



Mr T Broughton
DDAS Committee RMO

Mobile: 07876504924
Email: discovery66@live.co.uk

DORCHESTER AND DISTRICT ANGLING SOCIETY SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025

Objectives

1. The primary aim of the Dorchester and District Angling Society Safety Management Plan is to avoid harm to health, and to promote the safety and welfare of all involved. All Dorchester and District Society Members (DDAS) are to follow the generic safety material that follows. This information contains angling safety management information; it is based on safety material produced by the Angling Trust, expanded and tailored to meet DDAS needs. Event organisers have not only a moral but also a legal responsibility to ensure that the risks at events are managed sufficiently to be assessed as “as low as reasonably practicable”. **Prior to each event, the organiser is to carry out a dynamic risk assessment to identify any bespoke risks.**

Environmental

2. There are many environmental factors for DDAS to consider and will largely depend on the nature of the venue. The following is a minimum list of the main factor's anglers must consider:

- a. **Access to the water.** All water features are inherently dangerous due to the risk of drowning. This risk is enhanced by deep and/or flowing water and full consideration must be given to accessibility to a peg, including steepness of bank, under bank erosion, flooding and marginal drop-offs. It is the responsibility of all anglers and match pegging officials to ensure that all pegs are stable, accessible and do not require wading in deep water. If there is any doubt as to the 'fishability' of a particular peg, it is not to be fished or left out of the match.
- b. **Electricity pylons.** Electrocutation from overhead power cables is the greatest cause of angling fatalities in the UK. The carbon fibre construction of modern rods makes the perfect electrical conductor, and the arcing effect does not require the rod to actually make contact with the power line to conduct the electricity to the angler. Legally, on club or Environment Agency authority owned venues, no pegs are to be placed within 30m either side of a powerline and signs are to be erected to warn of the danger.
- c. **Weather conditions.** In the event of thunder and lightning, anglers must cease fishing immediately. DDAS or the event organiser, will decide when weather conditions dictate that angling be cancelled, the start time delayed or the finish time brought forward. In certain weather conditions (such as strong winds), limitations can be placed on the areas that may be fished. In these circumstances those temporary boundaries **MUST** be adhered to by all anglers. The safety of anglers must be paramount.
- d. **Weils disease.** Weils disease is transmitted through rat's urine and is particularly prevalent along river and lake banks. It can be contracted by humans through open cuts directly into the blood stream. Symptoms are akin to flu and although hard to contract, unless identified early, the disease is usually fatal. However, simple measures can greatly reduce the risk. Fresh cuts and abrasions should be covered up prior to fishing and any cuts and abrasions should be treated with clean, fresh water (not from the venue) and covered up immediately.

- e. **Roadside venues.** Some venues are located adjacent to busy main roads. DDAS are to ensure that all cars are parked well off the road and extreme care is taken when crossing with tackle.
- f. **Covid-19.** DDAS are to follow Government Guidelines when issued, specifically Social Distancing.

Procedural

- 3. To mitigate injury to personnel the following procedure must be adhered to.
 - a. **Playing fish.** On commercial fisheries a recent method for landing large fish has been to play the fish directly off the pole elastic (effectively hand-lining). This is extremely dangerous practice as a broken line or pulled hook has the potential to embed a float into a hand or face. This method is therefore banned.

Appropriate clothing and personal safety measures

- 4. DDAS must ensure they have clothing and safety equipment appropriate to the local conditions:
 - a. **Protective clothing.** Clothing which is appropriate to angling activities and the weather conditions should be worn.
 - b. **Footwear.** Footwear appropriate to the venue should be worn.
 - c. **Headgear.** A peaked cap or brimmed hat should be worn when fishing.
 - d. **Food and water.** All anglers are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient food and drink for the duration of their angling.
 - e. **Skin protection.** All anglers should ensure that they have appropriate skin protection; sunscreen is highly recommended in all weather conditions.
 - f. **Insect bites.** Anglers are recommended to use insect repellent when at venues where biting insects are common.

First aid and accident procedures

- 5. Anglers should ensure that if angling alone that their angling location and approximate timings are known; all are encouraged to carry a mobile phone. A First Aid Kit will be available at all events. Only DDAS with appropriate training should administer first aid. In the event of an accident involving personal injury, the event organiser must be informed at the earliest possible time.

