ONGAR & DISTRICT ANGLING SOCIETY
RULES & BYELAWS

Headquarters:
THE BUDWORTH HALL
High Street, Ongar, Essex, CM5 9JG
Revised April 2026

CONSTITUTION

1. That this Society shall be named the **Ongar & District Angling Society** and shall be referred to throughout these rules as The Society.

2. The Headquarters of the Society shall be The Budworth Hall, Ongar.

3. That the aims of the Society shall be to foster the true spirit of angling by banding together in fellowship all those within its Membership, and to provide fishing facilities, frequent competitions and social activities for its Members.

4. That the meetings of the Society shall be as under:

a) The Annual General Meeting, which shall be held in April each year at 8.00 p.m. the date of which to be relayed to all Members by newsletter.

b) Ordinary General and Committee Meetings, which shall be held on the first Monday in each month at 7.30 p.m. - excluding Bank Holidays.

c) Extra Ordinary General Meetings, which may be convened by the Secretary: (i) by instruction of the Officers of the Committee, (ii) by the Secretary at the written and signed request of at least fifteen (15) Members giving reason for the request. In each case 14 days written notice must be given to the Members.

d) Extra Committee Meetings, which shall be held when deemed by the Secretary.

5. The Society shall have a President, and such Vice Presidents as may be elected at any Society meeting, who shall serve for a 1 period of five (5) years.

6. The Society shall be administered by duly elected Officers and Committee, and the Officers and Committee structure shall be as under:

1) Chairman
2) Vice Chairman
3) Secretary
4) Assistant Secretary
5) Treasurer
6) Membership Secretary
7) Fisheries Officers x 2
8) Home Matches Secretary
9) Outings Secretary
10) Communications Officer
11) Welfare Officer
12) Committee members (up to 5 Adult or Senior Citizen Club Members)

For a full list of officers please see 'our website: ongardistrictangling.co.uk

Each duly elected Officer and Committee Member present shall have one vote except the Chairman who shall have only the casting vote.

7. The Officers and Committee shall be elected by majority vote after nomination at the Annual General Meeting and shall normally hold office for one year. One Auditor shall be elected annually.

8. The Chairman shall be empowered to accept a voluntary resignation at any time from any Officer or Committee Member.

9. Members of the Society may cause removal from Office of any Officer or Committee Member by a properly proposed and seconded motion of no confidence which must then be approved by a subsequent Extra Ordinary General Meeting, where a majority vote is required.

10. A quorum of Officers and Committee shall be a minimum of six (6) three (3) of which must be Officers, without which no Committee meeting shall take place.

11. If any Office should become vacant for any reason during the year, then an election to fill the Office shall take place at the next Ordinary General Meeting.

12. Members of the club whose conduct is deemed inappropriate or who decline to abide by any of the rules or bylaws may be expelled or suspended by a resolution passed at a meeting of the committee members where their entrance fee and subscriptions may be forfeited. The Member will be sent a communication outlining the details of the offence and they will be asked to attend a disciplinary meeting if deemed necessary. The Member shall have the right to appeal to the committee about any decision affecting themselves, provided that notice of such appeal be submitted to the Club Secretary**,** in writing, within seven days of the notification of the decision.

The ODAS disciplinary and appeals process will follow **The Angling Trust's 'Disciplinary and Appeals Policy Guide' – Oct 2004.**

13. The Society's waters shall be closed for fishing in accordance with prevailing authority's byelaws.

14. Amendments or modifications to the Society Rules shall only take place at the Annual General Meeting or Extra Ordinary General Meetings after approval by majority vote.

15 a) If at any general meeting of the club a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the club, the secretary of the club shall immediately convene a special general meeting of the club to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.

b) If at that special general meeting the resolution is carried by at least two thirds of the members present at the meeting, the committee shall thereupon, or at such a date as shall have been specified in the resolution proceed to realise the assets of the club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the club.

c) After discharging all debts and liabilities of the club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the full members of the club but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having objects similar to those of the club.

