



## EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL'S FISHING RULES 2026/2027 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.**

### Rod Licenses

Under the age of 13yrs:	No rod license is required
Aged 13 – 16 yrs:	A junior rod license is required
Aged 17yrs and above:	A rod license is required

Further information about rod licenses can be found at: - <https://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences>

### Permits/Day Tickets

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.
2. Annual Permits and Day Tickets will only be issued on production of a rod license/junior rod license.
3. An Adult Permit/Adult Day Ticket will be issued to those anglers aged 17yrs and above.
4. A Junior Permit/Junior Day Ticket will be issued to those anglers aged 16yrs and under.
5. **All Junior permit holders and junior day ticket holders aged under 13yrs must be supervised by a responsible adult, who holds a current rod license.**
6. **All Junior permit holders and junior day tickets holders aged 13yrs and above must attend or have attended a fishing talk with a Town Council Water Bailiff.**
7. Any angler refusing to produce their permit will be immediately suspended.
8. A maximum of 2 rods may be used per adult permit. Junior permit holders are only permitted to use 1 rod.

### Fishing Bays

9. Rods are not to be left unattended. It is strongly recommended that telescopic/free standing rod rests are used to reduce damage to the bank sides.
10. 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 a permit being revoked.
11. When the opposite bay is occupied, the maximum cast is halfway across the lake. No fishing to the right of Bay 1.
12. No night fishing is permitted, **any fishing after sunset times will be deemed to be illegal fishing.**
13. Peg numbers 27 and 28 are for Adult Permit Holders only.
14. Any angler seen to be damaging fishing bays will have their permit revoked.

### Fish Welfare

15. No fishing is permitted in the close season (15<sup>th</sup> March - 15<sup>th</sup> June).
16. 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.

17. Damaged or diseased fish should be reported to the Water Bailiffs, Park Rangers or Council Staff immediately.
18. Keep nets are **NOT** permitted. Avoid excessive handling of fish, use wet hands or a wet cloth when doing so. Please ensure all landing nets are washed thoroughly before and after use at the lake.
19. All anglers must carry and use fish care (spray or gel).
20. Unhooking mats must be used when handling fish.
21. Underarm casting must be used when fishing under, or near trees.

#### **Protection of Wildlife**

22. No live or dead gorge bait is to be used. Hemp seed used in moderation. No nut baits to be used. Pop ups allowed.
23. Ensure that all landing nets are washed thoroughly before and after use as other lake/rivers can have issues with diseases.
24. Please report any injured wildlife.
25. 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.**
26. No spodding. No leaders to be used – tubing only.
27. No boats of any type to be used on the lake. **NO ANGLER IS PERMITTED TO ENTER THE LAKE.**
28. 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.
29. No metal traces or lead weights shall be used. No lead core allowed.
30. The maximum line weight is 20lb. **NO BRAID TO BE USED AS MAIN LINE.**
31. No pike, bubble floats, controllers, or similar float to be used.
32. No fire shall be lit within the park.
33. 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.
34. Any lost tackle must be reported to the Water Bailiffs or Park Rangers.
35. **NO TINS ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO THE LAKE.** Please transfer your bait to alternative containers before you leave home.
36. The cutting of wood, bankside vegetation and damage to vegetation is strictly forbidden.
37. 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.
38. Juniors are not permitted to use catapults.

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

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