



Fishing and Catch & Release Rules

Our stocking policy is based on catch and release and the majority of members take very few fish each year. **Most fish caught are returned and it is important that you follow these rules and code of practice.** If you are new to catch & release, there is a very helpful website, visit www.lineslinger.com and go to “catch and release for trout” under the “Articles” Menu. Our rules are aimed at sustainable and fair fishing for all the membership over the season, please make sure you are fully aware of them. A brief explanation of their relevance is included afterwards.

The supplementary rules (in addition to or support of the Handbook) for the 2022/23 season are:

- Barbless or de-barbed hooks only (except Duncton)
- Members may fish on up to **3 days per week** (Sunday to Saturday).
- **Members and Guests must sign in BEFORE fishing and sign out AFTER**, recording their catches (including blanks) accurately. Catch information is important to inform stocking policy. Members failing to sign in will be asked to leave the water.
- Up to 12 fish may be caught and released over the 3 visits with a **maximum of 6 fish on any one day**.
- Visiting multiple venues on the same day (considering Wiston and Lower Buddington separately) counts as multiple visits, **but the day limit of 6 fish still applies**.
- Fish caught at **Duncton** (catch and kill, permit maximum of 3) count towards the 12 fish limit.
- Fish caught at **Easton and Broadlands** (maximum of 6 per day) count towards the 12 fish limit.
- An occasional **Rainbow** of under 17” may be taken for the table.
- Brown Trout of any size must NOT be killed, except for humane reasons. This also applies to other hybrids such as Spartic and Tiger Trout which may be introduced from time to time.
- **When limits are reached, Members (and Guests where applicable) are required to stop fishing.**
- As large fish are present in all our still-waters a **minimum tippet strength of 6lbs is mandatory**, irrespective of any limitations this may place on methods and presentation.
- Do not play fish for extended periods on tackle which is too light. They will die when released.
- Knotless landing nets are mandatory.

- Release fish as quickly as possible, with minimum handling, providing support for recovery if necessary.
- Where consecutive fish need extended support to return, please stop fishing as although they may eventually swim away, they are unlikely to survive.

These rules may be varied during the season to accommodate climatic conditions (eg water temperature, sustained dull weather) and fishing pressure at certain times of the year.

The lakes are stocked twice a year in the spring and autumn, the rules are aimed at providing sustainable, good quality fishing over as much of the year or season as possible. Simply put, disregard of the rules or good practice when fishing is excellent, or when weather conditions are adverse, will affect the quality of fishing in the period up to the next stocking for all the Members.

Rainbows and Browns are stocked in roughly 60/40 proportions, in the size range of 2lbs up to 5lbs with a number of larger fish and overwintered fish to 10lbs. Brown Trout (and other hybrid trout) are a popular inclusion in our offering, but are significantly more expensive than the smaller Rainbows, hence the prohibition on taking them for the table.

A coarse fishing pan net rather than a traditional trout net is easier to use when unhooking a fish as they do not get tangled in the mesh of the net. A Grey's rubber pan net or similar which is also designed to avoid harming the fish whilst in the net. **Older knotted type landing nets are not permitted on SPS waters.** Try to unhook the fish while the net is in the water, and ensure your hands are wet to avoid damaging the fish when handling. Ensure that the fish can swim away strongly before releasing it. This is especially important in the summer when water temperatures are high.

The longer a fish is out of water the less chance it has of surviving, particularly if it is placed on the ground where the protective slime is removed, which can result in infection and death. **Keeping the fish out of the water for photography, weighing etc is not permitted.** In the still-waters all the fish are stocked triploids and so recording specimen captures is not relevant.

There is dense marginal weed in some areas of Lower Buddington and other lakes in the summer which can make netting difficult. A long extendable net is advisable to ensure you do not draw the fish into dense weed before unhooking.

Please ensure that you release fish where there is clear water as they can become trapped in dense weed and not survive. If a fish is deeply hooked and unlikely to survive dispatch it.

Please return all brown trout, unless a fish is deeply hooked and unlikely to survive. We find that the membership value the chance to catch browns as well as rainbows and they are stocked in significant numbers despite the considerable extra cost. If a fish is unlikely to survive, then dispatch it quickly and humanely. Please ensure you carry a priest for this purpose. A rainbow trout over 12 inches and not more than 17 inches may be occasionally taken for the table. Duncton provides an opportunity for members to take fish for the table.

Trout Section Membership Secretary

