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## **Angling Trust**

PD48a AT Code of Conduct – Members, Ambassadors,  
Competitors, Coaches, Volunteers, Participants and  
Parents

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## 1. OVERVIEW

The Angling Trust has introduced this Code of Conduct to guide members and other participants as to the standards of behaviour we expect to see across a positive, welcoming and thriving sport.

To achieve this ambition, the Code of Conduct provides a framework within which anglers participate in enjoyable, welcoming and positive environments whether they fish competitively or recreationally at local club venues, private fisheries, free waters, in the sea or elsewhere. Wherever anglers fish they should do so with respect and tolerance of others, while observing local and national rules and byelaws.

This Code of Conduct applies to all Angling Trust members (across all categories), ambassadors, competitors, coaches, volunteers, other participants and the parents/guardians/carers of the same.

## 2. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Angling Trust is fully committed to maintaining angling as one of the largest and most accessible sports and pastimes across England. A key part of our role is to provide an effective governance framework for all those whose fish in England, in freshwater or saltwater, whether for recreation, targeting specimen fish, or competitively from grassroots to elite levels.

The Code of Conduct outlines the expected behaviours which apply to all aspects of angling for Angling Trust staff and directors; members; ambassadors; licensed coaches; competitors and volunteers in our events and representative teams; all other Angling Trust volunteers; participants in any Angling Trust activity; and parents/guardians supporting the children in any Angling Trust events or activities.

A breach of this Code of Conduct may be considered misconduct and result in disciplinary action in accordance with our rules, policies and procedures. In this regard, any grievance, disciplinary or appeal against members or non-members will follow the provision and procedures laid down in both our Rules of Subscriber Membership and our Grievance, Disciplinary and Appeals – Members policy. Copies of which may be found on our website at <https://anglingtrust.net/about-us/governance-and-policies/>

As an absolute minimum, Angling Trust expects staff and directors; ambassadors, individual members; member clubs and fisheries; all other classes of member; licensed coaches; England team managers, support staff and anglers; event organisers, stewards and officials; volunteers; competitors and participants; and parents/guardians/carers of the same at our events to demonstrate the following behaviours at all times:

- Recognise that they may be the public face of angling to all they come into contact with and to strive to ensure that all interactions with others are positive.
- Respect national, local and venue specific rules and byelaws, including the legal obligation to have a valid rod licence (as applicable) and to seek appropriate permission to fish through day or season permits where required.
- Respect the natural environment, ensuring it is left in at least as good a condition as you found it taking all litter home with you.

- Recognise the rights, dignity and worth of all involved in angling regardless of their protected characteristics i.e. age, disability, gender and gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sex and sexual orientation.
- Ensure that angling, in all its forms, offers every person the opportunity to participate in a welcoming environment without fear, harassment or prejudice.
- Endeavour to ensure that all involved in angling optimise their potential by promoting the positive aspects of angling and never condoning the use of inappropriate or abusive language, inappropriate relationships, bullying, harassment, discrimination or physical violence.
- Build positive relationships within the sport that are open, honest and founded on respect.
- Respect other people's differences and rights to their opinion, and to not take any action or make inappropriate comments, including on social media, about fellow anglers, members, competitors, coaches, volunteers, officials, participants, Angling Trust directors or staff that will bring angling or those associated with angling into disrepute.
- Do not discriminate against an individual for any reason, whether it be sex, race, colour, gender reassignment, marital status, sexuality, age, disability, occupation, religion or belief - and challenge discrimination in whatever form it takes.
- Accept personal responsibility for one's own actions and act with transparency and honesty at all times.
- Recognise and understand how to report any safeguarding concerns relating to children, young people and adults at risk.
- Understand the need for confidentiality and appropriate record keeping when handling any personal information about those participating in angling.
- Respect and adhere to any instructions provided by any Angling Trust lead that relates to your role within angling.
- Remember that everything we do is ultimately about fish and fishing.

In addition to the above minimum standards, the following roles carry additional levels of expectation:

### **3. CLUB OFFICIALS**

- Act on club business with integrity, honesty and transparency for the benefit of the club and its members at all times.
- Ensure that the club's business and decisions of any committee (or

similar) are adequately recorded and shared with members as appropriate.

- Ensure that the club's assets are adequately protected and insured at all times.
- Ensure that junior anglers and adults at risk are appropriately safeguarded within the club environment.
- Apply fair rules within the club environment that do not discriminate or prejudice any members or potential members of the club.
- Ensure that all maintenance works follow best practices and that documented risk assessments are undertaken and maintained.
- Promote good practice in all that the club does.

