



**RULES OF
HUNTERS AND SHOOTERS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.**

As of March 27, 2021.

GENERAL RULES:

Mission Statement:

Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia's mission is to promote hunting and shooting as a safe, ethical, fun, inclusive and family friendly sport or recreation. Further promoting hunting as beneficial to the economy, environment, community health and conservation.

Purpose of our Rules:

To maintain responsible behaviour and the making of informed decisions by members of the society.

Coverage of our Rules:

This policy applies to all persons who are involved with the activities of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity including:

- members, including life members of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia;
- persons appointed or elected to boards, committees and sub-committees;
- employees of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia;
- members of the Executive; and
- Visitors to Hunters and Shooters club events.

Code of Conduct:

Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia members must adhere with the following requirements along with any future requirements added to this document as an appendix. Any breach of these requirements may result in suspension of membership or expulsion from the Society.

Good image of hunting and shooting sports:

It is the responsibility of a society member to do all in their power to improve and preserve the good image of hunting, shooting sports, and the Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia.

Safe handling of firearms:

Where firearms are used, the rules for safe handling of firearms must be followed.

In NSW these rules are set out in the NSW Firearms Safety Awareness Handbook published by or under the authority of the Commissioner of Police, these must be complied with at all times.

In Queensland the rules are set out in the Course in Firearms Safety (approved for firearms licensing in Queensland)

In Victoria the rules are set out in the Firearm Safety Code revised by the Firearm Safety Foundation Inc. Vic.

As a general guide for the safe handling of firearms the below must be followed:

1. Treat a Gel Blaster as if it was a "Real" Firearm.
2. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
3. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
4. Keep your finger off the trigger unless you are intending to shoot.
5. Always wear proper protective equipment such as safety glasses, ear protection and enclosed shoes.
6. Know your target and what is beyond your target.
7. Keep firearm unloaded when not in use.
8. Only shoot the firearm where you are legally allowed to shoot the firearm.
9. Do not use a firearm whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

PARTICULAR RULES FOR DOCUMENTATION:

DEED OF ASSUMPTION OF RISK:

Hunting:

All members must complete and submit a Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia Deed of assumption of risk at time of taking out membership, attached in appendix.

At any time, the deed of assumption of risk is required to be changed to mitigate any circumstance the member will be required to complete and submit the updated version. If the member fails to provide Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia with the updated version their membership will be suspended until such time as the new completed deed is received.

The deed of assumption of risk will be maintained by Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia for the duration of membership and an additional seven (7) years after the membership has expired.

Gel Blasters:

A completed Deed of assumption of risk: and a Driver's Licence/18+ card/student ID (for minors) will need to be sighted before play.

If you're aged between 13-18, you require a parent to sign the waiver, and an adult to accompany you for the entire duration of the session. The accompanying adult does not need to participate but must remain on site.

At any time, the deed of assumption of risk is required to be changed to mitigate any circumstance the member will be required to complete and submit the updated version. If the member fails to provide Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia with the updated version their membership will be suspended until such time as the new completed deed is received.

The deed of assumption of risk will be maintained by Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia for the duration of membership and an additional seven (7) years after the membership has expired.

Reporting of complaints:

Hunters and Shooters Society Australia prides itself on a positive community image and a focus on safety. To ensure this positive image is maintained Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia must maintain a very high standard of integrity. To maintain this standard of integrity Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia has a written complaint system.

In the event that a member or Staff of Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia has breached our constitution or relevant laws, regulations, guidelines or who have failed to hold hunting or shooting sports in good image, the complainant is to fill out the record of complaint form attached in Appendix and submit it to the president of Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia in a timely manner.

The evidence and information contained in the record of complaint will be considered by at least two (2) impartial board members and upon a decision being made action taken as per our Disciplinary Sanctions Policy.

If a criminal offence is identified the relevant enforcement body will be notified of the alleged offence and provided any information Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia holds which may assist in the investigation.

The record of complaint form and a record of any action taken will be maintained by Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia for a period of seven (7) years.

