



Holmesdale Angling and Conservation Society

Membership Rules and Bylaws

ANY MEMBER FOUND BREAKING THESE RULES, WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE LAKE IMMEDIATELY, AND AWAIT COMMITTEE REVIEW

- C1** Membership categories. (MJ) Montreal Junior 13 to 16 years old; (MF) Montreal Family - parents and 4 children 12 years old and under; (S) Senior - 17 to 65 years old, and may add spouse and 4 children 12 years old and under; (SC) Senior Citizen - over 65 years old, and may add spouse and 4 children 12 years old and under; (L) Life, and may add spouse and 4 children 12 years old and under; (C) Complimentary, type specified.

Any Child angler who attains the age of 13 during the season, will continue to be eligible to fish, for the remainder of that season, as a child under Montreal Park family membership, or as a named child on a senior or senior-citizen's membership. Similarly, a Montreal junior, who attains the age of 17 during the season, can continue to fish as a Montreal junior until the end of that season. **Members changing age categories during the season, have the option to upgrade to the appropriate level of membership and pay the difference in subscription.**

Junior Anglers (under 17) are only allowed to night fish (Dusk to Dawn) at Montreal Park if accompanied at all times by an Adult (over 18)

Junior Anglers (under 17) are permitted to fish Big and Small Lake ONLY if accompanied by a HACS Senior or Senior Citizen Member. The following additional rules apply: -

Children under 13 must fish the same swim as the adult member

Juniors 13-16 can fish a separate adjacent swim to the adult.

ALL juniors must be supervised at all times

Montreal Junior Members and children under 13, do NOT require a guest ticket.

Non junior members over 13 need a Junior Guest ticket.

Please refer to rule **C3** for guest tickets rules.

- C2** Annual Subscription should be paid online via **Clubmate**. Alternative payment methods via Bank Transfers (BACS) will also be allowed if requested.
- C3** Members may buy **Guest tickets** for friends, but the member must stay no more than one swim away and is fully responsible for the guest's behaviour and for ensuring all Society rules are followed. **Guest tickets must be bought through the member's Clubmate account.**
- C4** **Guest Tickets must be purchased before fishing starts.** Any guest found fishing without a ticket bought in advance will be asked to leave immediately. The member who brought them will also be asked to leave and reported to the committee.
- C5** A member may buy a maximum of **one** guest ticket per day.
- C6** Guest tickets are only valid for the specific date shown.
- C7** All members and guests enter and fish entirely at their own risk. The Society accepts no liability for injury, death, theft, or damage to property.

- C8** The right of the Society to fish is liable to be, from time to time, limited or extended, and these rules and privileges of the Members, are subject to such right, and the Society shall not be liable to return to any Member fees they may have paid to the Society for such privilege.
- C9** **All members are authorised to act as Water Bailiffs** and to report any infringement of rules, regulations and bylaws of the Society to a Committee Member or Bailiff. Proof of Membership and/or proof of Guest Ticket must be produced on demand to a Water Bailiff, Committee Member or Member on production of their Membership credentials.
- C10** **Breaking the rules, regulations and bylaws of the Society** by Member or their Guests, may be reported to the Committee for further action. The Society shall have the power to expel such Member for a determined period of time (One day to Life), at a committee meeting or meeting specially convened for the purpose. The member will be asked to attend that meeting, if they wish to put their side of the reported incident to the committee before a decision is made. The member shall have no claim on the Society or any Member thereof for compensation or for the return of any subscription paid. Guests are considered to be the responsibility of the member, and their action will be considered that of the member.
- C11** The Society shall have the power to commence any prosecution for any offence committed which they may consider detrimental to the objectives of the Society.
- C12** Access and any special rules relating to Society waters are detailed within Clubmate, and should be consulted before commencing to fish. Vehicles should at all times be parked only in designated areas, and so as not to cause any obstruction. All access gates used must be closed and secured when both entering and leaving the society's property.
- C13** **ALL GATES MUST BE LOCKED AT ALL TIMES.** Any member who loses their Key must notify the Membership Secretary immediately via email info@hacs.uk . Replacement items must be obtained from the Membership Secretary on payment of **£50**.
- C14** Proof of membership is required at all time. Any person not able to be identified as an active member (via Clubmate) or permission to be there, will be asked to leave with immediate effect. **Members are allowed to take ONE NON-FISHING guest to HACS waters.** The guest must remain in the same swim as the angler at all times.
- C15** A swim area shall be defined as: on still water – half way between your set up area and that of set up area on either side; on moving water – 1m upstream and within 1m of the setup area downstream; and on both still and running water, the dividing lines run 90 degrees to the bank and half way between your bank and the bank opposite.
- C16** No Member shall discard litter, human or animal waste at any time and shall be responsible for clearing away any litter, human or animal waste that may be left at the swim they have occupied. Cigarette butts are considered litter. Reference rule C10. It is recommended that anglers bring a suitable bucket or bag and means to remove any waste. There are no toilets facilities provided on HACS waters.
- C17** Maximum number of rods to be used: **Small Lake – 2 Rods; Montreal Park - 2 Rods; Longford Lake – 3 Rods.** All rods used must be confined to one swim and used in a manner so as not to inconvenience other members. **If leaving a swim unattended, all lines to be removed from the water and baits removed with hooks clipped up. A swim can only be left unattended for a maximum of 2 hours before all equipment must be removed. Any equipment left unattended is done entirely at the owners risk and the club will not be held responsible for any items that are lost. The use of personal locks on HACS gates is prohibited. Please see rule CA16 which prohibits reserving or "bucketing" swims.**
- C18** **Unhooking mats.** Members must at all times have open and ready for use. **Mats must be wet when fish are being unhooked. For Carp/Predator fishing, please refer to specific rules for Soft Walled Mats**
- C19** The use of a gaff is prohibited.
- C20** The use of a pike gag is prohibited.
- C21** All anglers must have an appropriate size landing net, assembled for use before fishing. **For carp and pike fishing landing nets need to be a minimum of 42"**
- C22** The maximum size of live baits is to be restricted to not more than six inches. No live or dead to be removed for use as bait elsewhere.

