



Southern Region
Angling Club



Angling Society
of Malawi



Lilongwe and Districts
Angling Club

CONSTITUTION

Version 19.10.05

Incorporating



**Southern Region Angling
Club
(SoRAC)**



**Lilongwe and Districts
Angling Club
(LADAC)**

As endorsed by:

Southern Region Angling Club (SoRAC) at their AGM on 27.2.04.

Lilongwe and Districts Angling Club (LADAC) at their AGM on 29.11.03.

Blantyre/Lilongwe

2005



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ANGLING SOCIETY OF MALAWI CONSTITUTION

1.0. Preamble:

1. On 7.2.1939 the “Nyasaland Angling Society” was formed. The first rules and regulations were issued.
2. At Malawi’s national independence, the Society became known as the “Angling Society of Malawi”. A new constitution was issued.
3. In February 2004, the Society became a union of Malawi Angling Clubs. Representation from each affiliated Angling Club make up the Angling Society of Malawi. The present Constitution, Rules and Regulations now superseded all others and apply equally to the Clubs as to the Society.
4. The founding Clubs of the Society to whom these rules apply are:
 - a) **Southern Region Angling Club** in short, “SoRAC” or “Club”, representing Southern Region anglers, who previously, singularly constituted ASOM.
 - b) **Lilongwe and Districts Angling Club** in short, “LADAC” or “Club”, representing Central Region anglers, an earlier affiliate member of ASOM.

2.0. Rules of the Angling Society of Malawi

1. **Name:** The name of the society shall be the “Angling Society of Malawi” or in short, “ASOM” or “Society”.
2. **Objectives:** The Objects shall be as follows:

Of the Society:

- a) To be the governing body of angling in Malawi to ensure that Society rules and standards are followed by all member Clubs.
- b) To maintain all national angling records, set standards and authenticate catches in accordance with standards set by the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA).
- c) To make representation on behalf of the Clubs to the National Sports Council and other government ministries as may be required from time to time.
- d) To regulate in accordance with the Fisheries Act, all angling fish imports to Malawi of suitable fish for stocking, and to control their introduction to the various rivers, lakes and dams, subject to the approval of the control of such waters and to an environmental impact assessment (EIA).
- e) To organize the annual inter-club league or “Malawi Angling Championships”.
- f) To organize international angling events and secure clearance for national representation.
- g) To ensure that each Club adopts a social responsibility policy to maintain sustainable angling practices for the angling pleasure of current and future members.



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Of the Clubs:

- a) To organize regular angling events, set Club rules and organize local competitions and Club leagues for all members (ie. men, ladies and juniors).
 - b) To obtain and exercise the fishing rights over as many national waters as possible in their area of jurisdiction within Malawi waters.
 - c) To regulate the fishing and manner of capturing fish in such national waters as may come under control of the Club in accordance with the Society standards, social responsibility policy and IGFA rules.
 - d) To investigate and report on condition of fish in waters under the Club's control with a view to determining the season which should be closed for fishing and to regulate the size of fish and numbers that may be taken.
 - e) To purchase, lease or otherwise acquire, real and personal property, erect buildings and sell, demise, mortgage or exchange such property and buildings, held in Trust for the Club.
 - f) To permit the property and rights of the Club to be used by members and others gratuitously or for payment.
 - g) To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the above objects.
3. **By Laws:** The Society may from time to time make By-Laws for regulating the routine affairs of the Society. By laws may be for controlling the use of the Society and Clubs real and personal property and for the control of all matters in connection with fishing in waters of the Society. Such By-Laws when made shall be binding on all members. Any alteration of such to be stated in the Society's Circular and in the Clubs Rules and subject to a majority quorum vote at each Clubs AGM.
- a) To cater for specialized Angling, the Society may, in addition to the 2 founding Clubs, accept or create new Angling Clubs in terms of Clause 3.
 - b) Each Club shall have its own Club Rules to be incorporated under the By-Laws of the Society.
4. **Annual Calendar:** The Society's year shall commence on the first day of January each year and terminate on the 31st day of December each year. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of each Club shall be held during the first three months of the year.
5. **Office Bearers:** Officers of the Society and Club Committee shall consist of:

Each Club shall have a central committee made up of: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, a Treasurer and a number of committee members. The Club Committee shall as a minimum consist of the Chairman and not less than four members.

