

The Ottery Fly Fishing Club

RULES - February 2025

1. AIMS

The general promotion of fly fishing and the acquisition of fishing rights on the River Otter for Club members.

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1. Membership of the Club shall consist of the members of the Club as at the date of the adoption of this Rule.

2.2. The classes of membership of the Club shall be designated as follows:
the President (Honorary), Honorary life members, Honorary members and Members.

2.3. Honorary life members and Honorary members are those elected at an Annual Meeting for some special reason, such as "Services rendered to the Club".

2.4. The Executive Committee shall decide the number of Members for each season, which for the time being shall be forty nine (49) in total.

2.5. Every candidate for new membership must be proposed by two sponsors who are paid up members of the Club at the time of sponsorship and both vouching for the candidate's fitness for membership. Each application must include the candidate's name and address and the names of the two sponsoring members.

2.6. A candidate for membership must submit their application to the Honorary Secretary of the Club in writing by 31st December of the preceding year. Applicants will be placed on a waiting list and will be offered membership, subject to approval, as vacancies arise. The waiting list will run over from year to year.

3. FEES

- 3.1. Membership fees shall be determined by the Executive Committee and shall be paid and renewed on an annual basis by 31st January each year. These subscriptions shall be fixed at the Executive Committee preceding the AGM and the Honorary Secretary shall communicate the Executive Committee's decision to the members.
- 3.2. No member will be allowed to fish before obtaining their Club membership ticket and an Environment Agency licence. Any member who has not paid the subscription before 31st January will be liable to disqualification without notice and membership will cease automatically if payment has not been made prior to the Annual Meeting.
- 3.3. Honorary life members and Honorary members shall not pay an annual subscription but must obtain an Environment Agency licence before fishing.
- 3.4. New members shall pay a one-off Joining fee which is set by the Executive Committee.

4. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 4.1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers (President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) and other members to a total of ten (10) with a quorum to consist of three (3).
- 4.2. Members of the Committee will retire annually but, if eligible, may stand for re-election.
- 4.3. The Executive Committee shall have power to act.
- 4.4. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once each year.

5. ANNUAL MEETINGS

- 5.1. Annual meetings shall be convened to be held in February of each year as far as possible. Due notice of not less than eight (8) days shall be given to all members.
- 5.2. Any proposed amendments to the Rules must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary by 31st December prior to the Annual Meeting.

6. COMPLAINTS

- 6.1. Any member having cause for complaint shall report in writing to the Honorary Secretary.

7. FISHING

- 7.1. Fishing for brown trout shall commence on 15th March continuing until 30th September each year.
- 7.2. Fishing for migratory trout shall commence on 15th April, continuing until 31st October.
- 7.3. It is illegal to catch and remove any live or dead salmon from the River Otter, its tributaries and the estuaries.
- 7.4. Fishing for brown trout with dry fly, nymph and wet fly **only** is permitted on all Club waters.
- 7.5 Wet fly fishing - a maximum of two flies to be used and the flies must not be larger than a size 12.
- 7.5. Downstream wet fly fishing for migratory fish is allowed on all waters controlled by the Club, providing a migratory fishing licence is held.
- 7.6. Fishing for brown trout later than one hour after sunset is prohibited.

7.7. Members (and guest membership day ticket holders) may fish for sea trout during the day and throughout the night. **It is strongly recommended that all sea trout should be released.**

7.8. The basket (brown trout) is strictly limited to one (1) brace per day, and not more than two (2) brace in any one week.

7.9. No trout under ten (10) inches measured from snout to fork of tail may be kept.

7.10. Wading is permitted on all waters controlled by the Club.

7.11. All fish being returned should be carefully handled and, ideally, kept in the water while being unhooked / photographed. A landing net is recommended for safely managing / handling larger fish.

8. RESTRICTIONS

8.1. Save where there is a Public Footpath or right of way near the river, members and other persons accompanying them are forbidden to bring or exercise dogs when proceeding along or using the Club waters.

8.2. No Honorary Life Member, Honorary Member, Member or guest member day-ticket holder shall make use of the facilities and/or fishing rights owned or leased by the Club for personal financial gain.

9. GUEST MEMBER DAY TICKETS

9.1. Subscribing members and honorary members may purchase a book of five (5) guest day membership tickets each year at a cost of £20 or such other quantity and cost as may from time to time be agreed.

9.2. Tickets are for the use of personal friends only.

9.3. Tickets should be requested from the Honorary Secretary before 31st January each year.

9.4. At the end of the season, and before the 31st November, all tickets stubs and unused tickets must be returned to the Club's Honorary Secretary.

9.5 Any member who purchases day guest tickets and does not comply with Rule 9.4 will not be permitted to purchase tickets in the future.

10. A member who issues a guest membership day ticket need not be present when the friend is fishing although it will be the member's responsibility to ensure that the friend has an Environment Agency licence.

11. NON-COMPLIANCE

11.1. Any member alleged to be in breach of the Rules of the Club shall be notified of the breaches being alleged against him or her, and the basis for such allegations, in writing by the Honorary Secretary. The member shall then be invited to submit any written defence or explanation for the facts alleged within 14 days of the notification.

11.2. In the event of a finding of wilful breach by the disciplinary sub-committee (consisting of one executive committee member and one other member) and a decision to expel the member from the Club, the member concerned shall have the right to appeal in person to the Executive Committee, provided that notice of such appeal, setting out the grounds of the appeal, be submitted to the Honorary Secretary within 7 days of the decision.

11.3. The Executive Committee considering such an appeal shall not include any member of the disciplinary sub-committee concerned in the first decision. The Executive Committee shall convene a meeting and notify the member concerned in writing of the date, time and location of the meeting. At the meeting the Executive Committee shall re-consider all the evidence available to the disciplinary sub-committee and any further representations from the member concerned.

12. DISSOLUTION

- 12.1. If at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary 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.
- 12.2. If at that Special General Meeting, at least 50% of the total club membership attend and vote, and upon such a vote the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of those voting, the Executive Committee shall thereupon, or at such 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.
- 12.3. After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the Club, but shall be given to The Angling Trust or such other voluntary or charitable angling organisation as may be nominated by the Executive Committee.