Incident reporting:

In the event of any action that results in property damage, Injury, death or near miss whilst undertaking any hunting or shooting activity under the banner of Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia the involved members or staff MUST fill out an incident report form (attached in Appendix) with all relevant details and submit it to the president of Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia within twenty-four (24) Hours.

If it is not possible to submit the written form within twenty-four (24) hours due to the remote or isolated are the incident occurred, the member must make phone contact with a Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia board member within the twenty-four (24) hour period providing all relevant details and submit the form as soon as reasonably possible.

The incident report form will be reviewed by Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia board members to identify if any breach of conduct, laws, regulations, guidelines etc have occurred and if a record of complaint should also be furnished. The record of complaint will then be processed as a Disciplinary Sanction matter.

The incident report will also be reviewed to identify and areas where safety could be improved and if possible, put in place policy and guidelines to address any areas of concern.

Pre hunt checklist:

Members of Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia are to complete a pre hunt checklist at the beginning of every hunt.

The member is to maintain the checklist until the successful completion of every hunt. If no reportable incident occurs during the hunt the member may dispose of the pre hunt checklist. If a reportable incident occurs during the hunt the member is to furnish their pre hunt checklist with the incident report form.

PARTICULAR RULES FOR PRIVACY:

Privacy Policy:

HSSA collects personal information from members and from non-members wishing to use HSSA facilities. In many cases, HSSA is under a legal obligation, arising most often under the Weapons Act 1990 (Cth) (Qld), and other Acts, to collect personal information, to retain this for lengthy periods, and to make it available to Police upon request.

HSSA is exempt from the application of the privacy principles under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). However, HSSA strives to comply with best privacy practices in the conduct of its operations and the collection, storage, and access to information.

HSSA will:

1. Only collect personal information from members and non-members wishing to use HSSA facilities that is necessary for the conduct of HSSA operations and as required under any law, in particular, the Weapons Act 1990 (Qld) and associated regulations.
2. Use fair and lawful means to collect personal information.
3. Ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that the personal information collected is accurate, complete, and up to date.
4. Not disclose personal information without the explicit consent of the person concerned, unless required to do so under applicable legislation or at the request of Police or other law enforcement agencies.
5. Not use personal information for a purpose other than for the purpose for which is collected, unless the purpose is directly related to the original purpose and members reasonably expect the information may be used for this other purpose.
6. Take reasonable steps to protect personal information by storing it in a secure place and/or ensuring electronically held information is secure.
7. Prevent unauthorised access, modification, misuse, or loss of personal information by putting in place appropriate policies and procedures that explain which members can access the information and under what circumstances.
 - a) Information collected and held by HSSA may be accessed by the following persons for the purposes carrying out HSSA operations:
 - The person to whom the information relates;
 - The members of the Management Committee for the time being.
8. Afford members access to his/her information upon request and address any request for correction of personal information promptly.

PARTICULAR RULES FOR DISCIPLINE:

Disciplinary Sanctions:

Our Society may take disciplinary action against anyone found to have breached our constitution or rules, or relevant laws, or regulations, or guidelines or who have failed to hold hunting or shooting sports in good image.

Any disciplinary actions taken under our constitution or rules must be applied within any relevant state or federal laws, be fair and reasonable and be based on the evidence and information presented.

The evidence and information will be considered by at least two (2) impartial board members with the burden of proof being the balance of probabilities.

Possible sanctions that may be taken include but are not limited to:

1. A direction that the individual makes a verbal and/or written apology.
2. Counselling of the individual to address behaviour.
3. Suspension or termination of membership.
4. Any other form of discipline that our society considers reasonable and appropriate.

Appeals:

The complainant or respondent may be entitled to lodge an appeal against a sanction to the president of Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia or QCAT.

Such appeal should be made in the first instance to the president of Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia in writing within 21 days of the sanction being handed down.

PARTICULAR RULES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA:

Overview and purpose:

Social media is changing the way we communicate.

This policy has been developed to inform our members and staff about using social media, so people feel enabled to participate, while being mindful of their responsibilities and obligations. In particular, this policy provides practical guidance allowing all parties to benefit from the use of social media, while minimising potential risks and protecting those involved.

