Invasive non-native species (INNS) are plants, animals or diseases that are not normally found in British waters, but pose a threat to our native species and habitats if they are brought into the country. These include plants that can grow very rapidly to completely cover the surface of a water body, and aggressive shrimp that will attack and kill native species including fish eggs. Invasive species can be small and hard to spot, so could accidentally become attached to angling equipment. In some cases, they have been found alive in angling nets and waders 14 days after a fishing trip.

We want to try and stop these species being accidentally spread into our waters to protect the quality of our waters and fish stocks for future generations to enjoy. Thus, we are asking each team member to disinfect their equipment using three easy steps before travelling to the UK, and after any fishing trip.

**STEP ONE: Check** – Check your equipment and boots for any plant or mud material and remove. Particular attention should be given to the rims of your nets and the bottom of your shoes/ waders.

Even if you have removed visible material from your nets, smaller plant fragments, insects, eggs or diseases may still remain. New populations can establish from a small piece of plant material, or egg-bearing insect.

As a result, following inspection:

**STEP TWO: Clean** – Place your nets and waders into a container full of hot water.

Ideally use temperature of at least 45 degrees Celcius, preferably 50 degrees Celcius for 15 minutes. Please be careful around the use of hot water. We recommend the use of gloves, or following placement in hot water, allow it to cool before removing. If a container is not available, alternatively a high-pressure spray, hot water spray or disinfectant can be used.

**STEP THREE: Dry** – Finally, leave your equipment to dry for at least 48 hours.

Ideally leave your nets and waders to dry out in the sun to kill off any remaining INNS that may survive the hot water treatment.
After the competition

After the competition, thoroughly inspect all of your clothing and equipment for any visible debris (mud, plant or animal material). Where possible, this should be removed and left at the water body. Particular attention should be given to the seams of boot and waders, and the rims of nets. Clean everything properly as soon as you can and leave to dry for as long as possible before using again elsewhere.

We recommend that you follow these guidelines after every fishing trip, to minimize the risk of spread of INNS between water bodies.