

# **PONTARDAWE AND SWANSEA ANGLING SOCIETY LTD**

## **BYELAWS**

### **GENERAL**

- These byelaws are made in accordance with article 23 (now amended to 25) of the articles of association of Pontardawe and Swansea Angling Society Ltd and come into effect upon the incorporation of the company. They incorporate changes made at subsequent general meetings as follows:

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Byelaw affected</b>	<b>Brief description of change</b>
15/9/2010	1	Reference to article 23 above amended to reflect changes to the articles of association
15/9/2010	Generally	Paragraphs re-numbered to accommodate new provisions and re-arrangement of existing provisions
15/9/2010	2 - 7	Provision made for canoeing membership
15/9/2010	11	Liability disclaimer extended to use of club waters / facilities
15/9/2010		New section added – "Rules for club fishing trips / competitions"
15/9/2010		New section added – "Canoeing rules for Society waters"
8/12/2010	2	Membership subscriptions amended
8/12/2010	24	New byelaw added re Parc Fishery, River Cilieni
8/12/2010	24 - 55	Paragraphs re-numbered to accommodate new byelaw 24

Proposals to make, alter, add to or revoke Byelaws must be submitted to the Secretary in writing not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

### **MEMBERSHIP.**

- The classes of membership of the company and the benefits, voting rights and annual subscription for each class are set out in the following table. The rates of annual subscription shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.

<b>Class of membership</b>	<b>Annual subscription</b>		<b>Voting rights and benefits of membership</b>
	<b>Fishing</b>	<b>Canoeing</b>	
Full, first year of membership or previous members not renewing before end April	£80	£80	Entitled to vote at general meetings and to serve on Management Committee, if appointed. Entitled to fish / paddle all Society waters and to take part in all except Junior events.
Full, existing members renewing before end April	£60	£60	
Life members – OAPs with more than 5 years membership prior to 1995	Free	N/A	
Life members appointed at general meetings	Free	Free	
Full OAP, qualifying for Environment Agency rod licence concession	£18	N/A	
Full Disabled, qualifying for Environment Agency rod licence concession	£18	N/A	
Students aged 17 to 21	£25	£25	Not entitled to vote at general meetings. Not entitled to serve on management committee. Entitled to fish / paddle all Society waters and to take part in Junior events.
Juniors aged under 12	£5	£5	
Juniors aged 12 to 16	£10	£10	Not entitled to vote at general meetings. Not entitled to serve on management committee. Entitled to fish / paddle all Society waters. Not entitled to attend events.
Day permit holders, until 15 <sup>th</sup> June	£10	£10	
Day permit holders, from 16 <sup>th</sup> June	£20	£20	
Guest day permit holders (each member of the Management Committee allowed to entertain a guest up to 5 occasions per year)	Free	N/A	Not entitled to vote at general meetings. Not entitled to serve on management committee. Entitled to fish all Society waters in the company of a member of the Management Committee.

- Fishing and canoeing. Membership shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> March to the last day of February each year. Subscriptions shall become due on 1<sup>st</sup> March each year.
- Fishing and canoeing. Existing members shall renew membership by sending the renewal subscription and their previous permit to the Secretary before the end of April each year.
- Fishing. Existing members seeking the OAP or disabled concession shall renew membership by sending the renewal subscription and their previous permit to the Secretary, together with a copy of a current Environment Agency concessionary rod licence.
- Fishing and canoeing. Students aged 17 to 21 seeking the student concession shall obtain membership by sending the subscription and evidence that they are in full time education to the Secretary.

7. New members, junior members and day permit holders shall acquire membership by obtaining a permit at one of the Society's authorised distributors.
8. Canoeing. New members, junior members and day permit holders shall acquire membership by obtaining a permit and means of identification from the appointed distributors.
9. Fishing and canoeing. Members who have bought a fishing permit may obtain a free canoeing permit and members who have bought a canoeing permit may obtain a free fishing permit by applying to the Secretary.

