ASHFORD ANGLING SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

Version Control

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Prepared by: Committee

Supersedes: Previous Constitution

If adopted, this Constitution shall take effect from the date of approval at the AGM.

Adoption Record

Adopted at AGM held on: 4th April 2026

Chairperson Signature: _____

Secretary Signature: _____

ASHFORD ANGLING SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION (Revised – Unincorporated Association)

1. Name

The name of the Society shall be Ashford Angling Society ("the Society").

2. Status

The Society is an unincorporated members' association and shall be operated on a not-for-profit basis for the benefit of its members.

Any surplus shall be retained to further the Society's objectives and shall not be distributed to members.

3. Objectives

1. To promote and maintain the sport of angling for members.

2. To acquire, lease, manage and maintain fishing waters and associated facilities.

3. To promote responsible angling, environmental stewardship and water safety.

4. To encourage participation by junior members in a safe and supervised manner.

4. Membership

4.1 Categories

The Committee may establish categories including Full Member, Junior Member, Concessionary Member and Honorary Life Member.

4.2 Admission

Membership shall be granted upon payment of the appropriate subscription and acceptance of the Society's rules.

The Committee retains the right to refuse or revoke membership where reasonably considered necessary to protect the Society or its property.

4.3 Members-Only Site

The Society's waters are strictly for members. Non-members may only fish when accompanied by a current member and in accordance with rules set by the Committee.

5. Management

5.1 Committee

The Society shall be managed by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Committee shall control and manage the affairs of the Society, interpret the rules, oversee safety and compliance, and manage finances and property.

A quorum shall be five Committee members.

5.2 Officers

The Committee shall appoint a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and any additional officers as required. Officers shall be ratified at the AGM.

5.3 Terms of Office

Committee members shall serve for three years on a rota basis and may stand for re-election.

6. Trustees

6.1 Appointment

There shall be not fewer than two and not more than four Trustees, appointed by the Committee.

6.2 Role

Trustees shall hold legal title to Society property on trust for the members and shall act only in accordance with Committee resolutions. Trustees shall not be responsible for day-to-day management.

6.3 Term

Trustees shall serve for a fixed term of five years and may be reappointed.

6.4 Indemnity

Subject to the law, the Society shall indemnify Trustees and Committee members against liabilities properly incurred in the discharge of their duties, except in cases of fraud, wilful misconduct, or reckless negligence.

7. Health, Safety and Risk Management

The Committee shall ensure that reasonable steps are taken to maintain the safety of members and guests, undertake periodic risk assessments, ensure appropriate insurance cover is maintained, and implement necessary safety rules.

Members fish at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety and that of any guests they introduce.

Nothing in this clause excludes liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence.

8. Junior Members and Safeguarding

8.1 Definition

A Junior Member shall be any member under the age of 18.

8.2 Supervision

Any Junior Member under the age of 14 must be accompanied at all times while on Society waters by a responsible adult.

The accompanying adult shall be responsible for the supervision, conduct and safety of the Junior Member and shall ensure compliance with all Society rules.

8.3 Safeguarding

The Society is committed to promoting a safe environment for junior members. The Committee shall maintain appropriate guidance for supervision and may appoint a Safeguarding Lead where deemed necessary. Any safeguarding concerns shall be reported to the Committee without delay.

9. Finance

9.1 Funds

All funds shall be used solely to further the objectives of the Society.

9.2 Banking

All monies shall be held in a bank account in the Society's name. At least two authorised signatories shall be required.

9.3 Accounts

The Treasurer shall maintain proper financial records and present accounts at the AGM. Accounts may be independently examined where required.

9.4 Surplus

Any annual surplus shall be retained as reserves for maintenance, improvement, or contingencies.

10. Conflict of Interest

Any Committee member or Trustee with a personal or financial interest in a matter must declare the interest and withdraw from discussion and voting on that matter.

11. General Meetings

11.1 AGM

An AGM shall be held annually to receive reports, approve accounts, elect Committee members and consider rule changes.

11.2 EGM

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee or by five members submitting a written request.

12. Discipline

The Committee may suspend or terminate membership for breach of rules, conduct damaging to the Society, or behaviour endangering safety. The member shall have the right to make representations before a final decision.

13. Insurance

The Committee shall ensure that appropriate insurance cover, including public liability insurance, is maintained.

14. Property

All property of the Society shall be vested in the Trustees and administered in accordance with Committee resolutions. No property shall be sold or mortgaged without approval of a General Meeting.

15. Winding Up

The Society shall not be dissolved while ten members are willing to continue it. Upon dissolution, liabilities shall be settled and remaining assets transferred to a non-profit organisation with similar objectives. No member shall receive any distribution of assets.

16. Operational Rules and Match Regulations

The Committee may issue, amend or revoke Club Rules, Match Rules and other operational regulations as necessary for the proper management of the Society, provided that such rules do not conflict with this Constitution.

Operational rules may include (but are not limited to) fishing regulations, competition rules, safety procedures, guest arrangements and seasonal restrictions.

17. Amendments

This Constitution may only be amended at an AGM or EGM by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.