THE CIVIL SERVICE ANGLING SOCIETY RULES
Revised, August '24
Foreword

Members have a responsibility to abide by the Rules of the Society as laid down in the Rule Book and as amended from time to time. Accordingly, Members must satisfy themselves that they understand the Rules and are complying with them. In this respect a plea of ignorance will not be accepted. N.B. Any amendment to the Rules will be notified in the Newsletter. Members are urged to amend their own Rule Books immediately thereafter.

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1. GENERAL RULES

1.1. Title

1.1.1. The Society shall be called the "Civil Service Angling Society".

1.2. Objectives

1.2.1. The objectives of the Society shall be to provide members with angling facilities and to promote the principles of fair angling.

1.3. Affiliation

1.3.1. The General Purposes Committee (GPC) may affiliate the Society to any angling body that it decides can further its objectives. New affiliations must be ratified at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). Such affiliations shall be published in the Society's rules and any changes will be announced on the website and forum.

1.4. Membership

1.4.1. The categories of membership are - full members (including full life members); honorary life members; associate members (including associate life members, junior ticket holders, spouses' and partners' ticket holders); honorary vice-presidents; or honorary members.

1.4.2. Full membership shall be open to all who pay subscriptions to CSSC Sports & Leisure Ltd.

1.4.3. Associate membership shall be at the discretion of the GPC. The GPC may regulate the proportion of the associate to full members.

1.4.4. The GPC may confer honorary life membership, honorary vice-presidency or honorary membership on persons who have rendered notable service to the Society or to angling causes.

1.4.5. Applications for all categories of membership must be made on the prescribed form. The GPC, on the advice of the honorary membership secretary, shall decide whether to admit or re-admit applicants. The GPC may refuse membership to any individual without giving a reason.

1.4.6. The minimum age for full or associate membership is 18 years.

1.4.7. Junior ticket holders, spouse ticket holders, temporary membership ticket holders & exchange permit holders will be members for the duration of their visit to a Society water.

1.5. **Subscriptions**

1.5.1. The GPC, acting on the advice of the honorary treasurer, shall set entrance fees, annual subscriptions and any other levies for all members. Full members must also continue to subscribe to CSSC Sports & Leisure Ltd.

1.5.2. A member who is not already paying a retired member subscription must be 65 years of age on their last birthday to qualify as a retired member.

1.6. **Termination of membership**

1.6.1. Any member whose subscription has not been paid by the 16th June shall cease to be a member from that date.

1.6.2. Members who wish to resign may do so at any time during the season by notifying the honorary membership secretary. It would be appreciated if individuals resigning would provide their reasons for doing so, particularly if it is as a result of some dissatisfaction with the Society or its waters.1.6.3 A former member wishing to re-join the Society shall pay a re-entry fee.1.6.4 On ceasing to be a member of the Society former members shall forfeit any claim upon the property of the Society or any other privilege of membership. They must return any Society property they hold.

1.7. **Disciplinary procedure**

1.7.1. The GPC shall investigate any report concerning a breach of the rules or of any conduct that is considered capable of bringing the Society into disrepute or is otherwise prejudicial to the interests of the Society.

1.7.2. The GPC shall provide the accused member with details of the report that is being considered and shall invite them to present their side of the case.

1.8. **Penalties**

1.8.1. If, after considering all the evidence, the GPC decides that the accused member has broken a rule or that the conduct of the accused has been prejudicial to the interests of the Society, the GPC may impose an appropriate penalty. Such penalties may include one or more of the following:

1.8.1.1. a formal warning,

1.8.1.2. a fine not exceeding one year's subscription,

1.8.1.3. confirmation of a ban imposed by a fishery bailiff,

1.8.1.4. a suspension of membership from one to twelve months, or

1.8.1.5. expulsion from the Society.

1.9. **Appeals**

1.9.1. The accused member shall have the right to appeal to the GPC against any penalty imposed on them if they consider that relevant evidence was not taken into account or if there are mitigating circumstances.

1.10. **Administration**

1.10.1. The Society shall be governed for all purposes by a GPC consisting of the honorary chairman, honorary vice-chairman, honorary treasurer, honorary secretary, honorary competitions secretary, honorary newsletter editor, honorary publicity officer, honorary minute secretary, honorary fisheries officer, honorary temporary membership secretary, honorary welfare officer and honorary health & safety officer, together with up to eight other full members and one associate member to be elected at the AGM.