#### **CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**

10. Members are bound to accept and comply with these Byelaws.
11. Members must behave properly towards each other and anyone they come into contact with whilst using Society waters or attending Society events. They must not bring the Society into disrepute.
12. Members shall not take any action which might result in the Society losing any of its water – whether held or about to be held.
13. Any person attempting to outbid the Society for fishing rights shall not be eligible for membership.
14. All classes of member, able bodied and disabled, should be aware that they use Society waters / facilities, participate in Society events and attend Society functions at their own risk.

#### **BAILIFFS**

15. To ensure compliance with these Byelaws and for other purposes the Management Committee shall appoint bailiffs from amongst the members as it sees fit. The roles and responsibilities of such bailiffs shall be set out in writing.
16. Members who are not bailiffs should not attempt to enforce any Society rules themselves but should report suspected infringements to the Secretary or Head Bailiff, whose details appear on the permit / membership certificate.

#### **FISHING RULES FOR SOCIETY WATERS**

17. Members are authorised to fish the waters of the Society (as set out on the permit / membership certificate) with one rod and line during the recognised game fishing season subject to the following rules.
18. Members must obtain before fishing an appropriate Environment Agency rod licence in addition to their permit / membership certificate.
19. Members must carry their permit and rod licence with them when fishing and, when requested by a bailiff appointed by the Society, must produce for inspection their permit, rod licence, fishing tackle and any fish in their possession.
20. The size limit for brown trout and sea trout is ten inches, measuring from the tip of the snout to the cleft or the fork of the tail.
21. No spinning is allowed until 20th March. From 20th March to 31st May inclusive, spinning is permitted provided the bait measures at least two and a half inches overall. From 1st June onwards there is no size restriction on the bait used. At no time is spinning allowed when the water is below the low level markers.
22. The following are not allowed on water controlled by the Society:
  - a. worming with treble hooks;
  - b. bait fishing with maggot, shrimp or prawn;
  - c. bait fishing with a float
  - d. electronic fish finders.
23. Except for the River Cileni fishing where all fish must be returned, no more than four fish (whether brown trout, sea trout or salmon) may be killed in any one day (from midnight to midnight). If catch and release is practised, members must ensure that fish are returned to the water unharmed by following best practice as published by the Environment Agency and, in particular, must only use only single barbless hooks (a fully 'crushed' barb is acceptable), should avoid the use of bait and should avoid handling fish as far as possible and should avoid lifting them from the water. Where a bag limit applies, fishing must cease when the bag limit is reached.
24. River Cileni, Parc fishery. Only fly fishing is allowed; all fish caught must be returned unharmed; a maximum of 2 anglers allowed each day (booked with Secretary).
25. All anglers, including bait fishermen, must proceed at a reasonable speed through a pool, if other anglers are waiting to fish behind them. Without agreement, members must not start fishing a pool downstream of another angler already fishing the pool.
26. Members must avoid damaging gates, trees, hedges etc. All gates must be closed. No litter to be left on banks. All nylon must be removed. No fires allowed. No dogs to accompany members onto the water.
27. Members must also comply with Environment Agency fishing byelaws and other fisheries legislation and should note that such byelaws and legislation might be more restrictive than the Society's own rules.

#### **RULES FOR CLUB FISHING TRIPS / COMPETITIONS**

28. Members participating in any competitive angling activity organised by the Society must behave with due regard for the spirit and traditions of the sport. The pursuit of excellence and cultivation of friendship should be the primary objectives. Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. Whilst friendly rivalry constitutes acceptable behaviour, the ruthless pursuit of

competition success does not and is frowned upon.

