

Fishing Rules & Regulations

Southern Country Park, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4GZ

1. All permit holders aged 12 years of age or older are required to be in possession of an Environment Agency Rod fishing Licence. A rod licence is a statutory requirement (in other words it is required by law) and entitles the licensee to use a rod and line to fish. Rod licences can be purchased from any Post Office in England and Wales, or [online from the Post Office website](#)
2. Day tickets (fishing permits) must be purchased at the water's edge from the East Herts Council Bailiff.
3. Day tickets permit fishing at the main lake, from marked platforms within the Byelaw zones. No fishing is allowed in any other waters in the park.
4. When fishing at this facility, both the Council's fishing permit and the Environment Agency's rod licence must be carried and presented upon request to a Council Officer, Environment Agency Officer, Police Officer or Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). Failure to comply will result in the angler being asked to leave the water and the matter being considered by the Environment Agency.
5. Landing nets are required equipment and must be used when landing large fish. Landing nets are to be of knot less mesh.
6. Fish should ideally be released back into the water after capture to avoid harm or injury.
7. It is recognised that during competitions, keep nets may be desirable and are therefore permitted. However, they must be knot less and not less than 10ft in length.
8. All fish 5lb and over to be returned to water immediately (except during authorised match's)
9. No fish to remain in keep net for more than 3 hours (except during authorised match's)
10. No more than 20lb of fish in any one net
11. Only barbless hooks to be used (pole anglers may use microbarb hooks). No hook bigger than a size 10 can be used. Each angler to use a disgorger. No Braid.
12. No fish to be kept in carp sacks or lifted above knee height.
13. Fishing equipment must not be left unattended at swims.
14. No children under 16 to fish without adult supervision.
15. Permit holders are forbidden to take tins, cans, glass bottles and loudspeaker-type radios to the waters. The consumption of alcoholic drinks in the lake area is not permitted.

16. The lighting of fires and the use of bottled gas appliances is forbidden.
17. Vehicles, including motor cycles, must not be ridden or driven beyond the approved parking places.
18. Permit holders must remain within ten metres of their swim whilst fishing.
19. No litter of any kind is to be left at or near the waterside. Permit holders shall be responsible for litter found at their swim or in its close proximity.
20. Ground baiting (protein rich) and loose feeding should be practiced with restraint to minimise nutrient build up which can be harmful to water quality. Floating bread / pellet wagglers are not permitted.
21. Permit holders are forbidden to introduce fish to any of the waters. No fish may be removed.
22. Permit holders must ensure that persons accompanying them to any of the waters, whether fishing or not, observe the rules. Any infringement shall be deemed to have been committed by the holder.
23. Permit holders must remove all lines from the water before leaving their swim, and baits must be removed from the hooks. Any excess fishing bait must be removed from site and not dumped in the lake.
24. Each individual is restricted to two rods per visit.
25. Bank-side vegetation is not to be damaged or cut down.
26. Wildlife, including the ducks, is not to be disturbed or harmed. Please make sure no discarded fishing line is left as this can be very harmful, especially to birds.
27. Serious or repeated breaches of any of these regulations may result in immediate cancellation of the permit with no refund.
28. The Council may vary the regulations, from time to time, without prior notice to permit holders.
29. Fishing times:
 - From dawn to dusk**
 - No night fishing**