Aberdeen and District Angling Association

Frequently Asked Questions (Updated February 2026)

How can I apply to join the Association and are there any special conditions?

You can join the Association by initially completing the **on-line application form** on the Associations web site:
http://www.adaasales.co.uk/Welcome/NewMembers.asp

Payment of the joining fee of £100 (at 2026) must be made before we can fully process your application for membership (there is no charge for juniors, that is, persons 18 and under).

You will then be contacted by our Membership Administrator within 5 working days advising you of your various joining options thereafter.

You can also pick up an application form from Somers Fishing Tackle, 13-15 Bon Accord Terrace, Aberdeen, AB11 6DP.

What are the benefits of joining?

- You get access to **affordable angling** on **over 30 miles** of our owned and leased water which has some of the best fishing in Scotland if not the UK, including:

- **The River Dee** at Pots and Fords, Banchory Devenick, Garthdee, and Kingcausie beats.
- **The Feugh (tributary of the River Dee)** at Heughhead and Water of Feugh beats.
- **The River Don** at Cruives, Netherdon, Upper and Lower Stoneywood, Upper and Lower Parkhill, Upper and Lower Fintray, Kemnay, and Pitcaple, and Bithnie beats.
- **The River Ythan** at the Machar Pool, Ardlethen, Schivas, and Methlick beats.
- **The Loch of Loirston and Millpond Fishery.**

- You join around 700 members who already enjoy the **benefits membership brings.**

- You can spread the cost of joining and annual subscriptions by using our **Direct Debit scheme.**

- We have a **Web Site** **www.adaa.org.uk** which keeps you up to date on what is happening in angling generally and provides full information on the ADAA, and public and members only **Facebook pages** where you can socialise with other members. We are also on **Twitter** and **Instagram.**

- We have a YouTube Channel with videos of various beats: https://www.youtube.com/@AberdeenDistrictAnglingA-fo4sh

- The Association also has an email address where there is a **group of experienced anglers** ready and willing to pass on their help and advice by email. To contact them just email them all on buddies@adaasales.co.uk

- There are **various events** organised throughout the season. These, such as Junior days, are as and when organised. They are publicised on the Associations website and Facebook pages.

- You can purchase **quality ADAA merchandise** including, Polo shirts, ADAA baseball caps and badges, Angling Books etc.

- You can get **Exchange permits (no charge)** for Inverness, Loch Achonachie, Beauly, and Kirriemuir Angling Club.

If I only wanted to fish at a specific river or river beat or loch or fishery and/or for a specific species, for example, rainbow trout, can I pay an annual subscription just for this?

No, as one of the main benefits of being a member of the Association is the provision of salmon, sea trout, finnock, brown trout, and rainbow trout fishings across a significant number of river beats, a loch, and a stillwater fishery.

What is the Adult one-off joining fee for?

The Association has over the years acquired several fishing beats on the Rivers Dee, Don, Feugh and the Ythan.

The Association also has the Bothy our HQ on Riverside Drive here in Aberdeen together with furnishings office equipment and a selection of tools and maintenance plant which is stored there. The Association also has a Land Rover together with a trailer and a boat.

All this equipment and fishing's have been purchased by members both current and past by the joining fee and their annual subscriptions.

On joining the Association your joining fee is taken as your contribution to all these assets and further assets that may be purchased by the Association.

As a full member of arguably one of the largest Angling Associations in Scotland you have a voice and a vote at all the Associations business affairs.

What is the history of the Association?

The Association was formed in 1947 when a group of anglers who fished the Pots and Fords beat on the River Dee got together and initiated what became the Aberdeen and District Angling Association.

Those visionary anglers had no water of their own to fish but when, in 1953, the opportunity to purchase the Upper Parkhill beat on the River Don came up, they held an open meeting and were able to raise the sum of £2076.15 by donations and together with an additional loan achieved a successful purchase.

How is the Association managed?

