

HAMPSTEAD AND HIGHGATE ANGLING SOCIETY

CODE OF CONDUCT

1 OVERVIEW

HAHAS aims to get more people fishing and to promote angling to the wider public and the authorities. It is important that we portray angling in a positive light and don't allow our good name to be tarnished. Our code of conduct consists of general guidelines (applicable to all members) and tuition guidelines (applicable to anyone involved in tuition).

2 GENERAL GUIDELINES

All HAHAS members should:

- Follow good angling practice (e.g. clear up litter, handle fish properly).
- Follow the rules for fishing on Hampstead Heath.
- Always be willing to engage with members of the public and answer their questions.
- Promote angling as a rewarding and calming sport that brings you closer to nature.

3 TUITION GUIDELINES

3.1 RIGHTS

Everyone has the right to participate in angling without fear of abuse, discrimination or bullying.

HAHAS must ensure that:

- Tuition sessions are open to everyone and are not discriminatory.
- We treat everyone with respect and courtesy.
- We follow the procedures defined in the *HAHAS Policy for Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Vulnerable Adults*

3.2 RELATIONSHIPS

HAHAS members should build relationships within angling which are open and honest and founded on trust and respect. They must:

- Never behave in a way that could be construed as abuse of any kind. For example, avoid physical contact unless it is necessary for teaching purposes (rarely the case in fishing), in which case explain why to the participant and their parents or carer beforehand
- Never work alone with children or vulnerable adults (this is a situation where abuse can occur, or false allegations of abuse can be made).
- Never engage sexually with participants under the age of 18. This includes innuendos, flirting and inappropriate gestures or words.
- Respect participants' opinions about angling, encourage them to think for themselves and avoid criticising them in public.
- Keep participants and their parents or carers informed of the requirements of the sport both physically and financially.
- Never accept social media friend requests from U18s.

- Never communicate 1:1 with U18s on social media, WhatsApp etc. Instead, use HAHAS' Facebook page or WhatsApp group chat to make information publicly available to everyone.
- Obtain written permission before taking photographs of anyone, or using photographs of them on social media, on our website or in other publications. For U18s or vulnerable adults, get permission from their parent or guardian.

3.3 PERSONAL STANDARDS

HAHAS members and volunteers should demonstrate proper personal conduct. They must:

- Be reasonable, honest, considerate and patient when teaching.
- Be well presented.
- Project an image of health and cleanliness (e.g. don't smoke or drink before or during lessons).
- Aim to be a positive angling role model.

3.4 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

HAHAS must ensure that lessons are safe, well organised and meet the needs of the participants.

We must:

- Make sure that the material to be taught is appropriate to participant's ages and abilities.
- Recognise that fun and enjoyment are just as important to participants as learning and achievement.
- Ensure that lessons are a) properly planned and b) safe (do a risk assessment).
- Aim to develop our skills through training and research.
- Aim to improve over time by reviewing our lessons – amongst ourselves and with participants – to identify areas where we could do better.

4 DOCUMENT VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1	11-Jun-2023	Matthew Pierce	Initial draft.
2	19-Jun-2023	Matthew Pierce	Separated out general and tuition code of conduct.
3	11-May-2026	Matthew Pierce	Minor wording changes to the general guidelines. Renamed document from "HAHAS Angling Tuition Code of Conduct" to "HAHAS Code of Conduct". Added points about social media and photo permission to section 3.2 Relationships. Approved by Bob Gibbs.