1.10.2. The other officers of the Society shall be a president and up to five vice-presidents, to be elected at the AGM.

1.10.3. Members of the GPC hold office from the close of the AGM to the close of the next AGM and shall be eligible for re-election.

1.10.4. The GPC may co-opt full or associate members to fill any vacancy.

1.10.5. Five members of the GPC shall form a quorum.

1.10.6. The honorary secretary may call a meeting of the GPC at any time and must do so if required in writing by any four of its members.

1.10.7. The AGM of the Society shall be held not later than 15 June each year for the following purposes: – to approve the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the preceding year; to elect officers; to elect members of the GPC; to elect auditors; to consider any motion or motions of which due notice has been given and to deal with any other business.

1.10.8. Any full member wishing to submit a motion at the AGM or to nominate any officer, member of the GPC, auditor, honorary life member, honorary vice-president or honorary member, must submit the motion or nomination in writing to the honorary secretary not later than the last day of February and these shall then be circulated to the membership. Not less than seven days' notice shall be given of the AGM which must be accompanied by an agenda which includes all motions and nominations of which due notice has been given.

1.10.9. The annual report shall be printed in the Newsletter and circulated to all members before the AGM. A copy of the audited statement of accounts shall be available to members attending the AGM and shall be sent to any member on request.

1.10.10. A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be held at any time to consider any motion at the written request of not less than 10 full members. The meeting shall be held within 28 days of the receipt by the Secretary of such a request. The GPC may call a SGM at any time.

1.10.11. 14 days' notice shall be given of any SGM and the agenda shall include the motion(s) to be considered. No business shall be transacted at an AGM or SGM unless a quorum of 10 full members be present at the commencement of the meeting.

1.11. **Appointment of Trustees** –

1.11.1. The honorary chairman, honorary secretary and honorary treasurer from time to time shall be deemed to have been nominated as trustees of the Society. Upon the resignation or removal of the honorary chairman, honorary secretary or honorary secretary, they shall be deemed to have resigned or have been removed as such trustee. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the honorary chairman is nominated as the person to appoint new trustees of the Society within the meaning of the Trustees Act 1925, Section 36, and he or she shall by deed appoint the person or persons so nominated as the new trustee or trustees of the Society and the provisions of the Trustees Act 1925 shall apply to such appointment. Any statement of fact in any such deed of appointment shall, in favour of a person dealing bona fide and to the value of the Society or GPC, be conclusive evidence of facts so stated.

1.12. **Voting**

1.12.1. Only full members (including full life members) honorary life members and associate members who are members of the GPC shall have voting rights at an AGM or SGM.

1.12.2. In the event of a tied vote, the chairman of the meeting shall use a casting vote.

1.13. **Accounts and Audits**

1.13.1. The GPC shall ensure a true account is kept of all receipts and expenditure.

1.13.2. The Society's financial year shall be from 1st of January to 31st December.

1.13.3. The Society's accounts shall be audited by two annually elected auditors. In the absence of an elected auditor the GPC shall appoint a substitute from the membership. No member of the GPC shall act as auditor.

1.14. **Fishery Administration**

1.14.1. Upkeep of the Society's fisheries shall be vested in the honorary fisheries officer who may appoint a fishery manager and fishery bailiffs for each fishery.

1.14.2. Fishery bailiff's responsibilities

1.14.3. If a fishery bailiff believes that a member has broken a rule when on the fishery, he may endorse the member's permit accordingly and must report this without delay to the fishery manager.

1.14.4. If a fishery bailiff believes that a serious breach of a rule has occurred, e.g., bringing the Society into disrepute, he may ban the member immediately from the fishery for a period not exceeding one month, must endorse the member's permit accordingly and must report this without delay to the fishery manager. The fishery bailiff must inform the member concerned that he may choose to appeal against the ban to the fishery manager, hon. fishery officer or directly to the GPC.

1.15. **Fishery manager's responsibilities**

1.15.1. Without delay, the fishery manager must inform the Hon. Fishery Officer of the endorsement of a member's permit and/or that a member was banned from a fishery and the circumstances thereof.

1.16. **Hon. Fishery Officer's responsibilities**

1.16.1. Without delay, the Hon. Fishery Officer must inform the GPC when a member was banned from a fishery and the circumstances thereof.

