



## Isle of Dogs and District Allotment Society: General Rules

These rules are aimed at further defining the constitution of the Society and ensuring working practices are established for the day today running and management of the allotment. The rules should be reviewed annually by the Committee and reissued to all members on payment of their annual fees. The rules may be challenged at the Societies AGM but once sanctioned by the Society's Committee and majority of members, will stand for the following year.

### Membership and Dues

1. Annual fees cover; Society membership, insurance, expenditure approved by the committee (which includes water and utilities), National Society membership (which is based on people working plots).
2. No fees are returned on a plot holder vacating their plot.
3. New members on joining must pay for access keys with the fee held on deposit and returned on leaving.
4. Retired plot holders will be entitled to a concession on the rent element on producing their proof of state pension entitlement.
5. New members joining within the first 6 months of the year must pay full fees and those joining after that will be given a 50% discount.

### Plots and Cultivation

6. The Society and its members belong to the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) and are guided by their rules. The Society also have its own set of rules and practices adopted by the Society's members.
7. **Plots.** Allotment holders are required to work their plot for the production of fruit, vegetables and flowers for the consumption by the holder and his/her family.
  - a) At least 75% of a plot must be cultivated for the growth of vegetables, fruit and flowers.
  - b) Only immediate family members are allowed to work on the plot except by arrangement with the Committee
  - c) Plots must be kept free of weed and paths clear, level and unobstructed.
  - d) Plot holders are allowed to pollard trees on their plot but not on common land without permission of the Committee. Trees outside the boundary of the allotments cannot be pollarded without permission of the land owner and through the Committee.
  - e) Fruit trees grown within the plot should be dwarf root stock, not overhang other plots or pathways and should be actively managed to maintain size
8. **Sheds** with a concrete base are to be no larger than 8ft long by 6ft high by 5ft wide. If the shed is to be larger it must be of greenhouse effect and must be contained within the confines of the plot. Any exception must be agreed with the Committee. All sheds and structures on plots are to be at least 6ft from the external fencing of the allotments. Any exception must be agreed with the Committee.

- a. Sheds should not be slept in overnight, used as offices and their primary purpose is as defined by NSALG as shelters from the elements and spaces in which to keep your tools
  - b. Polytunnels, cloches, fruit cages and greenhouses are permitted but must not unduly obstruct neighbouring plots and must be used for cultivation of crops.
9. **Water** should be taken from the open top of the storage tanks provided by the Society. The water supply and the mechanism controlling the tanks refill must not be adjusted without the permission of the Secretary. The re-sighting of the tanks can only be by arrangement with the committee. Hose pipes are not permitted.
10. **Fires.** Plot holders are allowed to burn their 'green' rubbish within their plot but must not cause a nuisance to surrounding plots, must not use accelerants or burn any other materials which may produce toxins.  
You may only light fires between 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March, they must not be left unattended, be fully extinguished on leaving the plot and there must be extinguishing materials adjacent to the fire at all times.
11. **Composting** of material is both encouraged and fully supported by the Society. However this must not include invasive root weeds or weeds in pollination. Compost facilities must be within the plot and not cause disturbance or nuisance to others. The use of bins and wormeries are fully supported and encouraged by the Society. All refuse and weeds that is not composted must be disposed of by the plot holder and not deposited over the external fence or in any common parts of the allotment without permission of the Secretary. Any refuse which is stored off the plot must be bagged.
12. **Fencing.** No boundary fencing, other than that provided by the Society to demark plot boundaries should be erected without the consent of the Committee. Any fence sanctioned by the committee has to be removed on change of plot ownership by the leaving owner unless authorised to be retained by the committee.
  - a. Materials which may damage or compromise the security of the allotment should not be stored against the external allotment fence. Any damage to the fence caused by the plot holders will be deemed their liability and restored at their cost.
13. **Tools.** Use of Society equipment should be requested through the Secretary and the plot holder is liable for any damage to the equipment whilst in their care.
14. All animals such as goats, chickens, pigs are not allowed on the allotment. Dogs are permitted but must be on lead and controlled and not cause disturbance to other plot holders.
15. Plot holders should not cut extra sets of allotment keys without the Secretary's permission and should return all keys on vacating a plot.
16. Gambling is strictly forbidden on Society land and premises.

**Note: Note: These Rules will be enforced and subject to regular inspection by the Secretary on behalf of the Committee and may lead to termination of a plot holder's tenancy. These Rules will be enforced but exceptions may be granted by the Committee and all reasonable requests will duly considered but the Committee's decision will be final and binding.**

### Community areas

17. All paths between plots must be at least 1ft 6 inches wide and must not be reduced in size by cultivation or neglect of the adjacent plot. Each plot will be assigned a path (usually to the left of the plot) that they should take full responsibility to maintain.

18. Central and common paths should not be obstructed and where possible should be at least 5ft wide.
19. The Pavilion within the Lower allotments is for Society meetings, storing equipment and other gatherings and events sanctioned by the committee. All users must maintain its cleanliness and upkeep and the general repair and maintenance is covered by the Society and its funds.
20. All gates must be locked on exit and never left unlocked.
21. Any theft of produce or equipment from other plot holders must be reported to the Secretary and is likely to lead to instant termination of the offending plot holder's tenancy by the Committee.
22. Any composted manure from the Farm should be agreed in advance with the Farm manager, and fully conform to the Farm's rules on its movement. Community Compost areas within the allotments must not be contaminated with weeds and kept tidy.

Updated: November 2022