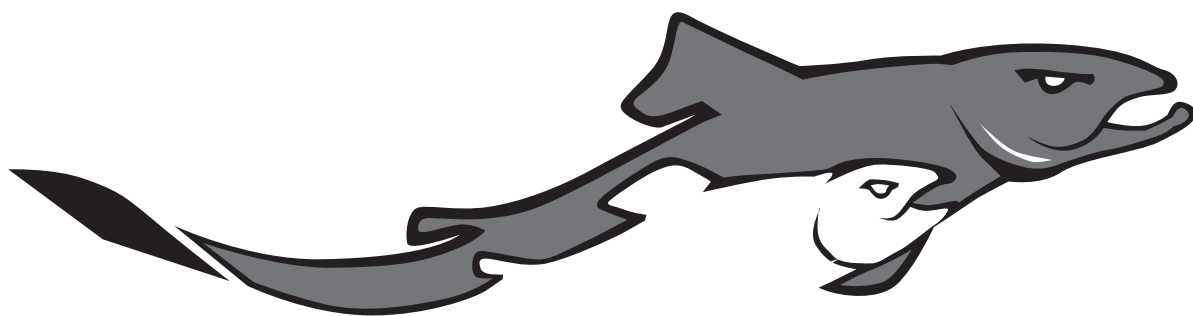


BANBRIDGE
ANGLING CLUB
===== *founded 1946* =====

**RULES
AND
CONSTITUTION**

2014 EDITION



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1. NAME

- 1.1 The Club shall be known as Banbridge Angling Club Limited.

2.0 AIMS

- 2.1 To promote game angling for the Club's members and visiting anglers for recreational, sporting and tourism purposes.
- 2.2 To safeguard and protect the legitimate interests of anglers in the Banbridge District including lobbying elected representatives regarding Fisheries and related legislation.
- 2.3 To improve angling by the re-stocking, conservation and enhancement of the water quality of the river, lakes and tributaries, for the benefit of local fauna and in particular for all indigenous species of fish.
- 2.4 To promote and encourage the benefits of participating in angling to young people.
- 2.5 To oppose any harmful action, from whatever source, to the river, lakes and tributaries.
- 2.6 To improve access to the river, lakes and tributaries by the erection of suitable stiles, foot-bridges, paths etc., thus preventing damage to land and property.
- 2.7 To encourage and assist statutory bodies to adopt policies and implement strategies consistent with the aims of Banbridge Angling Club Limited.
- 2.8 To maintain and enhance the Club's angling estate and

facilities.

- 2.9 To provide young people and vulnerable adults with a safe environment to participate in angling and related activities by maintaining a Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedures and ensuring that Club volunteers and employees working with children and vulnerable adults are compliant with extant Policy and Procedures.

3.0 DIRECTORS

- 3.1 In compliance with the Companies Act (NI) 1996 and its Memorandum and Articles of Association, Banbridge Angling Club Limited shall appoint between three and seven Directors.

- 3.2 In exceptional circumstances the Club may continue to operate with less than three Directors but only for the purpose of:

- 1) dissolving the Club; or
- 2) for a reasonable period until the minimum number of Directors are appointed.

- 3.3 Any person who is willing to act as a Director, and is permitted by law to do so, may be appointed to be a Director. Directors will be appointed on invitation only by the current Directors. Appointments will be made on the basis of a unanimous nomination by current Directors and ratified by a simple majority of Club members at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting called to consider such nomination.

- 3.4 In any case, where as a result of death the Club has no Members or Directors, the personal representative of the last member to have died have the right, by notice in writing, to appoint a person as a Director. For the purpose of this paragraph, where 2 or more Members die in circumstances rendering it uncertain as to who

was the last to die, a younger Member is deemed to have outlived an older.

3.5 An individual who receives a conviction for a fiscal or a fraudulent offence or who is barred from holding a position of Director in a company whilst a Club Director will be required to resign his position with immediate effect. Rule 3.6 will not apply.

A person ceases to be a Director as soon as:

- 1) that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act 2006 or is prohibited from being a director by law;
- 2) a bankruptcy order is made against that person;
- 3) a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts;
- 4) a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the company stating that that person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
- 5) by reason of that person's mental health, a court makes an order which wholly or partly prevents that person from personally exercising any powers or rights which that person would otherwise have;
- 6) notification is received by the company from the director that the director is resigning from office, and such resignation has taken effect in accordance with its terms.