The Society Committee shall consist of the current Chairman and Vice Chairman of each Club, and the out-going ASOM Chairman shall remain as a member for one year. The Committee shall elect a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer from their members.

- c) The Club and Society office bearers shall have the following job descriptions:

Chairman: Shall call regular Club meetings, monitor the agenda, and see that minutes are maintained. Organize regular competitions, secure sponsors and prizes and convene the competition, monitor the weigh bay and endorse the winning scores. Has the power of veto at any vote and the Chairman's decision is final. The Chairman shall be the main focal point for conflict resolution.



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Secretary: Shall maintain minutes at regular meetings, maintain all correspondence, keep members informed by Newsletter and announcements, thank sponsors and supporters, announce competitions, and maintain all records and competition results.

Treasurer: Shall maintain all Club/Society accounts, ensure proper accounting principles and maintain receipts in a fashion required by audit. Manage the Club/Society accounts, organize fund raising, collect membership, sponsorship and competition dues, etc and present Financial Report at the AGM.

6. **Term of Appointment:** The Club/Society Committee shall retire annually at the AGM but shall be eligible for re-election and have power to fill vacancies should these occur during the current year.

In the absence of the Chairman at any meeting, a Chairman shall be elected by a majority of those present. The Chairman or Officer acting in his stead shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

7. **Quorum:** A quorum at a Committee Meeting shall be five and at an AGM, 50% of paid members.
8. **Audited Accounts:** A Balance Sheet and a Report, duly audited, shall be presented at each Club and Society Annual General Meeting.
9. **AGM Notice:** Fourteen clear days notice shall be given of the agenda of the Club/Society Annual General Meeting.

Subject to seven days notice a Special General Meeting can be called on a requisition signed by five members stating precisely the Resolutions that are to be placed before the Meeting.

Any changes to this Constitution shall be notified 7 days in advance and requires 2/3 majority quorum vote at an AGM or SGM.

10. **Membership:** Any person wishing to become a member of the Society's Clubs shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another, and duly elected by a majority of the Committee.
11. **Subscriptions:** The entrance fee and annual subscription shall be at the discretion of the Club Committee decided from time to time. The entrance fee covers husband and wife and their children up to the age of 16 years.
 - a) Members' children between the age of six and sixteen years shall pay a reduced annual subscription as decided by the Club Committee from time to time.
 - b) On attaining the age of 17 years children become eligible for full membership as stated in paragraphs 10 and 11.



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- c) Bona fide visitors may be admitted as temporary members on the payment of a daily or weekly fee as determined by the Club Committee from time to time.
 - d) Visitors from other member Clubs of the Society may fish in official Club competitions upon the payment of the normal competition fee.
 - e) Visitors not members of the Society shall pay the normal fee plus a surcharge as determined by the Club Committee from time to time.
 - f) Neither visitors nor children are classed as fully paid up members.
 - g) Only fully paid up members, as in paragraph 11, shall have a voice in the affairs of the Club and the Society and may vote at the AGM.
12. **Fund Management:** All money received shall be handed to the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the banking of all monies received and all disbursements made, and all cheques must be signed by himself/herself jointly with any other person duly authorized by the Committee.
13. **Delinquent Members:** Any Club member whose subscription is unpaid at the Annual General Meeting of the current year shall not be permitted to fish in any water which is under the control of the society until such subscription be paid. Any Club member who is one year overdue shall be struck off the list of the Society's members, unless the Club Committee agrees that extenuating circumstances have prevented their paying.
14. **Importation of Fish:** Fish imported in the name of the Society, will be declared fishable as soon as the Club Committee is satisfied that they are firmly established. All members taking other than indigenous fish will report their size, weight (if possible) and numbers to the Secretary. A limited number of these fish may be retained by any member, which number is to be regulated by the Club Committee from time to time.
15. **Members Identity:** Members shall produce their Club Membership cards when requested to do so by any Officer or Servant of the Club or Society.
16. **Membership Suspension:** If, in the opinion of the Club Committee, any member of the Club is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct unbefitting a member of the Club, the Club Committee may, by letter addressed to such member, suspend him from membership either temporarily or permanently. Any such member may, if dissatisfied with the decision of the Club Committee, demand, in writing addressed to the Secretary, within 7 days from the date of suspension, that the Club Committee shall place the matter before a Special General Meeting of the Society. If such meeting does not confirm the suspension, the said member shall be restored to the privileges of membership. If the meeting confirms the suspension, or if the member fails to demand within the time above specified, that the Club Committee place his case before such meeting, the said member, if suspended permanently, shall cease to be a member of the Club and Society, and his name shall be removed from the records.
17. **Inter-Club Affiliation:** The Society may, if it is considered advisable, create or federate with other similar angling Clubs of Malawi or Internationally:



