

Henleaze Swimming Club

Angling Section Rules and Guidance

Introduction

Henleaze Swimming Club (the Club) aims to provide a best practice stocked fishery that complements the principle activity of the Club, outdoor swimming, at Henleaze Lake (the Lake). The Club wants anglers to experience enjoyable angling and as part of this has set out rules and expected conduct for all anglers. The rules are primarily focused on ensuring that fishing is undertaken in a safe environment that complements water quality and fish welfare as well as safeguarding anglers at the Lake. The rules are not exhaustive and Henleaze Swimming Club expects all anglers to use common sense and fish in such a way that does not cause obstruction, offence and or harm to any other angler, Lake user or other persons undertaking their lawful activity at the Lake.

Background

The angling rules and guidance have been developed by the Club in association with the Environment Agency and its freshwater management consultants, in consultation with the Angling Trust and are made to ensure the following:

1. Angling and angling related activity is undertaken legally
2. Angling and angling related activity is undertaken safely
3. Angling and angling related activity is undertaken to ensure the very best standards of fish welfare
4. Angling and angling related activity is undertaken to ensure that water quality is not compromised for other activities at the Lake
5. Angling and angling related activity is undertaken in such a fashion that no harm, offence or obstruction is caused to other Lake users

Many of the rules below are standard to most fisheries and as such the enforcement of these will not likely cause any impediment to competent anglers. Some rules are more detailed to reflect the use of the Lake and the principle activity of open water swimming undertaken at the Lake. It should be remembered that there is an obligation for the Club to comply with the Bathing Water Directive and that this is critical for the future success of the Club – for swimmers and anglers alike.

Please note that these rules are not exhaustive and that anglers are required to use common sense and good etiquette at all times whilst using the Lake. These rules take effect from 1st January 2016 and will be reviewed annually in November prior to membership application forms being dispatched.

The rules are categorised for easy reference although in some cases, where a rule applies that would cover more than one category, the most important use is included first.

Agreement with these rules

A copy of these rules and guidance is included with angling membership application forms. By becoming a member of the Club you are agreeing that you have read and understood these rules and that you agree to abide by both the letter and the spirit of these rules. If you have any questions regarding any of the rules please ensure that this is clarified prior to applying for

membership. Once membership is given you have agreed to participate within the rules given and no exception will be made should you be found to have breached these rules.

Disclaimer

So far as permissible by law, the Club accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage whatsoever and howsoever caused which may occur to persons or property on the Club's property.

Breach of the Angling Rules and Gross Misconduct

If an angler is:

- (a) in breach or continues to breach any of these rules, or
- (b) otherwise deemed to act with gross misconduct,

the Club may take disciplinary action in accordance with the Club's Disciplinary Code for Members.

Rules

1. National legislation and Environment Agency byelaws

The Club draws anglers' attention to their obligations under national legislation and the Environment Agency byelaws. These include the following:

1.1 All eligible anglers must be in possession of a National Rod Licence. This is a legal requirement for all anglers over the age of 12. You may be challenged to produce your National Rod License by an Environment Agency Officer, a Club Bailiff, Club official or any other angler in possession of a National Rod Licence.

1.2 It is illegal under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 to remove fish from the Lake without valid authorisation. It should be remembered that the fish in Henleaze Lake have a category 2 parasite which is controlled in England. You will be endangering other waters if fish from Henleaze Lake are stocked into other waters.

1.3 It is illegal under the Keeping and Introduction of Fish (England and River Esk Catchment Area) to introduce fish to the Lake without a valid Site Permit. Illegal stocking carries with it the risk of introducing fish disease and parasites – which has happened in the past at the Lake. Any illegally stocked fish will be removed from the Lake.

1.4 Keep nets may only be used in matches or for fish collection with a view to removing scales or other such activity by prior written agreement of the Club. When keep nets are used they must comply with the Environment Agency Fisheries Byelaws.

1.5 It is unlawful to leave a rod and line, that is unattended, in the water or over which sufficient control cannot be effected.