1.17. **Dissolution**

1.17.1. The Society shall not be dissolved whilst at least 10 full members wish it to continue. Dissolution shall only be approved at a General Meeting.

1.17.2. Should the Society be dissolved, all trophies and gifts held by the Society shall, where possible, be returned to the donors. Any other assets shall be disposed of in accordance with the wishes of the general meeting.

1.18. **Amendment of Rules**

1.18.1. Alteration of, or addition to, these rules shall be confirmed at an AGM or SGM.

1.18.2. The GPC may make interim changes in order to assist in the running of the Society. It must seek approval for such changes at the next AGM. Any alteration to the rules shall be notified in the Newsletter, website, forum & Facebook.

2. CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

2.1. **General responsibilities of Members**

2.1.1. Members are reminded that they have a responsibility to keep up to date with the rules of the Society and must satisfy themselves that they understand them and are complying with them. In this respect a plea of ignorance will not be accepted. N.B. Any alteration to the rules will be notified on the website, the forum, Facebook and in the Newsletter.

2.1.2. Members have a responsibility to ensure that their actions or statements are not capable of bringing the Society into disrepute or are otherwise prejudicial to the interests of the Society. In particular, they must comply with the Environment Agency's Byelaws and must pursue their angling activities responsibly in a fair and sportsmanlike manner exercising due regard to the rights of other persons and for the welfare of domestic animals, other animals and wildlife.

2.1.3. Members must not, without the permission of the GPC, seek to vary the terms of the Society's fishing licences, agreements or leases by approaching a landlord or anyone claiming to act as an agent on a landlord's behalf.

2.1.4. Members must not lend or give to another person any Society key, badge or membership card and must not disclose combination numbers of locks.

2.1.5. From time to time, in the interest of fish welfare, the smooth running of the fishery, fair and reasonable access to swims for all members and to discourage 'swim hogging', a Fishery Manager may, with the approval of the GPC, introduce rules about angling methods, access to swims and members' behaviour.

2.2. **Access and parking**

2.2.1. Members must always use the designated routes of access to Society waters and shall not trespass on adjoining land or damage fences, crops, or any other property. Details of access are given in the individual fishery regulations or can be viewed on the website.

2.2.2. Members and temporary members using official Society car parks must display a current Society car parking permit completed to show their membership number.

2.3. **Responsibilities when on the Society's waters.**

2.3.1. Whilst on Society's waters members must:

• be in possession of their membership card,

• show these to any bailiff, landlord, landlord's agent or other Society member who may ask to see them,

• additionally, members should check that any angler fishing within a reasonable distance is in possession of the aforementioned card or a temporary membership ticket.

2.3.2. Except were specifically permitted by fishery regulations, no member may take a non-member onto the Society's waters to fish without valid temporary membership for the non-member.

2.4. Whilst on Society's waters members must:

2.4.1. be in possession of their membership card or a mobile phone image thereof,

2.4.2. show these to any bailiff, landlord, landlord's agent or other Society member who may ask to see them,

2.4.3. additionally, members should check that any angler fishing within a reasonable distance is in possession of the aforementioned card or mobile phone image.

2.4.4. With the exception of Ellis Water and Big Sheepwalk, only two rods may be used at any one time. Up to four rods may be used at Ellis Water provided that a supplementary fee has been paid to the Society, an additional EA licence has been purchased and that such rods are positioned no more than two metres apart. No rod may be left unattended with the terminal tackle in the water.

2.4.5. Fish may not be removed from the Society's waters or transferred between waters on the same complex.

2.4.6. Leaving litter, particularly nylon line, plastic scrap and tins, is strictly forbidden. Members must ensure that their swim and the surrounding area is free of litter when leaving. A member is responsible for removing all litter from a swim even if it was there before they started fishing.

- The following activities are prohibited on the Society's waters:
- the use of boats, except at Ellis Water where special regulations apply,
- the lighting of fires,
- camping (bivvies & large fishing umbrellas are allowed),
- the carrying or the use of weapons,
- the use of radios (except with earphones),
- bathing,
- taking dogs, unless they are assistance dogs, when on a public right of way, or where fishery rules specifically permit them.

2.4.7. Unless specifically permitted by individual fishery regulations, night fishing is not allowed. Where night fishing is not permitted, fishing shall not commence until one hour before sunrise and shall cease one hour after sunset. Where night fishing is specifically permitted by individual fishery regulations, no member may be on the fishery for more than 48 hours, after which he/she must remove all items of equipment and must not return to the fishery before 24 hours have passed. Special mid-week rules apply at Ellis Water – see the venue regulations.

