

Specimen Lake Rules and Regulations

Please note that memberships are available to over 18's only; you must have at least 5 years' experience in specimen angling and possess equipment capable of landing fish of 40lb plus.

Pricing

Annual membership fee: £100.00 / 12 hour session: £30.00 / 24 hour session: £50.00 / 36 hour session: £80.00
48 hour session: £100.00 / 60 hour session: £130.00. And so on.

You can fish for up to 6 days and 6 nights in any one session. No half day tickets are available on this water. No membership fee will be taken until you accept a place on the lake and it is free to apply. Once you accept your membership, the membership fee is to be paid in full before you can start fishing.

All sessions must be booked and paid for in advance (non-refundable). Sessions can be booked online via Swimbooker or by calling the office on 01580 753813, or by visiting the office, which is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays). Memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable. If, for any reason, your membership is revoked, no refund will be given. Hawkhurst Fish Farm reserves the rights to change these prices without prior notice.

Rules

- No spectators are permitted on this lake.
- Nets, mats, slings, waders and boots are to be disinfected in net dip station provided before fishing.
- Barbless hooks only – no crimped or micro barbs are to be used.
- Minimum 15lb line.
- No bent hook rigs – single hooks only.
- Rods must never be left in the water unattended.
- No keep nets or sacks are to be used by anglers. No fish to be retained by anglers unless for fish recovery purposes. If the fish needs recovery, this should be done by hand in the net. Hawkhurst Fish Farm may leave out keep nets for removal of smaller fish, but anglers will be informed if so.
- Unhooking mats must be used at all times.
- 3 Rod limit (providing you have the appropriate licence).
- No bolt rigs and no fixed leads.
- No particle allowed from 1st March to 1st November.
- No plastic bait, no floating bait.
- Bait boats are allowed, but are to be used with respect of other anglers in their vicinity.
- Fish to be held below knee level at all times above water or over an unhooking mat. Fish are never to be held over the ground without protection of a mat below.
- Fishing in designated areas only – no fishing allowed off dam side of lake.
- No swimming. No wading unless you are taking a photo with a fish, if you choose to enter the water you do so at your own risk.
- No dogs, radios or excessive noise.
- No firearms or weapons of any kind are to be brought onto our site. Anybody found to be in possession of such items will be reported to the police and barred from the site indefinitely.
- No fires or unsupported BBQ's; BBQ's must be raised from the ground.
- No continuous lights at night.
- No fish to be moved into or from the lake at any time.

- Alcohol in moderation; anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. This includes the use of any illegal substances; if found in your possession this will be treated as a legal matter and you will be reported to the police and barred from the site indefinitely.
- Vehicles must be parked in a designated car parking area, such as the far end of Specimen Lake.
- Anglers must use the toilet provided.
- Litter is to be taken home or disposed of in the bin provided. This includes cigarette ends, used teabags etc.
- Anglers must be in possession of a valid Environment Agency rod licence at all times and must be able to produce this at the request of any staff member or EA officer. If you are found fishing without a valid EA rod licence you will be forced to immediately end your session and will be given 14 days to produce a valid EA rod licence to resume fishing or your membership will be revoked.
- All members must have their membership cards on them at all times and must be able to produce this at the request of any staff member.
- Hawkhurst Fish Farm has the right to close the lake without prior notice. If this occurs, any sessions already booked for that time can be rescheduled for the same duration at no additional charge.
- No trespassing into the adjoining fields or woodland. Anyone caught entering/leaving the fishery outside of hours will be treated as a trespasser and may be prosecuted.
- Any subject not covered in these rules is at the sole discretion of Hawkhurst Fish Farm.
- Any complaint or suggestion must be submitted in writing to the office, you will then receive a response within 7 days.
- Members will not disparage or encourage others to disparage Hawkhurst Fish Farm, the lakes, or staff in any way. This includes without limitation, comments or statements made in any format, such as online, or verbally. If a member is seen doing so, membership will be revoked without prior notice. Hawkhurst Fish Farm will pursue any person who seeks to damage the reputation of the business or its persons by way of slander or libel.
- No form of abuse will be tolerated to any member of staff (for example, verbal, online, physical).
- All sessions to be booked and paid for in advance through the office or online via Swimbooker.
- If the office is closed for any reason, phones are usually diverted to another staff member so always first contact the office to book on. If you can't reach a staff member, anglers are expected to book through the bailiff or by contacting Hawkhurst Fish Farm on social media (facebook or Instagram). Emails are not monitored if the office is closed.
- Please ensure that you are packed up and ready to leave before your session finishes at either 7am/7pm, in time for the next angler's session. In the winter, these times may change and anglers will be updated via social media or informed when booking sessions.
- Members will abide by the 5mph speed limit.
- For security purposes night fishermen's vehicles will be locked in on the site at 8.00pm until 7.00am the following morning. Anglers may leave the site during the night for emergencies only- if there is a law or medical emergency on site, please contact the emergency services as a priority before contacting a staff member.
- If you have a session booked and the gate is not open at the start of your session for any reason, please use the button on the right hand side of the gate which will put you through to a member of staff who can then open the gate.
- Members are expected to get in touch with the office if any of their contact details (listed on page 1) change at any time. New details can be given over the phone or via email or social media.
- Anglers are responsible for their own swims.

- It is your responsibility as a member to keep note of when your membership is due for renewal and to pay for your renewal before the expiry date. If you try to renew after the date (which will be listed on your membership card) we will not renew your membership and your place will be offered to the next angler on the waiting list. You may choose to reapply but will have to join the waiting list.
- New rules may be brought into effect without prior notice. Please monitor our notice board in the Specimen Lake car park, website and social media for any updates.
- The management of Hawkhurst Fish Farm accepts no responsibility for injury, death, loss, damage or theft to persons, cars or equipment whilst on the complex and reserves the right to close all or parts of said complex at any time. Any criminal damage to the complex will result in prosecution.

If a member is found to break any of these rules, Hawkhurst Fish Farm will either issue a written warning or choose to revoke your membership, depending on the severity of the member's actions (at the discretion of the staff). If a written warning is issued and you are found again not following the rules, membership will be revoked instantly and a letter will be sent explaining the reasons for this.