



**ANGLING
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**ANGLERS
WITH
DISABILITIES
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP**

2026

**Angling Trust
Anglers with Disabilities
National Championship 2026**



Westwood Lakes
Saturday 4th July 2026

General Information

Headquarters: Westwood Lakes, Five House Lane, Wyberton, Lincolnshire, PE21 7JA. Telephone: 01205 724162

Website: <https://www.westwoodlakes.co.uk/>

Refreshments: Available on site before and after the match at the Fisherman's Rest Café and Mallard Bar

Draw: 08:30am at the Mallard Bar – register from 08:00am

Pools: Optional £20 (£10 section and £10 individual)

Fishing: 11:00am – 4:00pm (duration five hours)

Licences: All competitors must be in possession of a valid Environment Agency fishing licence. Any competitor reported by the Environment Agency to the Angling Trust Competitions team on the day of the match will be disqualified

Keepnet limits: 55lb keepnet weight limit. Anything between 55lb and 60lb will be knocked back to 55lb. Over 60lb and that net is disqualified. Spare nets will be available on the bankside. Keepnets will be provided by the fishery on the day, but not landing net heads, which must be dipped.

Fishery rules: Fishery match rules apply alongside Angling Trust match rules. Your individual Angling Trust membership must be valid when taking part in the Championship

Your individual Angling Trust membership must be valid when taking part in the Championship

Welcome

A warm welcome to the 2026 Angling Trust Anglers with Disabilities National Championships – and what a venue we have awaiting those doing battle this year!

We're at Westwood Lakes in Lincolnshire, arguably one of the biggest and finest commercial fishery complexes in the UK and one chosen by the Angling Trust for two key reasons – great facilities and of course, superb fishing.

The Skylark Lake has been chosen, not only because it regularly produces big weights of carp, but because of its excellent access and facilities.

There's parking behind every peg on a smooth roadway, perfectly flat banks, solid platforms and toilets and the Mallard Bar close by. It's also a lake where a lot of fish are caught at close range so there's no need to fish at 14.5m all-day.

I want to wish each and every one of you fishing this year the best of luck and hope you end up winning the famous trophy and can call yourself a National Champion. There are not many match anglers out there that can say that!

-Steve Fitzpatrick, Head of Competitions, Angling Trust



Angling Trust Competitions Team

Richard Grange | richard.grange@anglingtrust.net | 07938 802054

Gary Kilner | 07845 999629

Paul Dodwell | 07988 627239

A big thank you and appreciation must go out to all our volunteers who give up their time to assist with our competitions. Without their help and continued support we would not be able to provide competitions on the scale that we do for our members

If you would like to offer your assistance to act as a volunteer at any of our competitions, please contact Kelly Latimer at the Angling Trust via e-mail: kelly.latimer@anglingtrust.net

Remember to Check, Clean, Dry!

STOP THE SPREAD

Invasive plants and animals can carry diseases that kill fish, and block waterways and banks interfering with fishing. They can be small and hard to spot so are easily spread on damp equipment and clothing. Protect the environment and fishing you enjoy by keeping your kit free of invasive plants and animals.

Remember to check these places

CHECK Check your gear after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site.

CLEAN Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to nets, waders, and areas that are damp and hard to access. Use hot water if possible.

DRY Dry everything for as long as possible before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for two weeks in damp conditions.

Watch out for

- QUAGGA MUSSEL
- ZEBA MUSSEL
- FISH DISEASES
- FLOATING PENNYWORT

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs | Scottish Government | natural scotland | NNSC | Angling Trust

Find out more about invasive plants and animals and how you can help to stop the spread at nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry

Lakes in use

Skylark Lake



Quite possibly the most famous lake at Westwood, Skylark is the showpiece 40-peg snake lake with a road all the way around and generous platforms. It's also stuffed with carp that can be caught just a few metres out on many pegs.

Typical distance to the far bank island is 14.5m, but the margins and short pole are usually more productive, especially if it's a bit windy. The feeder can also catch a few, so don't forget to pack a rod in the bag before you leave home!

FISHERY RULES

NETS

55lb keepnet weight limit. Anything between 55lb and 60lb will be knocked back to 55lb. Over 60lb and that net is disqualified. Spare nets will be available on the bankside

Fishery keepnets only – collect these from the net cage before going to your peg.