2.4.8. Close season. Fishing in the former Close Season [15 March – 15 June] is permitted on all Society still waters.

2.4.9. Members are forbidden to undertake work such as cutting down or pruning trees and bushes or digging out any bank, on the Society's fisheries without the express permission of the honorary fisheries officer, head bailiff or the local fishery manager.

2.4.10. A member must not fish within 15 metres of another angler without being specifically invited to, nor may he/she encroach upon a neighbour's swim.

2.5. **Matches**

2.5.1. The decision as to whether to close a fishery on a match day or impose restrictions as to where competitors or non-competitors may fish will be made jointly by the Competitions Secretary and the relevant Fishery Manager, taking into consideration the number of competitors, the size of the fishery and the interests of non-competitors. In the event of a disagreement, the Fisheries Officer will be the final arbiter.

2.6. **Sponsors of Junior ticket holders**

2.6.1. Members and associate members who are the sponsors of holders of junior tickets shall, at all times, be responsible for the conduct of those whom they have sponsored.

2.7. **Companions of temporary membership ticket holders**

2.7.1. Members and Associate members who accompany temporary membership ticket holders shall, at all times, be responsible for the conduct of those temporary membership ticket holders whom they accompany.

2.8. **Responsibilities of the GPC**

The GPC is responsible for investigation and follow-up of reports of:

- breaches of the rules of the Society, and
- actions or statements considered to be capable of bringing the Society into disrepute, or which are otherwise prejudicial to the interests of the Society.
- In particular, the GPC is responsible for seeing that all conditions agreed between the Society and its landlords are observed in every respect. In this regard the GPC must act to protect the majority of rule-abiding members against those whose action might lead to the loss of a fishery.

3. FISHERY REGULATIONS AND MAPS

3.1. Until evidence is forthcoming, that proves it to be safe in use and does not constitute a snag risk, the device known as the Magic Twig, is banned from all Society waters.

- Hambridge, R. Kennet
- Royal Windsor Racecourse, R. Thames
- Ellis Water
- Big Sheep Walk Lake
- Little Sheep Walk Lake
- Kintbury, Kennet & Avon Canal
- Crabtree Lake
- Midgham Water, Kennet & Avon Canal
- Woolhampton, Kennet & Avon Canal
- Riseley Mill, R Whitewater
- Stanford End, R Loddon

3.2. Members must ensure that any rig used, allows a fish to escape unhindered in the event of a break off.

3.3. Members must ensure that all nets, weigh slings etc. are completely dry before fishing commences.

4. TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP TICKETS (TMTs)

4.1. Members may purchase a Temporary Membership Ticket allowing them to take a friend to a Society fishery. The ticket is only valid if the member accompanies the holder. TMTs may be either a Day Ticket, in which case, the Temporary Member is allowed to fish from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset or they may be for 24 hours.

4.1.1. Members are permitted to obtain only one ticket for any given date.

4.1.2. The cost of TMTs for the Ellis/Sheepwalk fishery only is £10 for a Day only TMT and £20 for 24 hours. All other fisheries are £5 for a day only ticket and £10 for 24 hours

4.2. Junior Temporary Membership tickets are available for all the Societies fisheries, for children who are either under 16 or under 18 if in full time education on the day for which the ticket is issued.

4.3. Temporary Membership tickets will not be issued for a fishery for a date on which a competition is being held or on a designated "no access" day.

4.4. With the exception of Royal Windsor Racecourse, 24-hour Temporary Membership tickets may be purchased for waters where night fishing is permitted. If a 24-hour Temporary Membership ticket is purchased, its starting time must be stated. After expiry of a 24-hour Temporary Membership ticket, another temporary Membership ticket will not be issued to the same member for the same venue until 24 hours has elapsed.

4.5. Applications for tickets must either be made in writing or via email to the Honorary Temporary Membership Ticket Secretary stating:

4.5.1. The name and membership number of the member applying

4.5.2. the date for which it is required.

4.5.3. the name of the fishery on which it will be used; and

4.5.4. the name of the guest.

