

Warringah Anglers Club Inc.

Code Of Conduct

Protect the environment

<p>Avoid disturbing wildlife: Avoid unnecessary interactions with wildlife and their habitats. Minimise disturbance of birds, shorebirds and mammals; avoid areas for bird feeding and nesting.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026, NSW responsible fishing.</i></p>
<p>Report environmental damage and illegal activities, pollution, pest sightings and wildlife that is stranded or entangled.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026, NSW responsible fishing.</i></p>
<p>Good gear control: Use responsible fishing techniques to reduce impacts on wildlife and the environment. Secure your gear and minimise loss, litter and entanglements. Use the heaviest suitable line to reduce playing time, and the risk of a fish breaking off with a lure or hook. Attend your lines/ traps/ nets regularly; and reduce set time for gear to reduce the chances of harm.</p>	<p><i>NSW responsible fishing, NSW Rec Fishing Alliance.</i></p>
<p>Prevent damage and pollution: Take care when boating, anchoring, mooring and diving to avoid damage to wildlife and habitat. Remove rubbish, waste tackle and pest species. Don't discharge waste, oil or sewage. Participate in clean up days.</p>	<p><i>AUF, USFA, National code 2026.</i></p>

Enhance knowledge and club practices

<p>Code of conduct: If your club has a code of conduct, put it up around your venue, on your website, social media and newsletters. Instruct members.</p>	<p><i>NSW Rec Fishing Alliance.</i></p>
<p>Help build knowledge: Learn and educate others on life cycles of marine life. Encourage members to be involved with citizen science programs. Create or participate in underwater monitoring projects. Report Protected species sightings to NSW DPI.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026, AUF, USFA.</i></p>
<p>Promote practices for humane and sustainable fishing in membership promotions, event advertising, entry conditions and reports about events. Make sure that events and competitions comply with fisheries regulations and humane and sustainable fishing practices.</p>	<p><i>NSW Rec Fishing Alliance.</i></p>
<p>Enhance fisheries by protecting and restoring vegetation and habitats. Promote to members that wildlife and birds are not to be disturbed. Participate in trials (e.g. catch & release).</p>	<p><i>USFA & National code 2026.</i></p>

Look after the fishery

<p>Self-limit: Take no more fish/ bait/game than your immediate needs. Observe limits, avoid waste, carefully release unwanted fish and live bait.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026, USFA code.</i></p>
<p>Understand and follow rules: on all limits, regulations, closures and bans on taking protected species. Report illegal fishing to guard our seas from law breakers.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026, USFA code.</i></p>
<p>Release: Always release undersized, oversized, protected, out-of-season or unwanted fish. Only keep what you need for personal consumption. Use catch and release fishing methods to maximise survival.</p>	<p><i>NSW responsible fishing. NSW Rec Fishing Alliance.</i></p>
<p>Aquatic reserve rules: fish for finfish only; no squid, cuttlefish or other marine invertebrates. Don't collect bait from Long Reef or use marine animals or plants to feed fish. Walk carefully; Don't collect or move invertebrates, plants or empty shells; or turn over rocks.</p>	<p><i>Long Reef rules.</i></p>

Treat fish humanely

<p>Best practice: Fish responsibly at all times, using best practice fishing techniques when handling and releasing, or dispatching fish. Be aware that others may be watching, so always set a good example in your fishing approach.</p>	<p><i>NSW responsible fishing page.</i></p>
<p>Suitable gear: Use only appropriate legal tackle, attend to your gear and avoid waste. Use barbless hooks on lures and flies to quickly release fish. If bait fishing, use circle hooks to avoid gut hooking.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026, NSW Rec Fishing Alliance.</i></p>
<p>Catch: Quickly and humanely kill fish that are kept for consumption. Avoid lengthy playing of fish to avoid stress, and limit the time a captured fish might be held out of the water. Avoid lifting fish out the water to take photographs, and avoid handling which may injure gills, internal organs or the fish's protective slime.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026, NSW Rec Fishing Alliance.</i></p>
<p>Bycatch: Setup to quickly return unwanted or illegal catch to the water i.e. use fish-friendly gear, release quickly with minimal handling and revive time. Use barbless hooks on lures and flies to quickly release fish. In deep water, learn how to release fish affected by barotrauma.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026. NSW responsible fishing. NSW Rec Fishing Alliance.</i></p>

Respect peoples' rights and safety

<p>Show courtesy to others who use the waters and shore – show respect, avoid crowding, be considerate. Give space and reduce your wake for others using the area and waters e.g. fishers, kayaks, swimmers, divers, surfers etc. Keep your line clear of others and when casting. Spearfishers to maintain 50m distance from anglers where it is safe to do so. clean your catch in a designated area or away from the public.</p>	<p><i>USFA & National code 2026, NSW responsible fishing page.</i></p>
<p>Boat ramp use: Make sure you are familiar with how to back up a boat trailer into the water before arriving at the boat ramp. Practice on land in a safe way, to save time and stress and reduce queues.</p>	<p><i>NSW responsible fishing page.</i></p>
<p>Get permission from land/ traditional owners before entering; recognise cultural and indigenous attachments to land and water. Respect Aboriginal sites, culture and values.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026; Victorian Recreation COC.</i></p>
<p>Safety for all: Follow all NSW maritime rules and regulations. Ensure you have current local knowledge of hazards and conditions; suitable clothing/gear and required safety equipment. Navigate safely at all times, take care when anchoring, and practise overboard and recovery techniques. Inform others of your plans and expected return. Know and implement the Spearfishing and Freediving safety rules and principles. Use safety tips for spear and rock fishing.</p>	<p><i>National code 2026, NSW responsible fishing, USFA code, NSW responsible fishing page.</i></p>

Sources:

[National code of practice for recreational and sport fishing 2026](#)

[NSW Responsible fishing page](#) e.g. safety, ethics, tackle/gear, environment

NSW Fisheries' rules for Long Reef: [Respecting the reserve](#)

[NSW Recreational Fishing Alliance](#) Code of Conduct

Spearfishing code of [USFA](#)

[Aust Underwater Federation environment & sustainability page](#)

[Victorian recreational fishing code](#)

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