16. The Society's financial year ends on 31st March, and subscriptions are payable annually in advance. Members who have not paid their subscriptions by 31st May shall be deemed to have resigned from the Society, unless extenuating circumstances prevail, and application for Membership renewal will be at the discretion of the Officers and Committee

MEMBERSHIP

17. A person wishing to become a Member shall in the first instance apply to the Membership Secretary for acceptance into the Club. Once accepted the applicant will then be given the appropriate website link to Clubmate to allow the applying person to join ODAS. The applicant will be given guidance on how to complete the application procedure online and to take out a membership. A 3-month probationary period will apply to new members.

18. ODAS have Work Party's on their waters throughout the season and although there is not a mandatory requirement to attend it is a good way of getting to know the fisheries and other members. On fisheries where a Work Party is scheduled, all fishing must cease by 7.00am and the swims cleared of tackle. Fishing is not to be recommenced or started until after 2.00pm the same day. **Please consult the website or the Clubmate app for when Work Party's are being held on the fisheries.**

19. No member will be eligible to serve as an Officer or on Committee until he or she has completed one year's membership.

20. Each newly enrolled Adult or Senior Citizen Member shall pay an entrance fee in addition to the annual subscription.

21. Each newly enrolled Adult, Senior Citizen and Student Member shall be issued with an Clubmate ID card with the fisheries key or lock number on the reverse. The ODAS rule book can be found on the website or can be supplied upon request. It is a condition of club membership that all members are fully aware of the ODAS Rules & Byelaws which they are expected to abide by. Failure to abide by the rules could lead to the Member being suspended or banned from the Society's waters.

22. Members shall be classified as follows:

a) **Adult Members (Male & Female)** - Aged between sixteen to sixty-six years (16-66yrs).

b) **Senior Citizens (Male & Female)** - Aged sixty-seven years plus (67+yrs) at a reduced rate.

c**) Junior Members** - Under the age of sixteen years (16 yrs) but over the age of ten years (10yrs) on 15th May of the current year. Juniors may not take an active part in Society Meetings but may participate in Society competitions with an adult member.

d) **Student Members** - Junior moving up to Senior status and still in full time education will pay a reduced rate - proof of education status will be asked for.

d) **Disabled Members** – Those members who have a registered disability either by Blue Badge or PIP can apply for membership at a reduced rate. Proof of disability required to be submitted.

e) All membership subscriptions to be reviewed and paid in advance yearly. All subscriptions are one yearly only.

23. Junior Members must be accompanied by an Adult Member of the Society who will be held responsible for the conduct and safety of the Junior when on Society waters. Under 18's cannot take Junior members to fish on ODAS waters.
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24. No Junior may fish unless accompanied by an Adult Member or Sponsor. The Junior must fish in the same swim as the Adult member and must be always accompanied by the Adult member.

25. If a member has an issue or problem concerning their membership please contact the Membership Secretary – see the website for contact details.

26. The Membership Secretary or Committee reserve the right to refuse entry to the Club of anyone who is deemed unsuitable to join ODAS or expel any current Member or probationary Member who is deemed to not be suitable for club membership due to Club Rule infringements or unacceptable behaviour on ODAS fisheries or at ODAS meetings

GENERAL FISHERY RULES

27. Current Membership proof (Clubmate ID card or ODAS card) must be always carried – this will be either the Clubmate ID card or the electronic version on the members smartphone. At Brick House Fishery the Members ID card must be displayed on their car dashboard as required by the Farmer to prove that cars parked at Brick House Farm are ODAS members. Parking Permit tickets are available to buy for Brick House fishery.

a) Membership cards must be produced when requested to do so by any Society Bailiff or Society Member. Members holding ODAS Clubmate membership can show their electronic Membership ID on their smartphone version as validation of their membership.

b) Bailiffs have the authority to ask a member and his guest to leave the fishery if it is deemed that Club rules have been broken.

c) Each day's fishing to be defined as "From official sunrise to sunset'. Only Night Fishing Ticket Holders are allowed to fish after official sunset. **Do not enter the fishery until after official sunrise.**

28. Each Member when fishing the Society's waters must not commit any act causing offence or annoyance to other Members:

a) a) Dogs are not allowed on Society waters excepting Club bailiffs in connection with their Club duties.

b) No audio equipment is allowed to be played without earphones.

c) There shall be no unnecessary shouting, loud talking, loud mobile phone conversations, swearing or noise.

d) No fires or naked flames are allowed.

e) Cookers – low fire risk made for purpose are allowed if the following conditions are strictly adhered to.

