



Rules & Information 2026

Westwater Fly Fishing Club

Membership is at the invitation of the Board of Directors, and invitations are issued after the close of each season. The Club has a small number of rules, but a serious breach of the rules risks the invitation to join being rescinded, and on rare occasions, membership being terminated.

THE RULES

Before fishing;

Members must be in possession of an Environment Agency fishing licence.

Members may only enter the grounds after 7.45 am and may only start fishing after 8 am.

Members must book in using the computer terminal in the club house on each occasion before commencing fishing

Members must use a landing net, and disinfect it on each visit.

After fishing;

Members must finish fishing by the time displayed at the signing in hut, and must be off the grounds within 15 minutes of that time.

Members must sign out using the computer terminal in the club house after each occasion they go fishing, and must not falsify returns.

Whilst fishing;

Method of fishing. FLY ONLY. All imitations of non-natural fish food, including pellet imitations, egg flies and the like, are banned from our waters.

After catching 3 fish at each runner on East and West, anglers must vacate these spots for the remainder of the day.

Brown trout under 20cm in length must be returned to the water unharmed. Trout between 20 and 30cm will not count towards a member's catch and keep limit. Brown trout must be returned during April and November.

Catch and Release Limits;

A member may Catch & Release up to 16 trout a day and 270 in a year.

Catch and Keep Limits;

Of the above, a member may keep up to 5 trout a day and 85 in a year. Please note that once 5 fish have been killed on any day, angling must cease, as the option to kill a damaged fish no longer remains.

Members must present their licences to the EA Bailiffs on demand, and allow them and Board members to inspect catches and tackle on demand.

Members must use the toilet facilities provided at the club house. Northumbria Water insist that anyone polluting the reservoirs or their surroundings be banned from their waters.

On boats;

Members must observe rules regarding boat occupancy (no more than 3 adults; or 2 adults and 2 juniors of whom a maximum of 3 may be fishing at any one time). Juniors must always be accompanied by an adult in a boat.

Members must always wear life jackets on boats.

Members must observe instructions regarding the mooring of boats and storage of oars, and must not moor them on-shore, even for a short time.

Members must stay outside of the designated non-fishing areas, displayed in the club house or signing in hut, and boat anglers give way to bank anglers. In particular boats are excluded from east and west runners, which are clearly marked with buoys, and no fishing from boats into the exclusion areas is allowed.

Boat fishing water around the west lake valve must stay a reasonable casting distance offshore, to avoid obstructing or casting over bank anglers. Should there be no bank anglers present when you arrive, this guidance can be relaxed, but any bank anglers subsequently arriving have priority, and are entitled to ask you to move offshore.

All boats are numbered, and ignoring reasonable requests to move will be reported.

Trolling with a motor is not allowed.

Bank anglers must observe any restrictions on fishing areas which will be displayed in the club house, signing in hut or on signs around the fishery.

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE CLUB

There are 4 categories of membership, full, junior, student and honorary.

Full Members;

Persons who, upon application have been proposed and seconded by members, and are accepted by the Directors. Full membership is annual and by invitation. Full members have full rights and privileges, including the right to attend the vote at general meetings of the Company.

Junior members;

Children aged from 8 to 16 years, who upon application, with proof of age, have been accepted by the Directors. They shall be nominated by an adult Full member. Junior membership is held in the name of the nominating Full Member, and is free.

Student Membership;

A person over the age of 16 who is in full time education.

Honorary Membership;

A person whom the Directors shall deem suitable for the privilege may be granted Honorary Membership by the Directors. If a person has served a minimum of 10 years as a Director, and has rendered outstanding service to the Company, the Directors may grant Honorary Membership. Honorary Members enjoy the same full privileges as Full Members.

Subscriptions;

An annual subscription, at a rate determined by the Board is payable by all members. Subscriptions are due on the 1st November each year and should be paid promptly to the Office Manager upon notification. By arrangement with the Office Manager, subscriptions may be paid in

instalments. Members whose subscriptions are still outstanding on 31st January following will be redeemed to have terminated their membership. Payment in respect of guests are due on demand.

Members are urged to provide their email addresses, and also to provide contact details of someone in case of an emergency.

