

RULES AND CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE WILDFOWLERS CLUB: 2022

1. The Club shall be called the South Lincolnshire Wildfowlers Club and this title shall be strictly adhered to at all times. The Club shall have a President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and other such officers as may from time to time be considered necessary and other members. All officers shall be fully paid up members.
2. The Club Committee shall consist of the officers of the Club and a minimum of 6 other members. The quorum shall not be less than 6. Committee meetings shall be held on a monthly basis or at such other times and frequency as the Committee shall deem necessary and also the Secretary at the request of any three members of the committee shall forthwith call a committee meeting on seven days notice. All officers and committee members shall hold office for one year and be elected annually at the AGM.
3. The aims of the club are to promote and preserve the sport of wildfowling, shooting and rough shooting, to promote and encourage conservation in its broadest sense and in particular the conservation of wildfowl and wildfowl habitat, and to provide sporting, education and social facilities for members. All members shall at all times do all possible to further the aims of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation.
4. The annual subscription shall be determined at the A.G.M. Every member shall be supplied with a membership card annually.
5. All members of the Club, irrespective of category, will be covered by full BASC membership.
6. The Club's financial year shall commence on March 1st and end on the last day of February in each year. Subscriptions are to be paid in full by May 30th, and new Members' subscriptions are to be paid in full by July 30th. Any Member whose subscription shall be in arrears with forthwith cease to be a Member, and will be treated as a new Member, and will be required to pay the current joining fee as determined by the Committee.
7. The Annual General Meeting shall be held between the 1st February and 30th April in each year. Any amendments to the Club rules can be made only at this meeting or at a Special General Meeting as provided in Rule 8. Properly audited accounts shall be published to the Members at the AGM. Any proposals for the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing duly seconded on or before the 1st February in any year. Notice of the AGM shall be given in writing to all members not less than 14 days before such a meeting. The notice shall contain the Agenda and no other business (except with the Chairman's permission) shall be transacted at the AGM. No amendment to these rules may be made unless included in the notified Agenda for the AGM or SGM.
8. The Chairman shall have the power to call a SGM on seven days written notice stating the purpose of such a SGM and also the Secretary on receipt of a written request signed by any 20 members shall forthwith call on seven days' notice a SGM. Any such request shall set out the reasons why such a special meeting is to be called, and the notice convening the meeting shall state fully the business to be transacted there at. No other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.
9. Resolutions at all Committee and General Meetings shall be decided by a show of hands. The Chairman will have the casting vote.
10. Membership of the Club shall be restricted to 200 members of which not more than 20 shall be junior members aged 18 years and under, except at the discretion of the Committee.
11. Prospective new members shall be proposed by an existing member whenever possible. All applications shall be in writing on an application form approved by the Committee, and each application form shall be held by the Secretary or Membership Officer or such other officer appointed by the committee. Where vacancies arise each application shall be subject to approval by a majority of the Committee.
12. No person shall be available to participate in any club shooting activities (other than organized Clay Pigeon Shoots) or shoot over any land over which the club has shooting rights unless he be a fully subscribed member or the holder of a Valid Club Permit or Marsh Warden Card for the marshes on which he proposes to shoot except with the consent of the Committee.
13. The Committee shall, on proof to its satisfaction and in its absolute discretion, have the power to expel or suspend the membership of any member whomsoever whose conduct (with or without omission) it considers to be contrary to the best interests of the Club or detrimental to the good name of the sport of Wildfowling or shooting. The member shall be summoned to appear before the Committee to explain any alleged misconduct and if such member fails to appear at the appointed time the Committee may suspend or expel such member as they think fit.
14. Under no circumstances shall a member pass beyond the limits over which the club has shooting rights, except to recover wildfowl shot on or over the club's land, and then only with previous consent of the adjoining occupier; and in such case the member's gun shall be left within the boundaries of the land over which the club has shooting rights.
15. A current membership card, which is not transferable, must be carried by all members when shooting over marshes leased by this club. The card must be produced on demand by any other member/marsh warden, the landowners from whom the Club lease the marshes or their agents, a police officer or any other authorized person.
16. Every member shall be furnished with a copy of these rules and a copy of the membership handbook and shall be bound by the same and by any alterations or additional requirements contained within.
