

PONTARDAWE AND SWANSEA ANGLING SOCIETY LTD

BYELAWS, AS AMENDED AT AGM DECEMBER 2019

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1. GENERAL

- 1.1. These byelaws are made in accordance with article 23 of the articles of association of Pontardawe and Swansea Angling Society Ltd and come into effect upon the incorporation of the company. They incorporate changes made at subsequent general meetings as follows:

Date	Byelaws affected	Brief description of change
15/9/2010	Generally	Paragraphs re-numbered to accommodate new provisions and re-arrangement of existing provisions.
15/9/2010	2 - 7	Provision made for canoeing membership
15/9/2010	11	Liability disclaimer extended to use of Society waters / facilities
15/9/2010		New section added - "Rules for Society fishing trips / competitions"
15/9/2010		New section added - "Canoeing rules for Society waters"
8/12/2010	2	Amended to include permit price changes for 2011
8/12/2010	23	Introduced the use of single barbless hook when practicing catch & release.
8/12/2010	24	New section added as Byelaw 24 - River Cilieni - fly only & catch & release
8/12/2010	24 - 56	Paragraphs re-numbered to accommodate new Byelaw 24.
14/12/2011	2	Membership categories: free OAP removed; carer + associate added. Also added clarification of entitlement to full existing membership permit.
12/12/2012	15	Amended to become a new provision for management committee appointments including the addition of a Health & Safety Risk Management Officer.
12/12/2012	2	Annual subscriptions for concessionary members (OAP and Disabled) increased from £18 to £20.
11/12/2013	Generally	Document divided into numbered Sections, Contents section added, and paragraph numbering improved.
11/12/13	Section 2	Paragraphs rearranged.
11/12/2013	Section 5	Fishing rules - changes to size limits and bag limits; new rules re catch and release; new requirement to submit catch returns.
11/12/2013	Section 8	New disciplinary procedure adopted.

10/12/2014	5.9.3.1.	Clarification re hooks with crushed barbs (accepted as barbless)
9/12/2016	3.1	Amended to include the wording " <u>the content and spirit of</u> " these Byelaws
12/12/2018	5.6.1	Amended to read: "all wild brown trout"; removing the words "unmarked (assumed to be....."
12/12/2018	5.7	Whole paragraph removed (removal of dye marked triploid brown trout)
12/12/2018	5.8.3	Amended to read: "brown trout –two per day" by removing: "until the 31st August and four per day after 31st August, excluding any marked triploids over 17 inches which must always be removed."
12/12/2018		Deletion of 5.7 resulted in all subsequent paragraphs being renumbered.
11/12/2019	Section 5	Fishing rules – complete rewrite to take into account changes in NRW byelaws for salmon & sea trout

- 1.2. Earlier versions of the Byelaws are available from the Secretary on request.
- 1.3. Proposals to make, alter, add to or revoke Byelaws must be submitted to the Secretary in writing not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1. The classes of membership of the company and the benefits, voting rights and annual subscription for each class are set out in the following table. The rates of annual subscription shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.

Class of membership	Annual subscription		Voting rights and benefits of membership
	Fishing	Canoeing	
Full, first year of membership or previous members not renewing before end April	£80	£80	Entitled to vote at general meetings and to serve on Management Committee, if appointed. Entitled to fish / paddle all Society waters and to take part in all except Junior events.
Full, existing members renewing before end April	£60	£60	
Life members – OAPs with more than 5 years membership prior to 1995	Free	N/A	
Life members appointed at general meetings	Free	Free	
Full OAP, qualifying for Environment Agency rod licence concession	£25	N/A	
Full Disabled, qualifying for Environment Agency rod licence concession	£25	N/A	
Students aged 17 to 21	£25	£25	
Juniors aged under 12	£5	£5	Not entitled to vote at general meetings. Not entitled to serve on management committee. Entitled to fish / paddle all Society waters and to take part in Junior events.
Juniors aged 12 to 16	£10	£10	
Day permit holders, until 15 th June	£10	£10	Not entitled to vote at general meetings. Not entitled to serve on management

Day permit holders, from 16 th June	£20	£20	committee. Entitled to fish / paddle all Society waters. Not entitled to attend events.
Guest day permit holders (each member of the Management Committee allowed to entertain a guest up to 5 occasions per year)	Free	N/A	Not entitled to vote at general meetings. Not entitled to serve on management committee. Entitled to fish all Society waters in the company of a member of the Management Committee.
Carer member	Free		Not entitled to vote at general meetings. Not entitled to serve on management committee. Not entitled to fish or canoe Society waters; may take part in specified events.
Associate member (fly tying class, etc)	£5		
Notes:			
a. Day, guest, carer and associate members must obtain full, first year membership before becoming entitled to a full, existing membership permit.			
b. On reaching the age of 17, existing junior members are entitled to a full, existing membership permit.			
c. Existing student members are entitled to a full, existing membership permit when their education ends.			