A Management Committee looks after the Associations affairs.
The President, Vice President, Secretary and potentially 12 Committee members are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
Management Committee members meet in the "bothy" Riverside Drive, Aberdeen, once a month, usually the first Monday of the month.
The Associations Annual General Meeting (AGM) is usually held mid- January. All members are welcome to attend and are notified of the details prior to the meeting. Those who attend decide the annual subscription rate for the forthcoming season.
Extracts from the Minutes of Committee meetings and the AGM are posted on the Associations website www.adaa.org.uk

How much does it cost to join?

To join the Association currently costs an adult a one-off joining fee of £100 with an annual subscription, now (January 2026) of £315. The one-off joining fee is reviewed on an ad-hoc basis by the Association's Management Committee and the annual subscription is reviewed every year and agreed by members at the AGM.

The annual subscription for junior and senior citizen members shall be less than the ordinary annual subscriptions to a degree, to be determined by an Annual General Meeting. These are currently £10 and £235, respectively. (January 2026).

What is a junior member?

A Junior shall be a person **under the age of 18 at the time of joining or renewing their subscription.** In addition, any adult member of the Association

may be accompanied by up to 2 children under 12 years of age who may fish within the rules without joining. On reaching 12 years of age if the child wishes to continue with the sport of angling, they can immediately join the Association as a Junior Member on payment of the appropriate fee.

Also, an existing Junior member may continue to stay so over the age of 18 (Junior- extended- student) and are in continuous full time further education and can provide proof of such. Annual subscription £125 (January 2026).

What is a Senior Citizen member?

A Senior Citizen shall be a person **over the State Pension age before the 1st of March of the current season and a member for at least the five preceding years.**

Once a member when and how do I pay my annual subscription thereafter?

Every year you will receive notification of the **Annual General Meeting**. As the subscription rates are set at the AGM you cannot pay until after the meeting has been held, usually the 3rd week in January.

Your subscription is valid up until 31st January. The following season's subscription must be **paid no later than 28 February** and **you must pay it before fishing.**

Subscriptions for the 2026 season are set at the AGM and are thereafter payable * at:

- On-line via www.adaa.org.uk (amount of subscription payable by credit/debit card)

- By **Direct Debit** via completing the mandate form found at: http://www.adaa.org.uk/direct-debits scanning it, and sending by email to dd@adaasales.co.uk or by post to the address on the form (amount of subscription, payable in one instalment no later than 28 February 2026, **OR**
  First instalment payable no later than 10 February 2026, followed by nine equal instalments on 1st of each month, March to November inclusive

- Somers Fishing Tackle, 13 Bon Accord Terrace, Aberdeen (previous seasons permit required to be shown)

*** Important Note.** If you are already paying by **Direct Debit** You do not need to do anything to renew your membership for next season. Your annual permit and any other relevant information will automatically be sent to you at the address we have on record. So, if you have changed address in the past year or so, please

make sure we have your new details.

All 2026 subscriptions (or DD first instalment) must be paid before the end of February. No further reminder for payment of subscriptions will be issued.

Your 2025 subscription is valid up until 31st January 2026. Please remember your **2026** subscription (or DD first instalment) must be **paid no later than 28 February 2026** and that **you must pay it before fishing.**

If I am applying to join, how do the annual subscriptions work?

They cover the period 1 February to 31 January. You can apply to join anytime &, as well as the joining fee for adults, you must pay the full annual subscription. There is no waiting list.

Effectively this means that the later you apply during that period, the less time you will have for fishing for that period, for example, if you apply in August, you will only be able to fish until the next January, then pay for the next annual subscription period etc.

When is the best time to apply?

This is closely related to the FAQ If I am applying to join, how do the annual subscriptions work?

As members decide what the annual subscriptions shall be at the Annual General Meeting, usually held mid- January, & we are preparing ourselves for the new season with annual permit cards etc around that time, early January is a good time to do so.

Thereafter what we usefully find is if an adult is keen to join & fish as soon as possible thereafter they will do so up to about July time.

If you do decide to apply between July & December it would be useful if you can advise us if you wish to join as soon as possible or you are applying for the next subscription period.