2. Fish Welfare Rules

For most anglers fish welfare is an important consideration and as such many of the rules below are standard practice on most waters. At all times we request that fish are treated with the highest standard of care. If you become aware of another angler struggling to handle fish appropriately please ask if they require assistance and likewise if you are having a problem

handling fish please ask another angler for assistance. If you have concerns over the behaviour of any angler regarding fish welfare please speak to a Club Bailiff who will try to resolve the matter. In most cases poor fish handling is due to inexperience and as such your advice may assist in better fish welfare at the Lake.

2.1 All tackle, keep nets, landing nets and unhooking mats must be dry before use in the Lake.

2.2 All anglers must have a landing net appropriate for the species they are fishing for.

2.3 Unhooking mats must be used for carp and pike angling.

2.4 All anglers must have within reach a disgorger for general fishing and /or forceps for carp and pike angling. Pliers and wire cutters are required for pike angling.

2.5 Fish should be returned to the water promptly.

2.6 Carp/Pike sacks are not allowed to be used.

2.7 No lead core or braided main line may be used.

2.8 Only barbless hooks are permitted except whilst pike angling when barbed treble hooks are permitted. Where treble hooks are used two out of three barbs must be crushed so that only one barb remains.

2.9 Pike fishing is permitted for Senior Anglers or Junior Anglers under direct supervision of a Senior Angler.

2.10 Pike angling is only allowed from 31st October to midnight 14th March.

2.11 Pike anglers must use a wire trace for any pike fishing.

2.12 Pike fishing line must have a minimum breaking strain of 15lb.

2.13 Artificial pike baits, including lures, spinners, spoons or other, must not exceed 10cm in length and have no more than two sets of treble hooks per bait.

2.14 No night fishing for pike is allowed.

3. Baiting rules

Whilst it is understood that on many waters baiting is undertaken without restriction it should be remembered that the principle use of the Lake is for outdoor swimming. You may be aware of the considerable efforts that have been made in reducing the nutrient loadings in the Lake through fish reductions, Siltex applications, aquatic planting, removal of dead aquatic plants and many other activities. In order to further reduce the impact of nutrient input into the Lake the following baiting rules apply. Other baiting rules are included here for the purposes of fish welfare and/or safety reasons. Please be aware that it is critical to the continued use of the Lake that water quality improves to meet the Bathing Water Directive, your assistance in this matter is valuable.

3.1 No pre-baiting of any description for any species is to be undertaken at the Lake.

3.2 No floating baits to be used for any type of fishing.

3.3 All unused bait should be taken away from the Lake. No bait dumping is allowed.

3.4 Ground bait is only permitted in swim feeders and pole pots. No other use of ground bait is allowed, this includes the following:

- (a) No spodding of any bait, however the use of PVA string and bags is permitted as long as these form part of the main rig used for angling;
- (b) The use of bait boats is not permitted; and
- (c) No cereal or processed loose feeds of any kind. Permissible loose feeds include maggots, sweet corn, hemp and luncheon meat. If in doubt please ask.

3.5 No nut baits to be used.

3.6 Strictly no live baiting, pike fishing should be with sea baits or trout only.

3.7 It is required that dead baits are not injected with or in any other way treated with oils.

4. Environmental welfare rules

The rules in this section pertain to the general husbandry and upkeep of the Lake and the immediate environment. Please respect the environment and do your best to keep the Lake tidy. If you see litter at the Lake please be so kind as to pick it up and place it in a bin. If you are aware of an angler littering or persistently breaking tackle please speak to a Club Bailiff. Nobody wants to fish in a messy environment.

4.1 All litter must be removed from the Lake and either disposed of in the appropriate bin or taken home.

4.2 All line breakages or lost angling lines must be promptly reported to a Club Bailiff or the General Manager. If possible mark the area where tackle was lost and inform a Club Bailiff. This is especially important in the swimming area where swimmers could be injured by lost tackle.

5. Safety & Etiquette rules

Henleaze Swimming Club wishes to ensure that the Lake is a safe and pleasant environment for all users. As such the rules below are made to ensure that the Lake is used safely in such a manner that the risk to you and any other person is minimised. We request that the Lake, the grounds, facilities and other Lake users are treated respectfully and that the Lake remains a pleasant place to visit for all users.

5.1 No juniors under 8 nor non-angling juniors can be admitted for angling at the Lake.

5.2 No Junior members may be on the Club's property after dark.

5.3 The Main Gate to the Lake must be kept locked at all times when the Lake is closed for swimming and no Superintendents are on duty.