- 2.2. Membership shall run from 1st March to the last day of February each year. Subscriptions shall become due on 1st March each year.
- 2.3. Fishing. New members, junior members and day permit holders shall acquire membership by obtaining a permit at one of the Society's authorised distributors.
- 2.4. Canoeing. New members, junior members and day permit holders shall acquire membership by obtaining a permit and means of identification from the Secretary.
- 2.5. Fishing and canoeing. Existing members shall renew membership by sending the renewal subscription and their previous permit to the Secretary before the end of April each year.
- 2.6. Fishing. Existing members seeking the OAP or disabled concession shall renew membership by sending the renewal subscription and their previous permit to the Secretary, together with a copy of a current Environment Agency concessionary rod licence.
- 2.7. Fishing and canoeing. Students aged 17 to 21 seeking the student concession shall obtain membership by sending the subscription and evidence that they are in full time education to the Secretary.
- 2.8. Fishing and canoeing. Members who have bought a fishing permit may obtain a free canoeing permit and members who have bought a canoeing permit may obtain a free fishing permit by applying to the Secretary.

3. **CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1. Members are bound to accept and comply with the content and spirit of these Byelaws.
- 3.2. Members must behave properly towards each other and anyone they come into contact with whilst using Society waters or attending Society events. They must not bring the Society into disrepute.
- 3.3. Members shall not take any action which might result in the Society losing any of its water – whether held or about to be held.
- 3.4. Any person attempting to outbid the Society for fishing rights shall not be eligible for membership.
- 3.5. All classes of member, able bodied and disabled, should be aware that they use Society waters / facilities, participate in Society events and attend Society functions at their own risk.

4. **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- 4.1. BAILIFFS. To ensure compliance with these Byelaws and for other purposes the Management Committee shall appoint bailiffs from amongst the members as it sees fit. The roles and responsibilities of such bailiffs shall be set out in writing. Members who are not bailiffs should not attempt to enforce any Society rules

themselves but should report suspected infringements to the Secretary or Head Bailiff, whose details appear on the permit / membership certificate.

- 4.2. RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICER. A member of the Management Committee shall be appointed as Health & Safety Risk Management Officer (RMO) to ensure that all property, facilities and activities of the Society are assessed and managed so as to minimise the risk to members.

