

**COBBINSHAW ANGLING ASSOCIATION LTD****WHEELIE BOAT POLICY**

1. The following policies and procedures explain how Wheelie Boats and related facilities are utilised within the Association and the level of support that we can provide to disabled anglers.

**Disabled car parking**

2. There are two disabled parking spaces in the small car park facing the loch. These are designated for general use by blue badge holders but can be reserved in advance for wheel chair users.

**Wheelie boats: Priority of use**

3. Whilst the WB is primarily designed for disabled anglers or those with mobility issues, it is also part of our wider fleet and can be used by other anglers when free. However, for clarity, wheel chair anglers and those with mobility issues have priority over use, in that order.
4. There is no requirement to be formally registered as disabled or be a blue badge holder in order to book a WB.

**Wheel chair anglers: Our operating policies**

5. All WC anglers must be accompanied by an able bodied person at all times whilst fishing [the Responsible Person - RP].
6. WC anglers are responsible for ensuring that their WC is fully serviceable [brakes and structural integrity etc] and is suitable to be used in the WB.
7. WCs must be properly secured in the WB at all times.
8. The RP is responsible for the welfare of the WC angler while they are at the fishery, including getting them in and out of the boat
9. The fishery staff will assist the RP in getting the WC angler and his fishing tackle etc in and out of the boat as necessary, in particular preparing the boat to receive the WC, manoeuvring it in to a fishing position, and the reverse when they are exiting the boat.
10. WC anglers must not attempt to enter or exit the boat without a member of the fishery staff being present to assist.
11. WB access may be restricted at certain times of the year when the water level falls below an acceptable level for WC access [due to depletion by Scottish Canals over which we have no control], in which case WC bookings will be suspended for safety reasons.

**Members with mobility issues**

12. Members who do not use a WC but have physical difficulties getting in and out of boats and moving around in a boat can also book a WB, subject to the priority of use set out above. This entitlement applies regardless of whether a member has a disability badge
13. Members should advise the fishery staff of any mobility issues affecting them or their guests, whether permanent or temporary, so that can provide any necessary assistance regardless of the type of boat booked.

**Booking a WB**

14. Our standard booking arrangements apply to WB bookings, as set out in the Trout Fishing Regulations. Summary points to note are;
15. Boats can be booked for any time during the fishing day
16. There is no limit on the number of fishing hours that can be booked.
17. All boat bookings must be for a specified period so as to maximise boat availability for other members. This means that boats booked for a full day cannot be left lying for more than an hour or so [to facilitate lunch breaks, toilet visits or inclement weather].
18. Boat bookings made on the day may be restricted to the latest time that pre-booked boats are out on that day.

**Any specific medical conditions / health and safety**

19. As part of our general health and safety protocols, we kindly ask that **all** anglers advise the fishery staff of any pertinent medical conditions they might have, such as diabetes or epilepsy, including any relevant medications, so that they can provide necessary support should an incident occur. This information is provided and held in strict confidence.
20. We strongly recommend that all members / anglers read our **Angler Risk Assessment** before fishing. It is sent to all new members as part of their induction pack, and also sent each year to all members along with the annual subscription notice; it is also available on our website and at the fishery.