



In September 2021 the Society Handbook was updated and made available through the Society website.

This Handbook is deemed to have been read and understood by all new and renewing Members in all categories of the Society's membership.

The Sections of the Handbook are as follows and show the rules governing their revision:

Section 1 Constitution	Revisions only by the Members
Section 2 Membership Categories and Guests	Revision by the Officers
Section 3 General Requirements	Revision by the Officers
Section 4 Committees, Officers and Water Keepers Roles	Revision by the Officers
Section 5 General Code of Conduct	Revision by the Officers
Section 5a Code of Conduct – Coarse Section	Revision by the Officers
Section 5b Code of Conduct – Trout Section	Revision by the Officers
Section 6 Disciplinary Procedures	Revision by the Officers
Section 7 Society Policies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and Safety• General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)• Society Website	
Section 8 Society Trophies	Revision by the Officers

Committee and Officers

The business of the Society shall be conducted as detailed in Section 4. The Officers of the Society shall be elected as detailed below and for a period of office that they are prepared to serve without re-election, subject to a maximum of three years. Initial periods of election are to operate so that any three (only) Officers will fall due for re-election at any single Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Main Committee

• Chairman	Up to three years	Elected by the Officers
• Secretary	Up to three years	Elected by Members
• Treasurer	Up to three years	Elected by Members

Section Committees

• Coordinator	Up to three years	Elected by Members
• Curator	Up to three years	Elected by Members
• Membership Secretary	Up to three years	Elected by Members

All elections shall be made at the Society AGM and at the time that they fall due.

Where Officers are not standing for re-election a minimum notice period of four months prior to the AGM is requested to allow sufficient time for the recruitment process.

The rules governing election of Officers are as follows:

Chairman

The Chairman will generally be selected from among the existing Officers.

Any Officer who wishes to stand for this post must advise the Secretary, in writing, at least three months before the AGM and not after the candidates statements have been issued to the Officers.

Following the resignation of the Chairman, and in the event that no Officer comes forward for election, interest may be sought from the Members. Any Member wishing to stand for election must obtain support from at least two Officers.

A minimum of 60 days before the AGM the candidate(s) will submit to the Secretary an outline of their vision and proposed policies for the future of the Society (maximum: 500 words). These documents will remain strictly confidential to the Secretary only, until the deadline for submission is passed

The Secretary will distribute the candidates' statement to the Officers along with a ballot paper. The completed ballot paper will be returned to the Secretary directly within two weeks of receipt.

The Chairman will be elected by a majority vote of the Officers.

The existing Chairman and candidates will hold no vote in this exercise.

In the event of a tie in the number of votes cast for the candidates, a casting vote will be determined at the AGM by a ballot organised by the Secretary. Along with the notice of the AGM sent to Members, the Secretary will include the names of the candidates standing for the post of Chairman and their statements.

All other Society Officers

Members will vote for the Officers of the Society by a show of hands at the AGM.

A call for nominations of those willing to stand for election, or re-election, to the Committee will be issued by the Secretary with the notification of the AGM.

Any Member who wishes to stand for election to office must seek support from at least one Elected Officer of the Society

President

In addition to Committee elections, the Officers may elect, at the AGM, or at a Special General Meeting (SGM), a President for a term of up to three years. The President shall hold the status of Member of the Society by virtue of their office.

The election of a President shall be made from those whose consent has been sought and who have been nominated in writing by a minimum of two Officers to the Secretary and not less than twenty-one days before the AGM.

No-Confidence Voting Procedure

Any four Officers of the Main Committee can call for a vote of no confidence in an individual officer. A vote by a majority of Officers is required for a motion of no confidence to be successful. An Officer who loses a confidence vote must resign.

Society Financial Year

The Society's financial year shall commence on 1 January. The Accounts of the Society, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December each year, shall be examined by an accountant and duly certified before presentation to the Members at the AGM.

Society Property

The Main Committee may exercise all the powers of the Society to purchase or sell property, to borrow money and to mortgage or charge its property or any part thereof, and to appoint trustees in whose name any property, lease or licence may be registered.

Annual General Meeting

At least twenty-eight days' notice shall be given of the Annual General Meeting. Notice will be sent by email to the email address recorded in the register of Members. The notice will include the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and all other necessary attachments. The meeting will be held not later than the month of May (exceptional circumstances permitting).

Any Member wishing to submit a proposal for discussion at an AGM must give twenty-one days' notice in writing to the Secretary, giving full details of the matter to be aired. The Secretary will then arrange for the item to be added to the meeting Agenda.

A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be called by the President or Chairman at any time or upon submission of a Requisition calling for a Special General Meeting, duly signed by not fewer than seven Members. Such a Requisition will be presented to the President or Chairman or, in their absence, another appropriate elected Officer of the Society.

