



CONSTITUTION

Name & Headquarters

1. The Society shall be called: 'The Dorchester & District Angling Society' (D&DAS) and its headquarters shall be at the Weymouth Angling Club, Commercial Road, Weymouth, or such other place as may be decided by the Committee.

Aims & Objectives

1. The Society exists to provide freshwater angling & to that end, to protect the surroundings & wildlife on their waters for the pleasure & enjoyment of their members & guests.

Membership

1. Full membership shall be available to all applicants, but those who reside beyond a fifteen mile radius of Dorchester will be ineligible to vote or to serve on any Society committee.
2. Junior membership (14 - 17 years inclusive) and Primary membership (10 - 13 years inclusive) is available. Junior and Primary membership shall continue until the end of the subscription year in which the member's 18th or 14th birthday occurs.
3. Primary members may only fish under the supervision of an adult full member. Juniors must be under adult supervision wherever water regulations require it.
4. The Society will abide by the Angling Trust's (Angling Development Board's-ADB) Child Protection Policy. The Society Chairman will act as the Society Child Protection Officer.
5. The Society shall not be dissolved as long as six members agree to continue.

President and Vice-Presidents

1. There shall be a President of the Society elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
2. The Annual General Meeting may also elect as Vice-President any person who in their opinion has rendered special or distinguished service to the Society or to any person they wish to honour. Vice-Presidents shall be Honorary Members of the Society for the duration of their office.

General Meetings

1. The AGM shall be held in March or April each year on a date to be notified to Full Members at least fourteen days beforehand.
2. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by the Secretary on the direction of the committee, or on request in writing from at least twelve eligible Full Senior Members.
3. Any twelve eligible Full Senior Members present shall form a quorum.

Officers and Committee

1. The Society shall have the following officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Assistant Match Secretary, Junior Secretary, Membership Secretary, Club Captain and a committee of six (one of the six being the Risk Management Officer (RMO)). The officers shall be ex-officio members of the committee.
2. The Chairman shall have a casting vote only.
3. The committee may co-opt other members of the Society to fill vacancies or for special purposes.
4. The officers and committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
5. Nominations for office shall be obtained before and at the AGM. Each officer shall be proposed and seconded. Should there be more nominations than vacancies, election by ballot shall decide the issue.

**Dorchester & District Angling Society
(DDAS)**

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6. The committee shall manage the day-to-day business of the Society and give effect to the rules. They may make regulations on the use of the Society's water and vary these regulations as and when necessary and all members shall be informed of such changes either by newsletter, Email and/or by notices in local tackle shops.

7. **Trustees:** Trustees will be elected by the committee and confirmed by the AGM. There shall be not less than two and not more than three Trustees at any one time. The trustees will be the legal holders of the Society's assets and their duties and responsibilities will be in accordance with the "Declaration of Trust" dated 9 April 2001 or as amended by vote at the AGM.

Committee Meetings

1. The committee shall meet at least once a month at the headquarters, or such other places as they may decide.

2. Special Meetings may be called by the Secretary or on direction of the committee. Notice will be given to all committee members.

3. Any four members shall form a quorum.

4. Any officer or committee member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse shall forfeit their place on the committee.

5. Motions before the committee shall be decided by a majority vote.

Finance & Accounts

1. The Society's financial year shall commence on 1st April.

2. The accounts of the Society shall be kept by the Treasurer, who will be responsible for receiving all monies due and for making all payments.

3. The Treasurer shall have the authority to make payments in support of the day to day running of the Society. Payments for exceptional items must be approved by the committee.

4. Society funds required for day to day running shall be kept in a current account. All other funds except a small amount of petty cash shall be kept in a deposit account. Both accounts shall be with a major bank approved by the committee.

5. An income and expenditure account for the year and a balance sheet as at the year's end shall accompany the notice of the AGM to all Full Members or be available at the AGM.

6. Two account verifiers shall be appointed for the coming year at each AGM.

7. The account verifiers shall submit a report on the accounts at the AGM.

8. The Treasurer shall, on termination of his appointment, hand over to his successor all monies, books, accounts and other documents and property of the Society.