Risk assessments

- 6. Wide-ranging risk assessments for DDAS can be found at Annex A. These cover most hazards and situations that will be experienced by anglers across all venues; in practice there is little variability at locations. DDAS and event organisers are to familiarize themselves with these risk assessments and review them ahead of angling. On event/match days, including working parties, organisers must consider carefully whether any new hazards or risks are present; if they believe this to be the case, they should complete a dynamic risk assessment and record and retain these identified risks.

Match briefs

7. DDAS are required to acknowledge rules and regulations on joining the society. In doing so, they are certifying that they are fit to angle and confirming that they have read and understand the Constitution and Safety Management Plan.

8. Event organisers are required to deliver a brief before commencement of angling activities. This brief shall include all relevant safety notices; a format for the event brief is provided at Annex B.

Annexes:

A. DDAS – Risk Assessments

B. DDAS – General Event Brief – Minimum Requirements

RISK ASSESSMENTS – Dorchester and District Angling Society

Sport Risk Assessment Form		
Sports Association: Dorchester and District Angling Society	Assessment Ref: 2025/001	Date: 24 Feb 25
Sporting Discipline: Pleasure and Competitive Angling	Assessment Type	
	Specific <input type="checkbox"/>	Generic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Record of Dynamic <input type="checkbox"/>
Activity/Process: Angling – Coarse (Match & Carp)		Who is at risk:
		Association members: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ref	Hazard (a physical state with the potential to cause harm)	Number of people at risk
1	Slips and trips (especially in wet weather - potential for muddy paths near river)	DDAS
2	Manual handling (transportation of anglers' equipment)	
3	Inclement weather	
4	Deep, slow/fast moving water	
5	Electrocution (power lines)	
6	Road traffic (around bridges and access points where anglers move their equipment to the riverbank)	
7	Road Traffic Accident (An angler may be injured while driving to and/or from a venue).	
8	Covid-19 infection	
9	Waterborne disease	
10	Equipment injuries	

Likelihood		Severity				
		Negligible	Minor	Major	Critical	Catastrophic
Frequent	3+ pa	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Very High
Occasional	1-2 pa	Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Remote	1+ /10 yrs	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
Improbable	<1 / 10 yrs	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Incredible	<1 / 25 yrs	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Hazard	RISK Associated with Hazard (How people may be harmed – type of injury or ill health) Cause – Effect – Consequence	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating (Likelihood x Severity)	Additional Controls Required	Review frequency
01	DDAS, Risk of bone, muscle, skin injuries	Most venues set predominantly on flat grass banks. Although easily negotiable, suitable footwear is to be worn at all times. Some long walks are to be expected, again, good footwear choices are vital.	Low (Remote x Minor)	Appropriate footwear must be worn.	Annually
02	DDAS, Risk of muscle, skeletal injuries	All anglers are to ensure correct Manual Handling. Appropriate lifting/carrying techniques to be adhered to at all times. All equipment carried by the angler to be robustly stowed.	Low (Remote x Minor)	Match anglers are to help each other where required.	Annually
03	DDAS, Sunburn, Heat exhaustion/dehydration or cold exposure due to extremes in weather conditions. Risk of severe injury or death if struck by lightning while fishing during a thunderstorm.	Anglers should check a weather forecast at the start of their angling, specifically, thunderstorm risks. Anglers are required to cease fishing in the event of thunder and/or lightning. Appropriate clothing to be worn - hats, foul weather clothing, etc. Sunscreen to be worn when necessary. Fluids and food to be carried by individuals appropriate to weather conditions.	Low (Improbable x Critical)	Sun creams and adequate clothing is to be taken by all anglers.	Annually
04	DDAS, Risk of Death by Drowning	Match organisers should brief on the dangers of deep/fast flowing water. Anglers to predominantly fish from banks and avoid entry into water where possible. Anglers are encouraged to be in plain sight of fellow anglers.	Low (Remote x Critical)	All anglers briefed on methods of assistance	Annually

