



## **EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL'S** **FISHING RULES 2025/2026 SEASON**

**BEFORE FISHING ALL PERSONS MUST ENSURE THAT THEY ARE FULLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES.**

**At the Bailiffs discretion any angler found breaking the following rules may be liable to the confiscation of his/her fishing permit and these rules supersede any previous rules issued.**

### **Permits and Rod Licences**

1. No person is permitted to fish without a valid fishing permit or day ticket. These can be purchased from the Council Offices during office hours (Mon-Fri 9.00-13.00, 14.00-16.30). Permits are not transferable. Only ten one-day permits will be issued per weekday (not weekends), a maximum of five being issued to juniors. A valid Rod Fishing Licence is required for yearly and day permits.
2. Annual permits and day tickets will only be issued on production of a Rod Fishing Licence (if over 12).
3. All anglers below 17 years of age will be issued with a Junior Permit – Junior permit holders and junior day ticket holders under the age of 13 years must be supervised by a responsible person of 17 years or older, who holds a fishing licence.
4. Any angler refusing to produce their permit will be immediately suspended.
5. A maximum of 2 rods may be used. Junior permit holders are only permitted to use 1 rod. Rods are not to be left unattended. It is strongly recommended that telescopic/free standing rod rests are used in order to reduce further damage to the bank sides. For competitions only one rod may be used.

### **Fishing Bays**

6. Avoid casting across the lake to adjacent bays. Bank sticks are **NOT TO BE USED** unless placed in the water-under no circumstances are they to be banged into the bank/ground. Rods, Pods and Tripods must be used. Abuse of this rule will result in permit confiscation.
7. No fishing to the right of Bay 1. When the opposite bay is occupied, the maximum cast is halfway across the lake.
8. No night fishing is permitted, **any fishing after sunset times will be deemed to be illegal fishing.**
9. Peg numbers 27 and 28 are for adult permit holders only.
- 9a. Any angler seen to be damaging fishing bays will have their permit revoked.

### **Fish Welfare**

10. No fishing is permitted in the close season (15-March-15 June).
11. Landing nets (minimum 26") must be used and all fish caught are to be returned to the lake in good order and as quickly as possible. No fish are to be killed. Have all weighing and photography equipment ready before removing fish from the water. Persons found mishandling fish will be liable to have their permit revoked.
12. Damaged or diseased fish should be reported to the Park Rangers, Water Bailiffs or Council Staff immediately.
13. Keep nets are **NOT** permitted, except during authorised competitions. Avoid excessive handling of fish, use wet hands or a wet cloth when doing so. Please ensure all landing and keep nets are washed thoroughly before and after use at the lake.

14. All anglers must carry and use fish care (spray or gel).
15. Unhooking mats must be used when handling fish.
16. Underarm casting must be used when fishing under, or near trees.

#### **Protection of Wildlife**

17. No live or dead gorge bait is to be used. Hemp seed used in moderation. No nut baits to be used. Bollies can be used as HOOK BAIT only. Pop ups allowed.
18. Ensure that all landing nets are washed thoroughly before and after use as other lake/rivers can have issues with diseases.
19. Please report any injured wildlife.
20. To protect waterfowl, no surface baits of any type to be used. The minimum depth of all baits must be 18" below the water surface. When waterfowl are present ensure, main line is sunk or removed until safe to recast. **NO FREE LINING.**
21. No spoding. No leaders to be used – tubing only.
22. Ground Bait can only be introduced using brown bread crumb and maggots, for all methods of fishing. No boats of any type to be used on the lake. **NO ANGLER IS PERMITTED TO ENTER THE LAKE.**
23. Only barbless hooks (size 6-22) should be used. Disgorgers must be used. **NO TREBLE HOOKS OR LURES.** Hook lengths to be lower B/S to mainline.
24. No metal traces or lead weights shall be used. No lead core allowed.
25. The maximum line weight is 20lb. **NO BRAID TO BE USED AS MAIN LINE.**
26. No pike, bubble floats, controllers, or similar float to be used.
27. No fire shall be lit within the park.
28. No litter or line or other discarded rubbish is to be left at the lake, **PLEASE USE THE LITTER BINS PROVIDED AT THE SITE, OR TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME.** Anglers are responsible for all litter within 2m of their swim. Discarded bait is to be taken home and NOT to be discarded in the lake, woods or bins.
29. Any lost tackle must be reported to the Water Bailiffs or Park Rangers.
30. **NO TINS ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO THE LAKE.** Please transfer your bait to alternative containers before you leave home.
31. The cutting of wood, bankside vegetation and damage to vegetation is strictly forbidden.
32. Do not throw stones or objects at wildlife. Keep your lines clear of the birds on the lake. Do not remove any fish, animal, or plant from the park. Do not introduce any fish, animal or plant into the park or lake.
33. Juniors are not to use catapults.

#### **COURTESY TO OTHER PARK USERS**

34. Music is only permitted with the use of headphones.
35. **The consumption of alcohol is not permitted whilst fishing.**
36. Park Bylaws must be observed at all times.