The Carp Care Code

10 rules for every angler, on every lake. Print it, pin it, follow it.

1 Get ready before you cast

Mat, wet sling, water bucket, forceps, cutters and carp-care antiseptic set up and within reach before the first rod goes out.

2 Rest the fish in the net

Secure the net with a bank stick and let the carp recover in the water while you prepare. Never leave a fish unattended.

3 Keep everything wet

Soak the mat and sling, wet your hands and keep pouring lake water over the fish the whole time it is out of the water.

4 Stay low over the mat

Unhook, weigh and photograph kneeling over a padded mat. Never stand up with a carp and never lay one on bare ground.

5 Keep air time short

Plan the photo before you lift the fish. If it is lively, cover it and wait. If it is struggling, get it back in the water.

6 Check, treat and record

Inspect the mouth, fins and flanks. Treat any wounds with antiseptic after the photos and tell the lake owner about any damage.

7 Fish safe rigs

Use set-ups that let the lead come free if the line breaks, check your line for damage, and never leave a carp tethered.

8 Respect the heat

In hot weather, oxygen is low and carp tire quickly. Play fish firmly, keep handling short and avoid retaining fish in warm water.

9 Respect spawning

If fish are spawning or have just spawned, follow the owner's guidance, fish lightly or not at all, and handle with extra care.

10 Check, clean, dry

Clean and fully dry nets, mats and slings between waters. Never move fish, bait or water from one lake to another.

The lake's own rules always come first. If in doubt, ask the owner.

DreamCarp Holidays

Full guide: dreamcarpholidays.com/a-guide-to-handling-carp-safely-on-the-bank/

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