

Liskeard & District Angling Club

Safety & Risk Assessment Statement:

It is the duty of Liskeard & District Angling Club to advise its members, officials and all visiting anglers with the principals of safety and risk assessment. All members, officials and visiting anglers should make themselves aware of the risks they face in the surroundings they find themselves in and carry out their own risk assessment. This usually amounts to common sense. All persons must then take the 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.

All Angling activities are undertaken at the Anglers own risk.

General Risks Associated with Angling

1. Paths:

Only use obvious paths along the bank. Look out for branches and undergrowth which may be at eye level, it is recommended that glasses are worn at all times when fishing. Beware of tree roots, brambles etc. which may cause trip hazards. Not all paths on Liskeard & District Angling Club waters are maintained so take due care at all times.

2. Wading:

Take particular care when wading in deep or fast water and on rocky bottoms. Use a wading staff and wading belt at all times. A floatation device or buoyancy aid is also recommended when wading, but is at each Anglers discretion. It is strongly advised that all Anglers familiarize themselves with wading any pools to be fished in good daylight conditions before attempting to fish during the hours of darkness. Ensure that the footwear you choose is adequate for the terrain.

3. Power Lines:

Do not fish under or near power lines, electricity can arc over considerable distances. You are ideally earthed in water to conduct electricity. Carbon fibre rods are also an excellent conductor of electricity as is a fly line coated in water. Power lines which cross the river are usually marked on the banks with a post and sign both upstream and downstream, however power lines away from the riverbank are unmarked.

4. Trees:

Fishing in wooded areas and under trees can be unsafe in windy conditions. Beware of falling branches.

5. Stiles, Bridges and Fences:

Always take care when negotiating stiles and crossing bridges which may be slippery. Fences and gates should not be climbed as this can cause damage and presents further unnecessary hazards. Before negotiating a stile or bridge a visual inspection should be made to ensure safety for use.

6. Electric Fences:

Electric fences which are used for the control of animals can periodically discharge high voltages. Contact with the wires may result in a painful electric shock, or worse.

7. Lightning:

You are ideally earthed when in water and if using a graphite rod, you have a good lightning conductor. In case of lightning it is recommended that you lay your rod flat on the ground and take shelter (not under trees). A car is a good place to shelter.

8. Casting:

Always show consideration to other users on the riverbank by avoiding contacting anyone with your back-cast. It is recommended that protective glasses are worn when fishing to protect your eyes from hooks and flies.

9. 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 can cause unpredictable movement of cast when casting. Extreme caution should be exercised. When casting all flies ensure they do not come in contact with you, your fellow anglers or the public, paying particular attention to persons using bank side paths.

10. Animals:

Treat all livestock with respect. Note that cattle can be troublesome! Avoid contact where possible and approach the riverside fields with caution.

11. Weil's Disease

This is transmitted in rat's urine. Never put wet lines in your mouth or any other items of tackle that has been in the water. Wear waterproof plaster on any cuts or abrasions. There may also be a risk in some waters from treated sewage effluent. Use anti-bacterial hand-wash and avoid handling food items until you have washed thoroughly. Symptoms of Weil's disease include Chills, nausea & vomiting, sudden headaches, loss of appetite and muscle pain (particularly in the calves and lower back). If you have these symptoms after fishing, seek urgent medical attention.

12. Falling in the water:

Falling in the water may cause drowning. Be aware of trip hazards and take particular care when fishing off high riverbanks that may be liable to give way without warning.

13. Weather Conditions:

The weather may change suddenly and cause unforeseen dangerous water conditions. Be constantly aware of changing weather and its consequences, particularly rising water levels. Also be careful during heavy rainfall as paths and riverbanks may become very slippery.

14. Vehicles:

Vehicles must be driven in a courteous manner at all times, particularly on leaving public roads to access Club parking facilities. When parking in Club designated parking areas, please do so with due regard for landowners and other users and do not block access at any time. When using 'public parking' please ensure that due respect and courtesy is given to residents, other road users, those requiring access and emergency services.

15. Risks specific to Junior Members:

Liskeard & District Angling Club recommends and expects that all Junior Anglers under the age of 12 years are supervised by an Adult Club Member at all times.

Junior members over 12 years of age are allowed to fish Club waters with parental consent. It is recommended that Junior Anglers do not wade above knee height. All Junior members should wear eye protection for their safety.

Junior Anglers under 16 years of age must not fish Club waters during hours of darkness (Sunset to Sunrise) unless accompanied by an Adult Club Member who can supervise their safety.

16. Safeguarding Policy:

Liskeard & District Angling Club is committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all members, guests, and participants. This policy outlines our approach to safeguarding children, young people, and adults at risk, ensuring their welfare is always our top priority.

Principles

Liskeard & District Angling Club will treat everyone with dignity, respect, and fairness. Promote a culture where safeguarding concerns are taken seriously and acted upon promptly. Follow relevant UK safeguarding legislation and Angling Trust guidance.

Responsibilities

The Club Committee will oversee safeguarding implementation and will review this policy annually. The Welfare Officer will act as the first point of contact for all safeguarding concerns, will maintain confidentiality, and liaise with statutory agencies if necessary. All club members should share responsibility for safeguarding by following club codes of conduct and reporting any concerns immediately to the Welfare Officer.

The Welfare/Safeguarding Officer is LDAC Committee Member, Robert Deacon and may be contacted in the first instance at sec@ldac.org.uk

Or alternatively by contacting any member of the committee.

N.B. All persons (Members, Guests and Day/Weekly Permit Holders) fishing Club waters, do so at their own risk.