RULES

1. ***Scope of Rules***

These rules are those of Cockermouth Angling Association and are independent of any rules or conditions attached to permits or licences to fish granted by any owners, leasors or government agencies.

2. ***Name***

This Association shall be called COCKERMOUTH ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

3. ***Objects***

To provide fishing for migratory fish (Salmon and Sea-Trout), Brown and Rainbow Trout for members at reasonable costs and to protect and develop fishing interests towards this end. The purchase or lease of any fishing which becomes available within the resources of the Association. Cockermouth Angling Association is a non profit making body with all the assets being owned by the members of the Association. Any excess income over expenditure in any particular year is subsequently spent for the benefits of members' fishing, either through the maintenance and development of existing fishing or the purchase or lease of additional fishing.

4. ***Membership***

Membership shall be open to any person over 16 years of age whose permanent address is within Cockermouth postal district, or any person eligible for the River Derwent Outside rod status. i.e. living outside the old boundary of Cumberland. Membership is subject to a signed written application proposed and seconded by two Association members and a majority ballot of the Committee Members.

4(a) A member joining the Association will initially be admitted as an Associate Member until he or she takes out a permit to fish either the Derwent or the Cocker, whereupon he or she will become a full member of the Association.

4(b) Full membership of the Association will be limited to present and past river permit holders.

4(c) Associate Membership of the Association shall be open to persons not wishing to hold river permits, subject to the same conditions as needed to qualify for full membership i.e. for those only wishing to fish Cogra Moss.

4(d) Visitor/Temporary Membership of the Association shall be open to any person who does not qualify to become a full or associate member of the Association, and who only wishes to fish Cogra Moss as a season, weekly or day ticket holder, or as a guest fishing on either the Derwent or Cocker, at the invitation of a full member of the Association.

4(e) Junior members are all members aged 16 years or under at the 31st December, thereafter an application must be made for full membership.

Subject to the right of the Executive Committee to refuse or withdraw membership at its discretion.

5. ***Subscriptions***

Members and Associate Members pay an annual subscription which shall be declared at the Annual General Meeting. All subscriptions shall be due and payable by the 31st January of each year. Subscriptions due from new members shall be payable immediately upon admittance. All subscriptions should be paid by cheque to the Secretary or Treasurer.

6. ***Officers***

There shall be a President, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon General Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Hon Still Waters Secretary appointed annually by open ballot of members at the Annual General Meeting.

7. ***Executive Committee***

The affairs of the Association shall be under the control of the Executive Committee, which shall comprise of the Officers and nine members in the ratio of six Derwent members and three Cocker Members, elected at the Annual General Meeting. A representative of Egremont Estates sits to oversee matters concerning the operation of the River Derwent lease from Castle Fisheries.

8. ***Ex Officio Members***

The Executive Committee shall have the powers to add to its numbers for special purposes at any time, persons whose knowledge or experience is considered to be serviceable to the Association. Such services shall be determined by the Executive Committee when considered desirable. The Executive Committee may also delegate its powers to Sub-Committees.

9. ***Finances***

a) The Association's financial year shall end on 31st October.
b) The Executive Committee shall control the funds of the Association, which shall be administered by the Honorary Treasurer and subject to annual audit by a qualified accountant appointed by the Committee.
c) A statement of accounts and balance sheet duly certified by the Hon. Auditor will be presented to the Annual General Meeting.
d) The Hon. Auditor will be granted full access to the minutes and financial documents.
e) Remuneration for the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Still Waters Secretary shall be by Honorarium as determined by the committee from time to time.

10. ***Bye-Laws***

The Executive Committee shall have the power to make bye-laws for the management of the Association, providing such bye-laws do not conflict with the rules.

11. ***Executive Committee Meetings***

The Executive Committee shall meet as may be considered desirable by the Officers and not less frequently than once in each quarter. Special Committee meetings may be held at any time on the written request of any three members delivered to the Secretary.

12. ***Extraordinary Meeting***

An extraordinary meeting of the Association Members may be held when considered desirable by the Executive Committee or shall be convened at the written request of six members delivered to the Secretary.

13. ***Annual General Meeting***

The Annual General Meeting of the Association Members shall be held at a convenient date between the end of the salmon season and the start of the salmon season in the next year.
The business of the AGM to include.

a) The approval of the annual accounts and balance sheet.
b) To elect and confirm the appointment of the associations officers, members of the committee, auditors and bankers.
c) To set the associations membership subscriptions for the following season.

It shall be followed as soon as practicable by an initial meeting of the Executive Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting.

14. ***Notice of Motion***

Notice of Motion to be brought before a General Meeting must be given to the Secretary in writing ten days before such meeting and incorporated in the agenda for the General Meeting, but nothing in this provision shall prevent the discussion of a question of urgency without such notice if the General Meeting so decides.