9. Assets shall belong equally to full Senior Members of five years' continuous membership immediately prior to date. In the event of the Society ceasing to exist for any reason, such assets will be distributed on that basis by the Trustees in accordance with instructions from a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

Subscriptions

1. The amount of the annual subscription and any joining fee shall be determined at the AGM for the subsequent year.

2. The subscription for the year begins 1st June each year.

3. On a member reaching state retirement age, the annual subscription shall be such amount as is decided at the AGM each year.

4. A member joining on or after the 1st November each year shall pay a reduced amount for the remainder of the society membership year. The amount to be charged will be published in the minutes of the AGM and displayed on the club website in October each year.

Discipline

1. The committee may reprimand, suspend or expel any member who infringes the rules of the Society, who fishes for coarse fish out of season on waters with a closed season, or who so conducts him/herself as to endanger the welfare or reputation of the Society.

2. No member may be suspended or expelled without being invited to appear before the committee on a stated offence and given the opportunity to explain his/her conduct.

3. A member suspended or expelled shall not be entitled to the return of any subscription paid to the Society. Any member expelled may not fish as a guest.

SOCIETY RULES

Change of Rules

1. A notice of motion to effect any alteration in Rules must be furnished in writing to the Honorary Secretary by 14 days preceding the AGM.

General Rules

1. All members must conform to the Rules of the Environment Agency (EA) in all respects pertaining to fishing, particularly in possessing the appropriate rod licences.
2. Members must carry their membership cards as a means of identification at all times when on Society, concessionary or agreement waters.
3. NO guns, dogs, fires or radios are allowed on any water. No camping without the owners' permission.

4. LITTER IS UNTIDY, DANGEROUS TO WILDLIFE & LIVESTOCK. IT MUST NOT BE LEFT ON THE BANK. Discarded nylon is particularly dangerous. Metal or Plastic, disposable bait, food or drink containers must not be taken to the water.

5. No member's vehicle may cross land to the water on any of the Society's holdings except Heath & Sharnhill (Lower) Lakes.
6. Fields laid up for hay must be avoided. Gates and all property must be left as found.
7. No fish may be taken other than by rod and line.
8. All fish caught are to be returned to the water, with the exception of Wool where all pike are to be removed.
9. Braided lines and barbed hooks are not allowed on any society waters unless stated in the individual rules of a particular water. A maximum size 6 treble (barbless) hook is suggested for pike fishing.
10. It is requested that members do not fish unduly with live bait, but where necessary only three live baits may be used by any one member on any one day. They must be caught by the member live baiting and must be used in the water where caught and not taken to other waters. This will avoid the danger of passing any disease to other waters.
11. Any member having a complaint to make must do so in writing to the Secretary within 48 hours of the alleged occurrence.
12. Fly-fishing and spinning is prohibited at Wool & Worgret. No gaffs to be carried at both stretches.
13. The committee may institute a Day Ticket Scheme at their discretion.
14. The construction and use of keepnets, keepsacks and landing nets used by members must comply with the Environment agency regulations and bylaws current at the time of use.

Fishing Guests

1. Guests shall fish with senior members only, who shall be responsible for paying the current guest fee. He/She shall also be responsible for ensuring that the guest is familiar with any special conditions applying to the water being fished, as well as the club rules. Members are reminded that their guests should hold an appropriate rod licence.
2. Members must obtain Guest Tickets before fishing. Tickets must be obtained from local tackle stores.
3. Guests will normally be limited to two, per member, per day.
4. Children up to the age of 10 may be taken by a parent member on to Society water at no charge.
5. Members are only allowed to take guests on waters specified on club guest tickets.

Only Full and Junior Members are entitled to fish alliance/federation waters. (Juniors must be accompanied by a senior member).

Regulation Waters: See individual maps.

Exchange Tickets

1. To avoid abuse of exchange tickets, exchange tickets will be signed out on a 24 hour basis unless otherwise notified. Failure to return the tickets, without due reason, within the specified time can result in that member being disqualified from use of these tickets for the remainder of the season.

