

Club Policy: Membership, Payments & Attendance

Tewkesbury Junior Anglers

About Our Fees & Non-Profit Status

Tewkesbury Junior Anglers operates strictly as a **not-for-profit community club**. Every penny received goes directly back into the club to cover essential costs such as insurance, venue permits, equipment maintenance, and bait.

Like everyone else, the club has faced significant price inflation on these ongoing costs. While we have had to adjust our pricing structure to ensure the club remains financially viable, our priority remains keeping angling accessible. We have worked hard to keep these increases to the absolute minimum required to keep the club running safely and effectively.

1. Current Season Policy (Ending June 2026)

The following terms apply to all memberships held for the current 2025/2026 season.

Membership Fees & The Non-Refundable Deposit

To ensure we can provide high-quality coaching, insurance, and equipment, our fees for this current season are:

- **Junior Membership:** £80 per child
- **Teenage Membership:** £95 per child

The Initial Deposit (Non-Refundable): To support parents who were unable to pay the full balance upfront, the club offered a deposit option to secure the child's place while allowing the remaining balance to be settled later.

Why the Deposit is Strictly Non-Refundable: The deposit was not a "holding fee"; it was immediately used to pay for third-party costs associated with your child. Specifically, the deposit covered:

1. **Individual Insurance Registration:** Registering the child for personal accident/liability cover.
2. **BAA Membership:** The purchase of the annual Birmingham Anglers Association membership card/permit.
3. **Club Kit:** The manufacturing and printing costs of the custom Club Hoodie/T-shirt (for those who joined before the offer expired).

Because these funds were paid out to external suppliers (Insurers, the BAA, and Clothing Manufacturers) immediately upon receipt, the club cannot recover them. Therefore, even if a member leaves immediately after joining, the deposit cannot be refunded.

Clothing/Kit Notice: The offer to include the free Club Hoodie/T-Shirt expired in **November 2025**. Any balances paid after this date do not include clothing, though the insurance and BAA components remain applicable.

Attendance Recommendation & Refunds

For the current season, the club operates on a committed seasonal basis.

- **Attendance Recommendation:** To get the best value from your membership and see real progress, we **strongly recommend** your child aims to attend at least **30 sessions** throughout the season. **However, we understand that due to family commitments, illness, or other circumstances, reaching this exact number is not always possible.**
- **Impact of Weather on 30 Sessions:** We are an outdoor club, and the specific number of sessions held on the bank is dependent on river conditions.
 - **Indoor Alternatives:** If bankside fishing is not possible due to flooding or adverse weather, the club will endeavor to provide **alternative indoor sessions** (covering theory, rig-making, knots, and watercraft). These indoor sessions count towards the 30-session curriculum.
- **Voluntary Withdrawal (No Refunds):** The membership fee secures your child's place on the register for the entire year. **No refunds** will be issued if a child chooses to attend fewer sessions or stops coming. The cost to the club (insurance, permits, equipment) remains the same regardless of how often the member attends.
- **Medical Exceptions:** Partial refunds/credits are *only* considered for medical reasons (GP note required) or family relocation (proof of address required).

2. NEW POLICY: Effective June 2026

Important Changes for the Upcoming 2026/2027 Season.

To better support our community and relieve financial pressure on parents, Tewkesbury Junior Anglers will transition to a flexible **Pay-As-You-Go** model starting **June 2026**.

Single Session Payment (Standard)

We are completely removing the requirement for upfront seasonal payments.

- **Standard Rate:** Coaching sessions will be charged at **£3.50 per session**.
- **Payment Timing:** This is payable on a "per session" basis upon arrival.
- **Card Payment Surcharge:** As a non-profit club, we cannot absorb the transaction fees charged by card payment providers. If you choose to pay by card, an additional fee of **£0.20 + 1.4%** will be applied to the total to cover this cost.

- **Fee-Free Options:** Payments made via **Cash** or **Bank Transfer** do not incur any additional charges.