You will be allocated three nets – please put them all in at the start. No movement of fish between nets

Lay nets out behind your peg upon arrival – put in the lake 15 minutes before the start

All fish to be netted – no swinging in. Landed fish must be placed in the keepnet via the landing net, not by hand

Please dip all landing net heads in the tanks before going to your peg

FISHING

No surface fishing or floating baits

A float must be used at all times

No Jigga Floats or overshotted rigs allowed

Free running feeders and bombs only – no elasticated rigs at all

Four-inch minimum hooklength on bomb and feeder

No braid allowed

No pole feeder method allowed – feeders and bombs can only be fished on rod and line

16m pole limit

No floating pole

Minimum of six inches and maximum of 1 metre of line between pole tip and float

Minimum of six inches of line between hook and bottom of float

When fishing within 1 metre of bankside vegetation no line limit applies

No feeding with the pole while fishing rod and line – you can only use one rod

Cutting of bankside vegetation is allowed but you cannot break the water's surface. Please leave any cuttings on the bank

Slapping is allowed, but tapping is not

Maximum size 12 hooks, barbless only

Standing is allowed to cast and land fish only. When 'mugging' fish on the pole, anglers must remain seated at all times.

BAITS

Fishery feed pellets only. These are available from the onsite tackle shop

You may use any brand of pellet for the hook

Maximum 2kg groundbait allowed

No meat of any type whatsoever

All groundbait to be fed via a cup or feeder – no throwing in of balls. This also applies to balls of dampened pellets

Angling Trust Anglers with Disabilities

National Championship Rules

1. The Championship is open to all Anglers with Disabilities who are AT Individual members.
2. It is the responsibility of the competitor to return the fully completed entry form plus entry fees and pools by the closing date.
3. All Competitors must have registered their disability with the Angling Trust on the entry form provided.
4. Competitors may receive assistance to or from their peg for themselves and their tackle.
5. Each competitor is allowed one helper (who must be identifiable) at their peg. **Helpers must not fish.**
6. No person will be allowed to compete in the event if they are **under the age of 16 on the day of the Championships** unless they have a been issued with an Angling Trust Young Angler Exemption which is valid at the time of the Championship.
7. The senior stewards will have the right to examine all containers carried by competitors prior to the Championship at their pegs.
8. Stewards will do their utmost to prevent spectators approaching or interfering with the competitors.
9. The draw for pegs will take place on the morning of the Championship event.
10. Any competitor who commences fishing at the wrong peg will be disqualified.
11. No competitor or their helper will have live or dead fish in their possession before the Championship.
12. The signal to commence and cease fishing will be given by the senior section steward in each section.
13. The duration of the Championship will be five hours.
14. Before the starting signal no competitor or their helper must on any account ground bait or loose feed the swim but will be allowed to:
 - Wet a line
 - Plumb the depth
 - Test their floats
 - Mix or wet groundbait
 - Clear their peg of weed or obstructions
 - Position their equipment**You cannot:**
 - Cast a feeder – a bomb must be used
 - Ship out any form of pot (pole-mounted or cupping kit) over the water
15. A competitor may wade provided that the water does not extend above the knees, unless they can touch the bank, in which case the water can extend above the knees. The same principles apply to platforms and knee depth is to be taken in front of the platform. No box legs may extend beyond the front of the platform.
16. Every competitor must fish from within one metre either side of their designated peg. On flowing water, they will fish from their position in the direction of the flow as far as the next peg. On stillwaters they

may fish as far as half the distance between their peg and the pegs either side. Where competitors are drawn on opposite banks the limit of the swim will be the middle between each bank. The competitor will restrict their activities completely to these boundaries, neither their person, tackle, bait, ground bait or hooked fish may intrude into a neighbour's swim.

In an extreme situation e.g., snagged tackle or a snagged fish, an angler must seek permission from their neighbour/neighbours before moving from their designated peg to try and remedy the situation.

17. No competitor or helper may leave their peg during the Championship other than to use the toilet. However, in the event of an emergency and/or severe weather conditions, a competitor may leave their peg but only with the express permission of the senior section steward. In such circumstances the senior steward may decide in the best interests of the competitors that fishing should be suspended. In the worst-case fishing may be terminated by the senior steward upon an instruction from the Angling Trust's team of Championship adjudicators.
18. A competitor must not cause annoyance to seek to interfere with another competitor during the course of the Championship.
19. A competitor shall have in use one rod or pole, one line and single hook at one time, but may have other poles or rods and tackle assembled behind them where possible, providing that tackle is not baited.
20. Any bait, subject to the local rules, may be used during the National Championship, except live or dead fish, spinning baits and artificial lures.
21. Maximum length of poles permitted is 13 metres. Floating poles are not allowed.
22. Braided hooklengths are not permitted.
23. Floating baits either as hookbait or feed are not permitted.
24. The use of electronic fish finders is forbidden.
25. No competitor shall present their baited hooks into their swim by any means other than the pole or rod to which the line is attached.
26. All feed may be thrown in by hand, or by the use of one or two-handed catapults, throwing sticks, swim feeders, bait droppers, bait cups and bait shuttles, but no other mechanical means of projecting feed is allowed. No bait shall be introduced with a pole or bait dropper attached to an extra pole or rod whilst continuing to fish. Helpers are permitted to assist the competitor provided such help is beyond the competitor's normal capability. Spodding is not permitted.
27. Competitors must strike, play and land their own fish from the confines of their own peg. (See Rule 20). Hand lining fish is not permitted, this includes hand lining elastics and line, also not allowed is the practice of trapping stretched elastic with the hand down the length of the pole, fish should never be bullied like this. **This does not affect the use of puller bungs and similar devices.**

