



AVON AND TRIBUTARIES ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Members Handbook

Includes Rules and Guidance

Revised 2024

www.ataafishing.net

contact@ataafishing.net

Contents

Section	Page number
Health and safety considerations	2
Biosecurity	2
Constitution and management	3
Rules on fishing and members' conduct	5
Angling methods and water	6
Fishing times	7
Catch limits	7
Guest tickets	7
Poaching	8

Health & Safety

Members and their guests must comply with the Association's Health and Safety Policy relating to bank clearing and associated activities (available on the Association's website) where appropriate and also the following provisions:

1. Members and guests are responsible for their personal health and safety while on Association waters and must behave in a safe and responsible manner at all times.
2. Be aware of naturally occurring hazards, such as high banks and bank erosion;
3. Before using any man-made structures, e.g. ladders, ropes, stiles, platforms, etc, carry out a visual inspection to determine safety;
4. Carry a mobile phone or whistle to attract attention in an emergency. Note that there may not always be phone coverage available;
5. Wear eye protection when casting;
6. Practise basic hygiene to avoid Weil's disease. Cover cuts with a waterproof dressing and clean hands before eating.
7. Be aware of ticks in the summer and remove any that attach themselves to you with an appropriate tool to ensure the whole tick is removed;
8. The depths of the rivers vary considerably. When wading, the use of chest waders and a wading staff is strongly advised. Wear a belt with waders to prevent water filling the wader legs if you fall over;
9. Report anything that you consider represents a safety risk on any of the Association's fisheries to the relevant "river guardian", or a committee member, as soon as practicable.

10. Warning – Overhead Power Lines

Exercise extreme care when near overhead electric power lines. Members are responsible for advising their guests of the danger presented.

Rods or poles must not be used within 30 metres of overhead power lines.

Biosecurity

Members should be aware of the risks of spreading non-native species and diseases.

Members should follow the check, clean, dry procedure recommended by the Non-Native Species Secretariat.

Current guidance is available at www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry

Avon and Tributaries Angling Association

The Avon and Tributaries Angling Association (hereinafter referred to as “the Association”) was established in 1876.

In February 2000, the Association became incorporated as a company limited by guarantee.

To the extent that any of the following conflicts with the Articles of Association of the company, the Articles shall take precedence.

Constitution and Management

Membership

1. The Association shall comprise not more than 175 adult members who pay the full subscription fees; and additional adult members who pay concessionary fees; and 20 Junior members who are the children of members, and 6 Junior members who are not the children of members. Junior members must be under the age of 18 when admitted to membership and may be admitted to adult membership on attaining the age of 18. In addition, membership may be open to the spouse or partner of a member, and to Honorary members, who may be elected by the Committee, and to Life members, who may be elected by a General Meeting of the Association.

The directors may also agree to issue tickets for coarse fishing only. The issue of such a ticket does not confer membership.

Management of the Association

2. Members may appoint Life Presidents: and shall annually, at the Annual General Meeting, appoint a President, Vice President(s), Hon. Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary; who shall hold office for the ensuing year. The Committee of Management shall consist of the President, Vice Presidents, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Membership Secretary; and twelve members who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to hold office for three years, but shall be eligible for re-election at the end of that period. The Committee shall have the power to fill a casual vacancy in their number by the appointment of a member who shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, when the Association shall elect a member to fill the vacancy.
3. Five members of the Committee to include at least two directors of the Association (“Directors”) shall form a quorum.
4. The Hon Treasurer shall keep the cash accounts of the Association with such bankers as the Directors see fit.
5. An independent practising accountant shall be appointed by the Directors to prepare the annual statutory accounts.

6. The Hon Secretary shall call an Annual General Meeting each year with not less than twenty-one days notice and shall call such Special General Meetings as the Committee may consider necessary, or upon a request signed by not less than five per cent of members entitled to vote. Fourteen days notice of such meetings must be given. Two members of the Association shall form a Quorum at a Special General Meeting.

Election of Members

7. Applications for membership of the Association shall be considered by the Membership Secretary and reviewed by the Committee.

Subscriptions and Entrance Fees

8. The annual subscription and entrance fee will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

The annual subscription is due by 1 February each year.

9. This rule no longer applies.
10. No member shall be issued with a membership card entitling him or her to fish the Association's waters until he or she has paid their subscription and completed an annual fishing return; nil returns are required. The name of any member who has not paid their subscription nor completed a catch return by 1st of February shall be referred to the Committee at its first meeting after that date and the Committee may terminate his or her membership or impose such other penalty it considers appropriate.
11. Any member wishing to terminate his or her membership for the new season must give the Membership Secretary notice in writing to this effect not later than 30 November in the previous year. Change of address must be notified to the Membership Secretary.

Alteration of the Rules

12. The Committee shall have the power to suspend or add to any of the rules and the same shall be in force until confirmed or rejected by a General Meeting.
13. Any member desiring any alteration of, or addition to the rules, must send a proposal in writing to the Hon Secretary by no later than 30 September preceding the Annual General Meeting. If also seconded by another member the particulars of the proposed alterations shall be inserted in the notice of the meeting.

Penalty for Breach of the Rules

14. The acceptance of this handbook shall be taken as an undertaking to observe the rules and conditions contained herein. Any member not strictly observing the rules, or acting in any way prejudicial to the interests of the Association, shall, at the discretion of the Committee, be requested to attend a meeting of the Committee to

explain his or her conduct. If such explanation is considered by the Committee to be unsatisfactory, or should he or she fail to attend such meeting after being duly summoned, he or she shall forfeit their membership.

