

# HAMPSTEAD AND HIGHGATE ANGLING SOCIETY

## ANGLING COACH VETTING & TRAINING

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### 1 OVERVIEW

HAHAS encourages all members to consider getting involved in angling tuition. Teaching people to fish is enjoyable, and it helps us promote angling to the wider public and the authorities.

As part of our safeguarding policy, and to protect our reputation, we operate a vetting process intended to ensure that only **committed** people of **good character** teach with us.

HAHAS members who pass vetting will be invited to start coaching with us and we will provide training to help them develop their skills.

## 2 COACH VETTING

### 2.1 JOIN HAHAS

Newcomers need to join HAHAS before being considered for our coaching team. New members must sign a declaration agreeing to the following four key principles:

- Abide by the HAHAS safeguarding policy.
- 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 so they get a positive impression of angling and HAHAS.

Joining HAHAS thus demonstrates a certain level of **commitment** and an acceptance of our values.

### 2.2 ATTEND AT LEAST TWO MEETINGS

We require prospective new coaches to attend at least two club meetings. This is further evidence of **commitment** and it gives all members – and especially, the chairman and lead safeguarding officer – the chance to start getting to know them face-to-face.

In this part of the vetting process we are primarily looking to assess **character** – e.g. would we be happy to work with this person? Will they uphold our good name? Will they treat their pupils with kindness and respect?

The chairman and lead safeguarding officer will decide after this whether or not to bring the new person onto the coaching team, taking into account HAHAS' members views.

### 2.3 DBS CHECKS

Once they have passed the above two vetting steps, the new HAHAS member can start coaching under the supervision and guidance of one of our existing Angling Trust licensed coaches.

After three coaching sessions they need to pass the final stage of vetting - the DBS check. This is a further assessment of **character**, but please note that a DBS check which shows a criminal record does not necessarily mean the applicant would fail our vetting process (see *HAHAS DBS Procedures* document on our website [thehahas.co.uk](http://thehahas.co.uk), which contains our policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders).

### 2.4 HAHAS 'APPROVED LIST' FOR ANGLING COACHES

The lead safeguarding officer maintains an 'approved list' of everyone who has passed the vetting stages above, is currently available and is not excluded for any other reason. Note that the HAHAS chairman and lead safeguarding officer have the final say on all vetting decisions.

When seeking coaching assistance for their tuition sessions, HAHAS Angling Trust licensed coaches must only use people on the approved list – that is, only vetted HAHAS members are able to teach fishing with us.

HAHAS Angling Trust licensed coaches are free to use unvetted HAHAS members for non-coaching tuition session duties e.g. check-in desk at Give Angling A Go, tackle setup, talking to passers by etc.

### 3 TRAINING

Hahas is committed to helping members develop their coaching skills to the fullest extent possible. The following steps show how this might work for a new person with no previous coaching experience:

- 1) Pass vetting
- 2) Sit in on a tuition session as an observer (see how it is organised, how the risk assessment is done, how the lead coach interacts with pupils, parents, other team members etc)
- 3) Do some tuition in a later session under the supervision of a licensed coach (having first discussed the session with the coach in charge; read the tuition code of conduct, lesson plan and risk assessment; and discussed safeguarding with the lead safeguarding officer)
- 4) Do more coaching sessions under supervision, covering different parts of the syllabus e.g. whip fishing, waggler fishing, knots, watercraft etc
- 5) After several sessions, Hahas might consider funding the new coach to do the Angling Trust training course to become a licensed coach, able to lead their own sessions and help train up new recruits in turn.

### 4 DOCUMENT VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1	11-May-2026	Matthew Pierce	Initial draft approved by Bob Gibbs.