15. ***Voting Rights***

In all matters where a vote is required only subscribing full adult members of the Association are eligible to vote, either in person or in writing, provided that written votes are received by the Secretary not later than the beginning of the meeting. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote in case of an equal division of votes.

Only Derwent permit holders shall vote on any matters concerning River Derwent business

16. ***Quorum***

Five Executive Committee members and either the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer or Still Waters Secretary shall be a quorum for an Executive Committee Meeting. A quorum for a meeting of any Sub-Committee shall be a majority of members nominated to serve on such a sub-committee. No business shall be conducted at any meeting unless a quorum is present.

17. ***Notices***

All General Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings shall be called by the Secretary or a deputising officer by circular addressed to the registered address of each member.

18. ***Liabilities of Members***

The Association shall indemnify all subscribing members against personal and third party risks arising during fishing activities or in undertaking any work on behalf of the Association; but only in so far as these risks are covered by the terms and conditions of the Association's Public Liability Policy.

19. ***Purchase of Properties & Trustees***

The Committee is authorised to purchase or lease any fishing which may become available for sale or lease and is considered to be within the resources of the Association to do so. The quorum required for any decision for purchase or lease of any fishery shall be any three officers plus six full committee members. Fishing owned by the Association shall be held in the names of three trustees appointed by the Committee.
All of the Association's property shall be vested jointly by three trustees.
The trustees shall be elected by the executive committee, and shall remain in office until deemed inappropriate by the executive committee.
All trustees shall be indemnified by the association from and against all liability, costs, damages, claims and demands incurred by him/her arising out of and in connection with any bona fide business whilst acting as trustee.

20. ***Disposal of Properties***

In the event of the Association's dissolution, the books, monies, securities and any other properties belonging to the Association shall be given to the custody of three trustees elected by members to be disposed of as may be decided by members at a General Meeting specially called for the purpose.

21. ***Duties of Chairman***

He shall be responsible for seeing that the affairs of the Association are conducted in a proper manner.
He shall consult the Secretary and Treasurer between meetings and shall be responsible together with the Secretary and Treasurer for making decisions on matters of urgency which have not been considered by the Executive Committee.
He shall preside at all meetings of the Association including General Meetings. In his absence a member of the meeting shall be appointed to officiate. The Chairman or Secretary shall countersign all cheques drawn on the Association account in excess of £750.
Association minutes and financial statements must be signed by him.

21a. ***Duties of Vice-Chairman***

He will assist the Chairman in the conduct of the affairs of the Association. In the absence of the Chairman he will normally preside at all meetings of the Association, including General Meetings

22. ***Duties of General Secretary***

He shall be responsible for conducting the affairs of the Association.
He shall initiate all correspondence on behalf of the Association and receive all correspondence addressed to the Association.
He shall be responsible for arranging all meetings of the Association including Executive Committee Meetings and for the production of Minutes and reports of such meetings.
He or the Chairman shall countersign all cheques drawn on the Association account in excess of £750.

23. ***Duties of Treasurer***

He shall keep a general account of all monies received by him for and on behalf of the Association.
He shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for the payment of all accounts. Cheques in excess of £750 to be countersigned by either the Chairman or Secretary.
He shall prepare an annual balance sheet for audit and subsequent presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

24. ***Duties of Still Waters Secretary***

He shall initiate all correspondence concerned with the Association's Still Water Fisheries, and receive all correspondence addressed to the Association on these matters.
He shall be responsible for arranging all meetings of the Association's Still Water Fisheries, Sub-Committee and for the production of minutes and reports of such meetings.

25. ***Cost of Permits***

Cost of permits and the number to be allocated for the forthcoming season shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting by a ballot of members, subject to a maximum of 45 'Local' Derwent rods, 17 'Outside Area' Derwent rods, 50 Cocker rods and 10 Cocker Junior restricted rods.

26. ***Application for Permits***

Application for permits for the forthcoming season shall be given to the Secretary by the 31st January of each year, in writing, and shall only be accepted when applicants have paid the annual Association subscription fee.

27. ***Allocation of Permits, Junior Cocker, Senior Derwent and Guest schemes***

(a) Permits to fish Association waters shall be allocated annually by the Association and shall be paid for in full by the 31st January. Permits shall detail stretches and times open to members for fishing. No member shall fish such stretches during the times stated without a permit allocated by the Association.

(b) Allocation of permits shall be based upon the seniority of members in relation to:
   i) the number of years a member has held a permit
   ii) a members placing in the waiting list

(c) Preceding years Derwent permit holders shall have preference for Derwent permits over proceedings years Cocker permit holders.