The Requisition must state the reason for requesting the Special General Meeting. No business shall be conducted at a Special General Meeting other than that for which it has been specifically summoned, as detailed on the Agenda. Members shall receive at least seven days' notice together with the Agenda for such a Meeting.

Alterations to Section 1

No alteration shall be made to Section 1 of this Handbook other than by a Resolution passed at an AGM or SGM convened for this purpose.

Notice in writing of the proposed alteration shall be issued to the Members by the Secretary at the time of notification of the Meeting.

Dissolution of the Society

The Society shall not be disbanded so long as ten (10) Members are willing to continue to administer its affairs. Should it be decided at a General Meeting that the Society should be disbanded, any assets, after the discharge of all liabilities, shall be donated to a registered charity, or charitable institution, that the majority of Members deem fit.

Liability

The financial liability of each Society Member is limited to the sum of £1, being the amount that each Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Sussex Piscatorial Society Limited in the event of its being wound up whilst he or she is a Member or within one year of their ceasing to be a Member.

Insurance

The Committee of the Society shall maintain Public Liability Insurance Cover which provides protection for the Society, its Officers and Committee Members against claims of negligence which may be brought by a third party. The Committee shall also maintain Employer's Liability Insurance to cover the activities of unpaid volunteers. The limit of Indemnity will be reviewed annually and will be set at such a level as is considered appropriate at the time the policy is renewed.

In instances where the Society employs contractors these will be required to provide their own insurance to cover the work undertaken.

Membership Entry

Applicants for membership of the Society should, if possible, arrange to be proposed by a person who is a Member of the Society of at least two years standing and who should be well acquainted with the applicant.

Applicants may also be asked to grant permission to an Officer of the Society to take up references with regard to former angling activity.

Applications should be made to the Membership Secretary of either the Coarse or Trout Sections using the form available from the Society website and returned, completed, as directed on the form.

In due course the applicant may be asked to appear before a Section Membership Committee for interview or to attend an interview with an Officer at a Society water.

The appropriate Section joining fee and subscription shall be paid immediately upon notification of election. A Member may nominate his wife/partner for Associate Membership of the Society on payment of the relevant subscription, but without paying a further joining fee.

Neither a Society entrance fee nor interview will normally be necessary for Associates or Juniors who wish to become Members. Associate Members are not eligible for Dual Membership discount.

The Society has no specific category for Members with disability. The provision of structures and access pathways can only be made with the agreement of riparian owners and is beyond the practical and financial scope of the Society. However the Committee is always prepared to consider assistance for those Members with a disability who would like to fish and an approach to the relevant Section Committee will be considered. By taking into account the particular needs of individuals suitable arrangements may be made.

The Section Committee shall have sole and absolute right to accept, defer or reject nominations or applications.

According to Society Rules, the Section Committee may terminate the membership of any new Member within the first two years of membership, and reserves the right to do so without explanation.

During this two year period the Member holds provisional membership of the Society only. If an applicant is accepted for membership, it is on the basis of this probationary period.

New Members will be asked to pay a single joining fee and an annual subscription, which are subject to annual review. The Member will be invited to renew their subscription on an annual basis.

Applicants must agree to abide by the following as a condition of Society membership:

- All Society rules, as contained in the current Society Handbook are available on the Society website

- Environment Agency rules and byelaws
- Any fishing bye-laws
- Any riparian owner fishing requirements

Categories of Membership:

Member

These are defined as those persons who have satisfied the requirements for membership and who are Members of either the Coarse or Trout Section or both, and have paid the appropriate membership fee or fees.

All membership fees are set by the Main Committee in consultation with the Section Committees.

Dual Member

Existing Members of either the Coarse or Trout Section may apply for Dual Membership after completion of a two-year probationary period and subject to availability.

Such applications will be considered before those of other applicants and the category changes will take effect at membership renewal time.

Requests for Dual Membership should be notified to the Trout Section Membership Secretary (who administers Dual Memberships) before the end of January for the coming season.

Members who belong to both Coarse and Trout Sections may be entitled to a discount on each Section fee.

The discount for each Section will be agreed annually by the Section Committee.

Life Member

The Main Committee shall have power, subject to approval at the next AGM by the Members, to confer the privilege of Life Membership upon any person whom it may consider has bestowed substantial benefit upon the Society or to have rendered valuable service to it over a period of five years or more.

Life Members enjoy the same status as Members and have free lifelong membership of both Sections. Life Membership is the highest honour the Society bestows.

Senior Member (Coarse Section)

This category only applies to those Members of the Coarse Section who are above the Government pensionable age of retirement.