3.6 A Director may resign with a minimum of 8 weeks written notice.

3.7 The Directors will transfer the business of the Club to its elected General Committee. Committees to which the Directors delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the articles

which govern the taking of decisions by directors. The Directors may make rules of procedure for all or any committees, which prevail over rules derived from the articles if they are not consistent with them. In exceptional circumstances the Directors may assume the responsibility for the business of the Club but only for the purpose of:

- 1) dissolving the Club; or
- 2) for a reasonable period until a General Committee is elected.

3.8 In exceptional circumstances the Directors may appoint a General Committee from amongst the membership to conduct the business of the Club but only for the purpose of:

- 1) dissolving the Club; or
- 2) for a reasonable period until a General Committee is elected.

3.9 In exceptional circumstances the Directors may appoint a professional company to conduct the business of the Club but only for the purposes of:

- 1) dissolving the Club; or
- 2) for a reasonable period until a General Committee is elected.

3.10 In exceptional circumstances the Directors shall retain the power of veto over the actions and / or decisions of the General Committee where these are deemed not to be in compliance with the Companies Act (1996) and its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

3.11 Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) may be called by the Directors at any time on submission of a written request signed by all the Directors to the Honorary Secretary of the Club.

4. CLUB STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

4.1 The business affairs of the Club shall be managed by an elected General Committee consisting of a President, Vice-presidents, Chair, Vice-Chair, Honorary Secretary, Assistant Honorary Secretary, Minute Secretary, Membership Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Assistant Honorary Treasurer, Competition Secretary, Assistant Competition Secretary and a maximum of twenty one members and three Associate Members, exclusive of Officers.

The General Committee and Officers of the Club shall be elected by simple majority vote of eligible voting members present at the Annual General Meeting (herein after referred to as AGM) to a one year term of office. Office bearers shall be eligible for re-election at the discretion of eligible voting members at subsequent AGMs.

Officers of the Club shall be ex-officio members of all Club Committees. Ordinary Members, Senior Members, Life Members and three Associate Members of the Club will be eligible for election to the General Committee. Associate Members shall carry voting rights in relation to the functions undertaken by the General Committee during their term in office.

Twelve members of the General Committee are required to form a quorum.

4.2 The General Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-Committees which may be composed of members of the General Committee and sub-Committees may be given power to act on behalf of the General Committee.

4.3 At meetings of the General Committee the Chair or in their absence the Vice-Chair shall take the Chair and in the absence of both members a member selected by the meeting shall take the Chair.

4.4 The General Committee will meet when necessary and shall exercise overall control of all Club facilities,

activities, finances and all matters pertaining to the functioning, general conduct and welfare of the Club.

It shall have the power to make special rules to meet any circumstances not covered by Club Rules; and such special rules shall be deemed to be Club Rules until confirmed or revoked at the subsequent AGM.

- 4.5 The decisions of the General Committee shall be taken by a simple majority vote with every committee member present entitled to have one vote on each motion. The Chair shall have the casting vote in the event of a tie.
- 4.6 Any member of the General Committee who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without an apology or legitimate reason for not attending shall be contacted by the Honorary Secretary and asked to confirm within 14 days if they wish to remain on the Committee. After this time and in the absence of a response from the member, the Committee reserve the right to remove them from the General Committee.

Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings

- 4.7 The Club shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year on or before 31st January, at which a record will be heard of apologies and the business of the meeting shall be the approval of minutes of the last AGM, matters arising from these minutes, Secretary's report, Treasurer's report, Competition Secretary's report, election of officers, Corbet Lough rules and day tickets, River Bann rules and day tickets, Club fees for the following year, confirmation of special rules made by the General Committee, notices of motion and any other business deemed appropriate. The notice convening such a meeting shall be issued to Club members at least seven days before the date fixed for the meeting.
- 4.8 Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) may be called by the General Committee at any time it deems

necessary, or by the Honorary Secretary at any time on submission of individual requests in writing from at least 21 voting members of the club, or upon a written request from the Club's Directors in accordance with Rule 3.12. The notice convening such a meeting shall be issued to Club members at least seven days before the date fixed for the meeting.