4.5.5. Whether it is a Day Ticket or for 24 hours and, if 24 hours, the time the ticket should start from.

4.6. If applying by post the Temporary Membership ticket shall only be issued provided that:

4.6.1. the application is received at least 4 days prior to the date the ticket is required for;

4.6.2. a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed; and

4.6.3. a cheque for the correct amount is enclosed.

4.7. If applying by email the Temporary Membership ticket shall only be issued provided that the application is received at least 2 days prior to the date the ticket is required for. An e-mail ticket will be issued as soon as possible after the request is received. Immediately upon receipt of the TM ticket email, either a cheque for the correct amount should be sent to the TM Secretary or payment may be made via PayPal. Failure to do so in good time without a reasonable excuse will be treated as a disciplinary offence.

4.8. Serving GPC members and serving bailiffs are eligible for two free guest tickets for the duration of their appointment

4.9. Members shall be held responsible for all actions of their guest.

4.10. A temporary member or guest may not be on Society property at any time unless the hosting member is with them.

5. JUNIOR TICKETS AND SPOUSES TICKETS

5.1. Junior tickets are available to children, grandchildren and dependents of full and associate members who are aged at least 5 or under 16, or in full time education, on the first day of the season for which the ticket is valid.

5.2. Junior ticket holders under the age of 16 are permitted to be on a Society water only if accompanied by the sponsoring member(s) who shall be held responsible for their

behaviour whilst on Society waters. Junior ticket holders over the age of 16 may fish unaccompanied by their sponsor but they may not fish at night.

5.3. Junior ticket holders shall not be members of the Society but will become eligible for membership upon their 18th birthday.

5.4. Although not members of the Society, junior ticket holders shall be bound by the Society's rules which are on the Society's website.

5.5. Spouses' tickets are available to the spouses and partners of both full and associate members. Spouses' ticket holders are permitted to be on a Society water only if accompanied by their spouse or partner who will be held responsible for their behaviour whilst they are on Society waters. Although not members of the Society, spouses' ticket holders shall be bound by the Society's rules which are on the Society's website.

6. GENERAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS

6.1. The draw for pegs in both peg down and rover matches will take place 1 hour before the start of the match.

6.2. The match officials will have the right to examine all containers carried by competitors prior to commencement of the competition, at their pegs.

6.3. On pegged down matches no competitor will change his or her peg. Any angler fishing at the wrong peg will be disqualified

6.4. **Roving matches only (rules 4-7)** The Competitions Secretary will define the boundaries of a roving match. All competitors will draw numbers by ballot to decide the allocation of pegs or the order of walk off. If a voluntary pool is being run competitors wishing to enter it must do so before the draw takes place.

6.5. In roving matches competitors must not fish within 15 metres of an adjacent competitor [30 metres at Hambridge] unless natural swims dictate.

6.6. An angler may only change his/her swim after the match has started and all anglers are in their first-choice swim.

6.7. Competitors wishing to change their swim must either locate a scalesman and have any fish caught weighed or release any fish caught.

6.8. Large fish such as barbel & carp shall be weighed as soon as possible after being caught and returned immediately to the water.

6.9. No competitor will have live or dead fish in their possession before the competition.

6.10. The signal to commence and cease fishing will be given by the match organiser or nominated official.

6.11. Matches will normally 6 hours in duration with the exception of overnight matches.

6.12. 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 or wet groundbait, clear his/her fishing ground of weed or obstructions and position his/her equipment. On no account must a feeder be used prior to the starting signal.

6.13. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees, unless they can touch the bank with their fingertips, in which case the water can extend above the knees. When platforms are used the water must not come over the angler's knees when standing on river/lake bed.

6.14. Every competitor must fish within one metre either side of their designated peg.

6.15. On flowing water, they will fish from their position in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg.

6.16. On still waters they may fish as far as half the distance between their peg and the pegs on either side.

6.17. The competitor will restrict their activities completely to these boundaries. Neither their person, tackle, bait, groundbait or hooked fish may intrude into their neighbours' swims. In an extreme situation, e.g. snagged tackle or a snagged fish, an angler must seek permission

from their neighbour/neighbours before moving from their designated peg to try and remedy the situation.

6.18. A competitor must not cause annoyance to or seek to interfere with another competitor during the competition. They must always act in a sporting manner.

6.19. A competitor shall have in use one rod or pole, one line and single hook at any one time. They may have other poles or rods and tackle assembled in a position behind them, if possible, providing no such other tackle is baited.