The fee for Senior Members shall be set at approximately two thirds of the rate for Members. There is no Senior Member category in the Trout Section.

New Members will be required to pay three years of full membership fee before any senior discounts become available.

Associate Member

This is defined as a spouse or partner of a Member who also wishes to fish and whose name has been added to their membership without payment of a further joining fee.

A reduced subscription rate applies to Associate Members and is set by the Section Committees annually.

Associate Members must be accompanied by a Member at all times when fishing or when present at Society waters. Such Members require their own Environment Agency licence when fishing. Associate Members are not permitted to bring Guests or make bookings.

Associate Members do not have a right to vote or exercise any voice in the direction or management of the Society.

Spouses or partners who accompany Members to the water but who do not fish, are not required to become Associate Members but are not permitted to enter any Society location where a membership access restriction exists.

Guests

The Society promotes the use of Guest tickets as a useful way of recruiting new Members. To bring a Guest, each Member must purchase a Guest ticket via the Society website and record the Guest details as required, prior to fishing. Guest ticket conditions for each water may vary and are obtainable from the Society website.

Guests are not permitted on every Society water. From time to time Guest tickets may be temporarily excluded on some waters by order of a Section Committee, details being given on the Society website.

The cost and number of yearly Guest tickets permitted to a Member will be published on the Society website. No more than one Guest ticket per water per day will be issued. Members will be notified at the start of each season of the cost of tickets and the arrangements for obtaining them.

The holder of a Guest ticket may only use a punt if accompanied and shared with the introducing Member.

No non-member is allowed to visit Society waters as a Guest more than six times in a season.

No Member may take as a Guest any person who has been expelled from the Society or who has been refused membership.

Guests are bound by the rules of the Society Handbook in the same way as Members. They must be accompanied at all times by the introducing Member, who is responsible for their behaviour while on Society waters.

Guests must give their details and sign in to the Record Book in the same way as Members.

The ability to purchase Guest tickets will be withdrawn from Members if this privilege is abused.

Coarse Section (Junior Member)

This category is defined as any person below the age of eighteen years and who is accompanied on Society waters by a Member above the age of twenty-one years.

Members accompanying Junior Members are responsible at all times for their conduct, supervision, welfare and safeguarding. Such Members are deemed to be known and endorsed by the Junior Member's parent or guardian and to have their full permission to take them fishing.

- A Junior who has only paid the minimum Society administration fee, may share one of the full Member's allocated two rods. Such juniors must fish the same swim as the full Member and are not permitted to enter or fish waters where a membership number restriction exists.
- A Junior who has paid the full additional subscription fee, may accompany a full Member onto all Society lakes and Sussex river sections. Such juniors can fish their own swim but must have a separate appropriately sized landing-net, unhooking mat, unhooking tools/equipment and be competent in handling all species of fish. Common sense should dictate in these cases.

Trout Section (Close Family Relative and Charges)

Trout Section Members above the age of twenty-one years may occasionally bring one close family relative onto the Society waters to share a rod at no cost and without booking. This applies to a maximum of four times in one year and their details must be recorded in the record-book at the water.

Members are responsible at all times for their conduct, supervision, welfare and safeguarding. In the case of Charges below eighteen years of age, they are deemed to be known and endorsed by the Charge's parent or guardian and to have their full permission to take them fishing.

Other Categories of Membership

Subject to administrative constraints, each Section may introduce other specific categories of membership to suit their needs and the needs of Members, subject to the approval of the Main Committee. For example, a riparian owner may be granted Complimentary Membership.

Non-Payment of Subscription

Upon any Member's subscription remaining unpaid at the due date, notice in writing or by email shall be sent by the Membership Secretary requesting immediate payment.

If, notwithstanding this reminder, the subscription remains unpaid one month after the due date the defaulting Member's name shall be removed from the list of Members.

No Member whose subscription is unpaid after the due date is entitled to exercise their rights as a Member.

Sussex Piscatorial Society

The Society relies on each and every Member to uphold the standards of honesty, integrity and unselfishness that are essential for keeping the Society special and attractive to its Members and thus ensuring its survival.

These standards are set out in the Codes of Conduct for each Section in Section 5 of this Handbook. An adherence to high standards of behaviour and consideration towards riparian owners and other Members is essential to ensure the maintenance of Society leases and the continued fishing enjoyment on our waters by the Membership as a whole.

There is no place for individuals who do not make themselves aware of, or who fail to comply with, the expected standards of behaviour. Any such failures will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary procedures in Section 6.

Environment Agency Licence

A full valid environment Agency Licence is both a legal and Society requirement for all persons fishing Society waters, unless under the age of seventeen (check the EA website for details and for requirements for persons below this age).

