



Portsmouth Services Fly Fishing Association
(Founded 1949)

RULES

Version 10

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Portsmouth Services Fly Fishing Association (Founded 1949): Rules

DEFINITION

The Rules of the Association comprise the Standing Rules (see Part 1) and the Fishing Rules (See Part 2).

PART 1: STANDING RULES

Aim of the Association

- Rule 1) The Aim of the Association is to provide fly fishermen of the Armed Services with fishing in the Portsmouth area on the most reasonable terms which can be arranged.

Objectives of the Association

- Rule 2) The Association is to be a non-profit making organisation.
- Rule 3) Any surplus funds generated are to be used for the improvement of the facilities the Association provides to its members. This includes the maintenance of a "savings account" to fund unforeseen events and the acquisition of future fishing opportunities.
- Rule 4) The Association is to remain free from commercial influence. To ensure this, no one may be at the same time an officer of both the Association and either the Manor Services Fishery or the Hockley Services Fishery.

Officers & Organization

- Rule 5) The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents and a Committee, which shall consist of the Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Water Manager and at least one other Member. All posts are honorary.
- Rule 6) If possible, at least two Officers should be on the Active List and none may be either landowners or holders of riparian rights from whom the Association leases fishing.
- Rule 7) The quorum for a committee meeting is four people, one of whom shall be either the Chairman or the Secretary.

Eligibility for Membership

- Rule 8) The following are eligible for Membership:
- a) All serving and retired officers and other ranks of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, Royal Air Force and their reserves ("Servicemen").
 - b) Fishermen who are not Servicemen as defined in Rule 8(a).

Membership

- Rule 9) Membership of the Association includes a rod for the coming season.
- Rule 10) Serving personnel who wish to join the Association shall attain Membership immediately on payment of the entrance fee and the seasonal subscription.
- Rule 11) Retired personnel who wish to join the Association are subject to a waiting list. After promotion from the waiting list at the discretion of the Committee, and on payment of the entrance fee and the current subscription, a candidate shall be granted Membership.
- Rule 12) While the Committee shall be empowered to impose a limit on the number of rods granted each year, Members may expect to retain their rod from year to year.
- Rule 13) If a person becomes a Member after 15th July in any season, the seasonal subscription shall be pro-rated.
- Rule 14) A Member who does not wish to take up fishing rights for one or more years may become Dormant. A Dormant Member shall re-gain fishing rights immediately on payment of the seasonal subscription. If the payment occurs after 15th July in any season, the seasonal subscription will be pro-rated.

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Family Membership

- Rule 15) A Member may apply for Family Membership for one or more members of their immediate family. The normal definition of "immediate family" is a spouse and children. Where this definition is unclear to an applicant, the committee will rule on the specific application and their decision is final.
- Rule 16) A Family Member pays a seasonal subscription.
- Rule 17) A Member shall accompany a Family Member when the latter is fishing. Therefore, if a Member gives up fishing rights, any associated Family Memberships shall also lapse.
- Rule 18) A Family Member who inherits a Services Hockley Fishery shareholding may apply for full membership under Rule (8b) on the basis of their inheritance. Whilst the Committee shall have discretion over the granting of such membership, unless there are compelling reasons otherwise it will be granted.

Temporary Membership

- Rule 19) To allow them to fish the Association's waters, Temporary Membership may be granted at an appropriate fee to Active Servicemen who are serving for a period of a few weeks in the Portsmouth area. Temporary Membership shall cease at the end of the season.
- Rule 20) A Temporary Member shall not apply for Family Membership and shall not introduce a guest.

Keepers

- Rule 21) At the discretion of the Committee, a Member who assists the Water Manager to keep the Association's waters may be offered special terms or concessions, normally after one year.
- Rule 22) The Committee may admit to the Membership a person who is not eligible for Membership as set out in Rule 8(a) if he is willing to act as a keeper. In such case, Temporary Membership may be granted for a one-year probationary period, after which full Membership may be granted.

Non-Servicemen

- Rule 23) A fisherman who is not a Serviceman as defined in Rule 8(a) may apply for Membership. The Committee shall have the power to refuse an applicant, or to terminate Membership granted under this rule.
- Rule 24) A candidate for Membership under Rule 23 shall be supported by a Proposer and a Secunder drawn from the Membership, who shall both be Servicemen as defined in Rule 8(a).
- Rule 25) The numbers to be admitted to Membership by this route shall be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions

- Rule 26) The Committee shall fix the following tariffs annually:
- a) The entrance fees
 - b) The seasonal subscription for a Member
 - c) The seasonal subscription for a Family Member
 - d) The seasonal subscription for other classes of subscription (e.g. 'Keepers)
 - e) Voluntary contributions to the balancing fund (see Rule 29)
 - f) The guest day ticket price for each water.
 - g) Reduction for a Member who is on active service remote from Portsmouth.
 - h) Reduction for a Member under 18 years of age.