- 4.9 Voting rights at the AGM and EGM may be exercised by all fee paying Ordinary, Senior and Life members (who reside within the Club radius only) plus Associate members of the General Committee. Life members may not vote on matters relating to membership fees and the numbers of members permitted in the Club.
- 4.10 All leases or conveyances of fishing rights, access agreements and other such matters as deemed appropriate shall be made to such Directors on behalf of the Club.
- 4.11 The Honorary Secretary shall submit to the AGM a report of the Club's activities during the preceding year. They shall attend to the correspondence of the Club and carry out the normal duties of the secretary.
- 4.12 The Minute Secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings of all Club meetings in a book reserved for that purpose and these minutes shall be read and approved at the following Committee or Club meeting and signed by the Chair or acting Chair when approved.
- 4.13 The Membership Secretary shall keep an up-to-date record of the names and addresses of all members who have paid annual subscriptions or who hold other such types of membership. He shall also inform the Honorary Treasurer of the names of members who have paid annual subscriptions.
- 4.14 The Assistant Honorary Secretary shall issue notices of all meetings of the Club or Committee and will carry out all other duties deputised to them by the Honorary Secretary.

- 4.15 The Honorary Treasurer shall maintain a true record of all monies received and payments made by them on behalf of the Club. The Honorary Treasurer shall not make payments without prior authority of the General Committee. They shall present a detailed report on the Club finances to the AGM and to the General Committee at any time on request and meet company law compliance in conjunction with the Club's accountants or auditors in relation to its finances.
- 4.16 The financial year shall end on the last day of October each year. The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare for an audit through the Club's auditors for the AGM. The auditors shall be approved by the membership at the AGM each year.
- 4.17 The Competition Secretary shall maintain a record of all Club competitions. They shall further maintain a record of all entrants and results. The Competition Secretary shall return all entry fees to the Honorary Treasurer and present a report to the AGM.
- 4.18 All cheques for payment must be signed by any two of the authorised signatories.
- 4.19 The General Committee may appoint delegates to the Ulster Angling Federation or other angling organisations with which it may become affiliated. Appointed delegates shall become ex-officio Committee members.

Protection and Control of Club Waters

- 4.20 Corbet Lough and River Bann rules set at the AGM shall be enforced by the General Committee.
- 4.21 The General Committee shall appoint bailiffs to safeguard and protect Club waters and all members are required to co-operate with and assist bailiffs at all times.
- 4.22 Bailiffs have the power to demand production of

current Club membership cards and statutory rod licences, to inspect bags and to order un-authorized anglers off Club waters.

The Committee and Bailiffs of Banbridge Angling Club Ltd. shall have the authority to instigate legal proceedings against any offending anglers.

4.23 Club officers have the power to demand the production of current Club membership cards, to inspect bags and to protect Club waters in general.

In the event of a suspected breach of Club Rules or non-compliance with the instructions of Bailiffs or Club Officers the member shall have their card confiscated and the Bailiff or Club Officer shall return it, accompanied with a full report to the next meeting of the General Committee.

5.0 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Membership of the Club shall be open to persons who have been accepted by the General Committee on the basis of a simple majority vote of the Committee present and voting, who have completed in full the current application form, paid the appropriate annual subscription, the joining fee and who have agreed to abide by the rules and constitution of the Club.

Annual subscriptions shall be determined at the AGM and will be applicable from March 1st of the following year.

5.2 Club membership shall be divided into the following categories:

(a) Ordinary Membership – those who reside or are rate-payers of a property within a six mile radius of the centre of Club waters (centre to be taken from Ballievey Bridge) or have been in continuous Ordinary Membership since pre 1965.

(b) Associate Membership – those who reside outside

the six mile radius and have joined the club since the date when the radius was first established. The number of Associate Members shall be determined at the AGM. The Membership Secretary shall keep a waiting list of persons wishing to become Associate members.

(c) Juvenile Membership – those under the age of 18 years who reside within the Club radius.

(d) Associate Juvenile Membership – those under the age of 18 years who reside outside the Club radius. There shall be a maximum of 20 Associate Juvenile Members at any one time. They shall pay 50% of Adult Associate Members fees. The Membership Secretary shall keep a waiting list of persons wishing to become Associate Juvenile Members.

Associate Juvenile Members on reaching 18 years of age may become Associate Members without paying a further joining fee if they have been a member for the previous three consecutive years or more.

All Ordinary and Juvenile Members who cease to reside or pay rates within the radius shall become eligible for associate membership within their respective category.

(e) Life Membership – Application for membership to this category is now closed.

(f) Honorary Membership – Application for membership to this category is now closed.

(g) Senior Membership – members aged 65 years or over on or before March 1st in any given year who have been ordinary or associate members for a period of seven preceding consecutive years or more.

Application for Senior Membership is the responsibility of the member concerned.

5.3

Riparian landowners whose lands adjoin club waters may at the discretion of and with the approval of the Committee be issued with two non-paying membership

cards.