28. Competitors must retain all fish in a keepnet that complies with the relevant Environment Agency bylaws.
29. All fish caught are eligible for weighing except game fish, pike, zander and crustaceans.
30. Competitors must, if practicable, keep all fish caught alive. If for any reason competitors cannot keep fish alive the stewards shall have the power to weigh in during the Championship and return the fish alive to the water.
31. Competitors must cease fishing at the signal. Should a competitor still be playing a fish hooked before the signal is given, they will be permitted no more than 15 minutes after time has been called to land the fish.
32. All competitors and their helpers will remain at their pegs until details of their catch have been recorded by the steward, even if they have caught no fish, except for the purpose of clearing litter from their swims (as defined in rules 19 and 20).
33. Competitors and/or their helpers are responsible for ensuring their pegs are clear of litter and no competitor shall have their catch weighed in who has litter on the banks of their swim.
34. All keepnets must be laid out on the bank before the start. Keepnets will only be allowed to be put in the water 15 minutes before the all-in.
35. A minimum of three keepnets must be taken by every angler. Big weights are possible, and we therefore ask that anglers are sensible and use a second keepnet where appropriate.
36. Both the competitor and scales steward **MUST** ensure that the correct procedure for transferring fish from a keepnet to weigh net and back to the water as follows:

Keepnet to weigh net:

 - (a) Swim the fish from the bottom of the keepnet to the top, ensuring that the top ring is out of the water, and gather the rings up from the bottom as the fish move up. Once the fish are between the top ring and the second or third ring (depending on the number of fish in the net), remove the keepnet from the water and gently slide the fish into the weigh net. Should the number of fish require more than one weigh only slide sufficient fish into the weigh net for the first weigh. Whilst the weigh in is taking place hold the remaining fish back in the water until required for weighing and repeat until all fish have been weighed.
 - (b) Remove the keepnet from the water collapsing the net down, until the second or third ring from the bottom can be reached from inside. Pull the chosen ring through the top ring and then gently slide the fish into the weigh net. Should the numbers of fish require more than one weigh, only slide sufficient fish into the weigh net for the first weigh. Whilst the weigh in is taking place, hold the remaining fish back in the water until required for weighing and repeat until all fish have been weighed.
After each competitor has been weighed in at their peg, it will be the duty of the scales steward to return all the fish to the water.
37. The individual weight of each competitor will be recorded to the nearest 10 grams rounded up (Where 10Kg scales are used) and 20 grams, rounded up (Where

- 20Kg scales are used). Where electronic scales are used the recorded weight will be actual.
38. Each competitor will be responsible for ensuring that the weight of their catch is correctly recorded by the steward on the weigh sheet.
 39. After being weighed any dead fish are to be suitably disposed of by the scales steward.
 40. Any fish about which the stewards have any doubt must be brought before the management team and the competitor's weight will not be confirmed until a ruling has been obtained. Even if the steward recommends the disqualification of a competitor, they **MUST** weigh the fish in case their ruling is not upheld.
 41. Any objections must be lodged with a member of the management team or senior section steward no later than one hour after the end of the Championship. Irregularities which are brought to notice at a later date may be dealt with only by and at the discretion of the **Angling Trust Competitions Team**.
 42. The holders of the trophies shall, upon presentation, be allowed time for photographs to be taken and then will be required to hand the trophy back to the officials present.
 43. Lead shot is banned above a size 8 (0.06g) in accordance with national Environment Agency byelaws.
 44. All National Championships must conform to Environment Agency bylaws. Any competitor reported to the resulting team by the Environment Agency for being unable to produce a valid license shall be deemed to be in contravention of the rules and shall be disqualified. All pools, entry fees etc. in respect of the said competitor shall be forfeited.
 45. **Local fishery rules will also apply.**
 46. If in the opinion of the event management team, any individual is in breach of these rules or is guilty of behaviour which is contrary to the best interests of the sport, or upon complaint being received by the event management team that there has been an alleged breach of the rules, the event management team shall make a decision on all available facts and that decision will be final and binding.
 47. Any competitor proved to be in contravention of these will be disqualified.
 48. Any angler deemed to be bringing the sport into disrepute will be severely dealt with by the event management team.

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