- C23** No live fish may be introduced to any Society water without written consent.
- C24** All fish to be returned to the water where they were caught.
- C25** Keep-nets must conform to the prevailing Environment Agency byelaws relating to length, diameter and material type. Anglers must ensure that they are placed in sufficient depth of water, and the fish retained are not overcrowded or in distress. No fish over 2lbs (0.907kg) are allowed to be put in a keep-net. On society sanctioned competitions special rules may apply.
- C26** The season for fishing in the Society's waters shall be as laid down by the relevant water authority or other statutory body or as otherwise determined by the Society.
- C27** All Members must abide by the bye-laws of the relevant water Authorities.
- C28** All Members must at all time behave in such a manner as not to cause any disturbance to wildlife or other persons.
- C29** Any Member hooking or entangling any fowl must make every effort to untangle the fowl with the least amount of harm, if unable to do so, a Committee Member must be notified.
- C30** Angling shall not be permitted in any other manner than rod and line. No Member or Guest Ticket holder to use more rods than permitted by the relevant water authority rules or as otherwise determined as the Society.
- C31** Any member found damaging any lock, gates, floating craft, fences, banks, grass, trees or foliage, or other property adjoining lakes and rivers shall be expelled.
- C32** No Member or Guest Ticket holder shall at any time fish from floating craft, or make use of such for the playing or landing of fish or placing baits.
- C33** No fires to be lit at any time or disposable barbeques to be used. Except at the request of a committee member on working parties.

With immediate effect, ALL BBQ's and Kelly Kettles are prohibited on our waters. We urge our members to use common sense with any other cooking equipment they may use. Cigarette ends must be disposed of in a responsible manner to avoid any fire risks

- C34** **BAIT RESTRICTIONS.** On Montreal Park; Banned baits, boilies over 12 mm in size, peanuts and floating mixer style baits. Restriction, a maximum of 1 kilo or 2pints of bait to be used in a 24-hour period.
- C35** No member may occupy a swim for more than 3 consecutive days, if requested to move by another member.
- C36** For the purposes of night fishing, temporary shelters may be used but not in excess of a two-man bivvy.
- C37** No swimming or boating (with the exception of bait boats, see rule C48, on Longford Lake) on any society-controlled waters.
- C38** No member may fish, prepare to fish or occupy any swim being used for a competition from 6.00am until the end of the competition and swim vacated.
- C39** Notice of competitions and pegs to be used, will be posted a minimum of fourteen days in advance, on the notice board, Clubmate, HACS Website and/or the HACS Members Only Facebook.
- C40** Where no peg numbers are booked, the competition will be fished around swims already occupied.
- C41** **Pike Season is open 1st October to 31st March inclusive.** No fishing for pike outside of this period for fish preservation reasons.
- C42** Dogs are to be kept under control at all times. (Please clean up any dog mess on the paths and fishing areas).