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a) **Affiliated Malawi Clubs:** Subject to payment of the prescribed annual fee, a Club of the Society of not less than 25 members, which having applied for affiliation to the Society, and such status being granted, shall be known as an Affiliated Club of the Society and to whom such rules as in this Constitution shall apply.

Affiliation Fees: Fees shall be awarded to the Society not later than 31 March each year. Annual returns of members shall be submitted. Fees, the levels of which will be determined by the Society Committee from time to time.

International Representation: The Society does not relinquish its control over all matters at International level and should an Affiliated Club wish to compete outside Malawi prior clearance should be obtained from the Society's Committee and the National Sports Council.

International Teams: The Society reserves the right to first call on its Members of Affiliated Clubs, should they be available for selection to represent Malawi. Selection shall be based on a merit table maintained by each Club based on the top ranked league anglers averaged over the past 2 years performance.

18. **International Affiliations:** Affiliation of Clubs with international organizations is encouraged. Members of International Affiliated Clubs and Societies when visiting Malawi shall, on production of their current card of membership, be made honorary members of the Society for the duration of their visit. They shall be entitled to all privileges and may attend all meetings and functions, without, however, the right to vote.

19. **Club Dissolution:** In the event of the Society or Club resolving to dissolve by 2/3 majority quorum vote, the property of the Society or Club, together with any funds which may be in the hands of the Officers, shall be disposed of as shall be decided at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.

20. **Interpretation of Constitution:** Should the interpretation of any Club Rule be in doubt, the decision of the Club Committee shall be final. Should the interpretation of this Constitution be in doubt, the ruling of the Society Committee is final.

21. **Alteration of Rules:** These Club and Society rules shall not be altered except by a two-thirds majority quorum vote at an Annual General Meeting, which in all cases shall be notified to members at least 7 days before the meeting is to take place.

22. **Members Obligations:** All members shall be given a copy of the Club and Society's Rules and Regulations and ignorance of any rule or By-Law shall not constitute a defence in the event of any infringement of any rule or By-Law of the Society or its Clubs.

3.0. Regulations for Competitions

1. **Weigh-Bay Master:** All fish for competition shall be weighed at a place decided on by a member of the Club Committee appointed for the day as the "Weigh-Bay Master". All fish must be in the designated weigh zone before the agreed time. Any one delayed in arriving at the weigh-in at the appointed time shall be penalized or disqualified. In the event of a



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mechanical break-down, the responsibility is that of the angler to get their fish to the weigh bay by other means or inform the Weigh-Bay Master in advance. The Weigh-Bay Master's ruling is final.