Fishing;

Methods of fishing. FLY ONLY. All imitations of non-natural fish food, including pellet imitations, egg flies and the like, are banned from our waters.

After catching 3 fish at each runner on

If fishing Catch & Release it is essential that the fish be returned to the water in the best possible condition.

Catch & Release Good Practice:

- **Use only barbless hooks.**
- **Use hooks no bigger than size 10 long shank.**
- **Use leaders strong enough to land the fish quickly.**
- **Leave the fish in the net in the water whilst unhooking it, or, if fishing from a boat, in the net on the mat whilst unhooking it.**
- **Wet hands before handling the fish.**
- **Remove the hook using forceps if necessary.**
- **Kill the fish if it is bleeding or damaged in any way. If the fish is exhausted, keep it in the net in the water and steady it in its natural position before allowing it to swim off.**
- **Do not use flies that fish tend to swallow e.g. Boobies.**

- **Do not measure the fish**
- **Do not weigh the fish.**
- **Do not continue fishing if you have reached your Catch & Keep limit as you need to be able to kill any damaged fish without breaching the Catch & Keep limits. Respect for the fish is paramount.**
- **A number of small trout are being introduced into the East lake in 2026. It is important that they be allowed to grow on in the lake, and to that end all anglers are recommended to use barbless hooks in the east lake, so that these fish can be released quickly and easily.**

Catch & Release fishing may be suspended immediately after periods of high temperature.

When the annual limit of 85 (or higher if additional fish purchase is made) is reached, ALL fishing must cease until an additional fish block has been purchased. This is to provide for the killing of damaged fish when 'Catch & Release' is intended.

Extra fish;

The Purchase of fish in excess of the annual limit will be permitted. This purchase must be made prior to the annual limit being exceeded and will be available in blocks of 6 fish at a cost of £50 per block.

Juniors;

Members may bring children if they are aged 8 to 16 years old, as follows:

1. As a Junior Guest sharing the member's rod & bag limit This may be done up to 5 times per year.

2. As a free Junior Member, in which case the catch and release limits are: 6 fish daily, and 40 annually. Of these 2 fish may be kept per day and 20 annually.

Junior Guests and Junior Members must be accompanied by an adult Full Member at all times. An adult Full member may supervise a maximum of two juniors at any one time, but only one when fishing from a boat. The Junior's details must be entered immediately below the supervising Full Member's on the record sheet.

Students catch limits;

Catch & Keep: 2 fish/day, and 40 fish/year.

Catch & Release: 6 fish/day, and 60 fish/year.

Fishing Guests;

Members may take guests fishing with them at a fee of £20 per guest per day. Catch limits as for Full Members. The guest's name must be entered immediately following the member on the relevant section on the bookings computer and be annotated 'Guest' in the membership number column. Guests must abide by all the rules and the host member is responsible for the guest.

Non-Members;

Non-members may only fish at Hallington on a maximum of 4 occasions, twice as the guest of a member and twice on day tickets.

Vehicle Parking;

Members must stick to designated parking areas. Our main car park, which is for the use of WFFC members and Northumbria Water staff only, is the area in front of the clubhouse. This is where you are expected to park. The only exceptions are a handful of parking spaces on the road verge at the Western end of West Lake and similar in front

of the cottage beyond the overflow on East Lake. Parking at the East runner is only permitted for members with mobility issues and is limited to a maximum of 2 vehicles because the farmer needs access to his field.

Dogs;

This is a sensitive issue. Many members prefer that dogs should not be allowed around the club premises, car park and the environs of the lakes. So, if you do wish to bring your dog along, please ensure, at all times, that it is under control, that wildlife is not disturbed and that your fellow members are not annoyed or alarmed in any way by your dog. Dogs are not allowed to accompany you whilst you are actually fishing. Do take care your dog is not left to suffer in an inadequately ventilated or sun heated vehicle. Do clean up after your dog and take the droppings away with you for disposal.

Publicity;

The general policy of Westwater Fly Fishing Club that publicity of any aspect of our activities should come from an official Board statement. Members should not make any claims for 'records' to outside sources or supply any material which could identify our waters. If a member feels that there is a matter of sufficient interest to warrant publicity they should inform the Secretary in writing giving sufficient relevant details for the Board to be able to consider the matter.

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