5.4 The General Committee shall have the power to accept or refuse an application for membership at any time without assigning any reason for doing so, such power being exercised by simple majority vote.

5.5 Applications for Club Membership should be made on an official club membership application form and returned to the Clubrooms.

Each membership candidate shall complete an application form duly signed and dated. Applications will be considered at the next committee meeting following receipt of application and shall be proposed and seconded by current Committee members.

A candidate when accepted shall be notified by the Membership Secretary, requested to pay appropriate subscription and provide a recent photograph of themselves. After receipt of subscription they shall be provided with a Club card and a copy of the current Rules and Constitution.

All new members shall be placed on a period of probation for three years. During this probationary period should they be found guilty of breaking club rules their membership will be terminated immediately.

No member is entitled to fish Club waters or enjoy any of the privileges or amenities of the Club until such time as the subscription has been paid and Club card issued.

5.6 Application for membership of the Club can be made at any time.

New Associate applicants shall not be offered membership after August 31st each year. Any application made after this date shall be carried forward for consideration prior to March 1st of the following year.

Any applicant unable to take up Associate Membership when offered will be removed from the waiting list, but

may reapply per said rules.

- 5.7 Anglers admitted to Ordinary / Associate Membership shall pay a joining fee in addition to the annual subscription for the year in which they are admitted.
- 5.8 Every member of the Club shall receive a membership card complete with their recent photograph, appropriately stamped each season and duly signed by the member. **All members must carry Club cards at all times.**
- 5.9 Membership fees must be paid and Club cards duly stamped before March 1st in any year. Fees not paid before March 1st shall be deemed to be in arrears and a set fine shall be imposed. (Refer to current Club card).
- Membership will be terminated if fees are not paid by March 31st in any year. Lapsed members shall retain the right to rejoin the Club by process stated under said rules.
- 5.10 All members shall be bound by Club rules and any special conditions laid down in the club's leases with the Local Government Authority, riparian owners or any other organisation / body as if such conditions were Club Rules. All Club members and visiting anglers are required to be in possession of an appropriate current rod licence.
- 5.11 All members must inform the Membership Secretary of any changes to their address. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- 5.12 Day tickets may be issued to visiting anglers. Such anglers will be subject to the Club Rules and any special Rules governing permitted fishing. The cost of day tickets to be determined at the AGM.
- 5.13 The Committee has the power to issue complimentary day tickets at its discretion.
- 5.14 All concessions in respect of membership fees and permitted angling methods shall be at the discretion of

the Committee.

- 5.15 Membership of Banbridge Angling Club Ltd. is not transferrable.

6.0 DISCIPLINE

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of all members to inform the Committee of any conduct on Club premises or angling facilities under the control of the Club by any person, whether or not they are a member of the Club, that is illegal, unsafe, dishonest, discreditable, ungentlemanly or contrary to the rules and aims of the Club as agreed by the membership at that time.
- 6.2 The Committee may take disciplinary action against any person who is suspected of breaking any Club Rule or whose conduct is otherwise objectionable or is liable to bring the Club into disrepute. Such person or persons shall be asked to appear before a disciplinary Sub-Committee where all evidence shall be considered.
- 6.3 The Secretary, or in his absence the Chair or Treasurer shall establish an investigation committee of three persons to consider the matter not later than 14 days after notification of the incident.
- 6.4 The Secretary, Chair or Treasurer shall in the intervening period obtain statements in writing from both the accused and the accuser, and if necessary from any witness(es), and will lay those statements before the Investigation Committee when it meets.
- 6.5 Any person who is suspected of committing an offence against Club Rules shall have their card / day ticket removed and their membership suspended pending investigation. Such period of suspension shall count towards their overall sanction should one be applied.
- 6.6 The Investigation Committee, having examined the evidence, may decide:
- 1) That there is no case to answer in which case

the accuser and accused will be informed by the Secretary that the matter is closed, or

- 2) That there is a case to answer in which case the matter shall be the subject of a disciplinary hearing.