2. **Angling Boundaries:** The Committee may fix a limit to the extent and boundaries within national waters to be fished in official outings. Fishing is only permitted in national waters of Malawi, excluding National Parks waters. In Club outings for bank fishing, a draw for order of swims may take place before or on arrival at the water to be fished. No member who has wetted a line prior to the commencement of any competition shall be eligible to enter. No member shall fish outside his pegged swim.
3. **Angling Rules:** No member is permitted to weigh any fish except those caught by himself with rod and line, in national waters and in accordance with Club, Society and IGFA rules. The angler's partner/attendant/assistant shall not cast, angle for, strike or play any fish, or handle the line in any way, but may assist to land the same. No member shall count or weigh in for competition any prize fish which has been kept in the net or bag of another member. Infringement of this rule shall entail the disqualification of both members.
4. **Ground Baiting:** Any swim which there is reason to assume has been ground-baited prior to the commencement of a competition may be barred by the official in charge of that competition.
5. **Prize Fish:** A member may elect from any catch of fish entered in competition as a whole, specimen or brace of any species of fish to compete for a specimen fish prize (e.g. Monthly mug, annual award, Club or Malawi record). Any member wishing to register a specimen fish must submit a Society Record Card duly completed, signed and witnessed before the 14th day of the month following that during which the fish was caught. The onus is on the member to comply and get all the necessary details, photo and line.

Record Cards for monthly mugs and annual trophies should be signed by at least one witness. For Malawi records two witnesses and photograph are required. The decision of the Society Committee is final and they may call upon external adjudication if required to authenticate a catch.

Entry qualifications for Club awards shall be decided by the Club Committee in advance of the new year and prizes shall be awarded at the AGM. No visitor, non-member or unpaid up member may qualify for a Monthly Mug or annual award. Club awards are open for Society members.

6. **Minimum Fish Size:** In all competitions the minimum sized fish to be weighed in shall conform to the laws of Malawi. Generally, fish shall be more than 15 centimetres in total length, except where the Club Committee has made an exception for that species where the adult fish does NOT exceed 15 cm.



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Other restrictions on sizes and weights may be imposed by competition Club Committees as they see fit as part of that Clubs Social Responsibility Policy.

7. **Minimum Entry:** In all Club and Society competitions for one prize, an entry of not less than 10 members is necessary.
8. **Members Commitment:** In all competitions and outings where arrangements have been made in advance, any member having signified his intention to compete or participate, will be liable for any expense incurred on his behalf, whether he attends or not.
9. **Rods and Hook Limits:** The number of rods per member and line strength permitted in any competition shall be decided by the Club at the meetings at which the competition is arranged, but no more than 2 hooks may be used per rod at a time, and only one lure, 2 hooks per rod at a time.
10. **Annual Fishing Calendar:** Each Club is to organize it own fishing calendar and sponsors, but should share their calendar with the Society Committee to produce an annual angling calendar of Malawi, to ensure no overlap in dates. Any Club member may enter competitions and leagues of other Clubs of the Society on payment of competition dues.
11. **Malawi Championships:** The Society shall organize the Malawi Championship as an inter-club league.
 - a) This shall be in 3-4 legs spread over the annual calendar and alternating equitably between Clubs. If
 - there are only 2 Clubs, the third leg shall be a neutral venue decided by the Society Committee.

ASOM Committee shall decide the events in advance and for each leg, the normal rules of the Championship apply. Notwithstanding, each leg may be fished as part of the annual calendar of the selected Club.

To win, an angler must fish 2 out of the 3 legs (or 3 out of 4). The accumulated total of all 3 (or 4) legs is the winner.

The Malawi Champion award shall be presented at the AGM of the winning members Club. Clubs may organize an inter-club team event. Up to 5 anglers may represent a Club Team. They must fish the minimum number of legs, and submit up to 4 team members' scores as accumulative, for the Team score.

4. By-Laws

1. **Rules:** All persons on joining the Society Clubs will be issued with a membership card, and a copy of the Society's Constitution and Club Rules and By-Laws.



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2. **Illegal Gear:** The use of night-lines, long lines, bank runner or nets (except keep nets and landing nets) is absolutely prohibited.
3. **Members Obligations:** All members should do their best to bring to justice any person whom they may find illegally destroying fish, polluting streams, or in any way interfering with the propagation of imported or indigenous fish. Members shall assist their Club Committee in every way to make fishing in Malawi as sporting and enjoyable as possible.
4. **Sailing Etiquette:** When sailing is in progress members must not anchor their boats in a position such that it would interfere with the activities of any Sailing Club.
5. **Boat Hire:** The Club Committee shall specify regulations and fees in respect of boat and engine hire as it sees fit from time to time.
6. **Suggestions:** The Club Committee will at all times welcome suggestions from members.
7. **Closed Season:** Any closed period for angling as found necessary will be notified to members from time to time in the Society's and Club's circulars.