- C43 Access keys.** These are for **members only**. Any person found holding a key that is not registered to them will have the key confiscated and that person will be asked to leave, and the member who that key is registered to will have their membership terminated immediately. Replacement keys see rule **C13**.
- C44 A drone** (aka Multirotor Model Aircraft) shall not be flown from any HACS premises unless with the express permission of the committee, such permission to be given in advance of the operation of the drone in compliance with the relevant articles of the Civil Aviation Air Navigation Order in force for the time being.
- Prior to the operation of the drone, the pilot shall satisfy the committee that he/she is insured in respect to Public Liability risks to cover at least £10 million per separate incident. If using a drone for photography purposes, the pilot will comply fully with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulations and the club's Data Privacy Policy with specific reference to Rule **C46**.
- C45 Bait Boats** (Infringements of this rule may result in bait boats being banned)
- PLEASE ALSO READ SECTION G) Bait Boat (Rule C45) and Casting Etiquette**
- ALL BAIT BOAT USERS MUST OBTAIN AN ANNUAL BAIT BOAT LICENCE VIA CLUBMATE (FROM JUNE 16th 2025)**
- All Bait Boats MUST be labelled according to the BAIT BOAT LICENCE (FROM JUNE 16th 2025)**
- The licence must be clearly visible on the bait boat**
- [No bait boat to go further than 150 yards/130 meters from the angler's swim.](#)
- [No bait boat can go past or close to a sailing club buoy.](#)
- [No bait boat can go past or close to the island to the right of the club hut swim.](#)
- [Stay within your swim area see rule C15.](#)
- [Do not use a bait boat when the sailing club is having an official race.](#)
- [Exercise extreme caution when there are sailing club members on the water.](#)
- The above rules apply irrespective of whether there is bait and/or a rig in the bait boat.**
- No bait boats to be used on the Longford Small Lake or Montreal Park Lake.**
- (Three designated committee members will act as judges on infractions of the above rule by a member, and their unanimous decision on a bait boat ban for the offending member will apply. In the event the judges cannot agree or there is any serious breach of this rule will be reported to the committee as per rule **C10**.)
- C46** There is a **PUBLICITY BAN on all HACS waters**. No images or videos of HACS waters to be put on public social media platforms (including and not restricted to Facebook, Instagram and YouTube) without prior permission from the Committee. Members may put photos of captures on social media platforms, but must not include the name of the lake or have the lake background in the photo that gives the name or location of the water away
- Members are encouraged to share their captures via **the HACS MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK**.
- C47** Montreal Park is BARBLESS, SINGLE HOOKS ONLY.
- C48** No petrol or diesel generators to be used on HACS waters, except committee organised events.
- C49 The Society has a zero tolerance to drug taking on our waters.** Members and their Guests are banned from using recreational drugs whilst on HACS waters and land. Reference **C10**
- C50 In conjunction with Bait Boat rule C45, the following rules apply to CASTING:**
- No cast to go further than **150 yards/130 meters** from the angler's swim.
- No cast can go past or close to a sailing club buoy.
- No cast can go past or close to the island to the right of the club hut swim.

C51 The stretch of the **River Eden at Penshurst**, is shared with **Edenbridge Angling Society**. Please see the additional rules specific to this stretch: -

- Fishing is permitted from Sunrise to Sunset only.
- **NO NIGHT FISHING IS ALLOWED FOR HACs MEMBERS ON THIS STRETCH**
- All vehicles to be parked in the designated car park only (see map)
- That no game or farm animals are to be disturbed.
- All gates must be shut/locked
- No damage to be done to crops or fences.
- Members must walk on the edge of the bank and not across crops or grass.
- **No cans or tins of any kind to be taken to any venue.** Any member found to have left litter will be expelled from the Society.
- **Any person entering a swim to fish must clear all litter in the immediate area before commencing to fish.** Any person fishing a swim containing litter shall be held responsible for it. Any member found leaving litter on any part of water might be liable to forfeit their membership pending a hearing by the committee.
- **No dogs or firearms are allowed**
- **All musical instruments and portable radios are prohibited.**
- All coarse fish to be returned
- No terminal tackle to be left unattended in the water.
- **Maximum of two rods** can be used at one time.
- **Under 13's** must be accompanied by a responsible adult

CA) Carp Fishing Rules

The following additional rules apply to any anglers who are specifically targeting Carp on both Big Lake and Manklows (Small Lake) at Chipstead.

