATCH RULES 2023. A competitor must not cause annoyance to, or seek to interfere with another competitor during the course of the competition, and must act in a sporting manner at all times.

20. No competitor may move their peg or exchange their peg or draw card with another without the organiser's official consent.

21. Competitors must retain all fish in keepnets which comply with the relevant EA Byelaws. Competitors must take every practicable step to keep their fish alive and, after weighing them, must ensure their careful return to the water. If, for any reason fish are seen to be in distress, a competitor or match official has the right to demand that they be weighed immediately and returned to the water during the course of the match.

22. Both the competitor and scales steward MUST ensure that the correct procedure for transferring fish from keepnet to weigh net and weigh net back to the water is followed. Keepnet to weigh net: - (a) Swim the fish from the bottom of the keepnet to the top, ensuring that the top ring is out of the water, and gather the rings up from the bottom as the fish move up. Once the fish are between the top ring and the 2nd or 3rd ring (depending on the number of fish in the net), remove the keepnet from the water and gently slide the fish into the weigh net. Should the number of fish require more than one weigh, only slide sufficient fish into the weigh net for the first weigh. Whilst the weigh is taking place, hold the remaining fish back in the water until required for weighing and repeat until all fish have been weighed. (b) Remove the keepnet from the water collapsing the net down until the 2nd or 3rd from the bottom can be reached from the inside. Pull the chosen ring through the

top ring and then gently slide the fish into the weigh net. Should the number of fish require more than one weigh, only slide sufficient fish into the weigh net for the first weigh. Whilst the weigh is taking place, hold the remaining fish back in the water until required for weighing and repeat until all the fish have been weighed. After each competitor is weighed in at their peg, it will be the duty of the Scales Steward after each weigh to return the fish to the water.

Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES must the keepnet be removed from the water and fish tipped down from bottom to top.

23. A competitor shall only have in use one rod or pole, one line and one single hook at any one time but may have other rods or poles and tackle assembled for use in position behind them, providing that no such other tackles are baited.

24. Any bait, subject to local rules, can be used except live or dead fish, frogs spinning baits or artificial lures.

25. No competitor shall have live or dead fish in their possession before a match. All competitors must submit to a search if requested by a contest official.

26. Before the starting signal no competitor must on any account ground bait or loose feed the swim but will be allowed to wet a line, plumb the depth and test the float, mix and wet ground bait, clear their ground of weed or obstructions and position their equipment. A ledger weight may be cast to find depth and distance etc, but at no time must the line be left in the water whilst continuing to set up other tackle.

27. Competitors may receive assistance to or from their peg, or both, for themselves or their tackle, or both.

28. All ground bait 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 ground bait is allowed. No bait shall be introduced with a pole cup or bait dropper attached to an extra rod/pole whilst continuing to fish. Spodding is not permitted.

29. Braid Hook lengths are not allowed

30. Maximum permitted length of poles is 16 metres. Floating poles are not permitted.
31. The use of electronic fish finders is forbidden.
32. Surface floating baits, either hookbait or feedbait, are not permitted.
33. A competitor must strike, play and land his own fish.
34. 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. The use of Pulla bungs and similar devices is allowed.
35. Keepnets should be dry when arriving to fish as dry nets do not spread disease. Fish must never be handled with gloves or towels.
36. No bait or equipment can be given to any competitor during the course of the match. Competitors withdrawing from the match are not allowed to give their ground bait or hook bait to another competitor during the duration of a match.
37. Any competitor who abandons their 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.
38. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees unless they 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/lakebed.
39. A competitor must cease fishing at the finishing signal. Should they still be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, they will be permitted no more than fifteen minutes after time has been called to land the fish.
40. All fish caught are eligible for weighing with the exception of pike, zander, game fish and crustaceans. It will be the responsibility of the scales man to return all live fish to the water after weighing. If stewards recommend the disqualification of a competitor, they will weigh their fish in case the ruling is not upheld.
41. For Dial Scales, all catches will be weighed to the nearest quarter of an ounce or ten grammes rounded up. For Digital Scales, the exact weight can be recorded.

42. 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.

43. 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.

44. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor may have their catch weighed in who has litter lying on the banks of their swim.

45. 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 their intentions at the time in order that they may speak in their 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 them of their findings and punishment (if any) within seven days.

46. All the foregoing rules are subject to the byelaws of the Environment Agency, and any local rules applicable to a fishery.

47. Any angler proved to have been in contravention of these rules will be disqualified.

CLUB RULES

1. All members must complete a new membership form and include their Environment Agency Licence Number
2. Guests can fish Club Waters, with a Club Member present. All Guest Day Tickets must be paid for in advance of fishing – contact a member of the Club's Committee . (See committee members below)

3. No Bloodworm or Joker allowed.
4. Micro Barb or barbless hooks on all Droitwich Spa waters.

RIVER AVON, TWYNING

5. Guests will be allowed to fish twice in club contests per year.
6. No litter to be left behind - the field is a nature reserve and failure to allow to follow this simple rule will result in the club being removed from the fishery.
7. No Day Tickets (see rule 2 under Club Rules re guests)
8. Night Fishing is **NOT PERMITTED**.
9. All gates should be kept closed unless the farmer has removed the lock.
10. When fishing, please park close to the river, and try not to drive over the long growing grass in the field. (This is cut and sold off by the farmer)

DROITWICH CANAL, PORTERS MILL

11. Disabled Anglers have priority on the platforms. They must be made available if a disabled angler requires a platform. (This rule is relaxed on match days)

12. The Canal **MUST ALWAYS** be kept litter free, and **respect** for other canal users must be always upheld by **ALL CLUB MEMBERS**.

13.No Night fishing is permitted on the canal.

14.Parking. Park your vehicle tidily and with consideration for other canal users. Please note you are using the canal at your own risk and the club is not responsible for any theft, loss, or damage to your vehicle. The gate must be closed upon leaving the fishery.

DISSOLUTION

- A. If at any General Meeting a resolution be 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 thereafter to discuss and vote on resolution.
- B. If at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Full members present, the General 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 debt and liabilities of the Club.
- C. After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the Full Members of the Club but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having objects similar to those of the Club.

OFFICERS

President	Mark Adams	07943536956
Chairperson	Mr Jerry Bartlett	07812950892
Match Secretary	Mr Mick Watson	07938902408
Club Treasurer	Mr John Swain	07977914232
Club Secretary	Mr John Walker	07584019224
River Post	Mr John Swain	07977914232
Canal Post	Mr Kevin Downton	07549173360
Superintendent Bailiff	Mr Russell Hollands	07980273314

Committee Members are up for change following members handing over their posts. New members willing to join the committee please contact any committee member.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, and by, the members of the Club.