Optional Advance Payments

While the standard model is "single session," we understand that finding change every week can be inconvenient.

- **Convenience Payments:** Parents are welcome to pay for multiple sessions in advance (e.g., paying £14.00 to cover the next 4 sessions).
- **Credit System:** This will be treated as a credit on your child's account. If your child misses a week, the credit is **not lost**—it simply rolls over to the next session they attend.
- **Payment Methods:** The card surcharge (£0.20 + 1.4%) applies to advance payments made by card. Bank Transfers or Cash remain fee-free.

External Membership Costs & Permits (BAA)

While the club does not charge an internal joining fee, **all members** (regardless of age) and adults are required to hold external permits from the **Birmingham Anglers Association (BAA)** to insure them and allow access to the waters.

Important Note on Dates: Please be aware that the BAA membership year runs from **January to December**, which is different from the Club's season (June to June). You must ensure your BAA card is valid for the current calendar year.

Junior Members:

- **Under 13s: Free of Charge.**
 - *Note: Even though there is no cost, Under 13s **must** still obtain a BAA membership card/permit to be allowed to fish.*
- **Ages 13 - 17: £15.00** per year (BAA Junior Membership).

Parents & Guardians:

- **Non-Fishing Adults (Supervising Only): £5.00** per year.
 - *This covers the non-fishing associate fee for parents who wish to accompany their child on the bank for supervision purposes only.*
- **Fishing Adults (Participating): £50.00** per year.
 - *This covers a full Adult Membership, allowing the parent/guardian to fish alongside their child during sessions.*

Proof of valid BAA membership must be shown to the Lead Coach upon joining.

Attendance Recommendation

- **Consistency is Key:** Although you strictly pay only for the sessions you attend, we **recommend** regular attendance to ensure your child progresses in their angling ability and safety knowledge.

3. General Club Policies (Applicable Always)

These rules apply to all members, regardless of the season or payment model.

A. Weather & Indoor Sessions

Angling is an outdoor sport subject to river and bank conditions.

- **Indoor Alternatives:** In the event that the river is unfishable (e.g., flooding, strong currents, or unsafe banks), the session will **not necessarily be cancelled**. Where possible, the club will switch to a designated **indoor venue** to continue coaching on essential skills such as tackle preparation, knots, and water safety.
- **Notifications:** We will notify parents via our communication channels as early as possible regarding venue changes (Bankside vs. Indoor).
- **No Refunds (Current Season):** Cancellations or venue changes due to acts of nature do not trigger partial refunds.

B. Late Collection (Safeguarding)

Our coaches are volunteers who generously give up their own time.

- **Prompt Pick-up:** Please ensure you are at the venue **5 minutes before** the session ends.
- **Protocol:** If you are delayed by an emergency, you must message the Lead Coach immediately. Repeated late collection may result in a review of the child's membership.

C. Leaving a Session Early

- **Notification:** Parents must notify the Lead Coach at the start of the session if a child needs to be collected early.
- **Sign-Out:** No child is permitted to leave the water's edge until a parent/guardian has physically signed them out with a coach.
- **Teenagers:** Teenagers with permission to leave independently must not leave early without prior written consent from a parent sent to the Club Secretary.

D. Equipment Responsibility

- **Accidental Damage:** We accept that minor tangles and breakages happen during learning. There is no charge for genuine accidents.
- **Negligence:** If equipment is damaged due to deliberate misuse, anger, or failure to follow coach instructions, the parent/guardian will be liable for the cost of repair or replacement.

E. Photography & Social Media

- **Consent:** By maintaining a membership, you consent to photographs of your child being taken by authorised club officials for use on Tewkesbury Junior Anglers social media and website.
 - **Opt-Out:** If you **do not** wish for your child to be photographed, you must inform the Club Welfare Officer in writing before their first session.
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Acknowledgement

By paying the membership or session fees, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agreed to the Tewkesbury Junior Anglers Policy.