Regular inspections are carried out on all Society waters and our relationship with the Environmental Agency is important for the benefit of the Society.

Membership card and Access to Society Waters

When a Member travels to a Society water by vehicle, the vehicle must display the Member's membership card with the Society logo (coloured side) facing upwards on the vehicle dashboard, so that the membership number is clearly visible from outside of the vehicle.

In all other circumstances Members must carry their cards on them at all times when fishing.

All information on Society waters is available from the Society website. Members must ensure that they are familiar with:

- Authorised entrances and speed limits
- Car parking arrangements
- Fishing and access boundaries

Signing In/Out and Recording Catches

All Members and their Guests must complete the information requested in the Record Book (or online) for the Society water that they are fishing. The Record Book will normally be kept in a hut or locker. Online returns are required where there is no physical Record Book at the water.

Members and their Guests should also take note before fishing of any notices which have been posted in the hut or locker.

Conduct of Members

- Members must use only the authorised access to each Society water
- Gates must be closed at all times and those secured with a Society lock must also be re-secured after use
- Dogs must not be taken to the Society's waters by Members or their companions.
- No bathing or camping is allowed
- No radios, musical instruments or devices without head-phones are allowed
- Mobile phones should be used with discretion
- No fires are to be lit
- Standing crops, game reserves, game and other wildlife must be respected
- Do not smoke near farm buildings, haystacks or growing crops
- All rubbish and other refuse must be taken home
- Waste line of any form must be taken home unless there is a Society re-cycling scheme in operation at the water
- No boats (except those provided by the Society) may be used on Society waters

Work Parties

These are held throughout the year to assist with the general running of the Society and Members are expected to attend whenever possible. Notices will be issued giving details.

All work parties must be conducted in accordance with the Society Health and Safety policy available from the website.

If a Member notices an issue at any Society water which requires attention, they should in the first instance contact the relevant Water Keeper. Contact details of Water Keepers are either kept in the hut or locker at each water or are available online.

Members must not undertake any work on water unless it is part of an organised work party and conforms to the Society's Health and Safety policy.

Swims may be raked to enable fishing if this is done with care.

Poachers or Trespassers

The Angling Trust offers the following advice to any angler or member of the public who witnesses illegal fishing, poaching or fish theft (please check the Trust's website for updates to this advice):

- Do not approach the offender(s) yourself.
- If you can do so without being seen, take a picture or video of the activity.
- If you can do so without being seen, make a note of the number-plate of any vehicles involved. Most modern mobile phones have a camera or memo pad where you could record this if you don't have a pen and paper.
- Poaching is an offence under the 1968 Theft Act. Always report ALL poaching incidents to the Police and keep a record of what you report.
- If you suspect poaching also contact the Environment Agency on 0800 807060 and write down their incident number. Other offences such as fishing without a rod

licence, illegal fishing methods, breach of local byelaws or damage to spawning grounds should also be reported to them.

- If you have information about fish theft or illegal fish transfers, you can also contact Crimestoppers confidentially on 0800 555 111.
- If the incident is on a private fishery, please also contact the owners or fishing club to inform them and phone the Police.

Publicity

No Member or Guest may publish or report details of any catch or photographs of any fish caught at any Society water.

Information relating to catches, stock records and the Society's waters must remain confidential to the Members of the Society.

No Society matters are to be discussed or advertised on the Internet or any other forum.

Cameras

The Society reserves the right to install visible or covert cameras at its waters for the purposes of detecting suspicious behaviour and intruders. As a result, Members' images may be recorded, but will not be retained.

It is the duty of the respective Society's Committees and Officers to establish and carry out the budgets and policies of the Society.

Officers are expected to act in an open and democratic manner at all times taking account of the views and wishes of the Members and fellow Officers whilst at the same time providing leadership of the Society on the Members' behalf.

Roles of Society Committees

The Main Committee – will comprise Officers noted below plus the three elected Officers from each Section. It will be responsible for:

- Developing and agreeing overall Society policy and implementation
- Meeting regularly during the year and recording compliance with the Section budgets and policies
- Setting the Main Committee budget and coordinating with Section budgets for incorporation into their budgets
- Reporting to the Members at the AGM and Autumn Social
- Assisting with Section Officers recruitment and appointment
- A quorum will consist of four elected Officers in addition to the Chairman of the meeting
- The Chairman will normally not vote unless required to make a casting vote

Main Committee Members are generally appointed at the AGM for varying terms. If mid-term vacancies occur, other Members may be co-opted onto the Main Committee during the course of the year, their appointment being confirmed or revoked at the next AGM.

