

Kennet Bee Keepers Association Apiary Rules

1. Any member of the Kennet Bee Keepers Association (KBKA) using or visiting either the main KBKA apiary site or any out apiary does so entirely at their own risk. The Association shall not be liable for any damage or injury to the member, or their property.
2. Non-members of the KBKA must only visit the main apiary site, or any out apiary, in the presence of an Association member. The KBKA member will be responsible for the actions of the visitor. KBKA shall not be liable for any damage or injury to the visitor or their property.
3. Entrance to the main apiary site and any out apiary is acknowledgement and acceptance of the rules contained herewith.
4. Parking at any KBKA apiary is strictly at the risk of the visitor(s).
5. The KBKA will appoint an Apiary Manager and may co-opt one or more Apiary Assistants. They will be accountable to the KBKA Committee.
6. The Apiary Manager will be responsible for general management of the main apiary site and any out apiary.
7. The Apiary Manager's decision will be final in any dispute between members. If a dispute is unresolved it may be taken to the KBKA Committee for final decision. See clause 17. Responsibility for an out apiary may be delegated to an Apiary Assistant.
8. The Apiary Manager will be the primary key holder for the main apiary site and any out apiary. Members of the KBKA may be key holders for the main apiary site or an out apiary, but only with the approval of the Apiary Manager or the KBKA Committee. The Apiary Manager will maintain a list of all key holders. Each key holder will pay a £10 refundable deposit for the key and be responsible for locking and securing the apiary after a visit.
9. Members who are not apiary key holders and who wish to visit the main apiary site may do so on set apiary diary dates, or when apiary classes are planned. Other visits must be made with an apiary key holder with the knowledge of the Apiary Manager (or delegated Apiary Assistant).
10. Clean bee suits and gloves must be worn at all apiary inspections.
11. Hive tools, smokers and other tools used on any KBKA site must be clean and where appropriate, sterile. Members must not use their own equipment on any KBKA hive without prior consent of the Apiary Manager (or delegated Apiary Assistant). All equipment must be cleaned after use.
12. Smokers must be knocked out in a manner which does not pose any fire risk.
13. By prior agreement with the Apiary Manager (or delegated Apiary Assistant) and following disease inspection of the colony, a member's bees may be hived at a single out apiary. This must only be temporary, to include but not limited to, relocation of hives, quarantine, re-queening or temperament assessment. Under exceptional conditions, and by prior agreement with the Apiary Manager and the KBKA Committee, a member's bees may be hived at the main apiary site. This will be for an agreed period but which may be subject to revocation or extension. The member's equipment must be clearly marked and identifiable. A fee equivalent to two 1lb jars of honey (based on the KBKA guide honey price for the current year) will be charged by KBKA.

14. Any member temporarily hiving bees on a KBKA out apiary (or main apiary site) shall agree to notify the Apiary Manager (or delegated Apiary Assistant) the location from where the bees are to be moved from and to where the bees are eventually moved to. This will assist the KBKA with disease control and traceability should a notifiable disease become apparent on the out apiary (or main apiary site).
15. Any members' colonies, hives or equipment found on the main apiary or out apiary site without the prior approval of the Apiary Manager (or delegated Apiary Assistant) may be removed and destroyed with no compensation payable to the member.
16. No bees are to be removed from the main apiary or any out apiary site without notifying the Apiary Manager (or delegated Apiary Assistant).
17. No rubbish or debris is to be left on the main apiary or any out apiary site. This includes wax and hive debris. This must be removed and disposed of responsibly by the person or persons concerned. Repeated failure to do so may lead to the member being banned from any KBKA apiary site and if applicable, a request to remove hives from any KBKA apiary site.
18. Any KBKA member carrying out duties or routine management of the KBKA 's colonies shall update the colony and/or apiary records in the prescribed format.
19. Any KBKA member carrying out routine management of colonies must advise the Apiary Manager (or delegated Apiary Assistant) immediately, ideally no more than one calendar day, of any colony welfare concerns that could harm a colony. These shall include, but are not limited to, disease, queenlessness and shortage of stores.
20. Any dispute arising for the operation of these rules must be notified to the KBKA Committee in writing. Verbal presentations, at the discretion of the KBKA Committee, may also be made. A decision will be determined by a majority vote of the KBKA Committee. That decision will be final and absolute.
21. Any member's beehive(s) or colony(ies) not visited for a period of three months or not properly maintained in accordance with good beekeeping and bee husbandry practice, the said member will be notified verbally and in writing to remove the beehive(s) and bees from the main apiary site or out apiary. If after a further four weeks the equipment has not been removed, it will be deemed to have been abandoned and thereby, the title and ownership will pass to the KBKA.
22. If any hive is suspected to contain a notifiable disease the local bee inspector will be contacted, and an inspection of all hives on the apiary arranged. All members using KBKA apiary sites do so on the understanding that the National Bee Unit Bee Inspector may inspect their colonies. Should any colonies have to be destroyed, or a shook swarm arranged there can be no recourse by the owner to the KBKA. If other disease is confirmed, treatment is required if the hive(s) is to remain on any KBKA apiary site. Any treatment used must be an accepted treatment and must be acceptable to the Apiary Manager (or delegated Apiary Assistant)
23. Any member visiting either the main apiary site or any out apiary site must respect the landlord's wishes, both stated and implied. This should include considerate parking and restricting activities to only the apiary site.
24. Any breach of the above rules could constitute a breach of the conditions of membership that could lead to disciplinary action and/or revocation of the offender's membership.