

GRIMERSTA SPORTING CLUB RULES AND INFORMATION SEASON 2026

Grimersta Estate Office, Grimersta Lodge, Isle of Lewis, Scotland, HS2 9EJ. Tel: 01851 621 358

1. GRIMERSTA PERMANENT STAFF

- 1.1 **Factor and Company Secretary.** Simon Scott. Tel: 07807 274 146; Email: factor@grimersta.com
Responsible to the Chairman and Board of Directors for the overall management of Grimersta Estate and staff.
- 1.2 **General Manager.** Christina Macdonald. Tel: 07366 301 609: Email: lodge@grimersta.com
Responsible to the Factor for the running of the lodge and estate office. Line manager for the Chefs and Housekeepers.
- 1.3 **Estate Manager.** Chris Langhorne. Tel: 07554 807 124; Email: sporting@grimersta.com
Responsible to the Factor for the running of the sporting estate and estate maintenance. Line Manager for the Handyman, Ghillies, and Watchers.
- 1.4 **Handyman.** Campbell Mackenzie. Responsible to the Estate Manager for general estate maintenance.

2. GRIMERSTA SYNDICATE AND MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 **Chairman.** The Chairman of Grimersta Estate Limited and Grimersta Sporting Club Limited, or a nominated Director.
- 2.2 **Director.** A Director of Grimersta Estate Limited and Grimersta Sporting Club Limited.
- 2.3 **Member.** A shareholder of Grimersta Estate Limited.
- 2.4 **Honorary Member.** Usually, a former shareholder of Grimersta Estate Limited. Honorary Members retain seniority and have all the privileges of membership, with the exception of the right to vote.
- 2.5 **Senior Member.** The longest standing Member or Honorary Member in residence.
- 2.6 **Temporary Member.** All sporting guests are Temporary Members of Grimersta Sporting Club for the duration of the current season. A charge for Temporary Membership for guests is included in the Fishing or Shooting/Stalking rate. A Temporary Membership application form must be completed prior to undertaking any sporting activities.
- 2.7 **Rod.** Any individual fishing at Grimersta.
- 2.8 **Gun/Rifle.** Any individual shooting or stalking at Grimersta.

3. FISHING SEASON

- 3.1 The annual Salmon (and Sea trout) fishing season for Loch Roag is 11th February – 15th October.
- 3.2 The annual Brown trout fishing season in Scotland is 15th March – 6th October.
- 3.3 Fishing at Grimersta is usually let by the week. Changeover is on a Wednesday evening; the fishing week commences and concludes at 18.00 each Wednesday.
- 3.4 Fishing is not permitted on Sundays.

4. THE DRAW AND FISHING BEATS

4.1 The draw for beats and the allocation of ghillies takes place on the Wednesday evening. There are several alternative rotas that take account of differing conditions and the distribution of fish. The Estate Manager will advise on the most appropriate system for a particular week.

4.2 Description of Beats:

4.2 (i) **Beat 1.** The Grimersta River and the northern half of Loch Faoghail an Tuim (Loch One).

4.2 (ii) **Beat 2.** The First Stream and the southern half of Loch Faoghail an Tuim.

4.2 (iii) **Beat 3.** Macleay's Stream and Loch Faoghail Chiorabhal (Loch Three). The Ford Stream and southern part of Loch Faoghail Chiorabhal between 11.00 and 16.00.

4.2 (iv) **Beat 4.** Loch Airigh na h-Airde (Loch Four) and the Langabhat Rivers. The Ford Stream and the southern part of Loch Faoghail Chiorabhal before 11.00 and after 16.00.

4.2 (v) **Loch an Easa Ghil.** (Stewart's Loch). May be used by Rods fishing Beat 3 or Beat 4 by arrangement.

4.3 (vi) **Loch Langabhat and Loch an Fhir Mhaoil.** Given sufficient notice, fishing may be arranged on these lochs as an alternative.

4.4 Beats change at 18.00. Thus:

4.4 (i) Rods on Beat 1 may fish the Grimersta River after 18.00 and before breakfast.

4.4 (ii) Rods on Beat 2 may fish the First Stream after 18.00 and before breakfast.

4.4 (iii) Rods on Beat 3 may fish Macleay's Stream after 18.00 and before breakfast.

4.4 (iv) Rods on Beat 4 may fish the Ford Stream after 18.00 and before breakfast.

4.4 (v) Rods on Beats 3 and 4 (which require a walk when ghillies are not on duty) have the option of fishing Loch Faoghail an Tuim (Loch One) from the bank.

5. THE ROVING BOAT

5.1 A "Roving Boat" is available on Loch Faoghail an Tuim (Loch One). The Roving Boat offers an alternative should conditions make fishing Lochs 3 or 4 impracticable.

5.2 The Roving Boat must give priority to the boats of Beat 1 and Beat 2 and should not be used south of the Bothy Island on Beat 2.

6. CONSERVATION.

6.1 The Marine Scotland Conservation Status (2026) for the Langabhat Special Area of Conservation (SAC) catchment remains "Good conservation status", with the observation that "the current level of exploitation is sustainable".