29. Members representing the Society at local, regional or national competitions do so as ambassadors for the Society and must protect its good reputation.
30. For all events where pre-booking is required by the operators of the venue, members are required to make firm bookings two weeks in advance. Members are responsible for any cost associated with such bookings and a non-refundable deposit or full payment may be required at the time of booking.
31. Members must make their own arrangements for travel to/from events.
32. An Umpire and Weighing Steward shall be appointed as Match Officials for each competition and, if called upon, shall decide any questions which might arise.
33. Members wishing to take part in a competition must present themselves at the specified meeting point at the specified time. The Match Officials may refuse entry to any person not arriving in good time for the start.
34. Competitors may not fish the competition water on the day of a competition prior to its commencement.
35. Competitions shall be fished within the rules of the water on which they are held. Competitions which are qualifiers for places in an event to be held by another body shall be fished as far as practically possible according to the rules of the other body's event. The Match Officials may vary such rules or impose additional rules.
36. If a competition involves the allocation of pegs, this will be done by the Match Officials, who will specify how peg rotation will be conducted (normally two pegs at hourly intervals). If the next peg to which a competitor is due to move becomes vacant before the allotted time, the competitor may move to it. No moving back is allowed.
37. The Match Officials shall fix the hours of fishing and specify where the weigh-in is to take place.
38. Competitors must not leave the starting point until the rules have been announced. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure familiarity with the rules.
39. Competitors must, upon request, submit their bag and tackle for inspection by Match Officials.
40. Any competitor deciding to withdraw from a competition before the end and not to be present at the weigh-in must ensure that the Match Officials are notified. A message may be left with a fellow competitor for this purpose.
41. Each competition shall be decided by weight of catch. If a bag limit for the water is caught, the successful angler must stop fishing. Thereafter, for each fifteen minutes of the match remaining an additional four ounces will be added to the weight of the bag taken. Times to be verified by a fellow competitor.
42. If there is a tie, the competitor catching a bag limit earliest will take precedence. If there is still a tie, the competitor with the greater number of fish will take precedence. If there is still a tie, the bag containing the heaviest fish will take precedence. If a tie remains unresolved, the competitors concerned shall be joint winners and hold any trophy for an equal period.
43. If insufficient competitors weigh in at the end of a team selection match, the Match Officials shall have the power to decide that competitors will fish on for a further period. If team places remain unfilled by this procedure, a further competition shall be arranged, restricted to the participants in the initial competition.
44. Any complaints or objections must, at the latest, be made following the close of the weigh in and before the match results are announced.
45. Any member found to be in contravention of the rules will be disqualified by the Match Officials and reported to the Management Committee which may impose further sanctions.
46. Any appeal against a decision of the Match Officials must be made in writing to the Secretary within 14 days of the event. The Secretary will refer the appeal to the Management Committee for consideration at its next meeting.
47. If team selection is based on a number of competitions, a points system shall be used. For each match, placings will be decided by weight as set out in the rules above. One point will be awarded to the angler placed first, two points to the angler placed second, three points to the angler placed third and so on up to fifteen points for the fifteenth place. Thereafter, or if an angler returns no fish, fifteen points will be awarded. Team placings shall be decided by the lowest points aggregate for the season. The Management Committee may allow team placings to be based on the best aggregate score from a specified number of competitions. If there is a tie, placings will be decided on the basis of the highest total aggregate weight from all competitions.
48. Members attending a competitive event but not taking part in the competition must:
  - a. avoid interfering with the competition by observing competition rules as to distances between boats, interference with drifts, etc, and must not actively help competitors;
  - b. ensure that Match Officials are informed of any early departures to avoid unnecessary concern.

#### **CANOEING RULES FOR SOCIETY WATERS**

49. Members are authorised to paddle the waters controlled by the Society, as shown on the map provided, subject to the following rules.
50. Paddling is allowed:

- a. during the fishing season (3<sup>rd</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> October) – only when the river level is above 1.5 metres on the gauge at Ynystanglws;
- b. outside the fishing season (18<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> March) – only when the river level is above 0.6 metres on the gauge at Ynystanglws.

NB that online level indicators are updated infrequently. Levels must therefore be established by actual inspection of the gauge at Ynystanglws.

- 51. Except in emergency, access and egress are allowed only at the points shown on the map provided.
- 52. Except in emergency, paddling is only allowed in a downstream direction and obstructions such as weirs must be passed without delay in order to minimise disturbance of migrating fish.
- 53. Members must avoid disturbance of fish at or migrating to spawning areas and must observe any guidance about this given by Society or Environment Agency bailiffs.
- 54. Members must wear the means of identification provided when paddling and, when requested by a bailiff appointed by the Society, must produce their permit for inspection.
- 55. Members must avoid damaging gates, trees, hedges etc. All gates must be closed. No litter to be left on banks. No fires allowed. No dogs to accompany members onto the water.
- 56. Members must also comply with any other relevant legislation.