Section Committees (Coarse and Trout) - will comprise the elected Officers and co-opted Members noted below. It will be responsible for:

- Developing and agreeing Section Policy and an annual Action Plan
- Determining Section budgets and implementation
- Meeting regularly during the year and recording compliance with the Section budgets and policies
- Ensuring the Section policies and principles are adhered to
- Reporting to the Main Committee
- A quorum will consist of two elected Officers.
- If the Section Co-ordinator is unavoidably absent from a meeting, the Chair will be taken by the Curator.

Section Committee Members are generally appointed at the AGM for varying terms. If mid-term vacancies occur, other Members may be co-opted onto the Section Committee during the course of the year, their appointment being confirmed or revoked at the next AGM.

Roles of Society Officers**Main Committee:****Chairman**

(Appointed by the Elected Officers)

- Represent the Society in general
- Overall responsibility for the Society
- Chair Main Committee meetings
- Formulation/implementation of Society future policy
- Attend Section Committee Meetings as required
- Oversees GDPR Policy and implementation
- Other duties as may be mutually agreed

Secretary

(Appointed by the Members)

- Deal with all Society correspondence
- Arrange annual insurance for the Society and ensure policy copies are made available to the Members on the Society website
- Record minutes of the Main Committee
- Arrange Society meetings, Autumn Social and AGM
- Manage the details of current Officer appointments at Companies House
- Maintains Society asset registers
- Maintains Society accident log
- Manages the Society handbook
- Other duties as may be mutually agreed

Treasurer

(Appointed by the Members)

- Oversees all financial affairs of the Society
- Prepare all financial information necessary for the Society's Auditors to produce annual statutory accounts
- Monitors payments of rents for Society waters
- Reports compliance with budgets throughout the year
- Arrange such disbursements as necessary on behalf of the Society
- Other duties as may be mutually agreed

Section Committees (Coarse and Trout):**Co-ordinator**

(Appointed by the Members)

- Arranges and chairs Section Committee meetings regularly
- Coordinates Section activities within the Society and across the Sections
- Oversees Section Health and Safety policy and implementation

- Management of pest control
- Other duties as may be mutually agreed

Curator

(Appointed by the Members)

- Liaises with Riparian Owners
- Establishes Section Budget annually with Membership Secretary
- Determines fish stocking
- Oversees maintenance of Society waters
- Arrange payments of rents
- Communication with water keepers
- Manages reporting of monthly catch returns
- Other duties as may be mutually agreed

Membership Secretary

(Appointed by the Members)

- Manages membership of the Section generally
- Responsible for Subscription renewal and collection of fees
- Deals with new membership applications
- Establishes Section Budget annually with Curator
- Developing an Annual Action plan
- Other duties as may be mutually agreed

Additional Section Committee Members:**Section Administration Manager**

(Appointed by the Section Officers – Non-voting)

- Public communication with Members
- Manage Society email system
- Other duties as may be mutually agreed
- Responsible for Society website content
- Manages fishing bookings
- Liaise with external IT consultant regarding the operation of the website
- Manage Section water details and keep them up to date
- Other duties as may be mutually agreed

Other Additional Committee Members

(Appointed by the Section Officers- Non-voting))

- Additional Committee Members may be appointed for specific terms and specific duties where the need arises and as determined by the elected Section Officers.

Water Keepers

(Appointed by the Section Officers)

The Water Keepers play a vital role in looking after the Society's waters and in carrying out their duties must at all times consider what is in the best interest of both the water and the Society.

Their duties include:

- To maintain Society waters in general
- To protect the flora and fauna
- To carry out any instructions from the Section Curator
- To periodically inspect their designated waters and carry out routine maintenance
- To submit the agreed catch return information to the Curator at the end of each month
- To report any Health and Safety issues to the Section Committee
- To notify the Curator immediately of any instances of damage, pollution or fish death
- To inform the Section Committee of any major works which may be required
- At work parties to assist the person in charge regarding Health and Safety matters.
- When required, to insert approved notices to Members within signing in boxes.
- To keep good relations with Members and to actively encourage them to adhere to the Rules, Regulations and Code of Conduct of the Society
- To report to the Curator or Secretary any instances of misconduct, vandalism or other offences, by any Member or others
- To maintain good relations with landowners and their representatives or guests at the waterside
- To attend Section Committee meetings as required

Subscription fees for Officers, Section Committee Members and Water Keepers:

For the above, the following discounted membership fees shall apply:

President

- Dual Membership at no charge plus out of pocket expenses

Chairman

- Dual Membership at no charge plus out of pocket expenses

Section Officers

- Dual Membership at no charge plus out of pocket expenses

Section Committee Members

- Section Membership at no charge plus out of pocket expenses

Water Keepers

- Section Membership at 50% plus out of pocket expenses (this may be increased at the discretion of the Officers after several years of service)

Additional Committee Members

- To be agreed at the time of appointment

The following applies to both Coarse and Trout Sections**Catch Returns and Records**

- All Members must enter their details (and those of any guest including permit number) in the catch return/record book of each and every water BEFORE fishing. Refer to the Society website for details of where catch return books are kept.
- On leaving the water, details of all fish caught and returned and time of departure, must be entered.