5. **FISHING RULES FOR SOCIETY WATERS**

- 5.1. Members are authorised to fish the waters of the Society (as set out on the permit / membership certificate) with one rod and line during the recognised game fishing season subject to the following rules:
- 5.2. Before attempting to fish members must obtain, and carry with them, a club permit and an appropriate NRW rod licence.
- 5.3. Members must familiarise themselves and comply with all NRW fishing byelaws and other fisheries legislation, which may be more restrictive than the following rules of the Society.
- 5.4. When requested by a bailiff appointed by the Society, members must produce for inspection their permit, rod licence, fishing tackle and any fish in their possession.
- 5.5. On the River Cileni only fly fishing is allowed and all fish caught must be returned.
- 5.6. Rules for Retention and Release of Fish:
 - 5.6.1. All salmon must be returned with minimum delay & injury;
 - 5.6.2. All sea trout caught before 1st May must be returned and thereafter all sea trout over 60cm in length (measured from the tip of the snout to fork of the tail) must be returned;
 - 5.6.3. Only one sea trout measuring 60cm or less may be retained in any 24 hour period between 1st May and the 17th October;
 - 5.6.4. Only two brown trout may be retained in any 24 hour period between 3rd March and 30th September;
 - 5.6.5. The minimum size limit for retaining brown trout and sea trout is 25cm (measured from the tip of the snout to fork of the tail);
 - 5.6.6. Members are encouraged to practice catch and release of all wild fish caught; where fish are to be returned they must be released immediately to the water with the least possible injury. If being released as a result of these rules, they must be released whether live or dead. At all times, minimise the time spent playing a hooked fish, do not remove it from the water and support the fish in the water until it is sufficiently recovered.
- 5.7. Rules for Artificial Flies:
 - 5.7.1. When fly fishing for salmon & sea trout all hooks used must be barbless;
 - 5.7.2. When fly fishing for brown trout *the hook gape must not exceed 10mm* and barbed hooks are permitted; however, we recommend the use of barbless hooks at all times;
 - 5.7.3. Where the gape of the hook is greater than 7mm, the hook used in the makeup of a fly is restricted to one single or one double;
 - 5.7.4. Where the hook gape is 7mm or less, the hooks used in the makeup of a fly are restricted to a maximum of two hooks with up to four points i.e. a single, a double, a treble, two singles, two doubles or a single and a treble.
- 5.8. Rules for Spinning:
 - 5.8.1. No spinning is permitted before 20th March;
 - 5.8.2. From 20th March spinning for salmon & sea trout is permitted with:
 - 5.8.3. spinners & spoons having only one single hook, or
 - 5.8.4. plug baits having a maximum of three single hooks;
 - 5.8.5. All hooks used must be barbless and have a gape of less than 13mm.
 - 5.8.6. From 20th March spinning for brown trout is permitted using spinners, spoons or plugs not exceeding 50mm in overall length (i.e. including any attached hook). Only one hook, with a maximum of 3 points, is permitted i.e. a single, a double or a treble. The hook may be barbed or barbless, but hook gapes must not exceeding 10mm,
- 5.9. Rules for Bait fishing:

- 5.9.1. No worm fishing for salmon is allowed throughout the season;
 - 5.9.2. No worm fishing is allowed for sea trout before 1st May and thereafter is only permitted with a single worm on a single barbless hook with a gap of less than 8mm;
 - 5.9.3. Worm fishing for brown trout is permitted from 3rd March to 30th September with a single worm on a single barbed or barbless hook with a gap of less than 8mm;
 - 5.9.4. No bait fishing with a float;
 - 5.9.5. No part of any cray fish, prawn, shrimp, fish roe, maggots, pupae or non-aquatic larvae may be used at any time.
- 5.10. If another angler arrives and wants to fish, all members fishing, including bait anglers, must proceed at a reasonable speed through a pool.
 - 5.11. Without agreement, an angler must not enter a pool and start to fish ahead of a member already fishing through that pool.
 - 5.12. Members must not sell, barter or exchange for goods or services any rod-caught fish from club waters.
 - 5.13. Members must avoid damaging gates, trees, hedges etc. All gates must be closed. No litter to be left on banks. All nylon must be removed. No fires allowed. No dogs to accompany members onto the water.
 - 5.14. Adult members (full and concessionary) must submit a catch return each season, no later than renewal of membership for the following season, showing: (a) number of days Society water fished for brown trout and for salmon / sea trout; (b) numbers and approximate sizes of fish killed and of fish released on Society waters.

Note: where barbless hooks are specified in the above rules, hooks with a crushed barb or barb removed are acceptable and gape dimensions are measured from shank to point.

6. RULES FOR SOCIETY FISHING TRIPS / COMPETITIONS

- 6.1. Members participating in any competitive angling activity organised by the Society must behave with due regard for the spirit and traditions of the sport. The pursuit of excellence and cultivation of friendship should be the primary objectives. Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. Whilst friendly rivalry constitutes acceptable behaviour, the ruthless pursuit of competition success does not and is frowned upon.
- 6.2. Members representing the Society at local, regional or national competitions do so as ambassadors for the Society and must protect its good reputation.
- 6.3. For all events where pre-booking is required by the operators of the venue, members are required to make firm bookings two weeks in advance. Members are responsible for any cost associated with such bookings and a non-refundable deposit or full payment may be required at the time of booking.
- 6.4. Members must make their own arrangements for travel to/from events.
- 6.5. An Umpire and Weighing Steward shall be appointed as Match Officials for each competition and, if called upon, shall decide any questions which might arise.
- 6.6. Members wishing to take part in a competition must present themselves at the specified meeting point at the specified time. The Match Officials may refuse entry to any person not arriving in good time for the start.
- 6.7. Competitors may not fish the competition water on the day of a competition prior to its commencement.
- 6.8. Competitions shall be fished within the rules of the water on which they are held. Competitions which are qualifiers for places in an event to be held by another body shall be fished as far as practically possible according to the rules of the other body's event. The Match Officials may vary such rules or impose additional rules.
- 6.9. If a competition involves the allocation of pegs, this will be done by the Match Officials, who will specify how peg rotation will be conducted (normally two pegs at hourly intervals). If the next peg to which a competitor is due to move becomes vacant before the allotted time, the competitor may move to it. No moving back is allowed.
- 6.10. The Match Officials shall fix the hours of fishing and specify where the weigh-in is to take place.
- 6.11. Competitors must not leave the starting point until the rules have been announced. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure familiarity with the rules.
- 6.12. Competitors must, upon request, submit their bag and tackle for inspection by Match Officials.

