

Pulborough Angling Society Code of Practice

Introduction:

The Pulborough Angling Society (PAS) is dedicated to promoting responsible angling practices, conservation efforts, and the well-being of all members, visitors, and stakeholders. In addition to upholding the principles of environmental stewardship and sportsmanship, PAS is committed to ensuring the safety and protection of vulnerable individuals, particularly children and vulnerable adults. This Code of Practice, along with the Safeguarding Procedures serve as a guideline for all members, volunteers, staff, and stakeholders to maintain a safe and inclusive angling environment.

1. Compliance with Regulations:

- All members and visitors must comply with local, regional, and national angling regulations, including licensing requirements, fishing seasons, and catch limits.
- Adherence to PAS rules and guidelines is mandatory, including those related to safeguarding procedures outlined in this document.

2. Conservation and Environment:

- Undertake catch and release at all times
- Handle fish with care to minimise stress and injury, and release them promptly and gently back into the water.
- Dispose of fishing line, hooks, and other tackle properly to prevent harm to wildlife and aquatic habitats.

3. Sportsmanship and Etiquette:

- Treat all individuals with respect and dignity, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or ability.
- Foster an inclusive and supportive environment where all members, visitors, and stakeholders feel valued and welcome.
- Encourage fair play, honesty, and integrity in all angling activities, and refrain from engaging in any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination.

4. Safety and Safeguarding Procedures:

- PAS is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants, particularly children and vulnerable adults, involved in its activities.

- All PAS members, volunteers, and staff must undergo appropriate background checks and safeguarding training before working with children or vulnerable adults.
- Any concerns or suspicions regarding the welfare or safety of a child or vulnerable adult must be reported immediately to the designated Safeguarding Officer or PAS officials.
- PAS will cooperate fully with relevant authorities and agencies to investigate and address any safeguarding concerns or allegations of abuse or misconduct.

5. Responsible Angling Practices:

- Use appropriate tackle and fishing methods for the targeted species and fishing conditions to minimise harm to fish and aquatic habitats.
- Avoid the use of illegal or prohibited fishing methods, such as dynamite fishing, electrofishing, or the use of toxic substances.
- Report any instances of illegal or unethical behaviour observed while fishing to the appropriate authorities or PAS officials.

6. Education and Outreach:

- Promote awareness of angling ethics, conservation principles, and responsible fishing practices among fellow anglers, communities, and future generations.
- Provide educational programs and resources on safeguarding procedures and child protection for members, volunteers, and staff involved in youth or vulnerable adult activities.

7. Reporting Violations and Safeguarding Concerns:

- Any violations of angling regulations, environmental laws, or PAS policies and rules should be reported to PAS officials for investigation and enforcement.
- Safeguarding concerns or allegations of abuse or misconduct involving children or vulnerable adults must be reported immediately to the designated Safeguarding Officer or PAS officials for appropriate action.

Conclusion:

The Pulborough Angling Society is dedicated to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful angling environment for all participants. By adhering to this Code of Practice and following the outlined safeguarding procedures, members, volunteers, staff, and stakeholders can contribute to the well-being and enjoyment of all individuals involved in PAS activities.