Use and Care of Punts

- Refer to the Society website's Health and Safety section for information regarding the safe use of punts.
- Each punt must, if necessary, be shared by two Members, whether connected, or not, and a Member must not occupy a boat for more than two consecutive hours if another Member is waiting.
- Only one child over eight years old is allowed per punt, accompanied by a parent or responsible adult aged twenty-one years or over.
- When a Member and their Guest use a punt, they must share a single punt.
- Punts must be left in a clean and dry condition and secured to their moorings (refer to locking guidelines).
- All rubbish and discarded fishing tackle, including line, must be removed and taken from the fishery.
- Oars and other removable accessories must be left in a clean and usable condition in the places provided.

Fishery Security Access and Facilities

- Refer to the Society website for information regarding fishery security and access to any Society fishery.
- The Society accepts no responsibility for any items lost, stolen or damaged in any way on any Society fishery.
- Fishing huts and boat houses must be left tidy and securely padlocked.
- Accidental breakages and losses should, where possible be rectified by the Member who finds them and must always be promptly reported to the Curator, Water Keeper or Secretary.

Society Rivers – Sea Trout

- Trout Section Members are permitted to fish for sea trout on Society waters
- Fishing is for sea trout only (excludes pike, other predators or coarse fish)
- Members are reminded to be in possession of the appropriate EA licence
- Fly fishing
- Single hooks only
- Hooks must be either barbless or de-barbed
- Maximum hook size 12
- Maximum dressing length one inch, including the hook
- Strictly no wading as deep holes exist in the rivers
- Two fish may be caught on each visit with a total of four per week
- When the limit is reached, the Member must stop fishing
- When spinning, only spinners with a single hook are permitted, with all hooks

- being either barbless or de-barbed
- All fish must be returned to the water alive.

Sussex Piscatorial Society

Section 5a: Coarse Section Code of Conduct**Angling Season**

All waters (except the rivers and Burton Mill Pond) remain open for the full calendar year. Open season on the rivers and Burton Mill is from the 16th June until the 14th March inclusive.

Members must not visit waters outside these dates unless on an authorised working party.

Permitted Hours of Fishing and Parking

Access to all waters is permitted from one hour before sunrise. All localities must be vacated by midnight. Members must not enter the confines of Society waters outside these times. Members are reminded to arrive at and leave all fisheries quietly, so as not to disturb local residents.

Restrictions on Particular Waters

(Members should refer to the individual water sheets on the Society website for additional rules and information)

Pond Lye

- Angling from punts must terminate no later than one hour after sunset, whereas bank angling is permitted thereafter from the dam bank. The locality must be left by midnight.
- Members must not fish or moor punts within fifteen metres (four punt lengths) of the perimeter of the water from 15th March until 15th June inclusive. This is to protect nesting birds.

Plashett Park

- The summer car-park (adjacent to the middle lake) operates only from 16th June until 15th October inclusive. The other car-park (adjacent to the bottom lake) remains open all year.
- The summer car-park has a limit of ten cars. If full, Members must use the bottom car park. Both car parks and the vicinity of the Estate must be vacated by midnight. After periods of heavy rain when ground conditions soften the summer car park should not be used.

Firle Decoy Pond

- Maximum of six anglers
- No Guests

Sheffield Park

- Maximum of ten anglers
- Maximum of eight cars in parking area
- No Guests
- The lawn area is only open to Members from April 1st to October 31st, before 10am and after 6pm.
- No barrows can be taken beyond the causeway on the west bank.
- No cookers or naked-flame devices are permitted.

Burton Mill Pond

- Members must be in possession of a pre-booked bank or punt permit, obtainable free of charge via the Society website.
- No Guests are permitted but visitors may request public day-permits via the Society website.

