

# BRISTOL WATER PIKE FISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS 2026

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## General Regulations

### Permitted Waters

- These regulations apply to pike fishing other than by fly fishing on Chew Valley Lake, only when permitted.

### Record-Breaking Pike

- Attempts to break a UK record must be carried out **from the bank only**.
- Boat anglers are **not permitted** to bring large pike ashore — there is no exception to close proximity to the bank.

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## Tackle, Methods & Equipment

### Rods & Rod Positioning

- Maximum of **two rods** may be used.
- Rods must not be more **than one metre apart** with anglers no more than 5 metres from rods at all times
- When spinning or lure fishing with one rod, anglers must remain **within 5 metres** of the second rod.

### Line & Traces

- Minimum line breaking strain: **20 lb** (mono) or **40 lb** (braid)
- Wire traces must be **used at all times** with a **minimum breaking strain of 40lb**:
  - Minimum length: **18 inches** when dead baiting, **10 inches** when lure angling.
- Heavy mono must **not** be used as trace material.

### Artificial Lures & Dead Baits ONLY

- Lure bodies must be **at least 4 inches**, excluding attachments (e.g., feathers, blades).
- All lures **must be fully de-barbed**.

### Baits

- No freshwater fish (alive or dead) are permitted — including **Lamprey, Pollan, and all types of Eels**
- Sea baits may be enhanced with sprays/liquids.
- All bait must be **identifiable**, or it will be seized (this includes chopped bait).
- **No pellets or ground bait** allowed.
- No pre-baiting permitted ahead of permitted fishing times.

**Zero tolerance will be taken to breaches in bait rules.**

### Hooks

- Only one prong of any double or treble hook **used for dead-baits** may retain a barb (for bait security).
- Maximum of **two trebles** or **two doubles** per trace.

### Use of Hypodermic Needles

- Hypodermic needles used for injecting baits are **not permitted** to be used or brought onto the site.
- Any bait injection must be completed **at home**.
- Needles required for medical reasons are permitted but must be disposed of appropriately.

**Zero tolerance will be taken to needlestick rule breaches.**

### Trolling

- Trolling with dead-baits and lures is only permitted by electric engine power — not petrol.

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## Handling & Fish Welfare

- Anglers must carry appropriate unhooking equipment:
  - Long-nosed forceps
  - Suitable gloves
  - Unhooking mat
- Minimum landing net size:
  - **36-inch arms**, or **30-inch round frame**
  - Knotless mesh, maximum mesh size **15mm**
- Fish must be returned to the water **as soon as possible** after capture.

## Bait Boats & Angler Spacing

- Bait boats must not exceed **100 metres** from the bank.
  - Boat anglers must stay **100 metres** away from dead-bait/lure bank anglers. (this includes the location of cast baits)
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## Boat and Bank Restrictions/Access

- No bank fishing **within 25 metres** of any jetty area.
- Anglers found fishing in **restricted areas** (bank or boat) will be asked to leave.
- Anglers and their tackle must not be on Bristol Water property **outside stated times**. Tackle found outside permitted hours will be seized and anglers will face exclusion from the fishery.

**Zero tolerance will be taken to breaches in Access rules.**

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## Reporting & Compliance

- Return cards must be completed and returned to **Woodford Lodge**.
  - Failure to return cards may restrict future bookings.
  - Any trout caught accidentally, must be returned immediately.
  - Trout killed unintentionally must be given to a Bristol Water employee and **must not** be retained by the angler.
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## Tickets & Permissions

- Ticket purchase via proxy is only permitted with Bristol Water Fisheries' approval.
  - Reselling tickets is not allowed without prior consent.
  - Ticket holders must inform Bristol Water Fisheries of any planned changes to ticket use or angler names.
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## General Reminder

- Trout anglers may also be fishing the reservoir. Please always be courteous of others.
  - For the future of pike fishing, please follow all rules and regulations.
  - Environment Agency laws apply — anglers require a valid **national rod licence**.
  - All other Bristol Water Company rules & regulations apply.
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## BOAT USE & SAFETY

**Bristol Water aim to get boats ready for 9am.**

All boat anglers **must** watch and sign to say they have watched and understood the company Health and Safety DVD prior to boat fishing. This must be done on every visit.

### **Before Leaving the Jetty**

- Ensure you can confidently start the engine before untying. Seek staff assistance if needed.

### **Lifejacket Requirement**

- Lifejackets must be **worn at all times** — on jetties and in boats.

### **On the Water**

- Maintain **50 metres** from other boats.
- Do not anchor where other boats are drifting and near the aerators at the Dam.
- Do not enter the buoy-marked area which is restricting access for boats (details on the day will be provided in the lodge).

### **End of Session**

- Return to the jetties **before the stated finishing time**, if unsure of the time, contact a member of staff.

### **Emergency Procedure**

- In case of breakdown or accident, **stay with the boat** and follow our contacts:
  - Lodge: **01275 332339**
  - Emergency: **01275 332481** (transfers to Security after 4:15pm)

**WE OPERATE A ZERO TOLLERANCE APPROACH TO ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS – READ CAREFULLY.**