Match Rules

1. The Match Secretary, or his nominated Deputy for the day, has complete authority for the match on the day.
2. No competitor may disturb the water in any manner before the starting signal except for positioning the keepnet, mixing groundbait, plumbing the depth and shotting float.
3. All competitors in senior club matches must be bone fide members of the Society.
4. Members wishing to take part in matches must inform the Match Secretary by 9.00pm on the Thursday prior to the match. Members who enter a match but do not take part are still liable for payment of their entry fee.
5. The entry fee for club matches shall be determined by the committee. This fee will be available for payout unless prizes are available.
6. Cup matches shall be pegged. No member shall be permitted to re-draw. Other matches may be roving at the discretion of the committee.
7. The draw for matches will take place at a suitable time before commencement of the match to allow matchmen adequate time to fully prepare.
8. All competitors must fish from the bank and within one yard of their peg.
9. Competitors may only use one rod, one line and one hook at one and the same time. Any bait may (unless bait bans apply) be used except spinning tackle or live or dead fish.
11. A maximum of 16 metres of pole (in hand) length only is allowed in all DDAS matches.
12. A maximum of 16 metres of pole (in hand) length is allowed and must be used with a float, ie: not a feeder, lead or method.
13. It is the competitor's responsibility to see that his/her fish are weighed live at his/her peg and returned carefully.
14. Pike or game fish are ineligible in matches.
15. Competitors must hook, play and land their own fish.
16. Game fish accidentally hooked must be handled carefully and returned to the water immediately.
17. When a competition is in progress, no competitor may approach another within ten yards without permission and then only from the rear.
18. Complaints of unfair conduct must be made immediately to the Match Secretary.
19. All competitors must stop fishing immediately the signal to stop is given, except if already playing a fish, in which case the call 'Fish on' is to be announced at the signal to stop. A further 20 minutes is permitted to land the fish.
20. The Match Secretary has discretion to postpone a match either before or on the day of the match.
21. A match may not be abandoned within the first hour or when a competitor has caught a fish.
22. When a match is abandoned, or postponed, the reserve date shall apply, your original entry stands and the match will be redrawn. If you do not wish to fish the match on the reserve date, please cancel your entry. If the match cannot be fished on the reserve date, then all members shall be notified of the new date and must re-enter for the match in the usual way.
23. Except where they are in conflict with the Society's rules, NFA rules will apply in matches.
24. Competitors are responsible for clearing all litter from their peg. Failure to do so will result in not being weighed in until it is cleared up.

Points and Handicap System

1. Points are awarded in club competitions: 1st – 20 points, 2nd – 19 points and so on. The competitor with the highest number of points at the end of the season based on his 8 best results from the club matches, deemed to carry a points value, shall be the winner. In the event of a tie, each competitor may choose his 8 best weights from the qualifying matches.
2. The handicap shall be determined by the results of the 12 previous matches of the season. Only competitors fishing at least 6 out of these 12 matches will be eligible for a handicap concession; other competitors may enter starting at zero.
3. A table will be kept in the same way as the points cup, 20 for 1st, 19 for 2nd and so on. The result will be determined by adding the points gained in this to the concession already gained by the competitor and the competitor with the most points after this will be the winner. In the event of two or more competitors having the same number of points after the concessions have been added, the competitor with the lesser concession will be the winner. The result of this match does not count towards the points cup.

***Aldermaston Cup:** This cup is awarded to the member with the highest aggregate points for the first and second round matches. Aggregate weight will decide if the points are tied.

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****Ladies Rose Bowl:** The person accompanying a lady competitor may assist by baiting, netting and unhooking any fish caught.

*****Dewlish Pairs Cup:**

1. Entries for the match must be nominated pairs.
2. The match will be fished as two separate sections and decided on points. The winning pair having the highest aggregate number of points.
3. The draw for pegs will be from 2 separate bags.
4. The winners shall each hold the cup for six months.

******Gordon Smallwood Trophy:** To be fished for annually by primary members.

*******Junior "Best Effort" Cup:** To be awarded to the junior member who shows the most improvement throughout the season.

*******Eric Sherwood Cup:** To be fished for annually using a knockout system or 4/5 match evening series during the club match season.