Permitted Methods of Fishing and Fish Care

- All angling is by rod and line only.
- Members must not fish with more than two rods (a third rod may be used for the introduction of bait into the swim only).
- In accordance with Environment Agency byelaws, rods must not be left unattended (preferably kept within arm's length and rods no more than three metres apart). Neither alarm remotes nor alarms set at full volume are an acceptable excuse. If you leave your swim, you must reel in.
- Barbless hooks are strongly encouraged, but Members may use 'micro-barbed' hooks from size 12 or larger (*See below for hook restrictions when pike fishing*).
- Members must use an unhooking mat for all fish placed on the bank or brought into a boat.
- Members must not use excessive amounts of any bait, ground bait or particles.
- Landing nets appropriate to the size of the fish which might be caught must be used.
- All nets and slings should be air dried thoroughly or washed in a diluted disinfectant solution between visits to reduce the risk of transmission of disease.
- Members should carry a proprietary antiseptic (such as Klinik) for treating mouth or scale damage to fish.

The following practices are all forbidden:

- Retention of any live fish in keep-nets, carp sacks, tunnels etc
- Use of any nut bait
- Fixed or semi-fixed leads or any fixed feeders
- Use of bait-boats
- Use of bivvies with groundsheets (umbrellas with storm-sides are permitted)

Carp Fishing

- A maximum leger weight of 2.5oz (70g) is permitted.
- All leads must fall free in the event of a main line breakage, i.e. use running leads only.
- Lead core, shock leaders or any leaders that are secured with a knot or fusing loop are not permitted. This prohibition also applies to bent-hook rigs.
- When fishing close to snags, lily-pads or heavy weed, 15 lb main-line is recommended.

Pike Fishing

- All live-bait fishing is prohibited.
- **Dead-bait fishing**
 - This is only permitted from October 1st to March 14th inclusive.
Single (or circle) barbless or flattened barb hook only.
- **Lure fishing**

- This has no date restriction.
 - Treble hooks are permitted but must be barbless or flattened barbs.
- A wire trace must always be used, with a minimum advised length of 18 inches (450mm).
- 12- inch (300mm) forceps and wire-cutters must always be carried, along with an unhooking mat.
- Members may use fish caught from their chosen venue for dead bait fishing in accordance with size limits (*see below*) and EA byelaws.
- 15 lb minimum line strength is recommended.
- Use of gags or gaffs is not permitted.

Dead Bait Size Limits

- Members may take a minimum number of rudd, roach and bream less than six inches in length, for the sole purpose of dead-bait fishing.
- Under no circumstances must they remove and kill other species, including eels. All other fish must be carefully unhooked and returned immediately to the water.

Sussex Piscatorial Society

Section 5b: Trout Section Code of Conduct**Trout Section Policy**

- To provide a range of game fishing, including, trout, salmon, sea trout and grayling on rivers and still waters in Sussex, Hampshire and Kent. Some of these waters are not directly managed by the Trout Section.
- To provide a quiet, low density fishing experience for Members and their Guests.
- To operate within an annual Budget which is commensurate with the income generated by Members' subscriptions and ticket income; and within this to broadly balance the books, achieving only sufficient surpluses to cover minor contingencies.
- To manage fish stocks in response to prevailing water quality and conditions.
- The general policy is catch and release but where conditions demand it e.g. the health of the fish is deteriorating, the Committee may authorise a (temporary) catch and kill policy. Members will be notified by email in these cases.
- The Trout Section waters will be managed in a way which preserves and maintains native species of flora and fauna.
- To provide the opportunity for Members to improve and enhance their angling skills by holding periodic river and still water clinics for new and existing Members.

Fishing Open Season, Permitted Fishing times and Frequency of Fishing

Members should refer to the Society website for information regarding the open seasons, permitted fishing times and frequency of fishing for each Society water.

Permitted Fishing Methods**Society Still Waters**

- By artificial fly using fly rod and line only. No other form of fishing is permitted.
- Single hooks only
- No more than two flies to the cast
- Hooks must use either barbless or de-barbed hooks
- Maximum hook size 12
- Maximum dressing length one inch including the hook for wet fly or nymph
- Maximum dressing for a dry fly may exceed one inch to match natural form
- Sight indicators may be used and may be placed at any position on the leader
- 6lb Minimum breaking strain for tippets

Still waters, rivers and chalk streams not managed by Society

- Refer to the Society website for information regarding the permitted fishing methods for available waters accessible to, but not managed by, the Society.

General Catch and Release Policy

- The Society predominantly operates a catch and release policy. Some waters accessible to the Society are strictly catch and kill. For details of which waters are catch and release or catch and kill refer to the water details on the Society website.
- Members are encouraged to only return trout which they believe will survive.
- Bring the fish to the boat or bank as quickly as possible. Do not overtire the fish.

- Unhook in the water if possible keeping handling to a minimum.
- A knotless landing net is mandatory and preferably a shallow net to allow quick unhooking.

Taking Fish

- Brown trout are NOT to be dispatched other than for humane reasons.
- Rainbow trout under 17" may be taken for the table subject to the catch limits. No fish over 17" are to be taken other than for humane reasons.