- 6.7 If there is a case to answer, the Secretary or in their absence the Chair or Treasurer will establish a Disciplinary Committee comprising three persons who shall conduct the disciplinary hearing within **28** days of the meeting held under 6.3 above.
- 6.8 At the disciplinary hearing all parties to the incident may attend in person, and the accused may have with him / her a friend. This friend will take no part in the proceedings. Should the accused or any other person connected with the matter wish not to attend, they can submit a full written submission which will be considered as if they were in attendance. If the accused does not attend they shall be entitled to receive a copy of the record of the hearing within **7 days** of it taking place, or within **3** days of requesting the same, whichever is later.
- 6.9 The Disciplinary Committee will consider all written evidence as well as oral submissions when reaching their decision.
- 6.10 The Disciplinary Committee shall first decide whether the allegation has been proved or not.
- 6.11 If it decides that the allegation has not been proved it shall declare formally that the matter is closed.
- 6.12 If it decides that the allegation has been proved, the Disciplinary Committee may impose one or more of the following penalties:
- 1) A verbal warning
 - 2) A written reprimand.
 - 3) Withdrawal of the right to use the Club's waters for a fixed period of time, the minimum being one

month and the maximum being five years.

- 4) Withdrawal of the right to use the Club's facilities for a fixed period of time, the minimum being one month and the maximum being five years.
- 5) Withdrawal of all membership rights for a fixed period of time, the minimum being one year and the maximum being ten years.
- 6) Immediate termination of membership of the Club, or in the case of a non-member of the right to make use of any of the Club's facilities.

6.13 All proceedings of the Investigation and Disciplinary Committees under 6.3 and 6.5 above shall be fully minuted.

6.14 Any person who disputes any decision, whether as to liability or penalty, by the Disciplinary Committee may appeal against that decision by serving upon the Secretary within 7 days a notice of appeal in writing. This should be accompanied by a security of £50.00. Should the appeal be successful the security will be returned in full. In the event of the appeal being unsuccessful the security will be forfeited and the sanction may be increased. An appeal will only be deemed successful if the allegation is found to not have been proven.

6.15 Upon receipt of such a notice of appeal the Secretary or in his absence the Chair or Treasurer will appoint an Appeal Committee consisting of three persons to hear the appeal. No member of this Appeal Committee will have been involved in the previous investigations or hearings.

6.16 The appeal shall take the form of a re-hearing, so the meeting shall not be entitled to enquire into the manner in which the Disciplinary Committee reached its decision.

6.17 On the hearing of the appeal by the Appeal Committee the provisions of clauses 6.7 to 6.12 inclusive shall

apply.

- 6.18 All decisions on disciplinary matters by the Investigation Committee, the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee shall be reached by means of a vote by those attending and eligible to vote. A simple majority will decide the issue and if necessary the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
- 6.19 On completion of the Disciplinary Proceedings a full report shall be made to the General Committee.
- 6.20 Littering of Club waters will be viewed as an extremely serious offence.
- 6.21 Non-compliance with any determination made by the Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee will lead to a life ban from membership.
- 6.22 Any member who receives a sanction for breach of rules shall have no claim to a refund of subscriptions paid.
- 6.23 Persons suspended or have had their membership terminated shall not be permitted to purchase day tickets.
- 6.24 Any person whose membership is suspended for a period of 12 months or more will be eligible to re-apply for membership of the Club on completion of their suspension. If their application is successful a joining fee will apply.
- 6.25 Any person who has received a sanction under paragraph 6:12, sub-paragraphs 3 to 6 inclusive will not be entitled to attend any meeting nor have any voting rights during the period of the sanction.
- 6.26 Any person who may be considered for immediate termination of membership or a life ban will be offered the option to resign their membership.

7.00 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

- 7.1 The constitution may only be added too, repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to be passed unless it is carried by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. Total votes cast shall consist of votes for, against, abstentions or in the case of a paper ballot spoilt votes shall also be included.

8.00 CLUB ASSETS

- 8.1 The Club's assets, financial or otherwise must only be used for the benefit of the Club and the pursuance of the objectives laid down in the constitution.

9.00 DISSOLUTION

- 9.1 A resolution to dissolve the Club shall be passed only by an Extraordinary General Meeting specially summoned for the purpose of such a resolution.
- 9.2 Dissolution shall not be deemed to be passed unless it is carried by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast as detailed at **9.1** above.
- 9.3 If, upon the winding up or dissolution of the Club there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club but shall be given or transferred to some other body, institution or institutions charitable in law and having objects similar to the objects of the Club which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property amongst its or their members to an extent at least as great as hereinbefore mentioned as may be determined by the members of the Club at or before the time of dissolution and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provision then to some other charitable object.

9.4 The Club shall exhaust its assets in the protection of the interests of its Directors.

10.0 INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

10.1 Should any doubt exist regarding the interpretation of any Rule the decision of the Committee will be final.

11.0 DECLARATION

11.1 It is hereby certified that this document represents a true version of the Rules and Constitution of Banbridge Angling Club Ltd.