5.4 Anglers fishing at night must be accompanied by at least one other angler who shall be nearby at all times.

5.5 No fishing is allowed in the swimming area in the summer swimming season (normally 1st May to 30th September (inclusive)) and during winter swimming sessions.

5.6 No fishing is allowed in any area of the Lake notified by the Club to anglers from time to time (e.g. to allow fish spawning or for the long swimming events).

5.7 Night fishing is limited to 2 nights in any one session.

5.8 Bivouacs (bivvies) may not be erected on the timbered walkways. Day type shelters and umbrellas only.

5.9 Anglers must use the toilet facilities provided. The toilets are never locked and should be used.

5.10 Every angler is permitted to use two rods during the summer season (normally 1st May – 30th September (inclusive)). Outside of this period an angler may use 3 rods provided the correct licence(s) are held.

5.11 No rods shall be left unattended.

5.12 No umbrellas, rod rests or other objects shall be pushed between the boards on the boardwalks.

5.13 No guns or weapons are allowed on the Club's property.

5.14 No alcoholic drinks shall be brought to or consumed on the Club's property.

5.15 No use of any illegal drugs on the Club's property. This will be reported to the police.

5.16 No dogs are allowed on the Club's property.

5.17 No fires unless authorised by a Club official.

5.18 No fishing within 5 metres of the net at the north end of the Lake.

Guidance

It is expected at all time that all Lake users are undertaking their activity without detriment to others. As such you are expected to undertake activities at the Lake in such a manner as to ensure that all Lake users are able to enjoy the Lake as such please bear the following points in mind whilst using the Lake.

Best practice tips for all anglers

- Please assist other anglers if requested. This is especially important for young anglers or new anglers who are not as experienced as yourself. Assisting other anglers improves everybody's fishing experience.
- If you see another angler or other Lake user who appears to be in distress please ensure that they are okay and not in need of assistance. Quarries can be dangerous places and as such Lake users should ensure each other's safety and well-being. If in doubt, call 999.
- Anglers are advised to carry a mobile telephone at the Lake.
- There is a first aid box in the men's toilets.
- Any open wound should be covered with a water proof dressing when fishing
- Please be patient with young anglers. They do not have as much experience as you and will benefit from your assistance; it is only by learning that they will reach the standard you expect.

- If you see wildlife or fish in distress please report this immediately to a Club Bailiff or the General Manager. It is all our responsibility to look after the wildlife at the Lake.
- Please ensure you are fit and healthy enough to use the Lake and that someone knows where you are and when you will return. The Lake can be very quiet at times and many hours can pass without seeing another person. Please be especially careful if taking medication that can make you drowsy, where possible buddy up with another angler.
- Please be aware of people at the Lake, if you see suspicious activity or persons you believe should not be there please contact a Club Bailiff or the General Manager. If a crime is taking place the police should be notified immediately.
- It is recommended that all specimen anglers, of any species, treat fish with an antiseptic were hook damage has occurred.
- When handling fish hands should be wet or a damp cloth used, it is harmful to the protective slime of the fish to handle them with dry hands.
- Please ensure you are competent in handling and unhooking pike, if this is not the case we request that you fish with an experienced angler or that you seek guidance from a Club Bailiff.
- Please fish quietly, many anglers enjoy fishing for the quietness and this can be ruined by anglers shouting down the banks at each other.
- Do not cast in such a way that you are likely to lose tackle through snagging. Fish to your abilities and do not cast up to objects where snagging is likely.

Constitution

The Club may approve individual anglers for recreational fishing (see Membership section of these rules, below). These individuals together make up the Angling Section and are Associate Members of Henleaze Swimming Club.

The affairs of the Angling Section are managed by the Angling Section Subcommittee, responsible to the HSC Executive Committee. The subcommittee includes the General Manager, all bailiffs and a member of the Club's Executive Committee.

Membership

The Club offers the following categories of membership to anglers and their families:

Senior Angler
 Accompanying Junior Angler
 Junior Angler with Non-angling parents/guardians
 Summer Season Junior Angler
 Non-angling partner

The criteria and restrictions for each type of membership is as follows:

Categories of membership	Criteria	Restrictions
Senior Angler	Aged 18 years or over. Satisfy the HSC Executive Committee that they will uphold the interests of the Club. Sign disclaimer (which covers the Angler,	No reduction in membership fee for membership taken up part way through the subscription year (1st January to 31st December).