Once an Association member, how do I become a Pots and Fords member?

Although closely affiliated with the Association the Pots and Fords Association is a separate autonomous body from the Association. Membership numbers are restricted under the terms of an agreement with the owners of the beat.

You must be an Aberdeen and District Angling Association member for at least three years.

You may then apply for membership to the Pots and Fords Secretary (email secretary@adaasales.co.uk).

Currently the Pots and Fords Association is fully subscribed but with a reasonably short waiting list. Once the usual annual period for payment of fees is over the Pots and Fords Secretary will know if any vacancies have arisen and will communicate with those to be invited to join at that time.

A page more about the Pots and Fords is hosted on ADAAs website: Pots & Fords Angling Association - Aberdeen & District Angling Association (adaa.org.uk)

Do you have a list of fishing's and where are they?

The Association has over thirty miles of fishing bank on the Rivers Dee (and Feugh), Don, and Ythan. We also have the Loch of Loirston on the outskirts of Aberdeen and Millpond Trout Fishery. To see details why not check out the maps on our website: https://www.adaa.org.uk/beats-and-maps

What are the rules for fishing?

The rules are considered every year depending on how they have operated the previous season and are included in the members annual rules etc. booklet and posted on the Associations website. To see details why not check out the **rules** and fishing's available on our website: https://www.adaa.org.uk/rulesfaq

Can I get an exchange permit with other clubs?

Yes, you can, exchange permits (no charge) are available for Inverness, Loch Achonachie, Beauly, and Kirriemuir Angling Club.

How many members are there in the Association?

There are approximately 700 members in the Association.

What sort of methods am I allowed to fish on Association fishing's?

The Association owns or leases over 30 miles of riverbank on four separate rivers, a loch, and a fishery.

This allows us to offer anglers a wide choice of what fish they wish to try to catch (remembering enjoying angling is not just about catching fish!) and what methods they wish to use, this dependant on a range of factors such as which river, beat, loch, or fishery, the day of the week, the time of the day or night or the year, and the age and physical condition of the angler concerned.

This enables both salmon and trout anglers the opportunity to generally either fly fish, spin, or worm all times in the season, dependant on the above.

To find out in detail please see our Rules and Fishing's:
https://www.adaa.org.uk/rulesfaq (the structure of these is that general rules that apply to all fishing's are at the start, specific rules for each river, loch or fishery next, and specific rules for each beat and, in some cases, pool, last).

Some examples:
Salmon and Sea Trout
Fly, spin, or worm:
River Don, most beats, see specific beats for details (no worming before 1st May)
River Ythan, all beats
Fly or spin:
River Dee, most beats, see specific beats for details.
River Don, most beats, see specific beats for details.
Fly only:
River Dee, Garthdee and Banchory Devenick beat, Pumphouse Pool.
River Don, Cruives, Snuffies pool. Fly only after 1st June, unless water is above the official marker situated on stone at head of Snuffies Pool.

Brown trout
Fly only (Juniors excepted Monday to Saturday)

Rainbow trout
Fly or worm:
Loch
Fly only except for juniors, Minors and Disabled Members who may worm. Disabled members must have written authorisation from the Secretary to fish with the worm (barbless or de-barbed hook (s) only (pennel tackle permitted).

For the period 1st Nov. to 1st March, worming permitted for all anglers (barbless or de-barbed hook (s) only (pennel tackle permitted).

Fly only:
Millpond Fishery

How do I prove I'm a member if challenged by any water bailiff, warden, authorised watcher or fellow member when fishing?

Members may only fish Association waters if they have in their possession their membership identity card, **photo proof of ID**, and valid season permit, which must be produced on request by any water bailiff, warden, authorised watcher or fellow member.

Up to season 2020 all membership identity cards provided to members when joining contained their photo, so this is still sufficient for **photo proof of ID**.

All membership identity cards provided to members when joining from the **2021 season onwards** (or replacement ones for members prior to then) do not contain their photo. They are also therefore required to also have in their possession **photo proof of ID** such as a driving licence, passport etc.