This policy assists to establish a culture of openness, trust and integrity in all online activities related to Hunters and Shooters Society Australia.

This policy contains Hunters and Shooters Society Australia guidelines for our members and staff to engage in social media use. It also includes details of breaches of the policy.

In circumstances where guidance about social media issues has not been given in this policy, we suggest you use common sense or seek out advice from those who have approved this policy.

Underlying principles

This policy complements Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's core values:

Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's goal is to provide its members with access to hunting and shooting for the purposes of sports and recreation. Further providing its members a community in which members can share, learn, teach and grow skills and knowledge in particular skills and knowledge related to hunting and shooting. Hunters and Shooters Society Australia will promote Hunting as a safe, ethical, fun, family friendly and responsible recreation. As well as promoting hunting as an ethical, sustainable, environmentally friendly, and a healthy meat source. Hunters and Shooters Society Australia will promote the conservation and environmental beneficial side to hunting. Hunters and shooters will promote participation in all shooting sports and promote all shooting sports as safe, fun, inclusive and family friendly sports.

Scope

Social media refers to any online tools or functions that allow people to communicate and/or share content via the internet.

This social media policy applies to platforms including, but not limited to:

- Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, Pinterest, Yammer, etc)
- Video and photo sharing websites or apps (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo, Instagram, Flickr, Vine, etc)
- Blogs and micro-blogging platforms (e.g. Tumblr, Wordpress, Blogger, etc)
- Review sites (e.g. Yelp, Urban Spoon, etc)
- Live broadcasting apps (e.g. Periscope, Meerkat, Facebook Mentions, etc)
- Podcasting (e.g. iTunes, Stitcher, Sound cloud, etc)
- Geo-spatial tagging (e.g. Foursquare, etc)
- Online enciclopedias (e.g. Wikipedia, etc)
- Instant messaging (e.g. SMS, Skype, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Viber, etc)
- Online multiplayer gaming platforms (e.g. World of Warcraft, Second life, Xbox Live, etc)
- Online voting or polls
- Public and private online forums and discussion boards
- Any other online technologies that allow individual users to upload and share content.

This policy is applicable when using social media as:

1. An officially designated individual representing Hunters and Shooters Society Australia on social media; and
2. if you are posting content on social media in relation to Hunters and Shooters Society Australia that might affect Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's business, products, services, events, sponsors, members or reputation.

NOTE: This policy does not apply to the personal use of social media where it is not related to or there is no reference to Hunters and Shooters Society Australia or its business, competitions, participants, products, services, events, sponsors, members, or reputation. However, any misuse by you of social media in a manner that does not directly refer to Hunters and Shooters Society Australia may still be regulated by other policies, rules or regulations of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia.

Using social media in an official capacity

You must be authorised by the Hunters and Shooters Society Australia Executive team before engaging in social media as a representative of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia.

To become authorised to represent Hunting and Shooters Society Australia in an official capacity, you must have permission from the Hunters and Shooters Society Australia Executive team, Read this policy and have a signed copy of the policy filed as your agreement to abide by this policy.

As a part of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's, community you are an extension of the Hunters and Shooters Society Australia brand.

As such, the boundaries between when you are representing yourself and when you are representing Hunters and Shooters Society Australia can often be blurred. This becomes even more of an issue as you increase your profile or position within Hunters and Shooters Society Australia. Therefore, it is important that you represent both yourself and Hunters and Shooters Society Australia appropriately online at all times.

Guidelines

You must adhere to the following guidelines when using social media related to Hunters and Shooters Society Australia or its business, products, competitions, participants, services, events, sponsors, members, or reputation.

Use common sense

Whenever you are unsure as to whether or not the content you wish to share is appropriate, seek advice from others before doing so or refrain from sharing the content to be on the safe side.

When using social media, the lines between public and private, personal, and professional, may be blurred. Remember, you are an ambassador for Hunters and Shooters Society Australia.

Protecting your privacy

Be smart about protecting yourself and your privacy.

When posting content online there is potential for that content to become publicly available through a variety of means, even if it was intended to be shared privately. Therefore, you should refrain from posting any content online that you would not be happy for anyone to see, even if you feel confident that a particular individual would never see it.