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- i) Surcharge for failing to submit Catch Returns via the website, ideally each time they fish or no later than the 1st November in accordance with the Annual Fishing Instructions.

Rule 27) Payment of the seasonal subscription entitles a Member to fish for river trout, sea trout and salmon and also to fish for grayling between the end of the river trout season and the closing date for all fishing on the Association's waters, provided they are in possession of a valid and appropriate EA licence.

Rule 28) The annual subscription covers the 12 months period from 1st April to the 31st March (the following calendar year). Any Membership not renewed by the 31st March automatically lapses and the Rod will be allocated to the next person on the Waiting List. Members whose Membership has lapsed, will need to re-apply in the normal way if they wish to re-join.

Balancing Fund

Rule 29) A Member may fish as often as he wishes, subject to the Rules. However, if a Member fishes more than once per month in the trout season, it is strongly suggested that he make a voluntary contribution to the balancing fund.

Accounts of the Association

Rule 30) The Association's financial accounts are independently examined each year in accordance with current best practice, and a balance sheet for the year in question shall be circulated to all Members.

Rule 31) The Association's bankers are appointed by the Committee, who shall have the power to make changes at their sole discretion.

Annual General Meeting

Rule 32) An Annual General Meeting shall be held at the end of each season to examine the fishing prospects of the area and to elect Officers to serve for the following year.

Rule 33) All persons holding Membership during the most recent fishing season are entitled to vote at an AGM.

Amendment to the Rules

Rule 34) The Committee shall have the power to interpret the Rules (both Standing Rules and Fishing Rules).

Rule 35) The Committee shall have the power to make a temporary amendment to the Rules which shall last for one season only.

Rule 36) Approval of a permanent amendment to the Rules, defined as an amendment which will be in force for more than one season, shall take place at an Annual General Meeting and requires a 60% majority of the Members attending.

Rule 37) A proposal for a permanent amendment shall be published with the notice for an AGM.

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PART 2: FISHING RULES

Annual Fishing Instructions

Rule 38) Each year before the start of the season, the Hon. Secretary shall publish the Annual Fishing Instructions, detailing:-

1. start and end dates of the forthcoming river season
2. the water available
3. fees and subscriptions
4. temporary amendments to the Standing Rules
5. Instructions for dealing with poachers and other waterside incidents.

Open Season

Rule 39) Rivers: Each year, the Association's river waters are open between dates published in the Annual Fishing Instructions. Fishing is permitted between these dates, subject to the Environment Agency (EA) closed seasons for each species, which are:

1. River Trout 31st October to 3rd April
2. Sea Trout 31st October to 1st May
3. Grayling 14th March to 16th June
4. Salmon 2nd October to 17th January

Rule 40) Lakes: Lake fishing is open from 1st Jan to 31st Dec.

Rule 41) Fishing on Association waters is only permitted from sunrise to sunset, except on the Fontley beat, where sea trout fishing is permitted during the hours of darkness.

EA licence

Rule 42) Anyone who fishes on the Association's waters shall be in possession of an EA trout licence. An EA migratory licence is required to fish for sea trout or salmon.

Rule 43) A Member is responsible for ensuring that guests and Family Members comply with rule 42.

Guests

Rule 44) A Member may introduce guests to the Association's waters, and a Member shall be present while his guest is fishing.

Rule 45) A Member shall provide the guest with a day ticket or a valid receipt from the PSFFA website 'Shop' if purchased via the website, for identification at the waterside. If required by a Keeper or another Member, the guest shall produce the paper day ticket to establish their right to fish

Rule 46) A Member is given a number of free guest day tickets each year, the number being set by the Committee. Free day tickets may be used on any of the Association's waters, but expire at the end of the year of issue. Manor Services Fishery and Hockley Services Fishery shareholders are given extra free guest tickets (See the "Manor Fishery" and "Hockley Fishery" sections).

Rule 47) A Member may purchase additional guest day tickets via the PSFFA website and will receive an electronic receipt which should be printed and used as an e-ticket by the Member's Guest. Please note that e-tickets cannot be carried forward to the following season, so Members are advised to purchase only sufficient extra tickets for their immediate needs. The cost depends on the water.