Rules on Fishing and Members' Conduct

Conduct of Members

15. Members must hold a licence to fish for trout and freshwater (coarse) fish issued by the Environment Agency
16. Upon request of an ATAA Bailiff or a member of the Association, members and their guests must produce their membership card or guest ticket and Environment Agency rod licence. Members and their guests, on request, must produce for inspection all fish in their possession and permit the inspection of any fishing bag, creel and tackle in use.
17. Members must not be accompanied by dogs unless registered assistance dogs.
18. No member shall do or permit any needless damage to banks, fencing, mowing grass or crops and no vehicle shall be taken on to the land adjoining the Association's waters without the consent of the landowners or tenant. **All gates used for access must be closed and secured after use.**
19. Members are requested to keep to the riverbank and not to walk across the Archery Field at Iford.
20. The Association accepts no liability for loss or injury occasioned by failure to adhere to the Association Rules or by behaving in an irresponsible or unsafe manner by any member or guest. Any member bringing a guest onto club property or waters is responsible for ensuring that guest acts in accordance with these standards.

Close Seasons

21. On all Association waters, the close season for coarse fish shall be from 15 March to 15 June, both days inclusive.

On all Association waters, the close season for trout shall be from 16 October to 31 March, both days inclusive.

The close season for grayling on the Midford Brook shall be 1 January to 15 June both dates inclusive.

Angling Methods and Water

Coarse

22. The Association has access to coarse fishing on the Bristol Avon and River Frome.
23. The use of a second rod is permitted, for coarse fishing only. Rods must not be left unattended.
24. Fishing for coarse fish shall be by the use of tackle and bait permitted under the Bye-Laws of the Environment Agency.

The Association makes the following recommendations with respect to predator fishing and spinning:

When dead baiting only one prong of any double or treble hook being used should have a barb for the purpose of bait retention. All other hooks should be barbless or de-barbed. All spinners should be de-barbed and preferably have a single hook.

25. Fishing with maggots, processed products, cereal or other vegetable matter, including bread, and ground baiting, is prohibited from 15 March to 15 June inclusive.
26. The use of keep nets for barbel, carp, pike, grayling and trout is prohibited.

The use of an unhooking mat is recommended when handling barbel, pike and carp.

Game

27. Fishing on the Midford Brook is by dry fly or nymph only.
28. Fishing for grayling is permitted on the Midford Brook between 16 June and 31 December inclusive.
29. The River Frome is predominantly a coarse fishing water, but in the section below the weirs at Freshford Mill to the bridge by the Inn at Freshford, fishing by dry fly or nymph is permitted from 1 April to 15 June, both dates inclusive.
30. Fishing on the Cam Brook and Wellow Brook is by dry fly or nymph only.
31. Members may fish the disabled pools on the first field of the Wellow Brook, from its confluence with the Cam, but must give way to any disabled member who wishes to fish.
32. Fishing on the entirety of the Cam Brook and the Wellow Brook above Poorfield Wood is on a catch and release basis, where all Brown trout must be returned to the water and all Rainbow trout caught must be killed.
33. Barbless hooks (for the purposes of this rule the barb on a barbed hook may be flattened using pliers or forceps) must be used at all times when fishing on water designated as catch and release only.

34. The definition of a nymph is that it must be a genuine imitative pattern and not a lure, flasher or attractor type. The maximum hook size permitted is 12.

Fishing Times

35. The fishing week is from Monday to Sunday. Fishing after dark and before dawn is strictly prohibited. For the purposes of this rule, dark is half an hour after sunset and dawn half an hour before sunrise.
36. Fishing on the stocked waters is allowed two days per week from 1 April to 15 June and three days per week from 16 June to 15 October. There is no restriction on the number of days members may fish the catch and return sections of the Wellow Brook (above Poorfield Wood) and the Cam Brook, during the trout fishing season.
37. There is no restriction on the number of days members may fish for grayling on the Midford Brook between 16 October and 31 December.
38. There is no restriction on the number of days members may fish on the River Frome and River Avon during the coarse fishing season.

Catch Limits

39. Rainbow trout – four fish per day

No fishing for trout is permitted after the limit has been taken except on the catch and release sections of the Cam and Wellow. No fish to be taken and killed from any Association waters other than Rainbow trout subject to the catch limit stated above.

Guest Tickets

40. The Hon Secretary, the Hon Treasurer and the President shall be empowered to issue guest tickets to members on request as follows:

For trout fishing only:

Between 1 April and 15 of June Two tickets subject to payment of the current fee.

Between 16 June and 15 October... Six tickets subject to payment of the current fee.

After use, each trout guest ticket to be returned to the Hon Secretary with catch return information.

For coarse fishing only:

Between 16 June and 14 of March..... Eight tickets subject to payment of the current fee.

Tickets are dated and are for that day only. Members must accompany their guests at all times and ensure they comply with the Association's rules and policies.

41. No guest may fish the waters on more than four occasions each calendar year.

Applications for guest tickets can currently be made via Clubmate [Log in \(clubmate.co.uk\)](https://clubmate.co.uk) or through the Clubmate App which is available for Android and iOS.

Poaching

Poaching - or more correctly "unlawful fishing" is covered by Schedule 1, paragraph 2, (1) of the Theft Act 1968.

Anyone fishing (or attempting to or having fished) without the permission of the owner or controller of the fishing rights commits an offence of the theft of those rights.

Unlawful fishing is therefore a matter for the Police.

If you encounter anyone fishing unlawfully you should notify the Police citing this offence.

You need to inform the Police of the date and time of the offence together with a description of the offenders and any tackle and bait used. Please note any vehicle registration numbers and if possible take photographs.

The local Police can be contacted by dialling 101. However, if you are in any kind of danger or the offenders are carrying a weapon then you should dial 999.

Members should ensure their current membership card and car sticker is prominently displayed at all times so others can be sure they are fishing the water legitimately.