All cooking devices/appliances that use flame to heat must be secure, sturdy & stable and be raised off the ground with stable leg supports.

Our Bailiff's will inspect any cooking device and prevent their use if found to be at risk and not following the above guidelines.

No disposable BBQ's or 'bivvy' heaters are permitted.

All remains of fuel containers to be removed from the fisheries.

Failure to follow these requirements makes you solely responsible for any damage and financially liable for any costs incurred. It could also lead to disciplinary action by the Club.

f) All lights must be shielded or directed so as not to annoy other anglers.

g) Members or their guests must not leave litter, line, hooks or weights on any part of the Society's waters. Offenders will be subject to an instant suspension if caught. If litter has been left in the swim, please report it to a Bailiff or by communication to the Fishery Officer. Please remove any litter when you leave the swim even if it's not your own.

h) All Members must have and use an unhooking mat when it is necessary to lay a fish down to remove a hook/rig or to apply Fish Care.

i) Fish Care kits must be carried and applied where necessary by **al**l Members. Members to apply Fish Care on fish with new mouth wounds, scale damage and parasite infection to improve the health of our fish stock.

29. It is important we take care of our valuable fish stock, and the following additional rules apply.

a) The maximum number of rods in the water at any time is two (2). Excepting new Members in their first year who can only use one rod.

b) No person shall leave any rod and line unattended whilst the line is still in the water and the hook baited.

c) The maximum line breaking strain allowed on all ODAS waters is 12lb.

d) All Members and guests must be in possession of a landing net wherever they are fishing. The only exception is if they are sharing a swim and there is a landing net in the swim.

e) No poles or Whips are to be used on the small pit of No.1 water due to overhead power lines.

f) Bait boats are banned from all ODAS fisheries.

g) No fishing over or within any lily pads

h) Bloodworm, Jokers or any type of nut are banned and must not be used on any of the Society's waters.

i) No self-hooking rig devices including - 'Twig or Magic Twig' can be used on our fisheries.

30. Fish must only be retained in adequate keepnets, sizes to be specified in E.A byelaws, except for carp. Any fish 3lb and above must be returned to the water as soon as possible when pleasure fishing.
For matches the limit is 8lb. Fish must not be transported in keepnets for any reason. No carp sacks to be used.

31. Specimen fish, or any that Members wish to be entered for Society trophies must be weighed and witnessed by two (2) independent Members and the details submitted to the Secretary in writing within one (1) calendar month. If Member's own scales are used, they must be checked against the Society's scales.
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32. All pike caught at Langford Bridge Lake Fishery are to be returned to the water. They must not be killed or transferred to any other water.

33. An Adult Member or Senior Citizen may on occasions take one person as a guest when fishing on Society waters. This guest may fish, provided he or she is the holder of a current E.A. licence and remains with the Member while fishing. Any Member availing himself of this privilege shall be held duly responsible for the conduct of his guest and shall pay on their behalf an Honorary Membership fee, to be reviewed annually, for each day's fishing.

For details of how to obtain a Guest Ticket see the website, page 2 of Fixture List or they can be purchased on the Clubmate app.

The following additional rules apply to the issue of Guest tickets:

a) Guest tickets are allowed at Langford Bridge Fishery and Brick House Farm Fishery. One Guest ticket per member per day. The Guest can only use 1 only Rod. 2 Guests only per day maximum per fishery.

b) Members & Guests are not allowed on Society waters to pleasure fish when competitions or Work Party's are scheduled. See website or fixture list for details.

c) The Members Guest must be in possession of valid Guest Ticket and valid fishing licence prior to commencing fishing.

d) Guests are not allowed to Night Fish.

e) Under 18's cannot take Guests to Ongar Langford Bridge or Brick House Farm fisheries.

f) Under 18's cannot take Guest Junior members to fish onto ODAS waters.

g) The minimum age of a Junior Guest is 10 years old.

34. Members or their guests who damage crops, fences, hedges or gates, etc. surrounding the Society's waters will be disciplined by the Society and shall be liable to pay for the damage.

35. All Members must assist the Bailiffs in their duties.

36. Night Fishing is only available to those Club Members who are over 18 and holders of a Night Fish Membership Ticket. Please apply to the Membership Secretary. Not available in the first year of Club membership.