Rod Bookings

Rule 48) A Member wishing to fish a beat shall first book a rod for himself, and for each Family Member or guest who will accompany him. The rod booking limits for a day are:

- a. On both rivers – a maximum of three rods where the beat and available rods allow:

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- i. Member + 1 Guest
 - ii. Member + Guest + a Family Member, or,
 - iii. Member + two Family Members
 - b. On Seaford Lake –a maximum of two rods.
 - c. On Wintershill Lake – a maximum of six rods (i.e. Member + 5 Guests).
- Rule 49) From the start of the Brown Trout season in 2018, all beat bookings should be made via the Members-only section of the PSFFA website (www.psffa.org). Only current, paid-up Members will have access to the Members-only section of the website. Access can be made via PC, Mac, Laptop, Tablet or Smartphone. As an exception, for Members who do not have internet access at all, a Central (Telephone) Booking Office will be made available, but with very restricted opening hours. Its hours are determined by the volunteer booking clerk from time to time. The booking clerk requires to know:
- a) member's name and rod number.
 - b) if a guest rod is required
 - c) if one or more Family Member rods is required
 - d) for Manor and Hockley beat bookings only, if one or more Early-Booking Privileges will be used
- Rule 50) On any one day, a Member may book one day's fishing on one beat, subject to the beat restrictions set out in Rule 58.
- Rule 51) The online booking system is available 24 hrs per day and a Member shall book not more than 72 hours before 0100 on the proposed fishing day. This rule is illustrated in Annex B.
- Rule 52) Void
- Rule 53) On both rivers, a Member may book a shared rod with a Family Member or guest. The definition of "shared rod" is one made-up rod, used in turn by two people.
- Rule 54) A Member arriving at a Meon beat and deciding that it is unfishable for any reason may phone the Booking Office and change to another beat. However, after the first cast has been made, the Member may not change to another beat on that day without making a second booking (a Late Booking).
- Rule 55) Void

Late Bookings

- Rule 56) A Late Booking is defined as a booking made after 0900 on any day for fishing on the same day. Late bookings should be made online, via the Members-only section of the PSFFA website (www.psffa.org).
- Rule 57) A Member may make a Late Booking for any beat. The beat restrictions set out in Rule 58 do not apply to Late Bookings.

Beat Restrictions

- Rule 58) A Member shall not book fishing on the same PSFFA beat more than once within any 7-day period.
- Rule 59) Void.
- Rule 60) Void.

Early Booking on the Manor Fishery & Hockley Water

- Rule 61) The Association has formed limited companies to purchase the Manor Fishery (the Services Manor Fishery (SMF)) and Hockley Water (the Services Hockley Fishery (SHF)). A Member who has paid the Association's entrance fee may elect to become a shareholder of one or both of these companies. The rules in this section apply to all shareholders.

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- Rule 62) A Member holding one or more shares in either the SMF or the SHF is granted a number of Early-Booking Privileges, defined as the ability to book the appropriate beat one day earlier than a non-shareholding Member (i.e. 4 days beforehand). For clarity, this rule is illustrated in Annex B.
- Rule 63) Four Early-Booking Privileges (EBPs) are granted to a shareholder in each season. Unused privileges may be carried forward for one season, and it is up to Members to manage their own EBP allocation, although EBP usage will be reviewed by Booking Admin at the end of each season.
- Rule 64) If an early-booking is for two rods, i.e. includes a guest or a Family Member, then two Early-Booking Privileges are used up. If an early-booking is for three rods, then three Early-Booking Privileges are used up.
- Rule 65) During the period 15th May to 15th June, an early-booking for a guest rod is not permitted on any Saturday, Sunday, Bank or Public Holiday falling on or between these dates. In contrast, a booking for family rods is permitted in this period.

Allowable Methods

- Rule 66) A Member shall fish using a method selected from the table below. No other method is permitted.

Method	R Meon		R Itchen		Lakes
	Upstream ?	Downstream ?	Upstream ?	Downstream ?	
Single dry fly	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes: Hook shank < 2cm (Size 10)
Single nymph or wet fly	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes: Hook shank < 2cm (Size 10)

Taking and Returning Fish

- Rule 67) The minimum size at which a fish may be killed is:-

1. Brown trout (R. Meon) 10 inches
2. Brown trout (R. Itchen) 12 inches
3. Rainbow trout (rivers) no minimum, all must be killed.
4. Rainbow trout (lakes) 12 inches
5. Sea trout 15 inches
- a. Grayling **Between 12 and 15 inches** (a maximum of two)

- Rule 68) Grayling which are accidentally caught during the closed season for coarse species shall not be killed unless damaged. Outside the closed season for coarse species, grayling shall only be killed if required for personal consumption or if badly damaged.
- Rule 69) On lakes, all brown trout and rainbow trout less than 12 inches shall be returned, but rainbow trout more than 12 inches shall be killed. ("Catch & release" is not allowed on lakes.)
- Rule 70) On rivers, rainbow trout shall never be released and shall always be killed.
- Rule 71) Dead fish shall be removed from the beat, shall not be left on the bank or thrown into the water.
- Rule 72) No pike fishing is allowed on Association waters. Pike are controlled when necessary in compliance with EA direction and guidance.