The reason for the change was the process of a prospective new member providing a photo to add to their membership identity card was causing delays and it was decided it was a barrier to new members joining the Association.

When and what can I fish for on a Sunday on Association waters?

It is illegal in Scotland to fish for salmon and sea trout on a Sunday. You can fish any Sunday the whole year for rainbow trout & brown trout at the loch or the fishery. You can fish by fly only any Sunday for brown trout on the River Don between 15th March- 6 October.

How do you protect my personal data?

Here at Aberdeen and District Angling Association we take your privacy seriously and only use your personal information to administer your membership.

Please read the Associations Privacy Notice: https://www.adaa.org.uk/rulesfaq which set out how we use your data, who we share it with, how we keep it secure and your rights as a data subject.

Catch Returns FAQ

Where can I see the recent catch returns?

The Associations catch returns are published weekly at https://www.adaa.org.uk/catches

Why do anglers have to report their catches?

There is a statutory requirement to report all migratory fish caught to the Scottish Government and the River Boards. There is a £3000 fine per beat for proprietors who do not return accurate returns.

Accurate returns will, in the long term, assist the River Trusts in monitoring the success, or otherwise, of the habitat improvements that are being or are planned to be implemented.

Records on non-migratory fish caught assist in the management of the Associations affairs, for example, stocking policies.

It is an ADAA disciplinary offence not to report catches.

How do anglers report their catches?

You must submit your catch returns online via
http://www.adaasales.co.uk/catchreturns.asp

What information should anglers provide when they report their catches?

Details required:

• Membership Number/ Pin Number (this is your unique 4-digit membership number as printed on your membership ID card (the unique one-off one you got when you joined) that you must carry with you when fishing• Email address •Name • Date • River or Loch • Beat • Species • Lure • Weight • Returned or Kept
Note: there is no requirement to report kelts or any fish under the catch size limit (10" for brownies and finnock).

What weight should I record?

You should round your fish weights to the nearest pound.

How quickly should anglers report their catches?

You should submit your catches within 48 hours.

If you do not do this for bookable beats/ Millpond you will not be able to make any further bookings.

Can I amend my catch returns if I make a mistake?

No. Once you have submitted your return, you cannot change it. If it is wrong, and you need to change it, then email the membership administrator on juliaf@adaasales.co.uk and they will change it for you.

Can I view my previous catches?

Yes, the catch returns web page lets you view catch returns between any two dates.

Go to http://www.adaasales.co.uk/catchreturns.asp

Click on View Catch Returns. Type in the start date, and the end date, then click on Show History to review your previous catches.

What happens once an angler reports their catches?

The Association maintains a database of catch returns. Catch returns made via the web form are automatically added to the database.

How up to date are the weekly catch reports posted on Facebook?

The Associations catch returns are normally posted on a Monday, dated with that Monday's date, and reflecting catches from two weeks previously.

For example, the catch returns posted on Monday 24 April 2023 summarises the catches from Monday 10-Sunday 16 April.

Why are the catch reports posted on Facebook not published in real-time?

The catch returns are posted in arrears to allow you time to submit your returns.

The Association Management Committee has considered the advantages and disadvantages of real-time updating, and decided that, notwithstanding the cost and technical issues of implementing this, on balance, the disadvantages out-weigh the advantages.

Advantages of real-time updates Anglers can see where fish have most recently been caught, and this may influence their decisions about where to fish.

It may encourage anglers to make speedy and accurate returns as other anglers may be willing to report and name any other anglers not doing so.

Disadvantages of real-time catch reporting. The returns will be incomplete, as anglers have 48 hours to report catches.

It may influence where anglers choose to fish and lead to over-crowding on beats.

It may discourage anglers from submitting accurate and timely returns as they will be concerned it will influence where other anglers choose to fish and lead to over-fishing on beats.

Note that, particularly for migratory fish, water heights, tides and weather conditions can strongly influence fish movements and fish may have moved on from yesterday's hotspots.

