



Verulam Angling Club

Match Section Etiquette

By Allan Bayman, VAC Match Committee Chairman

Booking on and withdrawing from matches.

Do book on in plenty of time for matches as they do fill up fast.

When you email matches@verulam-angling.co.uk you should always get a response within 24 hours. If you do not please feel free to text or call on 07768 901252. Whilst email is generally reliable there can always be problems.

Do make sure if you have to pull out that you let us know ASAP. No-shows will be noted and if the member doesn't explain why they didn't attend or repeatedly fails to show we may exclude them from future matches. **You may still be liable for peg fees.**

Keepnets

Do take plenty of nets. If you are unsure of what the winning weights are likely to be check the venues' website or ask the match section at matches@verulam-angling.co.uk You should aim for no more than 50lb per net although some fisheries do have slightly higher limits. Breaking these could see you disqualified. Ask if you are unsure. Remember that you need to be able to lift your nets out so better to have too many than too few.

Do ensure your nets are bone dry before you come to the fishery. Exposure to strong daylight (UV) and drying nets out is essential to stop the spread of disease between fisheries. Ensure that net bags are also allowed to dry out.

Typically subject to venue regulations, where appropriate separate carp and silver fish. Many fisheries expect carp and larger specimens of bream to go in one net and silver fish such as roach, perch skimmers and small carp below 1lb to go in a silvers net. Doing this minimises chances of small fish being squashed by larger fish during the weigh in.

Do push your nets out with a landing net pole rather than chucking them in to create less disturbance and ensure the full length of your net is available for the fish.

Don't drop large fish into nets from a height. Place them into your keepnet via your landing net. This is also important when your keepnet is near a hard surface as it can avoid fish being damaged when being placed into your net.

Weighing-in

Do make sure your peg is free of clutter so weighing in can be done easily without risking any fragile pole sections or trip hazards.

Don't leave your bank sticks attached to nets. These get in the way and could cause injury if someone gets one waved in their face.

Do pick a piece of soft ground to weight in on or even better do this over an unhooking mat.

Don't roll your fish down the length of your nets. This is poor fish care and some fishery owners make take a dim view on this. If you are unsure on how to weigh in properly please ask fellow competitors and we can show you. The correct methods involves pulling through the lower rings of your keepnet to effectively shorten it and allow fish to easily be placed into the weigh sling.

Bait

Do make sure you know of bait bans on the fishery and bait limits. An increasing number of fisheries have bait bans or limits around boilies, meat, groundbait etc.

When not on VAC venues check if anyone else wants your left-over bait rather than chucking it in. Stan Kiddle will often take it for supplementary feed on our venues, so your contribution helps maintain future sport.

Bankside etiquette

Don't fish more than halfway to the next peg if an angler is fishing it. Be sensible if you are both fishing to a feature it is suggested you agree with each other where you are comfortable each other fishing to.

Don't use a mallet to hammer in bank sticks. This is very unfair on anglers around you and will certainly kill off much chance of fish coming in close.

If you have to go early pack up quietly, take your bait home and keep any disturbance to an absolute minimum especially when passing other anglers.

Do not walk up to other anglers sky-lining their pegs or making noise.

Don't go launching a feeder half way across the lake over other anglers lines.

Do keep swearing to a minimum. We appreciate angling can be rather frustrating and we've probably all had a good swear at times but no need to shout.

It is not permitted to cup-in bait when you have another line in the water. Feeding by hand or catapult is fine. Equally, no walking around to the far bank or similar, only feed your peg whilst on your peg.

If you have a problem

Lastly do not moan and mutter under your breath or grizzle to other competitors. If you have a problem with something you see happening let me, Allan Bayman, or the organiser on the day, know immediately. The next day or the next match is too late to take action. Use commonsense, on our matches it's likely that any rule-breaking is probably accidental through ignorance of the rules and a polite word should suffice.