Where possible, privacy settings on social media platforms should be set to limit access. You should also be cautious about disclosing your personal details.

Honesty

Your honesty—or dishonesty—may be quickly noticed in the social media environment. Do not say anything that is dishonest, untrue or misleading. If you are unsure, check the source and the facts before uploading or posting anything. Hunters and Shooters Society Australia recommends erring on the side of caution – if in doubt, do not post or upload.

Do not post anonymously, using pseudonyms or false screen names. Be transparent and honest. Use your real name, be clear about who you are and identify any affiliations you have.

If you have a vested interest in something you are discussing, point it out. If you make an endorsement or recommendation about something you are affiliated with, or have a close relationship with, you must disclose that affiliation.

The web is not anonymous. You should assume that all information posted online can be traced back to you. You are accountable for your actions both on and offline, including the information you post via your personal social media accounts.

Use of disclaimers

Wherever practical, include a prominent disclaimer stating who you work for or are affiliated with and that anything you publish is your personal opinion and that you are not speaking officially. This is good practice and is encouraged, but don't count on it to avoid trouble — it may not have legal effect.

Reasonable use

If you are an employee of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia, you must ensure that your personal use of social media does not interfere with your work commitments or productivity.

Respect confidentiality and sensitivity

When using social media, you must maintain the privacy of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's confidential information. This includes information that is not publicly accessible, widely known, or not expected to be shared outside of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia.

Remember, if you are online, you are on the record—much of the content posted online is public and searchable.

Within the scope of your authorisation by Hunters and Shooters Society Australia, it is perfectly acceptable to talk about Hunters and Shooters Society Australia and have a dialogue with the community, but it is not okay to publish confidential information of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia. Confidential information includes things such as details about litigation, unreleased product information and unpublished details about our financial information or trade secrets.

When using social media, you should be considerate to others and should not post information when you have been asked not to, or where consent has not been sought and given. You must also remove information about another person if that person asks you to do so.

Permission should always be sought if the use or publication of information is not incidental, but directly related to an individual. This is particularly relevant to publishing any information regarding minors. In such circumstances, parental or guardian consent is mandatory.

Gaining permission when publishing a person's identifiable image

You must obtain permission from an individual to use a direct, clearly identifiable image of that person.

You should also refrain from posting any information or photos of a sensitive nature. This could include accidents, incidents, or controversial behaviour.

In every instance, you need to have consent of the owner of copyright in the image.

Complying with applicable laws

Do not post or link to content that contains illegal or indecent content, including defamatory, vilifying, or misleading and deceptive content.

Abiding by copyright laws

It is critical that you comply with the laws governing copyright in relation to material owned by others and Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's own copyrights and brands.

You should never quote or use more than short excerpts of someone else's work, and you should always attribute such work to the original author/source. It is good practice to link to others' work rather than reproduce it.

Discrimination, sexual harassment, and bullying

The public in general, and Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's employees and members, reflect a diverse set of customs, values, and points of view.

You must not post any material that is offensive, harassing, discriminatory, embarrassing, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist or otherwise inappropriate.

Avoiding controversial issues

Within the scope of your authorisation by Hunters and Shooters Society Australia, if you see misrepresentations made about Hunters and Shooters Society Australia in the media, you may point that out to the relevant authority in your Hunters and Shooters Society Australia. Always do so with respect and with the facts. If you speak about others, make sure what you say is based on fact and does not discredit or belittle that party.

Dealing with mistakes

If as an authorised poster for Hunters and Shooters Society Australia you make an error while posting on social media, be up front about the mistake and address it quickly. If you choose to modify an earlier post, make it clear that you have done so. If someone accuses Hunters and Shooters Society Australia of posting something improper (such as their copyrighted material or a defamatory comment about them), address it promptly and appropriately and if necessary, seek legal advice.

Conscientious behaviour and awareness of the consequences

Keep in mind that what you write is your responsibility, and failure to abide by these guidelines could put your employment and membership with Hunters and Shooters Society Australia at risk.

You should always follow the terms and conditions for any third-party sites in which you participate.