6.20. Competitors are prohibited from throwing/discarding their bait into water at the end of day.

6.21. Any bait, with the following exceptions may be used, floating baits, live or dead fish, spinning baits and artificial lures.

6.22. The use of electronic fish finders is forbidden.

6.23. No competitor shall present their baited hooks into their swim by any means other than the pole or rod to which the line is attached.

6.24. All feed may be thrown in by hand, or by the use of one- or two-handed catapults, throwing sticks, swimfeeders, baitdroppers, bait cups and bait shuttles, but no other mechanical means of projecting feed is allowed. No bait shall be introduced with a pole or bait dropper attached to an extra pole or rod whilst continuing to fish.

6.25. Competitors must strike, play and land their own fish from the confines of their own peg.

6.26. Competitors must retain all fish in a keepnet that complies with the relevant Environment Agency bylaws. Nets should be dry when arriving to fish, as dry nets do not spread diseases.

6.27. Fish must never be handled with gloves or towels.

6.28. All fish caught are eligible for weighing except game fish (including grayling), pike, zander and crustaceans.

6.29. Competitors must, if practicable, keep all fish caught alive. If for any reason a competitor is struggling to keep a fish alive, it can be weighed in during the competition and returned to the water if it is still alive.

6.30. Competitors must cease fishing at the signal. Should a competitor still be playing a fish hooked before the finishing signal is given, they will be permitted no more than 15 minutes after time has been called to land the fish.

6.31. All competitors will remain at their pegs, except for the purpose of clearing litter from their swims, or if they have been allocated weighing in duties, until details of their catch have been recorded by the Steward, even if they have caught no fish.

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

6.33. 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.

6.33.1. Keepnet to weigh net: –

6.33.1.1. 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.

6.33.1.2. 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.

6.34. 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.

6.35. Each competitor will be responsible for ensuring that the weight of his or her catch is correctly recorded on the weigh sheet and on his/her peg card. He/she MUST sign both to that effect. The peg card MUST be kept safe in case of a query.

6.36. After being weighed any dead fish are to be suitably disposed of by the scales steward.

6.37. Any fish about which the stewards have any doubt must be brought before the match organiser and the competitor's weight will not be confirmed until a ruling has been obtained. Even if a steward recommends the disqualification of a competitor, they MUST weigh the fish in case the stewards ruling is not upheld.

6.38. Any objections must be lodged with the Competition Secretary no later than one hour after the end of the competition. Irregularities which are brought to notice at a later date may be dealt with only by and at the discretion of CSAS committee.

6.39. All competitions must conform to Environment Agency bylaws. Any competitor reported to the match organiser by the Environment Agency for being unable to produce a valid licence shall be deemed to be in contravention of the rules and shall be disqualified and may face further disciplinary action from the CSAS committee. All pools, entry fees etc in respect of the said competitor shall be forfeited. Local fishery rules will also apply.

6.40. The use of lead, including any alloy or compound of lead, in the form of split shot or any other suitable items for weighting fishing lines is prohibited. The prohibition does not apply to weights of lead, alloy or compound of lead, of 0.06g or less or of more than 28.35g. The prohibition also does not apply to weights of lead, alloy or compound less than 28.35g if the said lead, alloy or compound is incorporated in the construction of swimfeeders or self-cocking floats.

6.41. If, in the opinion of the match organiser, any individual is in breach of these rules or is guilty of behaviour which is contrary to the best interests of the sport, the match organiser shall make a decision on all available facts and that decision will be final and binding. The match organiser shall lodge a copy of the complaint, facts and subsequent decision with the CSAS committee within 2 days of the match

6.42. Any competitor proved to be in contravention of these rules will be disqualified.

6.43. Any individual angler deemed to be bringing the sport into disrepute will be severely dealt with by the CSAS committee.

7. CSSC SPORTS & LEISURE LTD.

7.1. The Civil Service Angling Society is affiliated to CSSC Sports & Leisure which owns some of the waters on which the Society has the fishing rights. In recognition of this, the GPC requires that full members of the Society are members of CSSC Sports & Leisure.

8. Appendix 1

CSAS Health & Safety Statement

11 March 2024

General policy and objectives

1. It is the policy of the Civil Service Angling Society, acting through its General Purposes Committee [the Society], to comply with the terms of the Health and Safety at Work, etc., Act 1974 and to maintain a healthy and safe fishing environment.
2. The Society's health and safety objective is to minimise accidents and fishing-related illnesses, hereafter referred to as adverse incidents, and generally to seek a healthy and safe fishing environment.
3. The Society will provide written safety guidance for members and will keep this under review.