Where can I view the ADAA catch returns from previous years?

There is an archive of catches from previous years at https://www.adaa.org.uk/catches

Who has access to live catch reports data and why?

The Online Monitoring Officer/ Weekly Catch Returns Administrator who is tasked with checking for any incorrect returns and weekly catch reporting. The Secretary who is tasked with providing statutory catch returns to the Scottish Government and Boards. Beat Convenors to help ensure accurate catch returns are being made by members as part of their policing role.

Is it not unfair that a small minority have access to live catch reports data?

There are specific reasons for who has access as detailed in the question “Who has access to live catch reports data and why”?

Unsuccessful Salmon Fishing outings effort FAQ

Why do I have to record unsuccessful salmon fishing effort?

Background:

In December 2018 the Association, along with all other proprietors in Scotland, were advised by Marine Scotland that to enable a full statistical analysis of salmon fishing catches it is now a requirement that fishery owners and tenants report salmon fishing effort, in the form of rod days spent fishing for salmon, regardless of whether any salmon are caught.

The Association were also advised by Marine Scotland that, under section 64 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act, failure to return the information within the required timescale, or make a false statement, as an offense.

The letter and form received associated with this have been posted on the Associations website:

https://www.adaa.org.uk/rulesfaq

Along with some other proprietors, Salmon Fishery District River Boards, and Sana a case to Marine Scotland that this was placing an additional administrative burden on anglers, particularly those who are members of Associations and Clubs, and that generally this would be very unpopular with those who fish for salmon. However, despite this they have advised everyone that the law must be complied with.

Therefore, an April 2019 an instruction was issued to all members that, when fishing for salmon and grilse on Association waters, even just for an hour or so, is that they must now also record if they have not caught anything. By capturing this information, the Association will then be able to comply with the law.

How to do this:

Obviously if a member is successful, they record their catch in the usual way.

If unsuccessful when fishing for salmon:

After logging in (http://www.adaasales.co.uk/catchreturns.asp):

Catch Date: Date you fished for salmon but did not catch anything.

Location: The river/beat you fished without success

Species: Blanked (Salmon Wild)

Lure: the method you fished without success (that is, fly, worm, or spin)

Weight: 0 (zero)

How quickly should anglers report their unsuccessful salmon fishing effort?

You should submit your return within 48 hours.

If you do not do this for bookable beats/ Millpond you will not be able to make any further bookings.

Do I have to record unsuccessful fishing outings for other species?

There is no statutory requirement to do this, however for those beats/ Millpond where online bookings are required, you need to do this to allow you to make further bookings. For bookable beats if you are fishing for sea trout there is a species option Blanked (Sea Trout). For Millpond there is a species option Blanked (Rainbow Trout).

Why do I have to record unsuccessful salmon fishing effort on bookable beats as you must have the data necessary on the system (bookings & catches) to be able to report this?

Though technically correct there is lots of feedback from members that they find rules complicated & difficult to follow.

With so many members, fishings, species, & methods it was decided that it would be simpler communications wise just to make this requirement across all ADAA fishings.

New On-Line booking and catch returns arrangements introduced March 2018 FAQs.

Do I have to book online on every beat/loch/fishery?

No. For the majority of our fishings, for example, all our River Don and River Ythan beats and the Loch of Loirston, there is no requirement for members to book online prior to fishing.

It's only a limited number of certain beats and Millpond Fishery Management Committee members have decided it is in the best interests of all to do so or the proprietor (non ADAA owned fishings) has stipulated a limited number of daily rods in the fishing arrangements.

Why am I required to enter a valid email address when booking?

The system is designed so that only current members can use the system and the public will not be able to input fake details.

What happens if I enter a valid email address (for example, I have a new one) but it is not the one held on the system?

You will still be able to log in and the system will automatically update its records to this new email address.

Where can I find my 4-digit pin number?

This is your unique 4-digit membership number as printed on your membership ID card (the unique one-off one you got when you joined) that you must carry with you when fishing.
It is also printed on the label on the back of your annual permit where your address is.