Branding and intellectual property of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia

You must not use any of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's intellectual property or imagery on your personal social media without prior approval from Hunters and Shooters Society Australia.

Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's intellectual property includes but is not limited to:

- trademarks
- logos
- slogans
- imagery which has been posted on Hunters and Shooters Society Australia official social media sites or website.

You must not create either an official or unofficial Hunters and Shooters Society Australia presence using the organisation's trademarks or name without prior approval from Hunters and Shooters Society Australia.

You must not imply that you are authorised to speak on behalf of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia unless you have been given official authorisation to do so by the Executive team of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia.

Where permission has been granted to create or administer an official social media presence for Hunters and Shooters Society Australia, you must adhere to the Hunters and Shooters Society Australia Branding Guidelines.

Policy breaches

Breaches of this policy include but are not limited to:

- Using Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's name, motto, crest and/or logo in a way that would result in a negative impact for the organisation, clubs and/or its members.
- Posting or sharing any content that is abusive, harassing, threatening, demeaning, defamatory or libellous.
- Posting or sharing any content that includes insulting, obscene, offensive, provocative, or hateful language.
- Posting or sharing any content in breach of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's anti-discrimination, racial discrimination, sexual harassment, or other similar policy.
- Posting or sharing any content that is a breach of any state or Commonwealth law.
- Posting or sharing any material to our social media channels that infringes the intellectual property rights of others.
- Posting or sharing material that brings, or risks bringing Hunters and Shooters Society Australia, its affiliates, its sport, its members, or sponsors into disrepute. In this context, bringing a person or organisation into disrepute is to lower the reputation of that person or organisation in the eyes of the ordinary members of the public.

Reporting a breach

If you notice inappropriate or unlawful content online relating to Hunters and Shooters Society Australia or any of its members, or content that may otherwise have been published in breach of this policy, you should report the circumstances immediately.

To report a Breach of this policy, fill out a complaint record form.

Investigation

Alleged breaches of this social media policy may be investigated according to Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's Constitution.

Where it is considered necessary, Hunters and Shooters Society Australia may report a breach of this social media policy to police.

Disciplinary process, consequences, and appeals

Depending on the circumstances breaches of this policy may be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary procedure contained in the Hunters and Shooters Society Australia's Constitution.

Employees of Hunters and Shooters Society Australia who breach this policy may face disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment in accordance with Hunters and Shooters Society Australia Constitution or any other relevant policy.

HUNTING RULES:

Awareness of relevant legislation:

It is the responsibility of a society member to be aware of and comply with all relevant provisions of legislation relating to hunting, animal welfare, the use of firearms and other weapons.

This includes guidelines such as the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes. (Note: If protected species require management, the landowner must have a valid pest mitigation or destruction permit from the appropriate state government agency approving such management.)

Examples of laws for NSW are the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002, Game and Feral Animal Control Regulation 2012, Firearms Act 1996, Weapons Prohibition Act 1998, and Crimes Act 1900.

Examples of laws for QLD are; the Weapons Act 1990, Weapons Regulation 2016 and Weapons Categories Regulation 1997.

Examples of laws for Victoria are; Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012, Firearms Act 1996 and the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting.

(Note: there may be other laws and regulations relevant to particular places and animals i.e., the Queensland Bio Security Act 2014 and the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. It is the hunters and/or shooters responsibility to obtain awareness and understanding of such laws.)

Permission required to enter land:

A game hunting licence or membership to Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia does not automatically authorise the holder of the licence to hunt on any land. The holder of a game hunting licence or Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia membership must not hunt on any land without the express authority of the occupier of the land. In some jurisdictions this may need to be written permission. It is the hunter's responsibility to ensure that they comply with all relevant laws and policy prior to hunting.

Target identification and safety:

A game animal must not be fired at unless it can be clearly seen and identified, and the shot when taken poses no discernible risk of injury to any person or significant damage to any property.

