Members Handbook

Rules and Byelaws

Organisation
And
General Rules

Season 2026-2027

Safeguarding and Welfare:
All safeguarding queries and concerns should be reported to our safeguarding/welfare offices using:
safeguarding@southlakeangling.co.uk

Biosecurity Notice to ALL Members:
All fishing tackle, nets, weigh slings, unhooking mats, trolleys, barrows, clothing and footwear **MUST** be completely dry before entering society fisheries.

Issue 20.2 – October 2026

Southlake Angling Society – General Rules.

- **ALL Southlake Angling Society Members MUST always exercise common sense and etiquette.**
- **Any member uncertain of these rules should contact a Committee Member or Bailiff before fishing.**

1. **Conduct, Discipline and Grievances:**
   - **a.** The committee has the right to refuse membership for any reason and to suspend or expel any member who fails to comply with Society Rules, or in their opinion acts in a manner prejudicial to the good of the name of the Society or the sport of angling.
   - **b.** Committee Members, Bailiffs and Members are empowered to ask any person fishing or any Society water/s to provide proof of membership.
   - **c.** Any member who, for any reason whatsoever, feels aggrieved in any way will make his/her grievance known to the Committee in writing and will not, under any circumstances, pursue their objections in any other way. The Committee will endeavour to resolve the matter to a satisfactory conclusion for all parties involved.

2. **Rod, Byelaws and Close season:**
   - **a.** All members must abide by Environment Agency Byelaws, Environment Agency Thames Region Byelaws and be in possession of the appropriate rod licence.
   - **b.** Members must only approach or leave the waters by designated footpaths and entrances, and fishing may only take place for designated swims.
   - **c.** Marker rods and Spod rods may be used, provided they are reeled in after baiting, etc. On no account are marker floats to be ''left out'' while fishing.
   - **d.** No angler shall leave baited rod/s unattended in or out of the water.
   - **e.** The committee has the power to set closed seasons and temporary restrictions on any society's water. Closed seasons on rivers are subject to the Environment Agency Byelaws.
   - **f.** Predator fishing is permitted on Society waters only between 1st of October and 30th of April.
   - **g.** Excessive wading is prohibited; extreme caution is to be used when wading. Swimming in society's water is prohibited.
   - **h.** Memberships commence from the 1st of June and terminate on the 31st of May the following year.
   - **i.** Memberships are administered via the club's 'Membership Secretary' using 'Clubmate' on behalf of Southlake Angling Society. Refunds of yearly membership fees are not possible.
   - **j.** Children aged under 8 may fish free of charge.
   - **k.** Junior Membership is required from 8 years of age.
   - **l.** Junior Members aged under 13 must always be accompanied by a Senior Member aged 18 or over while fishing.
   - **m.** Junior Members aged 13–15 may fish unaccompanied during daylight hours only.
   - **n.** Night fishing is permitted for Junior Members under 16 only when accompanied by a **Senior Member** aged 18 or over, who must be fishing in the same or an immediately adjacent swim.
   - **o.** Junior Members aged 16–17 may fish both during the day and at night without supervision, subject to parental or guardian consent. However, they are classed as **Probationary Members** and must not supervise Junior Members.
   - **p.** Senior Membership begins at 18 years of age. Only **Senior Members** may supervise Junior Members.

3. **Miscellaneous Restrictions:**
   - **a.** Members must shut/lock gates behind them to safeguard property on all society waters.
   - **b.** Any anglers personal belongings, must not block any access or footpaths around society waters.
   - **c.** Any member may be accompanied by a non-fishing guest who will not occupy a peg other than that of the host member. The member shall be responsible for the conduct of the guest.
   - **d.** Members may purchase one guest ticket at any one time, and guests may only fish in accordance with the rules of the society. Guest tickets must be purchased **in advance**, from the Woodley Tackle Box. Guest tickets may only be issued at the committee's discretion, and guests must fish in adjacent swims to the member they are accompanying.
   - **e.** Any member being a nuisance due to being intoxicated or under the influence of drugs will be banned immediately from society waters.

