

HEALTH & SAFETY

It is really important to make sure that everyone at your event is kept safe and has a fun time. Health and safety considerations can often stop clubs and fisheries from running events but the Angling Trust are on hand to make sure any concerns are overcome whilst still ensuring everyone has a safe and fun time.

Risk Assessments

The words *Risk Assessment* can often fill a club with a sense of dread. The reality is that a Risk Assessment is a simple, straight forward document that highlights any risks that may cause harm to the people at your event and how you will minimise them. To help you create the Risk Assessment for your event, we have a template document to help you create your risk assessment.

Once completed the Risk Assessment will ensure that any hazards are highlighted to the volunteers helping at the event as well as the participants.

It is also important to add that a Risk Assessment is a live document. The environment in which angling events are delivered in are always changing and it is important to reflect the potential changes. A night of wind and rain can instantly change a venue creating new risks that weren't present the day before. Having a good understanding of the risk assessment process will enable you to edit your Risk Assessment and consider the conditions on the day, not just when you created the document.

Insurance considerations

If you are an Angling Trust member club or fishery, the insurance through your membership will cover an event. If your insurance is through another provider, the Get Fishing team will provide you with further guidance.



Further Information

There is loads of information on Risk Assessments and other Health & Safety considerations available through the Health & Safety Executive. Visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/guidance/index.htm> for more information.

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Hazards

Every fishing venue is different but there are a few hazards that you should be aware of when organising your Get Fishing event:

Overhead power lines

Areas that are close to overhead power lines should be avoided. Angling equipment contacting overhead power lines can result in horrific burn injuries and potentially death (Energy Networks Association, 2016). **Get Fishing events should not take place anywhere near overhead power lines.**

Thunder & lightning and the weather

Keep an eye on the weather forecast in the lead up to the event. If thunder and lightning is forecast then it would be worth rescheduling your event for a different date. The risk isn't worth taking. If any thunder is heard or lightning seen, it is recommended that you make a signal to highlight the end of the event.

By having a whistle you will be easily able to communicate with your volunteers and signify that the rods/whips need to be put down and participants are required to return to the sign in area.

Additionally, other weather extremes (cold, wind, heat and rain) need to be taken into account in the lead up to your event. You will need to not only consider the well being of your participants but also your volunteers.

Trips and slips

Angling venues are usually full of uneven surfaces and trip hazards. Whether it is rabbit holes, fallen branches or tree stumps they can all be problematic to your Get Fishing event participants.

By simply walking around your venue prior to the event (doing it again the morning of the event is always a good idea), you will get a picture of all the hazards that may cause a problem.

Overcoming these hazards can often be very straight forward.

By either not using specific pegs, using cones to highlight hazards

or escorting participants to the fishing area pointing out the hazard, there is always a way to overcome an issue. If you are ever in doubt about a hazard at your fishery, get in touch with the Get Fishing team who will be able to give you more specific advice.

Throw ropes and buoyancy aids

Not all venues will have a permanent throw rope or buoyancy aid. It is worth investing in a throw rope to have with you at your Get Fishing event. There are numerous on the market but for as little as £30 you can purchase a good quality throw rope that will also be useful at work parties, matches and other events you run.

Hooks

We would always recommend that barbless hook are used at all Get Fishing events. Fish are easier to unhook and it is much easier to detach a barbless hook from clothing, trees, and other foliage. It is always important to ensure that participants do not attempt to detach hooks from any trees or branches that may be caught. Ensuring volunteers are on hand to detach hooks in a safe, appropriate manner will ensure that participants are not put at risk.

Cleaning your hands

Not all host venues will have access to clean running water.

We would always strongly recommend having a couple of bottles of Antibacterial hand gel with you during your Get Fishing event.

The hand gel will ensure that participants go home with clean hands and minimise the risk of contracting Weil's disease and bacterial infections. Suggesting participants go home to thoroughly clean their hands before they eat is also recommended.