Responsibility of members, etc.

4. While the Society will seek to ensure the health and safety of its members, it must be recognised that health and safety is the responsibility of each and every individual associated with the Society.
5. All members, temporary members and visitors to any of the Society's waters are expected to familiarise themselves with the Rules and Regulations in the Rule Book and to carry out their own risk assessment before fishing, starting work or other activity.

Working parties

6. The Society will provide the training and supervision necessary to carry out any work tasks safely. However, if a member is unsure how to perform a certain task or feels that it would be unsafe to perform a specific task, then it is the member's duty to report this to the working party's supervisor.
7. Personal protective equipment will be provided by the Society when necessary.

Reporting injuries, adverse incidents and follow-up

8. An effective health and safety programme requires continuous communications between all members of the Society. It is therefore every member's responsibility to report immediately any situation, which would jeopardise the safety or wellbeing of themselves or any other person.
9. All injuries, however small, sustained on any of the Society's waters must be reported to the Hon. Secretary, without delay. Records are crucial to the effective monitoring and revision of the policy and must be accurate and comprehensive.
10. The General Purposes Committee, without delay, will review reports of injuries and adverse incidents and will decide what action, if any, is needed to prevent recurrence.

Review and updating

11. The Society's health and safety policy and safety guidance will be monitored and updated, particularly when changes in the scale and nature of our operations occur, and in light of adverse incidents. The policy will be kept under review and updated at least every 12 months to reflect these changes and current legislation.

David A. Kennedy, Hon. Secretary, Trustee & Health and Safety Officer csanglingsoc@gmail.com

For and on behalf of The Civil Service Angling Society

9. Appendix 2

Safety guidance for members

Note. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of safety precautions and neither does it form part of the rules and regulations of the Society. It is intended, by the GPC, to offer general guidance only.

Driving to and from the venue - Probably this is the greatest hazard for most anglers.

- Never drive when you are feeling tired - this is especially important when returning home after a long day's fishing or after a night fishing session [see below].

Slips, trips and falls - Anyone on a fishery faces this group of hazards.

- Wear suitable boots or other footwear that provides a good grip.
- Look out for tree roots and other obstacles that might cause you to trip.
- Never carry so much tackle that it limits your ability to walk safely.
- Carry a reliable light and use it when moving about during the hours of darkness.

Drowning - It is a rule of thumb that the closer you get to the water, the greater the risk of drowning.

- Wading and the use of boats present the biggest risk of drowning for anglers and all anglers face the risk of accidentally falling into the water.

Wading

- Never wade during the hours of darkness.
- Before wading, carry out a risk assessment that takes into account the depth of water, the presence of underwater obstacles, deep holes, speed of the current, the presence of boats and any prospect of the river level rising while you are fishing.
- Wearing a life preserver is highly recommended.
- Carry the minimum of tackle.
- Wade slowly and feel in front of you with a stick.

Use of boats

- The use of boats is permitted only at Ellis Water.

- There are general safety rules for the use of boats at Ellis Water - these are to be found in the current Rulebook.

Bank fishing

- When choosing a swim, think how you will be able to get out of the water if you accidentally fall in.
- Chose a swim where the bank is not slippery, or undercut, and free of obstacles that might cause you to trip when fishing.
- When choosing a swim, think about where you will need to be positioned if you have to land a big fish.
- Ensure that your landing net handle is long enough for you to safely land a fish without the need to reach over the water.
- Take care to avoid toppling over into the water, e.g., when pushing-in and removing a bank stick, using and removing a keep net and collecting water for mixing ground bait.
- Arrange your tackle so that you are not likely to trip over it.
- Never lean out over the water to recover snagged or lost tackle.
- Never enter the water to recover snagged or lost tackle.

Falling trees and branches

- When choosing a swim in a wooded area, ensure that there is no obvious risk of a tree or branch falling on you - this is especially important in windy weather.

Electricity power cables

Electricity power cables are present and cross Society venues in several places.

- Exercise extreme caution and at all times **"Look Out. Look Up!"**

Casting hazards and injury from hooks

When casting, the risk the angler hooking himself/herself or other people should be taken into account, as should the risk of being hit by a weight that breaks free, e.g., if the line breaks [*a crack-off*].