4. **Dogs, Wildlife and Property:**
    - **a.** Members are allowed to have 1 dog with them when fishing. The dog must be leashed to prevent them from leaving the swim and free roaming the fisheries. The member is totally responsible for the behaviour of the dog brought onto the society waters or that of their guest. Any member is responsible for picking up any dog faeces left by their dog. Failure to do so will result in immediate withdrawal of the members' rights to bring a dog onto society waters.
    - **b.** Members must always keep disturbances and noise to a minimum, especially regarding residents living near society waters.
    - **c.** No member shall alter, damage, or in any way change the swims on society waters.
    - **d.** Under no circumstances shall members light fires (except using cooking stoves) unless engaged in official society business.
    - **e.** No member is allowed to introduce /remove any fish, spawn or fauna to or from society waters, except when carried out for fishery management purposes.
    - **f.** Members accept that vehicles and their contents are parked entirely at the owner's risk.

5. **Baits and Application:**
    - **a.** The use of bait boats is prohibited on all society waters.
    - **b.** The use of nut baits is prohibited on all society waters.

6. **Noise, Disturbance and Litter:**
    - **a.** The playing of all media devices, such as radios and TVs, may only be used so as not to cause disturbance to others.
    - **b.** No member shall leave any form of litter or fishing gear-related litter on society waters. Any member fishing is responsible for all litter at that peg, and if it is proved that this rule has been disregarded, the member will be expelled.

7. **General Safety:**
    - **a.** No boats or radio-controlled equipment of any type are to be used on society waters other than those used by official working parties, or with the permission of a club official for fish safety.
    - **b.** The use of open fires, log burning stoves or gas heaters intended to heat bivvies is prohibited on all society waters.
    - **c.** The use of gas stoves intended for the heating of water and foodstuffs is permitted on society waters provided adequate ventilation is afforded during their use.

8. **Fish Handling, Retention and Welfare:**
    - **a.** All Carp anglers must be in possession of a suitable landing net at a minimum size of 42".
    - **b.** All anglers unhooking or handling a specimen fish on the ground must use an unhooking mat with a minimum foam depth of 40mm and must be able to safely support a fish weighing over 40lb in weight. An unhooking mat must also be used under any weigh nets/slings, etc., to place specimen fish on before, during and after the weighing.
    - **c.** Carp may be retained in retaining slings in sufficient depth of water for up to 30 minutes and then released (Strictly one fish per Sling).
    - **d.** Sacking of fish is banned, and all fish must not be retained or weighed in polythene bags.
    - **e.** Keep nets must conform to the Environment Agency rules and be perfectly dry before being deployed on society waters.
    - **f.** All Society bailiffs are empowered to inspect and insist that members remove fish from their retainer sling should the enclosed fish show signs of distress.
    - **g.** The use of injurious terminal tackle (such as fixed rigs where the lead/feeder cannot be ejected on the main line breakage) is prohibited, and the Bailiff's decision is final.
    - **h.** All fish must be returned to the water alive after capture. Fish must not be killed, or taken away from the fishery, to do so may give rise to a civil prosecution under Schedule 1, section 2 of the Theft Act.
    - **i.** When fishing for pike, barbless trebles and wire traces must be used. Live baits may only be used if caught in society waters on the day of fishing. All other live baits from other waters are prohibited.
    - **j.** All carp anglers must be in possession of and use carp care kits.

9. **SOUTHLAKE is subject to the following additional rules:**
    - **a.** Members may fish with 3 rods all year round when fishing at Southlake, except when two anglers are fishing in "The Bay". Each angler is then restricted to two rods only.
    - **b.** "The Bay" is the only 2-man swim on Southlake.
    - **c.** When wading from "The Bay", anglers should go no further than halfway to the island to ensure fish and angler safety.
    - **d.** Casting behind the island from ''The Bay'' or ''Cut Out'' swims is prohibited.
    - **e.** Entry to the bird sanctuary or duck pond area, for any reason, is prohibited. All roped-off areas are strictly "out of bounds".
    - **f.** Members fishing Southlake may only be permitted to fish for a maximum of 72 hours on any one session, then must vacate the society water for a minimum of 48 hours before returning to fish.