37. New members joining the Club can only use 1 Rod for their first season and are not allowed to take a Guest to Ongar Langford Bridge.

38. On fisheries where a Work Party is scheduled, all fishing must cease by 7.00am and the swims cleared of tackle. Fishing is not to be recommenced or started until 2.00pm the same day.

39. Members cannot fish on a Club Water that is scheduled to have a competition. All pleasure anglers must vacate swims two hours before the start of competitions and leave the fishery or join the competition subject to the approval of the Match official.

40 These rules are in addition to any E.A. byelaws. All Members and Guests must carry a valid rod license.

41 The main fishery gates are to be securely locked on entering and leaving the fisheries and any padlocks to have their numbers fully tumbled/scrambled. All gates within the fishery are also to be securely fastened or locked. Please report immediately any gate lock or mechanism that is faulty or not functioning properly. Please report any gate that is not secured, left open or has a closing or locking malfunction.

CLUB COMPETITION BYE-LAWS

1. All Club Competitions and Outings shall be administered by stewards to a set of General Rules as laid down in the current ODAS rules.

2. a) Dates and times for Outings and club competitions will be set out in the annual fixtures list. All fishing must be conducted within the fishery limits, as defined by the steward of the day, prior to commencement of fishing. Anglers must be in possession of a current E.A. licence.

b) All Pit & River competitions have specified swims and fishing to take place from these swims, NOT between them.

3. All Members and Guests must give their names to the Home Waters Match/Secretary at the stated commencement time of the competition. Any person arriving late must give his or her name to the steward before commencing to fish. Any Member arriving more than 60 minutes late will not be allowed to participate.
Any Member wishing to weigh-in early may do so with prior arrangement with the steward. This must be arranged before commencement of the competition.
4. Members cannot fish on a Club Water that is scheduled to have a competition. All pleasure anglers must vacate swims two hours before the start of competitions and leave the fishery or join the competition subject to the approval of the Match official.

5. Junior Members can only fish in the same swim as their Adult guardian.

6. Fish must be returned to the water when vacating swims, except for the river in the Pit & River competitions where two keepnets are allowed. However, all tackle must be removed from the swim not being used and the keepnet secured and not hindering any other person wishing to fish that swim.

7. Members must be present at their swims to be weighed in.

8. Dead fish, minnows or sticklebacks are excluded from any weigh in, all fish are weighed pound for pound.

9. No spinning or live baiting allowed in these competitions.

10. Competitors may have individual species weighed for their own and the Society's records, at their request.

11. All fishing on the Society's waters shall take place from the banks of the fishery.

12. Only one rod may be used at any one time by each competitor.

13. All administration arrangements for the matches shall be made by Match Steward who will instruct the members on the conduct of the match.

14. Any matters not covered by these Byelaws shall be decided by the respective steward at the time, according to the conditions/circumstances prevailing, and his decision shall be final.

15. Additions or modifications to, or deletion from the Byelaws may be made by any Member in writing to the Committee for discussion and subsequently put forward at a General Meeting to be voted on.

16. No surface fishing, floating crust, mixes are allowed in matches.

17. It is at the discretion of the OAP Match Steward to open the lake to pleasure fish members if match angler attendance numbers are low.

If anything arises that is not provided for in the Membership and General Fishery Rules the Officers and Committee shall be empowered to act in the matter, and their decision shall be final.

MEMBERS & GUESTS FISH AT OWN THEIR OWN RISK.
'THE SOCIETY' WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY
OR LIABILITY FOR THE LOSS OR DAMAGE TOTACKLE,
PROPERTY OR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

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General Data Privacy Statement Protection (GDPR)

ODAS are committed to protecting your privacy and will only use your information collected from you lawfully and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1988 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation from the 25th of May 2018. All the information collected from your membership application form will be kept strictly confidential on the ODAS computer database and will not be sold, re-used, rented, disclosed or loaned to any third party. All the information you provide will be held with the utmost care and will not be used in ways that you have not consented to. This does not affect your statutory rights.

Please contact the Club Secretary to access, delete or amend your data.

Any Member objecting to his/ her name being held on the ODAS computer database for the purposes of circulating the Society newsletters and communications should notify the Club Secretary.

23rd April 2026.