- Before you cast out, check to see that there is no one nearby who is at risk of injury from your terminal tackle.
- Ensure that all hooks are made safe when out of the water.
- Use line of sufficient strength to prevent the loss of heavy weights when casting.
- Use a heavy shock leader when casting long distances with heavy weights.
- Fish in such a direction that, should a *crack-off* occur the weight will not travel to a point where another angler or member of the public will be put at risk of injury.

Fly-back injury - This may occur when an attempt is made to free terminal tackle that is caught up on a branch or an underwater object - when the rod or line, or pole elastic, is pulled back, the tackle is released and flies back at speed towards the angler or other person putting them at risk of injury.

- If there is risk of tackle becoming snagged when fishing, ensure that the hook link is weak enough to be broken off easily.
- Turn your back to the snag when pulling for a break.

Weil's Disease [Leptospirosis] - This caused by a microbe that is associated with the urine of rats. The microbe can enter the body through cuts and broken skin. Anybody who fishes where rats may be present should take the following simple precautions.

- Wherever possible, wash your hands with clean water or use an antiseptic wipe before eating, drinking or smoking.
- Before you start fishing, ensure that any cuts, grazes or broken skin are covered with a waterproof sticking plaster.
- If you suffer a skin injury when fishing, treat it immediately with antiseptic and cover it with a waterproof sticking plaster - a suitable first aid kit should be carried.
- If you go to your GP with 'flu-like symptoms, let him/her know that you are an angler so that the risk of Weil's Disease can be considered.

Special risks when night fishing - In addition to the general guidance given above, the following special precautions are recommended by the GPC.

- Take with you at least one trusted companion and fish as close together as is practicable.
- Before you fish the venue, carry out a thorough reconnaissance in full daylight to ensure that you are aware of any features that will require you to exercise extra care when fishing at night.
- In case anything has changed since you were last at the venue, arrive for a night-fishing session when there is sufficient light for you carry out a detailed safety inspection of the chosen swim.
- Ensure that you have a reliable light and back up for this.
- Ensure that you have a reliable mobile phone that is capable of getting a signal at any time should there be a need to call the emergency services.
- Tell somebody reliable where you intend to fish so that the emergency services can be called if you fail to return home.

10. Appendix 3

CSAS welfare & freedom from abuse policy statement

General policy and objectives

1. It is the policy of the Civil Service Angling Society, acting through its General Purposes Committee [the Society], to seek to comply with the terms of current legislation regarding the welfare of adults at risk and junior members [ie, those under the age of 18 who are sponsored by a member who is a parent or guardian]. In this, the Society will be guided by current policies and procedures issued by the Angling Trust https://anglingtrust.net The Society's overall objective is to maintain an environment in which the welfare of all is paramount.
2. The Society's welfare objective is generally to seek an environment where participants in the sport are free from abuse at the Society's fisheries and in its other dealings, e.g., at face-to-face meetings, on working parties, on the Member's Forum and on Facebook.

Welfare Officer's duties

3. The Society will appoint a Welfare Officer who will lead an investigation into any report of abuse. The appointee will liaise with the current Lead Safeguarding Officer, or Deputy, of the Angling Trust and will keep the General Purposes Committee informed of developments. At present, the Society's Welfare Officer is David Weeks. His email address is JCLgardenservices@gmail.com

Responsibility of members

4. While the Society will seek to ensure the welfare of its members, it must be recognised that this is the responsibility of each and every individual member.
5. Everybody, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin and religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse.
6. An effective welfare programme requires continuous communication between all members of the Society. It is therefore every member's responsibility to report, without delay, any situation, which they feel would jeopardise the welfare of themselves or any other person.
7. All concerns about abuse, must be reported to the Society's Welfare Officer, without delay. Records are crucial to the effective monitoring and revision of the policy and must be accurate and comprehensive.
8. The General Purposes Committee, without delay, will review reports of abuse concerns and will decide whether action is needed to prevent recurrence.

Review and updating

9. The Society's welfare policy will be monitored and updated, particularly when changes in the scale and nature of its operations occur, and in the light of adverse incidents. The policy will be kept under review and updated at least every 12 months to reflect these changes and current legislation.

David A. Kennedy, Hon. Secretary & Trustee, csanglingsoc@gmail.com

For and on behalf of The Civil Service Angling Society

11 March 2024