

# Club rules 2025/2026

1. Proof of membership will be provided by Clubmate. Membership details, name, address etc will be available via Clubmate.
2. A mobile phone with Clubmate proof of membership **MUST** be carried when fishing club waters and produced on demand to club officials. Members have the right to request any other angler to produce a valid club membership.
3. Members failing to observe the club rules may have their membership withdrawn. The disciplinary procedures are explained in this booklet and online. See Clubmate or lbac.co.uk. The club reserves the right to refuse or withdraw membership at any time.
4. Club bailiffs and officials hold a warrant card which they must produce as evidence of their authority to challenge anglers fishing club waters. All directions by club officials must be obeyed, failure to do this may result in membership being removed.
5. Members must have a valid rod licence and be aware of EA fishing rules. We work with officers from the EA and cooperate fully with random EA licence checks.
6. Members must ensure that all captured fish are treated with respect and not harmed. All anglers are to exercise the greatest possible care of fish. Under **no** circumstance should any fish be held in a sack. Anglers fishing for catfish or carp on any club water **must** use a padded unhooking mat or cradle and a fish care kit should be available. The use of a carp retainer should only be used if absolutely necessary and for the absolute minimum period. This applies to both night and daylight conditions. Fish wellbeing is of paramount importance. The fish should have good water exchange and also be in no less than 4 feet of water. Any member failing to abide by these rules will have their membership withdrawn.
7. Fish must not be transferred between waters. Persons found taking fish from club waters will be prosecuted.
8. Where night fishing is allowed bivvies or similar angling shelters may be used. No camping tents are permitted.
9. No fires may be started. Cooking apparatus may be used if precautions are taken. We recommend that you cook outside of your bivvy. No heaters, cooking stoves or candles may be used to heat a bivvy or angling shelter. This rule is for your personal safety.
10. Club members may **NOT** take dogs onto any LBAC waters.
11. Members are responsible for any litter in their swim. You must keep your litter in a bag, ready for removal when you leave. Any litter found in your swim after you have left will be deemed to be your responsibility and disciplinary proceedings commenced.
12. No **treble hooks** or **multiple hook rigs** may be used on club waters containing catfish (Rackley & Tiddenfoot). On other waters, without catfish present, one hook, treble or single, may be used if fishing for pike.
13. No live fish may be taken onto Club waters. Live fish baits or dead freshwater fish may be used. EA rules forbid the movement of live fish between waters.
14. No boats are to be used on Club waters except in extraordinary circumstances where the permission of a club officer has been given.
15. Bait boats may **not** be used on club waters with the exception of club officials.
16. Club members may use up to three fishing rods on Tiddenfoot and Rackley Hills, with the exception of the River Ouzel and Astral Park, where two rods is the maximum allowed.
17. Keep lines within your own swim boundaries, do not cast across adjacent swims, avoid casting too close to snags or bushes. Do not put hooked fish in danger by fishing too close to snags or by inappropriate placement of leads and baits. If a fish is snagged contact a club official.+
18. **No** bankside changes, building of swims, refurbishment or any other work may be carried out on **any** club water without the written permission of the club committee.
19. Crayfish may not be used as bait on any club water. Any captured signal crayfish must not be returned to the water. This is an Environmental Agency rule.
20. Anglers fishing lakes may not retain fish in a keepnet. Official club matches on club waters are

the exception.

21. Members fishing under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be told to leave the fishery for their own and the safety of others. Disciplinary action in accordance with the club procedures will take place at a later date.
22. Drones may not be used on any club water without the written permission of the club committee.

### **Rules concerning juvenile anglers (under 13 years of age) and junior anglers (13-16 years of age)**

1. Anglers under 13 years of age may fish with the supervision of an adult member using a Juvenile member card (free from our agents).
2. No juvenile anglers (under 13 years of age) may fish at Rackley Hills. Members who bring juveniles or children under the age of 13 to this water will be asked to leave.
3. One junior member with an adult member supervising, may fish at Rackley Hills.
4. Both junior or juvenile members are allowed to fish Tiddenfoot lake and Astral Park Lake with the supervision of an Adult Club member. One adult member is entitled to bring a maximum of two anglers under the age of 16 (junior or juvenile members)
5. Juvenile anglers may use **one** rod or whip only. They may not use carp or catfish tackle on Tiddenfoot.
6. With adult member supervision a juvenile member may use carp style tackle at Astral Park lake.
7. A junior member, aged 13 to 16, may fish the River Ouzel without the supervision of an adult member.

### **Rules concerning Tiddenfoot Lake**

1. Club members fishing Tiddenfoot lake during the night must be in possession of a night fishing permit. Anglers under 18 may not night fish at Tiddenfoot. *See the Tiddenfoot pages for further details and tackle rules, which must be obeyed.*
2. Club members fishing Tiddenfoot lake may fish for a maximum of four nights in any seven-day period, then they must leave the water, **with their tackle**, for 72 hours and may not return within that time period.
3. Anglers fishing Tiddenfoot lake may leave their tackle (baits out of the water and at their own risk) for a **maximum** of 2 hours in any 24-hour period.
4. Only 3 rods and one bivvy, or angling shelter, will be allowed per swim at Tiddenfoot. If two anglers share a swim the rule still applies, only three rods may be used.
5. Club members fishing Tiddenfoot for carp or catfish must use line of minimum 20lb breaking strain. Rods of 3lb test curve or more, a minimum 50-inch landing net. There are extremely large specimen fish in this water and a large unhooking mat must be available for use. Club officers have the right to inspect tackle used by a member, if tackle is inadequate, you will be asked to leave the water.
6. Any angler night fishing at Tiddenfoot who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs will automatically have their night pass withdrawn. This is a public park and all members must uphold the highest standards of behaviour when present at this venue.
7. Bedfordshire County Council have responsibility for the water management of this venue therefore bankside changes, building of swims, refurbishment or any other work may not be carried out without the written permission of the club committee and Beds County Council.

### **Rules concerning Rackley Hills**

1. The Otter Gates at Rackley Hills lake **MUST** be locked on entry and exit. Any member who fails to lock the gates will have their membership withdrawn immediately.
2. Rackley Hills lake may not be fished at night from April 1st to 1<sup>st</sup> December unless a written

invitation and permission is given by the club committee. Members without permission to night fish can arrive and leave at the times on the Rackley times page at the **back of this book**.

Members with a Tiddenfoot night pass have permission to fish at night from December 15th until March 31<sup>st</sup>. For those wishing to fish Rackley at night, an expression of interest is required, please email the club with your relevant details and your name will be added to the waiting list.

3. Club members fishing Rackley Hills for carp or catfish must use line of minimum 20lb breaking strain. Rods of 3lb test curve or more, a minimum 50-inch landing net. There are long and heavy specimen fish in this water and a large unhooking mat must be available for use. Club officers have the right to inspect tackle used by a member, if tackle is inadequate, you will be asked to leave the water.

### **Rules concerning Astral Park**

1. Only two rods may be utilised at this venue.
2. No night fishing is permitted at Astral Park Lake. Astral arrival and departure times are stated in the back of this book. Anglers found breaking these times will be subject to disciplinary actions.
3. No bivvies are allowed at Astral Park, only open fronted shelters.
4. A cradle/unhooking mat with sides must be used at Astral Park due to sloping banks. If you are not using the correct fish handling and safety equipment you will be asked to leave the water and may return when you have appropriate equipment.
5. Vehicles may not be driven around the lake. Use the car park area beyond the access gates. Always lock both access gates on entrance and exit.