

## CODE OF CONDUCT ON CLUB HUNTS

### **Be a safe and responsible hunter**

- Always treat every firearm as if it is loaded, even when you are sure that it is not!
- Safety is the most important thing, and members must at all times conduct themselves responsibly, handle their firearms safely, and ensure that their equipment is working properly. If you are unsafe we will tell you. If you don't listen, you will be sent home and probably thrown out of our Club.
- Always point your firearm in a safe direction, generally in the air or down range, but always away from yourself, your feet, and other people.
- Ensure that your rifle's chamber and barrel are unobstructed before you insert the bolt.
- Never carry your rifle with the bolt inserted unless you are actively hunting.
- Never carry ammunition that is not suitable for the firearm you are using. (You must not risk loading the wrong cartridge into your firearm.)
- Never rely on your rifle's safety catch as the primary safety mechanism. (When you are exhausted from little sleep and a long day's climbing, it is easy to forget if the safety is on or off.) It is best to keep your rifle's chamber empty—load at or near the point where you expect to fire, and then engage the safety. Once again, ALWAYS treat your firearm as if it is loaded and "hot".
- Keep your index finger, pointing straight ahead, to the side of your trigger guard until you have your target in sight and you are ready to fire.
- After the hunt, or upon downing of a game animal, clear your rifle by removing the bolt or inserting an empty chamber indicator, and get someone else to confirm that you have properly emptied the chamber of your rifle.

### **Be a humane and considerate hunter**

- Always make sure of your target. Never fire at any animal or target that you have not properly identified first. Shooting at movement, sounds, or shapes will result in instant expulsion from our Club and police notification.
- Never fire at an animal unless you know what is behind it and you have a proper hit zone and an adequate calibre. Hunters aim to harvest humanely, not wound the animal and lose it. Also, shooting over a hill or ridge, or firing into the sky, is foolish and dangerous.
- Never use military or unsuitable target-match bullets on large game animals. (This risks merely wounding the animal, which is inhumane.)
- When hunting large and/or dangerous game, bullet placement is just as important as adequate calibre. Avoid "gut-shooting" any animal. (Large "gut-shot" animals are likely to charge and attempt to kill you, and hunters must avoid wounding and best avoid spoiling the quality of the meat being taken.)
- If an animal is wounded on a Club hunt, then everybody assists with the search. Please remember that all wounded animals are dangerous.
- On Club hunts, discharge your firearms ONLY for hunting purposes. Others in the area have a right to peace and quiet, and unnecessary noise scares game. For the same reasons, zeroing of rifles should be done at a shooting range, NOT on the hunt.

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- Follow ALL legal instructions issued by the property owner/park ranger without question. This rule applies particularly when hunting on public land.
- Hunt only what you need, or what is necessary to cull. (Hunting is about sustainable management, not destruction and waste.)
- Leave nothing behind but your thanks. (Take ALL your rubbish back home with you, and please don't put glass, plastic or metal into the camp fire.)

### Be a courteous and sober hunter

- If a Club member introduces you to a hunting spot, it is their spot. If you wish to return there, ask the member if they wish to return with you. Never bring other hunters to that spot if you do not have the introducing member's permission to do so.
- Club hunts are about camping together and hunting separately. If no one offers to hunt with you, ask the Team Leader where you can hunt, and do so by yourself. (Hunting alone is the best way to reduce noise and so get a trophy.)
- On Club hunts, group costs are to be shared without the Team leader having to ask.
- If you cause any damage, accidental or otherwise, you must pay for it without being asked to do so by the property owner.
- Participants in Club hunts need to be polite and amicable. Do not abuse or argue with other members. It is also preferred if members can keep their political and religious views to themselves.
- Each participant in a hunt is required to prepare a meal for the group or do other such reasonable group support activities as directed by the Team Leader.
- On a Club hunt, if you are hunting in someone else's spot, you tell them about the sign or game you have seen.
- If an animal is taken on a Club hunt, then everybody assists with the 'carry out'. (This is how new hunters learn 'secret' spots.)
- If an animal is wounded on a Club hunt, then everybody assists with the search.
- Firearms, hunting, alcohol and drugs don't mix. (Have a social drink around the campfire, but only after all firearms are safely stored away and never to the point of intoxication.) Club BBQs are where you have a party, and members using illegal drugs or drinking excessively on Club hunts will be asked to leave the hunt, to comply with the law.
- Club members should avoid constant swearing, especially in the presence of children and females (The Club aims to build the calibre of its members and the status of hunting as a whole.)

### Be a fit and competent hunter

- Good hunters are physically fit. Don't go on a hunt unless you are in good condition. You must not only be fit enough to locate game in the first place, you must be fit enough to pursue it if it is merely wounded.
- Good hunters are good shots. Regular participation in field rifle shooting competitions is highly desirable.
- Learn to use a knife safely. Never cut towards any part of your own or another member's body.
- Watch your feet. Falling down is a major cause of injury when hunting.

**I have read, understand and accept this code:** \_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Firearms Licence No.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Club Signature