



## DORSET ARMS ANGLING CLUB

### Safety & Risk Assessment Statement

It is the duty of the Dorset Arms Angling Club to familiarise its members, officials and visiting anglers with the principals of risk assessment. All members, officials and visiting anglers should make themselves aware of the risks they face in the surroundings they find themselves and carry out their own risk assessment which generally amounts to common sense and take appropriate action to ensure their own safety and that of others. However, it is a requirement that all anglers read, understand and accept this Safety & Risk Assessment Statement.

Before familiarising yourself with the General Risks please note that members and visiting anglers fish club waters at their own risk. There is no liability on the part of landowners with respect to loss or injury caused whilst accessing or fishing on their land.

#### GENERAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ANGLING

- Paths** Only use obvious paths along the bank.
- Banks** Beware of undercuts in banks especially near deep water.
- Wading** Take particular care when wading in deep water and on rocky bottoms. Use a wading staff and wading belt at all times.
- Power Lines** Beware of fishing under power lines and remember electricity can arc considerable distances. You are ideally earthed in water to conduct electricity. Remember that graphite is an excellent conductor of electricity.
- Lightening** Again you are ideally earthed when in water and if using a graphite rod, you have a good lightening conductor. If you are on a boat you and your rod may well be the highest point around and a prime target for a strike.
- Casting** Always show consideration to other users on a riverbank by avoiding contacting anyone with your back cast. If you are on a boat take extra care if you have other occupants, as you can easily contact them whilst casting. It is recommended that protective glasses are worn when fishing to protect your eyes from hooks and flies.
- Hooks/Flies** Hooks by their design are sharp and easily penetrate the skin. Their use brings them into contact with germs etc. that can be injurious to health. Caution should be used when handling hooks, tying on or removing hooks. Rusty hooks should be avoided at all times.
- Weighted Flies** Weighted flies cause unpredictable movement of cast when casting. Extreme caution should be exercised when casting weighted flies to ensure they do not come into contact with your fellow anglers or the public.
- Trees** Fishing under trees can be unsafe in windy conditions. Beware of falling branches.
- Animals & Insects** Do note that bulls can be troublesome! As can cows & calves. Approach the river with caution. Be aware of ticks and other stinging/biting insects with special relation to Lyme's Disease.
- Wells Disease** This is transmitted in rat's urine. Never put wet lines in your mouth or any items of tackle that has been in the water. Wear waterproof plasters on any cuts or abrasions. There may also be a risk in some waters from treated sewage.
- Fishing** If platforms are floating then treat as Boat Pontoons below. Fishing platforms are constructed to gain

<b>Platforms</b>	access to deeper water, hence take extra not to fall in. They are inherently slippery, so care is needed at all times.
<b>Boat Pontoons</b>	Beware that pontoons constantly move, and hence are unstable, invariably wet and slippery. This makes walking on them difficult and possibly unsafe. Maximum caution is needed.
<b>Getting On, Off &amp; Moving Around On Boats</b>	Like pontoons, boats also constantly move and are unstable when their balance is disturbed. The motion of the boat and getting on, off and moving around on boats disturbs the balance, hence maximum caution is needed when getting on, off and moving around the boats.
<b>Other Boats</b>	Beware other boats can approach you from all angles and may be unpredictable in their direction, when "on the motor" you should always give way to those drifting or under sail.
<b>Falling in The water</b>	Falling in the water may cause drowning. It is recommended that a buoyancy aid is worn at all times when on, in or near water.
<b>Weather Conditions</b>	When boat fishing, the weather may change suddenly and cause unforeseen dangerous water conditions. Be constantly aware of changing weather and its consequences.

### **SPECIFIC RISKS ALL INCLUSIVE**

**For the specific risks associated with Dorset Arms Angling Club waters read the additional information.**

#### **Type of fishing (River Bank – Medway & Eridge Stream & RFA waters)**

**Specific Risks:** see Paths, Banks, Power Lines, Wading, Lightening, Casting, Hooks/Flies, Weighted Flies, Trees, Animals & Insects, Weils Disease and Falling in Water.

#### **Type of fishing (Lake and Pond – Burrswood, Ticehurst House, Renhurst. & Weirwood Reservoir)**

**Specific Risks:** : see Paths, Banks, Power Lines, Wading, Lightening, Casting, Hooks/Flies, Weighted Flies, Trees, Animals & Insects, Weils Disease, Fishing Platforms, Boat Pontoons, Getting On, Off & Moving Around On Boats, Other Boats and Falling in Water.

**Additional risk at Burrswood:** Large trees regularly fall in or around the Bottom Lake & members should take appropriate care when deciding where to fish.