- 6.13. Any competitor deciding to withdraw from a competition before the end and not to be present at the weigh-in must ensure that the Match Officials are notified. A message may be left with a fellow competitor for this purpose.
- 6.14. Each competition shall be decided by weight of catch. If a bag limit for the water is caught, the successful angler must stop fishing. Thereafter, for each fifteen minutes of the match remaining an additional four ounces will be added to the weight of the bag taken. Times to be verified by a fellow competitor.
- 6.15. If there is a tie, the competitor catching a bag limit earliest will take precedence. If there is still a tie, the competitor with the greater number of fish will take precedence. If there is still a tie, the bag containing the heaviest fish will take precedence. If a tie remains unresolved, the competitors concerned shall be joint winners and hold any trophy for an equal period.
- 6.16. If insufficient competitors weigh in at the end of a team selection match, the Match Officials shall have the power to decide that competitors will fish on for a further period. If team places remain unfilled by this procedure, a further competition shall be arranged, restricted to the participants in the initial competition.
- 6.17. Any complaints or objections must, at the latest, be made following the close of the weigh in and before the match results are announced.
- 6.18. Any member found to be in contravention of the rules will be disqualified by the Match Officials and reported to the Management Committee which may impose further sanctions.
- 6.19. Any appeal against a decision of the Match Officials must be made in writing to the Secretary within 14 days of the event. The Secretary will refer the appeal to the Management Committee for consideration at its next meeting.
- 6.20. If team selection is based on a number of competitions, a points system shall be used. For each match, placings will be decided by weight as set out in the rules above. One point will be awarded to the angler placed first, two points to the angler placed second, three points to the angler placed third and so on up to fifteen points for the fifteenth place. Thereafter, or if an angler returns no fish, fifteen points will be awarded. Team placings shall be decided by the lowest points aggregate for the season. The Management Committee may allow team placings to be based on the best aggregate score from a specified number of competitions. If there is a tie, placings will be decided on the basis of the highest total aggregate weight from all competitions.
- 6.21. Members attending a competitive event but not taking part in the competition must:
 - 6.21.1. avoid interfering with the competition by observing competition rules as to distances between boats, interference with drifts, etc, and must not actively help competitors;
 - 6.21.2. ensure that Match Officials are informed of any early departures to avoid unnecessary concern.

7. CANOEING RULES FOR SOCIETY WATERS

- 7.1. Members are authorised to paddle the waters controlled by the Society, as shown on the map provided, subject to the following rules.
- 7.2. Paddling is allowed:
 - 7.2.1. during the fishing season (3rd March to 17th October) – only when the river level is above 1.5 metres on the gauge at Ynystanglws;
 - 7.2.2. outside the fishing season (18th October to 2nd March) – only when the river level is above 0.6 metres on the gauge at Ynystanglws.

NB that online level indicators are updated infrequently. Levels must therefore be established by actual inspection of the gauge at Ynystanglws.
- 7.3. Except in emergency, access and egress are allowed only at the points shown on the map provided.
- 7.4. Except in emergency, paddling is only allowed in a downstream direction and obstructions such as weirs must be passed without delay in order to minimise disturbance of migrating fish.
- 7.5. Members must avoid disturbance of fish at or migrating to spawning areas and must observe any guidance about this given by Society or Environment Agency bailiffs.
- 7.6. Members must wear the means of identification provided when paddling and, when requested by a bailiff appointed by the Society, must produce their permit for inspection.
- 7.7. Members must avoid damaging gates, trees, hedges etc. All gates must be closed. No litter to be left on banks. No fires allowed. No dogs to accompany members onto the water.