Categories of membership	Criteria	Restrictions
	any Accompanying Junior Anglers and the Angler's guests).	
Accompanying Junior Angler	Aged 8 – 17 years. Relative or friend of a Senior Angler. Provide proof that they can swim 50m (a swim test can be taken at the Lake during the Summer swimming season). Must be accompanied by the Senior Angler.	No more than 2 Accompanying Junior Anglers per Senior Angler. Must be accompanied by Senior Angler at all times on the Club's property. May not be at the Club's property after dark.
Junior Angler with Non-angling parents/guardians	Aged 8 – 17 years. The Junior and his Non-angling parent/guardian must have attended at least 2 angling training sessions. Provide proof that they can swim 50m (a swim test can be taken at the Lake during the Summer swimming season).	No more than 2 Junior Anglers per Non-angling parent/guardian. Must be accompanied by Non-angling parent/guardian at all times on the Club's property. May not be at the Club's property after dark.
Summer Season Junior Angler	Aged 13-17 years. Subject to HSC Executive Committee approval. Provide proof that they can swim 50m (a swim test can be taken at the Lake during the Summer swimming season). Provide a disclaimer signed by his parent/guardian	Available during the Summer swimming season only. May only visit the Lake when Superintendents are on duty. Summer Season Junior Angler must check in with a Superintendent at the gate and leave their card. Summer Season Junior Anglers are not allowed on the timbered walkways unless they have been given permission from the Head Bailiff. Juniors must collect their card 30 minutes before the Lake closes. May not be at the Club's property after dark.
Non-angling partner	Aged 18 or over.	One Non-angling partner per Senior Angler.

The adult (be he Senior Angler or Non-angling parent/guardian) shall be responsible for the conduct and safety of the Junior Angler(s) and shall stay close to them at all times.

The total number of members in each category of membership and the fee payable for each category of membership shall be determined by the HSC Executive Committee from time to time.

Old age pensioners, students, disabled anglers, and junior anglers from the same family shall pay a reduced fee.

No fee shall be charged for an Accompanying Junior Angler or Junior Angler with Non-angling parents/guardians to become a Summer Season Junior Angler.

There is currently a long waiting list for swimming membership. However, the HSC Executive Committee may give priority to applications for swimming membership from existing angling associate members over 18 years. Please contact a Club Bailiff or the General Manager if you are interested in this.

Swimming Club Members who wish to fish at Henleaze Lake shall be given angling membership at a 50% reduction on the normal rates. Likewise Angling Members who wish to join the Swimming Club and have been approved by the Executive Committee shall be given a 50% reduction on the Swimming Club rates

Visitors

Senior Anglers may bring in up to 2 Senior or Junior Visiting Anglers and one Non-angling Visitor as guests.

Junior Visiting Anglers shall be 8 to 17 years of age and must provide proof that they can swim 50m (a swim test can be taken at the Lake during the summer swimming season).

Guest tickets are valid for 24 hours and may be purchased from the Superintendents at the gate or from the Head Bailiff.

In accordance with the disclaimer that all Senior Anglers sign, guests entering the Club's property do so at their own risk. So far as permissible by law, the Club accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage whatsoever and howsoever caused which may occur to persons or property on the Club's property. Senior Anglers have an obligation to point this out to their guests.

Senior Anglers bringing in guests accept full responsibility for their guests' conduct, safety and the safety of their possessions.

Guests shall be accompanied at all times by their Senior Angler.

No Junior Visiting Angler may be on the Club's property after dark.

Junior Visiting Anglers are not allowed on the timbered walkways.

The cost of tickets for Senior Visiting Anglers, Junior Visiting Anglers and Non-angling Visitors shall be determined by the HSC Executive Committee from time to time.

Administration and Contacts

Application for Angling memberships and all matters concerning Henleaze Swimming Club Angling Section business should be addressed to:

Alison Laity – General Manager
HENLEAZE SWIMMING CLUB
ANGLING SECTION
PO BOX 140, WESTBURY-ON-TRYM,
BRISTOL BS10 6YD

For administration and general information, write to the above address or email:

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