05	DDAS, Risk of severe injury or death if equipment hits powerlines.	No anglers are to fish within 30m of any power lines. A dynamic risk assessment is to be carried out by all fishing near power lines, any anglers unsure of any of the above are to move or seek guidance from the match organiser.	Low (Improbable x Critical)	Individual Dynamic Risk Assessment	Annually
06	DDAS, Risk of severe injury or death if anglers hit by moving vehicles.	Traffic around venues. Anglers are to be extra vigilant of vehicles when transiting with tackle.	Low (Improbable x Critical)	Dynamic Risk Assessment	Annually
07	DDAS. Tiredness whilst driving.	All anglers are to ensure they are fit to drive post an event. When possible, share driving task and take appropriate breaks during long journeys.	Low (Improbable x Critical)	Controls Adequate	Annually
08	DDAS. Risk of death if infected with Covid-19	Compliance with Government Guidance on Covid-19 including Social Distancing	Low (Improbable x Critical)	Controls Adequate	Annually
09	DDAS, Risk of death if infected by Weils Disease	Fresh cuts and abrasions should be covered up prior to angling and any cuts and abrasions should be treated with clean, fresh water (not from the venue) and covered up immediately.	Low (Improbable x Critical)	Controls Adequate	Annually
10	DDAS, Impalement injury due to physical activity in small area, and/or fish slipping whilst being unhooked.	Members to handle fish with care to reduce chance of impalement of hooks in hands. Anglers consider wearing hats and sunglasses to protect head and eyes. First aid kit available at matches to address minor injuries such as impalement in hands.	Low (Occasional x Minor)	Controls Adequate	Annually
Assessor		Association Chairperson		Overall Activity/Process Risk Rating	
Name:	Mr T Broughton	Name:	Mt C Watson		
Signature:		Signature:		LOW	

Association Chairperson Assessment Review							
Date:		Date:		Date:		Date:	
Name:		Name:		Name:		Name:	

Notes:

- When using a 'Generic' risk assessment, Assessors and Association Chairpersons are to satisfy themselves that the assessment is valid for the task and that all significant hazards have been identified and assessed. If additional hazards are identified they are to be recorded and attached to the Generic assessment.
- Hazard Risk Matrix.** The Hazard Risk Matrix (HRM) enables classification according to each Single Risk's assessed severity and likelihood. It is designed to aid assessment of the hazards on a like-for-like basis and enable determination of the appropriate levels of risk ownership. Codification is to be presented in a '5x5' format, using the following graduated axes:

Severity. Severity is an assessment of the worst credible consequence of an event occurring; the categories are:

- Catastrophic.** One public fatality.
- Critical.** Multiple Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences (RIDDOR) specified.
- Major.** One RIDDOR specified or multiple reportable¹ injuries.
- Minor.** Reportable injuries to any person or multiple non-reportable injuries.
- Negligible.**

Likelihood. Likelihood is assessed with respect to the chances of the worst credible event occurring; categories are:

- Frequent.** Likely to occur three or more times per year.
- Occasional.** Likely to occur one or more times per year.
- Remote.** Likely to occur one or more times in 10 years.
- Improbable.** Likely to occur less than once every 10 years.
- Incredible.** Likely to occur less than once every 25 years

Risk Reduction. In managing risks, greater emphasis is placed on understanding and mitigation of a risk rather than accurately placing it on the HRM table. Addressing the severity of an impact is more important than reducing its likelihood.

Very High = Intolerable. Activity is **not** to be undertaken.

- Only a reference or simple description of the control measures is required. If the risk assessment identifies the need for additional control measures, the hazard will need to be reassessed once the additional controls have been implemented.

¹ Reportable = medical attention required

4. Risk Assessments are to be reviewed:

- at a frequency proportional to the risk (eg, high – 3 monthly; medium risk – 6 monthly; low risk – annually)
- where required by local instructions/procedures;
- if the safe execution of the activity relies on stringent supervision and/or adherence to a safe system of work;
- if there is reason to doubt the effectiveness of the assessment;
- following an accident or near miss;
- following significant changes to the task, process, procedure, personnel or line management;
- following the introduction of more vulnerable personnel, or
- if a “Generic” assessment, then prior to use.

5 As the Responsible Person for the Association, Chairpersons are responsible for the production of the risk assessment and that they are signing to indicate that the risk assessment is suitable and sufficient, and they consider the risks to be acceptable.

DDAS – GENERAL EVENT BRIEF – MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Ser	Subject	Comments
1	Introduction	
2	Match Rules	
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Health and Safety – General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Management Plan (SMP) Prior to each event ensure that all members understand the SMP. • Location-specific risks, limitations or constraints Specifically, proximity to electricity pylons, deep water, flowing water etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual handling Ingress, egress, etc. • Exposure to hazardous substances Weils Disease • Weather Check details for the event period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sun / rain / wind ○ Lightning • Communications Telephone usage; contact number in event of emergency. • Emergency procedures In the event of difficulty on the water. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid Location of first aid kit. • Protective clothing Consider, the wearing of sunglasses. • Covid-19 Compliance with Government Guidance including Social Distancing. • Consequences of breaching safety rules Event disqualification with no further participation. 	

4	Fishing boundaries or limits	
5	Timings. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start time• Finish time• Time check	