7.8. Members must also comply with any other relevant legislation.

8. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

8.1. REPORTS / COMPLAINTS

- 8.1.1. Reports or complaints that a Member has failed to comply with the Society Byelaws (including the fishing or canoeing rules or the general conditions of membership) should be made verbally or in writing (including email) to the Head Bailiff or to one of the Directors (Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer).
- 8.1.2. The person receiving a report should use their discretion as to any immediate action needed. As soon as possible thereafter all Directors should be informed of the report / complaint and of any action already taken.

8.2. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

- 8.2.1. If after such informal enquiries as they consider appropriate the Directors believe there to be no case to answer or that no further action is appropriate, they shall inform the person making the report / complaint ("the Complainant") and report the matter to the Management Committee at its next meeting.
- 8.2.2. If after such informal enquiries as they consider appropriate the Directors believe that there is a case to answer and that further investigation is required, they may either:
 - 8.2.2.1. ask the Complainant to put the matter in writing; or
 - 8.2.2.2. put their understanding of the report / complaint in writing themselves and ask the Complainant to confirm that they have done so correctly.

8.3. FURTHER INVESTIGATION

- 8.3.1. If after their preliminary enquiries the Directors believe that it is appropriate, they shall:
 - 8.3.1.1. arrange for such further enquiries as they consider appropriate to be made;
 - 8.3.1.2. if they consider it necessary, ask persons with knowledge of the circumstances:
 - 8.3.1.2.1. to make a written note of what they know; or
 - 8.3.1.2.2. to confirm the correctness of a note made by the person making the enquiries; and
 - 8.3.1.3. inform the Member who is the subject of the report / complaint ("the Member") of the allegation in writing and request a response (imposing a reasonable deadline);
- 8.3.2. The Member shall be given an opportunity to reply in writing or attend a hearing.
- 8.3.3. If the Member admits the allegation or fails to respond, the Directors:
 - 8.3.3.1. may impose such sanction as they consider appropriate; and
 - 8.3.3.2. shall notify the Member in writing of any sanction imposed.

8.4. HEARING / DECISION

- 8.4.1. If the Member denies the allegation in writing or requests a hearing, the Directors shall convene a hearing at which:
 - 8.4.1.1. the Society shall be represented by a Panel consisting of one Director and one other Member of the Management Committee (if possible, a former Director);
 - 8.4.1.2. the Member may be accompanied by one or more persons who wish to speak in his support;
 - 8.4.1.3. the allegation, the Member's response and any other relevant circumstances shall be considered.
- 8.4.2. If on the balance of probabilities the Panel considers the allegation:
 - 8.4.2.1. to be unsubstantiated, they shall inform the Member of that in writing and report the outcome to the Management Committee at its next meeting;
 - 8.4.2.2. to be substantiated, they may impose such sanction as they consider appropriate and shall inform the Member of that in writing.
- 8.4.3. The Panel shall keep a written record of the proceedings, a copy of which may be given to the Member on request.

8.5. SANCTIONS

- 8.5.1. Sanctions imposed in the case of substantiated allegations may range from verbal warning through written warning to suspension or termination of membership for any period considered appropriate, with or without reimbursement of subscriptions.
- 8.5.2. In cases where breach of the law appears to have occurred, the Society may also report the matter to the Police or other relevant enforcement body, either before or after conclusion of its own proceedings.

8.6. APPEAL

- 8.6.1. If a Member wishes to appeal against a decision of the Panel or against a sanction imposed by the Directors or the Panel, he shall write to the Secretary within 14 days of receipt of the notification.
- 8.6.2. The matter shall be reviewed by the Management Committee, including directors who might have been involved in the decision being appealed.
- 8.6.3. The Management Committee may:
 - 8.6.3.1. review the decision and / or sanction:
 - 8.6.3.1.1. on the basis of available records and information in the Member's appeal;
 - 8.6.3.1.2. after such further enquiries as they consider appropriate; or
 - 8.6.3.1.3. after a further hearing, if they consider it appropriate;
 - 8.6.3.2. uphold, overturn or vary the original decision or sanction, as they see fit.