Bag Limit

- Rule 73) On the Association's waters, the bag limit for brown trout is one brace per member per day and one brace per guest/family rod per day.

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- Rule 74) After the bag limit has been reached, a fish which has been severely damaged may be killed to avoid the risk of leaving a dying fish in the water.
- Rule 75) Salmon are Catch & Release only on all Association waters. Sea trout limit is one brace per rod unless otherwise stated in the beat instructions.
- Rule 76) On a river beat, after catching a bag limit, a Member may continue to fish, provided any trout caught are released. Or he may simply enjoy the pleasures of the river bank for the remainder of the day.
- Rule 77) On a lake, after catching a bag limit, a Member shall cease fishing, as "catch & release" is not permitted. He may, however, enjoy the pleasures of the lakeside for the remainder of the day.

Barbless Hooks

- Rule 78) Members are encouraged to use barbless hooks at all times on all beats to ease the release of fish, especially after a bag limit has been reached.
- Rule 79) When fishing for grayling after the end of the trout season, barbless hooks shall always be used to ease the release of trout hooked by mistake.

Wading

- Rule 80) On R. Meon, wading is permitted. Care shall be taken to avoid disturbing weed growth.
- Rule 81) On R. Itchen, wading is not permitted except at Brambridge, where the river may be crossed at the cattle crossing.
- Rule 82) On lakes, wading is not permitted.

Fishing Protocols

- Rule 83) Members are encouraged to exchange identities when they meet at the waterside.
- Rule 84) A Member who is fishing or walking downstream shall observe all courtesies necessary to avoid disturbing a second Member who is fishing upstream below him.
- Rule 85) A Member shall give way when a second Member, who is fishing below him and travelling faster upstream, wishes to fish through.
- Rule 86) Any breach of the Standing Rules, Fishing Rules or Annual Fishing Instructions is to be reported promptly to the Hon. Secretary, and the Committee shall resolve the matter.
- Rule 87) Incidents involving fishermen or club officials from a neighbouring beat are to be reported to the Hon. Secretary with special urgency.

Fishing Records

- Rule 88) Within 24 hours of fishing any of the Association waters, a Member shall record their own and their guest's, as well as any Family Member's catch on the electronic Catch Return Form in the Members-only section of the PSFFA website (www.psffa.org). This is essential to maintain trout stocking levels and provide valuable reports for the Latest Beat Update page on the website.
- Rule 89) Void.
- Rule 90) Unless there are extenuating circumstances which are accepted by the Committee, a failure to comply with Rule 88 will result in the Member being surcharged in the following year by a sum determined for that season by the Committee in accordance with Rule 26(i).

Sale of Fish

- Rule 91) Fish taken from the Association's water shall not be sold.

Dogs

- Rule 92) A Member may not take a dog on any lake or river beat.

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ANNEX A: LAKE FISHING SUMMARY

(For Members' convenience, the rules for lakes, which are set out in Part 2, are drawn together in this annex.)

Rule	Subject	Description
40	Open Season	1 st Jan to 31 st Dec
48 b&c	Guests	Two rods on Seaford and six max. on Wintershill,
49	Rod Bookings	Booking as for rivers
66	Allowable Methods	Single fly, hook < 2cm in length (Size 10)
69	Taking & Returning Fish	All brown trout and rainbow trout less than 12ins shall be returned. Rainbow trout > 12ins must be killed.
73, 77	Bag limit	Two brace per rod. No "catch & release" thereafter.
82	Wading	No Wading
88	Fishing Records	Catch must be reported online within 24 hours
91	Fishmongering	Fish are not to be sold
92	Dogs	No dogs
None	Boats	Any boats present on lakes are not be used.

ANNEX B: CLARIFICATION OF BOOKING RULES

Table 1: Clarification of Rule 51 – Booking All Beats & Lakes

Earliest Booking Time	Fishing Day (all beats)
0001 Friday	Monday
0001 Saturday	Tuesday
0001 Sunday	Wednesday
0001 Monday	Thursday
0001 Tuesday	Friday
0001 Wednesday	Saturday
0001 Thursday	Sunday

Table 2: Clarification of Rule 62 – Early Booking on the Manor and Hockley Beats

Earliest Booking Time using an Early Booking Privilege	Fishing Day
0001 Thursday	Monday
0001 Friday	Tuesday
0001 Saturday	Wednesday
0001 Sunday	Thursday
0001 Monday	Friday
0001 Tuesday	Saturday
0001 Wednesday	Sunday