Is there a step-by-step guide for me to make a booking?

Yes. This is posted on the Associations Website:

https://www.adaa.org.uk/rulesfaq

If I have made a booking for 2 weeks' time and I want to make a booking on a different beat/fishery before then can I do so?

Yes. In the system each beat/fishery is in a different group. So, if you tried to book the same beat before then it will not allow this as it is in the same beat.

You can of course cancel your booking in 2 weeks' time & then the system would allow you to do so, subject of course to if any rods are still available for this new booking.

Why am I unable to call a telephone number for booking rods and boats?

There would be too many variables to leave a telephone message for a booking. To have a person (s) in place to take bookings would be expensive. The only other option would require a volunteer to take the calls, look up availability on the on-line system, book on behalf of you, and post out your permit. It is unlikely anyone would volunteer to do this.

Junior Member FAQs

I am an adult member of the Association.

Prior to 2019 I was able to accompany up to 2 children under 12 years of age who may fish within the rules without requiring a separate permit for the children concerned.
Is now changed?

No. You may still do this as your membership Id card and annual permit counts as written permission to fish in this circumstance.

I am not a member of the Association but want to accompany up to 2 children under 12 years of age on Association Waters who have expressed an interest in fishing.

Do I need to get a permit and so on for them?

Yes. Everyone fishing on Association waters must, by law, have written permission to fish.

You will need to help them apply to join. They will then be given their own membership Id card, annual permit, and Membership Pack. They must always carry their membership Id card and annual permit when on Association waters.

Guest permit FAQs

Can I take a guest fishing with me?

Yes, you can.

To obtain permits members must email guest@adaasales.co.uk requesting the date they wish a guest to accompany them (please give at least 7 days prior notice) and their own name and membership number and the name and address of their guest.

To manage the arrangement in a fair and efficient way the following rules must be adhered to:

- Each member will only be allocated a maximum of two guest days per season.
- Members applying for a Guest Permit will include their name and membership number and the name and address of their guest. The permit will then be issued electronically via email, to the member.
- Members will issue their guest a copy of the permit which will identify them by their name and address applying for the Guest Permit.
- Members must immediately advise their guest to observe all ADAA rules, be in the company of the member (on the same beat), submit any catch return and record fishing effort for salmon on the guest's behalf, and will always be responsible for their actions.
- On river beats that have rod restrictions for example, the Kingcausie Beat River Dee, the guest will rod share with the member.

Can I get a visitor permit and how much do they cost and where can I get them from?

Yes, you can get a visitor's ticket for some of the Associations fishings **provided you reside 25 miles outside Aberdeen** via our on-line shop: http://www.adaasales.co.uk/shop/shop.asp or at Somers Fishing Tackle shop, Aberdeen http://www.grampianfishing.com/

I want to give an adult family member or friend membership of the Association as a gift. How do I do this?

This is straightforward January to July & you can purchase e-gift vouchers for any amount (including the joining fee & annual subscription) via our online shop: Order | Aberdeen and District Angling Association eGift Cards (squareup.com)
If it's a surprise gift, just use your own contact details & email us secretary@adaasales.co.uk your family/friends contact details as if they had applied themselves: adaasales.co.uk/Welcome/NewMembers.asp

However, if you wish to do this August to December there are a few issues.
As the annual subscription covers the period 1 February to 31 January you will need to clarify with us if it is for the current subscription period/ season or subscription period/ next season.

If it’s a Christmas present for example, it is likely to be the subscription period/ next season. So, we are not prepared at that point with printing our annual membership cards etc. until mid- January. What we can do however is email you a letter to pass onto your family member/ friend as a e or hardcopy present. We will then post out our new membership pack mid-January to them.

As part of my membership can I practice fly casting without a fly on Association waters out of season?

No, as there is a concern that well-meaning members of the public may call out the police or bailiffs to someone "poaching".

It is suggested instead that you practise in the garden or park.