6.1 (i) Grimersta therefore operates an “informed and voluntary” policy on catch and release. It is a statutory requirement that prior to 1st April all Salmon **must** be returned. Thereafter, the release of Salmon and particularly hen fish is strongly encouraged. All Sea trout should be returned.

7. FISHING RETURNS

7.1 Grimersta has fishing records dating from 1875. Each evening the Estate Manager will produce the Day Card. This is a summary of rod returns and weather conditions; from this the Senior Member or host should update the Salmon Record Book. If requested the Factor will complete the record.

7.2 The Factor will produce the Members’ Weekly Summary on the Wednesday evening. The Senior Member (if present) or Factor will add any observations, and the summary will be forwarded to Members.

8. FISHING AND GENERAL RULES

8.1 No fishing is to take place until a *Gyrodactylus salaris* declaration has been signed or a verbal declaration given to the Estate Manager.

8.2 All fishing is by artificial fly only.

8.3 Trolling is not permitted, except on Loch Arigh na h-Airde (Loch Four), when travelling between the No. 4 Jetty and Eilean Mhic Fail.

8.4 All Rods are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Grimersta Sporting Club Rules (2026).

8.5 In the unlikely event of a serious breach of the rules or in the case of other inappropriate behaviour, the Factor and Senior Member (if present) will seek to resolve the issue. Where this is not possible the matter will be referred to the Chairman.

9. SAFETY

9.1 **All Rods must wear life jackets when in a boat. Failure to wear a life jacket invalidates insurance cover and ghillies have been instructed not to proceed until Rods comply.**

9.2 **Rods are strongly advised to wear suitable eye protection when fishing.**

9.3 Ghillies are on duty between 09.30 and 17.30. **Boats must not be used without ghillies.**

9.4 Occasionally, weather conditions may preclude boat fishing. In such circumstances, the Estate Manager will advise bank fishing and an adjustment to the draw may be recommended.

9.5 The Estate Manager will decide if it is safe to fish from the boats. Whilst in a boat the ghillies have responsibility for the safety of Rods, and Rods **must** comply with the ghillie’s advice. **Rods who fail to comply do so entirely at their own risk.**

10. RESERVATIONS and ACCOUNTS

10.1 All main season fishing reservations are made through the Factor.

- 10.2 Provisional reservations can be made at any time. However, reservations for guests (Temporary Members) will not be confirmed until after those of Members. This is usually completed by the September preceding the season.
- 10.3 The rates for fishing and board and accommodation will be reviewed annually. Rates vary between Members and Temporary Members. The Members' rate will also be extended to families.
- 10.4 The rate for Temporary Members includes Temporary Membership of Grimersta Sporting Club.
- 10.5 The Fishing Rate includes the services of the ghillies.
- 10.6 An invoice for a deposit (which is set against the Fishing or Shooting Rate) will be issued on confirmation of the reservation. Invoices for the outstanding balance of the Fishing Rate (if applicable), and for Board and Accommodation will be issued some ten weeks prior to arrival and are payable at that time.
- 10.7 Unless previously arranged, the person making the booking will be responsible for settling the account of their guest or party and all liabilities incurred. After each visit a subsequent invoice for additional items such as tackle, drinks, and sundries will be issued and is payable upon receipt.
- 10.8 All Rods will reside at Grimersta Lodge.

11. Cancellation. In the event of a late cancellation the estate will re-advertise the vacancy. Should we be unable to let the vacancy, the full cost of the booking will be payable. **We strongly recommend that Members and guests insure against holiday cancellation and have suitable travel insurance.**

12. **Value Added Tax.** All prices include VAT where appropriate.
- 13. SHOOTING and STALKING**

 - 13.1 Shooting and stalking reservations are made through the Factor.
 - 13.2 Grouse and Snipe shooting over pointers is available from September. Driven Woodcock in the *Beinn Hulavig* and *Cnoc Grìomarsthadh* woods is possible from November.
 - 13.3 An invoice for 50% of the total cost of shooting will be issued at the point of confirmation and is payable at that time. This is fully refundable, *should* the estate cancel the reservation in the interests of conservation (this will be known by the August preceding the season). An invoice for the balance of the cost of shooting, and for board and accommodation will be issued six weeks prior to arrival and is payable at that time.
 - 13.4 Red deer stalking is available either on Grimersta, or given sufficient notice, on neighbouring estates.
 - 13.5 All Guns/Rifles are to be in possession of a valid shotgun and/or firearms certificate, an appropriate game license (if applicable), and adequate third-party insurance. A *Grimersta Sporting Club* Temporary Membership form must be completed and returned to the Estate Office prior to the commencement of any sport.
 - 13.6 No shooting is to take place unless accompanied by the Estate Manager or a nominated 'keeper, unless specifically authorised, and **a formal safety briefing has been given by the Estate Manager.**

14. GENERAL

- 14.1 Dogs are welcome on the estate subject to prior arrangement with the Estate Manager. Dogs are not allowed in the lodge, kennelling is currently limited, and dogs are expected to sleep in cars.
- 14.2 Smoking is not permitted in the lodge, estate buildings or vehicles.

Simon Scott

Factor

January 2026