Adverse Weather and the Taking of Fish

- During summer months in particular, there is no point in returning fish that are unlikely to survive. This is particularly important when the water temperature is high and oxygen levels low.
- Where any fish caught are damaged or diseased, or there is any doubt as to their survival, they should be dispatched quickly and humanely. All anglers are expected to carry a priest for this purpose.

Frequency of Fishing and Weekly Catch Limits:**Society still waters only**

- Six fish may be caught on each visit, with a total of twelve per week.
- These figures include all fish whether, they be returned or killed.
- When the limit is reached, the Member must stop fishing.
- A limit of two fish killed per week applies. Members will be notified if the Section Committee decides that this number should change to reflect water conditions.

Chalk-streams

- Members should refer to the Society website for information regarding the permitted catch limits for each of the Society's chalk stream waters.

Disciplinary Procedures

Members are expected to:

- Ensure that the conduct of themselves and their Guests is in a sporting and responsible manner and at all times to be mindful of the welfare of fellow anglers and the public.
- Observe the Rules and Regulations of the Society and the bye laws and regulations of riparian owners and all other relevant authorities.
- Act at all times in the best interests of the Society.

Any Member who fails to follow these Rules is liable to disciplinary action, the severity of which will depend on the nature of the offence.

The Section Committees are empowered to impose the following sanctions:

- The Section Committee may issue a written warning to the Member describing the wrongdoing that it considers has occurred and warning that any further transgression may lead to a more severe sanction being imposed.
- The Section Committee may suspend membership, by giving written notice within seven days of its decision, for a given period the length of which may be decided at its discretion.
- The Section Committee may, in circumstances where it is considered that the Member's conduct has been of such a nature and severity that a written warning or suspension would be inappropriate, expel the Member from the Society with immediate effect. Any remaining portion of the Member's annual subscription for the year in which the misdemeanour occurred shall be forfeit.

Appeals

Where a Member is facing expulsion, they have the right of appeal to the Main Committee.

The Member should write, setting out the grounds of their appeal to the Secretary who will arrange for the appeal to be considered by the Main Committee, who may wish to convene a special meeting.

The Secretary will inform the Member of the Main Committee's decision, which shall be final, within fourteen days of the appeal letter being received.

Society Policies

Health and Safety compliance and Risk Assessments

The Society operates a strict Health and Safety policy with appropriate Risk Assessments. This policy is reviewed annually and any necessary updates are incorporated.

All Members, whether new or renewing, will be deemed to have read and understood the Society's Health and Safety Policy which must be adhered to at all times.

A current copy of this policy is available on the Society website.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Society operates a GDPR Policy, a copy of which is available on the Society website. This policy is reviewed annually and any necessary updates are incorporated.

Where third party facilities such as membership or booking administration systems are used, their proprietary data protection systems and policies are applicable.

All Members, whether new or renewing, will be deemed to have read, understood and consented to the Society's GDPR Policy.

Society Website

The Society operates a website for the benefit of Members. All Members will be deemed to have access to the Society website.

The Society Trophies

The Challenge Shield is awarded at the Autumn Social each year for what is judged by the Main Committee to be the best freshwater fish of any species taken from the Society's waters by a legitimate method.

The Hasted Trophy is awarded at the Autumn Social by the Main Committee for the best pike over 12 lbs taken from a Society water.

The Malcolm Rippin Memorial Trophy is awarded at the Autumn Social on the recommendation of the Trout Section Committee to any Member of the Society for special achievement.

The Junior Challenge Shield is awarded at the Autumn Social by the Main Committee for the best fish caught by a Member under 17 years of age. The age of the Member will be taken into consideration.

The Robin Dainty Trophy is awarded at the Autumn Social by the Main Committee for the best tench, or bag of tench, as recorded in the catch returns from a Society water.

Conditions Relating to the Society Awards:

- Any fish submitted for consideration must have been taken from the Society's waters using permitted fishing methods. Entries should be promptly notified to the Secretary and should include all details as set out below under 'Notable Catches'. The closing date for submission of entries is 31st August.
- The Main Committee may decide in any year not to award the Challenge Shield because of a lack of outstanding entries, or for any other reason.
- All trophies may be held in the winner's personal possession for one season but shall thereafter be returned to the Secretary not later than 31st August of the following year.
- All trophies remain the property of the Society unless the Committee, following discussion with the donors when possible, determines otherwise. In all matters which may arise from the award of Society Trophies the decision of the Main Committee is final.

Notable catches

Members are requested to report details of notable catches from Society waters to the Secretary or appropriate Curator, whether witnessed or not, who will then enter details in a book to be kept for that purpose which will be made available at Committee meetings.