#### **4. LICENSED COACHES**

- Remain up to date on licence requirements including first aid training and DBS checks.
- Use appropriate coaching methods and language when delivering coaching sessions and tailor the session to the needs of the angler, their abilities and the conditions.
- Do not impact others enjoyment of angling by consuming alcoholic drinks, smoke or vape while safeguarding children, young people or adults at risk.
- Dress appropriately while undertaking coaching sessions.
- Ensure young anglers and adults at risk are appropriately safeguarded at all times.
- Respect your position of trust and maintain appropriate boundaries and relationships with all angling participants and particularly with those under the age of 18 years.
- Report any safeguarding concerns to the Angling Trust's Lead Safeguarding Officer at the earliest opportunity.
- Support and promote the purchase of Environment Agency Rod Licence.
- Actively seek Continued Professional Development.
- Promote and practise the highest standards of fish welfare.
- Be a positive role model for angling and the coaching framework.

#### **5. ELITE (ENGLAND) ANGLERS, TEAM MANAGERS AND SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS**

- Represent your country with pride and ensure that your behaviour on official duty reflects the standards expected of you.
- Understand and adhere to the competition rules relevant to the event.
- Attend all official events and functions as required wearing official England

clothing where provided.

- Respect the team selection process and decisions of Angling Trust staff and team managers.
- Respect organisers, officials, stewards and other participants during a competition and co-operate with the decisions of officials.
- Respect the result of any competitions and do not attempt to offer or accept, directly or indirectly, any consideration whatsoever in return for influencing or attempting to influence the result.
- Do not seek to achieve personal gain on a result which you can influence, by betting (other than through the competition's pools and super pools) on any angling competition where you are participating either as the angler, coach, steward or any other role through direct or indirect involvement.
- Understand and act on your obligations under the Angling Trust's Anti-Doping policy and the UK Anti-Doping regime, including the need to fully cooperate with any anti-doping investigations or proceedings, whether conducted by UK Anti-Doping or any other competent body.
- Complete and return your annual International Angler Agreements within stated deadlines.
- Ensure any advanced team monies are held safely and accounted for in full, with receipts, in a timely manner. (Team managers)
- Respect your position of trust and maintain appropriate boundaries and relationships with all angling participants and particularly with those under the age of 18 years. (Team managers and supporters)
- Ensure young anglers and adults at risk are appropriately safeguarded at all times. (Team managers)
- Report any safeguarding concerns to the Angling Trust's Lead Safeguarding Officer at the earliest opportunity.
- Ensure any personal information held about team members is treated confidentially, held securely and processed in accordance with instructions. (Team managers).
- Be a positive role model for angling, the England teams and any sponsor associated with the England team.

## **6. COMPETITION ANGLERS AND SUPPORTERS**

- Understand and adhere to the competition rules relevant to the event.
- Respect organisers, officials, stewards and other participants during a competition and co-operate with the decisions of officials.
- Respect the result of any competitions and do not attempt to offer or accept, directly or indirectly, any consideration whatsoever in return for influencing or attempting to influence the result.

- Do not seek to achieve personal gain on a result which you can influence, by betting (other than through the competition's pools and super pools) on any angling competition where you are participating either as the angler, coach, steward or any other role through direct or indirect involvement.
- Understand and act on your obligations under the Angling Trust's Anti-Doping policy and the UK Anti-Doping regime, including the need to fully cooperate with any anti-doping investigations or proceedings, whether conducted by UK Anti-Doping or any other competent body.
- Ensure young anglers and adults at risk are appropriately safeguarded at all times.
- Report any safeguarding concerns to the Angling Trust's Lead Safeguarding Officer at the earliest opportunity.

## **7. EVENT ORGANISERS INCLUDING STEWARDS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

- Recognise your role as a public face of angling and act with honesty, integrity and transparency at all times.
- Represent your sport with pride and ensure that your behaviour on official duty reflects the standards expected of you.
- Where appropriate, understand the rules of the event and ensure these are clear to all.
- Ensure any advanced monies are held safely and accounted for in full, with receipts, in a timely manner.
- Ensure young anglers and adults at risk are appropriately safeguarded at all times.
- Report any safeguarding concerns to the Angling Trust's Lead Safeguarding Officer at the earliest opportunity.
- Ensure any personal information held about anglers or others is treated confidentially, held securely and processed in accordance with instructions.

## **8. PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CARERS**

- Recognise that your child or person under your care is participating for their enjoyment.
- Provide encouragement and support to all participants, recognising that we all make mistakes and have the opportunity to develop our ability talent and ability.
- Encourage your child or person under your care to respect other anglers, officials, coaches and members of the public.
- Encourage your child or person under your care to follow any guidance given by coaches, officials, event organisers, club officials, fishery owners.
- Recognise and respect the valuable contribution made by others including Angling Trust staff and volunteers, event organisers, team managers and



coaches.

- Treat all staff, officials, volunteers and others with respect at times.
- Become aware of the rules and regulations of angling, including when a rod licence is required, competition rules (if your child enters our competitions), Talent Pathway rules (if your child is selected to join one of our talent pathways) and club or fishery rules (if your child fishes at club or fishery venues).
- Be aware of the Angling Trust's (and if your child joins a fishing club, that club's) safeguarding policy and ensure that any concerns are reported to the club's safeguarding officer or Angling Trust's Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- Promote this code of conduct to other parents, guardians and carers.

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