(d) Preceding years Cocker permit holders shall have preference over new member applicants for Derwent permits subject to applications received from past Derwent permit holders who, through illness or other justifiable cause at the discretion of the Executive Committee, have temporarily withdrawn from Derwent fishing but have remained Full Association Membership, i.e. reverted to and retained a Cocker permit.

(e) Preceding years Cocker permit holders shall have preference over Associate Members of the Association. Allocation of vacant Cocker permits shall be based upon seniority from the date of the member's first application for a river permit. If a member declines a Cocker permit when one is offered, then he will revert to the end of the waiting list unless he is prevented from taking the permit through illness or other justifiable cause at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

(f) Where an application for new membership is accepted – Rule 4 – seniority shall date from the time the application is received by the Secretary and will be subject to the appropriate joining fee and annual subscription being paid.

(g) Each member is limited to grant 6 guest days per season, and is responsible for the activities of his/her guests including compliance with all rules and conditions of the Association.

(h) Cocker rod holders can take up to a maximum of 10 guest days on the Derwent per season.

(i) No other guest shall take more than 6 guest days per season.

(j) Derwent guest waters are restricted to pools from Barn Dub to Castle Pool on the left bank and lower Lady Boat to Castle Pool on the right bank.

(k) Cocker guest waters are all pools either leased or owned by the Association on the River Cocker.

River Cocker Junior Scheme

1) Open to juniors aged between 12 & 16 years.
2) Subject to an Annual membership.
3) The Junior Restricted Cocker permit fee to be fixed at each years AGM.
4) Juniors must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
5) Juniors must abide by the same rules and conditions as printed on the permit for all other Cocker members.
6) In the year where a junior member reaches the age of 16 by the 31st December they will be considered for full membership and any full Cocker permits which may become available for the following season.
7) Juniors must behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times and the Association accepts no liability for any member acting outside the rules and conditions appertaining to their membership.

River Derwent Senior Guest Scheme

1) In the season where a Derwent member reaches the age of 65, he/she may voluntarily relinquish their permit.
2) A concession of voluntarily relinquishing permit is that the Senior Member may fish an existing local Derwent permit holders rod on a day ticket basis. This would be by mutual agreement between the Senior Member and the Local Derwent Permit Holder for a fee to be fixed annually at the AGM.
3) Senior Members may not take more than 20 day tickets per season.
4) Senior Members are entitled to fish all the Associations Derwent waters, subject to the same rules & conditions as all other Derwent permit holders.
5) The Senior Member must maintain membership status in accordance with rule 4(b).
6) The donor rod may only allow a Senior Member to fish on any day that they have not and will not fish themselves.

7) The guest fee must be paid & permit/receipt obtained from Cleelands, or the designated guest scheme provider, prior to commencing fishing.
8) All Derwent members opting for this scheme shall be protected, so that any new committee or notice of motion suspending or cancelling the scheme would not be able to remove their rights. The scheme will only cease through natural wastage. i.e. it will continue until the last member no longer wishes to continue as a Senior Member.

28. ***Code of Conduct***

Members shall at all times, in matters connected with fishing and fishing interests, conduct themselves in such a manner so as not to bring discredit upon the Association. Additionally the following rules apply:-

(i) All pools shall be regarded as single pools except:
- Right bank Iron Bridge
- Left bank Iron Bridge
- Left bank Wood Bottom

Each of these will be classed as two pools. Please note that Iron Bridge both banks are divided by the upstream edge of the buttress on the left bank.

(ii) Where there is more than one angler to a pool, none shall loiter and all anglers shall move 2 paces down stream between each cast. Anglers shall take their turn in order of arrival.

(iii) No member shall trim trees or bushes without authority given by the Executive Committee and the appropriate riparian owner. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to obtain such permission.

29. ***Observance of Rules***

All members and their guests shall follow the rules of COCKERMOUTH ANGLING ASSOCIATION and any rules and conditions attached to a licence and permit to fish.

30. ***Infringement of Rules***

The Executive Committee shall have authority to discipline any member who infringes these rules or whose conduct in relation to fishing activity, brings discredit upon the Association.

The Executive Committee at its discretion, shall warn, suspend or expel a member from the Association.

31. ***Infringements and Complaints***

Any member witnessing an infringement to these rules by another member, or has cause to lodge a complaint, shall report the infringement or complaint to the Secretary in writing within seven days from the time of the offence or cause of complaint.

32. ***Alteration of Rules***

No rule of the Association (other than bye-laws made by the Executive Committee) shall be rescinded or altered, nor any new rule enacted, except at an Annual or Special Meeting of Association members, nor unless notice of the proposed alteration or new rule shall have been given in the notice convening the meeting.

33. These rules supersede all previous rules and are effective from 1st January 2026.