10. **REDLANDS is subject to the following additional rules:**
    - **a.** Members may fish with 3 rods all year round at Redlands.
    - **b.** Fishing is permitted at Redlands all year round, except for the river Loddon, which is subject to the normal close season, March 15th until June 16th inclusive.
    - **c.** Members fishing Redlands may only be permitted to fish for a maximum of 72 hours on any one session and must vacate the water 48 hours before returning to fish.

11. **Social Media:**

"We expect our members to conduct themselves appropriately when using electronic communications to share information with other members or posting material on public websites in connection with the club."

Electronic Communications:

- **a.** Should be restricted to club matters only.
- **b.** Must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully another person.
- **c.** Must not be misleading, false, or injurious to the reputation of another person or society.
- **d.** Should respect and maintain the privacy of other members.
- **e.** Must not bring the club into disrepute in any way.
- **f.** Members may face disciplinary action for sending inappropriate electronic communication or posting online content or comments that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate another member or society as outlined.

12. **Southlake Angling Society Ltd - Organisation:**
    - **a.** Southlake Angling Society Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. The liability of each member is limited to £1.00, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while he/she is a member or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member.
    - **b.** The directors of Southlake Angling Society Ltd form the committee of Southlake Angling Society. The chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer and permit secretary are the executive directors. All executive directors, plus other society directors, shall be elected at the AGM to form the Committee. The directors of Southlake Angling Society Ltd shall hereafter be referred to as the committee.
    - **c.** The business of the society is to be conducted by the elected committee, who will have the power to fill any vacancy or co-opt as necessary.
    - **d.** The committee shall be the sole authority got the interpretation of the society organisation and rules, and their interpretation shall be final and binding upon the members. Any matters arising not covered by the organisation and rules shall be the responsibility of the committee their findings to be final.
    - **e.** Discipline: The committee shall expel from the society any member of conduct, in their opinion, is injurious or tends to be injurious to the interest of the society or its members or angling. Members found to be violating society rules will be issued a written warning signed and dated or, where necessary, have their permits impounded by a bailiff or committee member and a receipt given to him/her signed and dated and informing him/ her to attend the next committee meeting. Failure to attend without an adequate reason may lead to expulsion from the society. An expelled member shall forfeit all claims, including monetary on the society and forfeit all rights and privileges of membership, but shall remain liable for any duties or debts to the society. All members have the right to defend themselves at a disciplinary hearing, but the committee's

decision is final and binding. Where permits have been impounded, the written receipt will act as a permit until the day of the next committee meeting.

f. Subscriptions: the annual subscription shall be such a sum as the committee shall determine and will become due on the 1st of March each year for existing members and from the 1st of April for prospective members. Existing members must renew their membership by the 31st of March each year. Failure to do so will result in the cessation of their membership.

g. Any Committee member resigning shall not be eligible for re-election for 2 years from the following AGM after resignation.

h. Any member holding an effective position in any other angling society shall not be eligible for election to the committee.

i. The annual meeting shall be held each year. Notice of the AGM will be sent to members at a minimum of 14 days before the meeting. Statement of accounts shall be made available at the AGM. Any business to be discussed is to be notified to the secretary in writing at a minimum of 14 days before the AGM.

j. An extraordinary general meeting may be held at any time that the committee shall determine. The committee shall call an EGM upon the requisition in writing of any 20 members for a purpose stated in the requisition, and upon receipt of such a requisition, unless they shall determine the purpose to be frivolous, the committee shall call the meeting within 21 days of the receipt, by the secretary, of the requisition.

k. Committee meetings will be held once a month at a time and venue notified to the committee in May each year.

l. Concession memberships are available to applicants who provide evidence of eligibility, including disability-related documentation where applicable. This membership is limited to 10 spaces only.

Committee Contacts:
Chairman: Tim Athey
Secretary: Jim Morris
Treasurer: Jason Hewitt

Committee:
Jon Nice, Jason Pincham, Dan Walker, Chris Overton.

Bailiffs:
Garry Holloway
Jim King
Aaron Poole
Sam Holloway
Garry Burrows
Sean Simmonds
Ian Scott

Eddy Kiff
Adam Spears

Club Contact Number: 07877 392 696
The society website can be found at: southlakeangling.co.uk

Registered Office:
57 Jupiter Way, Woosehill, Wokingham, RG41 3GE
Registered in England
Company Number: 07270927