17. It is the responsibility of every member to report any contravention of any of these rules or any dangerous, irresponsible or illegal behavior whilst shooting on marshes leased by the club. The Club shall hold no responsibility in respect of any accident or mishap which may arise out of the activities of members or permit holders.
18. No game whatsoever must be shot on land leased by this Club.
19. When wildfowling on marshes leased by the Club, members must only gain access to the marshes by the official access points authorized by the Committee and must not use any unauthorized access points.
20. The use of any gun, rifle or any other weapon to fire or propel a single projectile for any purpose whatsoever, is prohibited on the sea wall, green marsh and mudflats. The use of any Section 1 Firearm is also prohibited on any land leased by the club.
21. Members of the club shall not use any wheeled vehicles along any sea bank or gain access for shooting purpose to any marsh.
22. The shooting seasons of the Club shall be in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (part 1) as from time to time amended. No member shall carry a shotgun on any marshes leased by the Club during the official close season for wildfowl.
23. All members must ensure that their dogs do not trespass or chase cattle or sheep.
24. Junior members aged under 18 years shall always be accompanied by a senior member aged 21 years and over when shooting over marshes leased by the Club.
25. There shall be not more than 6 nor less than 3 trustees of the Club and they shall be elected by the Committee and shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed from office by resolution of the Committee who may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of them present and voting at any meeting remove any trustee or trustees from the office of trustee. The property of the Club (other than cash which shall be under the control of the Treasurer) shall be vested in such of the trustees (not being less than 3 in number) as the Committee may by resolutions of the Committee (of which entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence) and they shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property. Each trustee in whom property or rights are vested shall if required by the Committee enter into such form of trust deed as the Committee may require.
26. Any amendment to or addition to these rules shall become effective immediately following AGM or SGM when the resolution is passed.
27. No member shall shoot more than 10 wildfowl per flight on any land leased by the Club and shall not have more than 10 wildfowl in their possession at any one time. For the purpose of this rule a flight shall be defined as being from midnight to noon or noon to midnight.
28. No wildfowl shot on any land leased by the Club may be sold.
29. The Committee's interpretation of these rules shall be final in all respects relating to the administration of the Club, and the Committee from time to time may make rules for the use and maintenance of the Club's rights and property.
30. The decision of the Committee on any matter not specifically provided for in the forgoing rules shall be final.
31. The Treasurer shall pay all monies received by him on behalf of the Club into banking or building society accounts in the name of the Club and all cheques drawn on such account shall be signed by the Treasurer, and a member of the Club appointed Committee. In addition the treasurer shall keep complete and accurate records of all the financial accounts to be submitted to the Club at its AGM together with a balance sheet certified by the auditors appointed by the Committee. All cheques issued to the Club members must be signed for by the recipient, and all monies received by the Treasurer must be accepted.
32. In the event of the Club being wound-up and ceasing to exist the assets thereof shall be realized and after payment of the Clubs debts and expenses the balance of monies realized (if any) shall be distributed in such a manner as the majority of the members present and voting at a General meeting of the club shall resolve.
33. A current Vehicle Identification Number Card, which is not transferable, must be displayed within the front windscreen area of the members vehicle when shooting over marshes leased by this club. Where more than one member is visiting a marsh in a single vehicle, then all members cards should be displayed. It is the members responsibility to ensure that their Vehicle Identification number card is visible from outside of the vehicle at all times.
34. All members will be expected to act as a warden at all times when visiting any marsh leased by the club. Members are expected to conduct themselves in a safe manner and adhere to good sporting practices at all times. Members are expected to report anything suspicious, unsporting or anything that they believe could bring the club, or club wildfowling activities into disrepute. (Reference to rules 15 & 17)
35. It is a condition of membership that Members must not be in possession of lead shot cartridges when shooting wildfowl over wetlands or on other Club grounds and they must allow their cartridge to be examined if requested by any other Club member. Failure to comply with this ruling may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
36. All shooting on any marsh must be from below the mean high water mark of ordinary spring tides. Shooting from above the high water mark or from the sea bank top is strictly prohibited.
37. When visiting marshes leased by the club, guns must remain in slips when walking above the high water mark and also when walking through any of the designated 'reserve' areas.
38. All members of the club will be issued with Bag Return documentation, and it is a requirement of club membership that this documentation is returned to the Bag Returns Officer by the 1st March following the Wildfowling season end.
39. Members are reminded to check Appendix A within the Members Handbook where additional temporary rules may be listed.