5. Records

Line Class Records:

1. **Witness:** The fish must be weighed on a Society certified scale or a declared reliable substitute and 2 disinterested witnesses should be used. It is also important that the witnesses can attest to the angler's compliance with the rules.
2. **Record Card:** The record card must be completed and submitted to the Club Chairman within five days of killing the fish. If the Club Chairman registers the fish as a record, it shall then be forwarded to the Society Committee for ratification as a Malawi Record.
3. **Line Sample:** The record card must be accompanied by two metres of line taken from the leading end. If used, the trace must also accompany the line and should not exceed 40 cms and should not be detached.
4. **Inspection:** The fish must be kept for inspection by a Club Committee member for fourteen days after the kill.
5. **Authentication Photograph:** As soon as possible, after submitting the card, a photograph of the fish must be sent to the Club Chairman for record purposes and filed in the Society Records. The Society shall from time to time choose an independent authority to authenticate fish and their decision is final.



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6. **Line Class:** The line class strengths are based on **IGFA** line classes in the following breaking strain kilogram categories, notably: 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 15. The Society may from time to time open new categories of line class as required.
7. **Uncertain Line Class:** Other lines may be used and samples submitted in the normal way. The declared breaking strain will be converted to the nearest **IGFA category**.
8. **Line Class Testing:** All line samples will be tested by the Malawi Bureau of Standards or two members of the Society Committee using IGFA recommended methods.
9. **Test Breaking Strain:** The tested breaking strain will determine the ultimate line category.
10. **Record Replacement Standards:** To replace a record for a fish the replacement must weigh at least 0.5% more than the existing record.

All Tackle Records

1. **Category:** The heaviest fish by species, irrespective of line class shall be declared the "all tackle record".
2. **Junior and Ladies Records:** The Club may set its own rules for Ladies and Juniors Records. The Society shall maintain a Malawi Junior Record if the specimen is caught by a member who is under 16 in the competition year and the fish is more than 50 % of the All Tackle Record.
3. **Record Species:** The Society from time to time, may decide which species (or category) qualify for Malawi Records. In compliance with IGFA rules, no new fish species category will be considered unless the specimen in question is 450 grams or more in weight.

6. Angling Colours and Standards for Awards

1. **Club Colours:** Each Club may choose to offer its own colours and awards as per the Club Rules. The Society shall have the following colours awards for outstanding performance:

ASOM Ordinary Members: Silk embroidered pocket badge (silver) on black blazer. Blue-black tie with silver fish emblem.

ASOM Teams or merit awards for outstanding performances: Wire pocket badge (silver) with black field on black blazer. Blue-black tie with silver fish emblem.

ASOM Teams "International" competitions: Wire pocket badge (gold) with green field on Malawi green blazer. Malawi green tie with gold fish emblem.



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Malawi Angling Colours: Wire pocket badge, Gold-red-black on green including year(s) of award, worded "Malawi Angling". Malawi green tie with gold fish emblem.

2. **Standards for Angling Colour Awards:** For Club and Society colour awards, recommended are the following minimum. Awards are not automatic but at the discretion of the Committee:

- a) Members of Angling Society of Malawi selected and participating in not less than three classified "International" events, two of which must be outside Malawi, tournaments at which the total duration is not less than 6 days.
- b) Any member who has served on central Committee (ie. Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary) for more than 5 years, or ordinary Committee member for 7 years or who has won the Club Leagues for 3 or more times.
- c) Half Colours may be awarded for attaining part of the above.
- d) In consultation with the Director of Sport, Malawi Colours may be made to a team or individual in recognition of an outstanding performance in International Competition, whether foregoing qualifications are fulfilled or not provided the National Sports Council approved that the team has meet the requirements to represent Malawi internationally.

Signed:
Chairman SoRAC

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Chairman LADAC