- CA1)** Unhooking Mat requirements: - Every carp angler must have a Soft Walled Unhooking Mat - Raised padded walls, **minimum W:55cm x L:90cm; 10-25cm walls; Padding 5-14cm**
- CA2)** Correct unhooking aids, including forceps and carp care kit (fish safe antiseptic) to be available at all time
- CA3)** "Carp Cradles" with any kind of rigid structure are banned.
- CA4)** Landing net of at least 42 inches.
- CA5)** Carp may be retained in a retaining sling for a maximum of 30 minutes, these must be placed in the deepest available water. Never in shallow water or in heavy weed. No sacks are permitted.
- CA6)** No standing with fish at any time
- CA7)** 15lbs minimum breaking strain line (Big Lake only)
- CA8)** No fixed leads
- CA9)** No multiple hook rigs
- CA10)** No wading to place rigs by hand
- CA11)** You may only fish and bait up from designated swims
- CA12)** No leaving rods unattended in the water.
- CA13)** 50 yards maximum distance when fishing from 3 Trees Swim
- CA14)** The use of "**360 rigs**" for all types of fishing is banned due to fish safety (Ronnie/Spinner Rig allowed)
- CA15)** **The use of the OMC TWIG/WAND is strictly forbidden**
- CA16)** **No reserving or "bucketing" of swims**

P) Predator Rules

Pike Fishing Season 1st October to 31st March inclusive.

Pike are one of our most valuable resources and essential for a balanced fishery. This policy has been produced to ensure that the quality of pike fishing is maintained and we expect our members to observe and implement this.

We have sourced material from the web and consolidated this into an easy-to-read guide. It will be revised over time and with experience. We recognise that there is a wide variety of anglers fishing for pike, both novice and experienced and so we have tried to produce a balanced policy that all find able to use.

- P1** All pike are to be returned alive and unharmed to the water.
- P2** Use strong tackle. **A minimum of 15lb monofilament or 30lb braided line.** Remember pike fight harder and take longer to recover when water temperatures are above 15C so gear up accordingly.
- P3** Use a **large knotless landing net with arms of at least 42" or a round frame of at least 30".** Rubber net materials preferred for Pike
- P4** **Use an unhooking mat of at least 1 metre long.**
- P5** Use **barbless or semi-barbed hooks.**
- P6** Make sure you are suitably equipped. Have in your possession **10"-12" artery forceps, long-nosed pliers** and a **pair of side cutters** to crop hooks that are difficult to extract. **NO GAFFS, BOGA GRIPS or PIKE GAGS TO BE USED**
- P7** When bait fishing, **strike quickly when a run develops.** If you find you've deep-hooked a fish, do not cut the trace. Unclip it and seek help.
- P8** **No live baits over 6"** to be used and no live baiting at all in competitions.
- P9** **Under no circumstances retain pike in keep-nets or carp sacks.** Retention slings can be used while you get ready to photograph the fish. **Maximum retention time is 15 minutes.** Pike should be weighed and released as quickly as possible
- P10** If retaining fish for a short while, use deep water, out of direct sunlight, and point the fish toward the waves to encourage oxygen flow.
- P11** Once a pike has been weighed, safely carry it back to the water in the net or sling for careful release. Ensure the pike can support itself before releasing it. Stay with the fish for as long as it takes to recover.

There is the opportunity to have pike teach-ins for those that have not experienced unhooking pike.

If you would like to benefit from this, please email the club.

And remember, mistakes do happen and you won't be vilified if you do make a mistake, but do seek support so you don't compound an error.

D) COMPETITION RULES

- D1** The draw shall take place and fishing shall commence at the Competition Secretary's discretion.
- D2** The start and finish of all competitions shall be by whistle.
- D3** In general competitions all species count except pike. In special competitions only specified species count.
- D4** No competitor shall move more than 12m from his peg without first removing his tackle from the water and unbaiting his hook. A competitor's swim shall be defined as (see rule **C15**).
- D5** In the event of competitors being level on total points, winner decided by gross weight.
- D6** Fish to be hooked and landed without assistance from any other person, except persons who have obtained prior permission of the Competition Secretary.
- D7** All fish hooked on or before the final whistle may be played, landed, and weighed in within Fifteen minutes of the whistle.
- D8** The weigh-in will be at the competitor's pegs, by the Competition Secretary or their appointee.
- D9** No dead fish to be weighed in. No fish to be weighed in during competitions, unless expressly approved by the Competition Secretary e.g. Specimen fish not to be kept in keep net.
- D10** In any dispute the Competition Secretary's decision is final and binding.
- D11** Any Member intending to weigh in fish for a competition must remove all rods on final whistle and must not recommence fishing until after weighing in.

BYLAWS (shown in red), in operation but to be approved.

*These are rules introduced by the committee, that replace existing rules or are new rules. They come into operation **once emailed to members through Clubmate and posted on HACs social media sites**. They remain in operation until the next AGM or SGM at which point they are to be approved or rejected by the membership. Bylaws may not be introduced to sections A) CONSTITUTIONAL RULES and B) COMMITTEE RULES of the society rules.*