Obligation to avoid suffering:

An animal being hunted must not be inflicted with unnecessary pain. To achieve the aim of delivering a humane death to the hunted animal:

- (a) it must be targeted so that a humane kill is likely, and
- (b) it must be shot within the reasonably accepted killing range of the firearm and ammunition or bow and arrow being used, and
- (c) the firearm and ammunition, bow and arrow, or other thing used must be such as can reasonably be expected to humanely kill an animal of the target species.

Lactating females with dependent young:

If a lactating female is killed, every reasonable effort must be made to locate and humanely kill any dependent young.

Wounded animals:

If an animal is wounded, the hunter must take all reasonable steps to locate it, so that it can be killed quickly and humanely.

Disposal of Carcasses:

If carcasses are not used for human or animal consumption, they must be disposed of as requested by the landholder and within relevant laws, regulations, guidelines, or policy.

It is desirable to cut the stomach to speed up decomposition.

Under no circumstances are carcasses to be dumped along public roads, on public land or at Council tips, unless at a specified dead animal facility.

Blaze Orange:

All persons hunting (Hunters and non-hunting companions) must wear at least 1 item of blaze orange clothing being on the upper body and clearly visible (i.e., not an under garment.)

Minor hunters:

Minor hunters (over the age of 12 and under the age of 18) are able to apply for a Minors Game Hunting Licence (NSW). The licensed minor must hunt under the close personal supervision of a licensed person who is at least 18 years old. The minor hunter must also hold the same type of licence as the supervising adult hunter.

Minors using firearms:

If a minor (over the age of 12 and under the age of 18) hunter is using firearms, they must hold a Minors Firearms Training Permit, as well as a Minors Game Hunting Licence (NSW).

If a minor (over the age of 11 and under the age of 18) is using a firearm they must be under the close personal supervision of a licensed person who is at least 18 years old, who can take immediate control of the firearm (QLD).

A child aged between 12 and 17 years of age may apply for a junior firearm licence in Victoria. A junior licence holder may only carry and use firearms under the immediate supervision of an adult with a current firearm licence for the same category of firearm. Anyone wishing to hunt game in Victoria, must hold a current Game Licence. "Game" duck, deer, quail, pheasants, and partridges declared to be game in Victoria. Game Licences are managed by the Game Management Authority.

Non-hunting companions:

Licensed hunters may have non-hunting companions with them while hunting game animals on private or public land (NSW), however there are specific rules in each state covering what they can and can't do it is the hunters' responsibility to ensure companions actions are within the law/rules.

PARTICULAR RULES RELATING TO BIOSECURITY:

All members must ensure that they comply with Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014.

To comply with this, act all members must take reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risks associated with their activities or dealings with the carriers of invasive plants.

Carriers of invasive plants include vehicles, clothing, boots, and hunting equipment.

All members must ensure that any carriers under their control are clean as practical of the seeds or other reproductive material of invasive plants before leaving a hunting property and before entering a new hunting property.

Where possible all members must:

- Avoid driving off-road in areas known to contain declared plants (e.g. giant rat's-tail grass, parthenium weed) or in other areas that present a risk of vehicle or machinery contamination.
- Do not drive through infested paddocks.
- Ensure clothing and footwear is free of soil and plant material before stepping into vehicles.
- Avoid driving or working in contaminated areas in wet or dewy conditions.
- Clean vehicles and machinery suspected of carrying soil or plant material.
- Begin work in clean areas or in areas with the least amount of infestation and work towards infested or high-density areas.
- Where possible, work infested areas separately and clean down equipment thoroughly before moving to another area.
- Avoid work in infested areas during peak seed production times.
- Secure loads if you suspect may contain weed seeds.

Definitions:

Clean: For vehicles, machinery and equipment, clean means that no soil and/or organic matter that may contain weed reproductive material is on or in areas that are accessible during cleaning and maintenance work. A checklist and guidelines that show areas that are required to be clean are available at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au . A vehicle is considered to remain clean if it leaves its point of origin clean and only travels on sealed roads or well-maintained unsealed roads.

Weed reproductive material means any part of the plant that is capable of producing another plant by sexual or asexual reproduction. Examples include seeds, bulbs, rhizomes, tuber, stem or leaf cutting and the whole plant.

Well-maintained unsealed road means roads that do not have vegetation growing on or encroaching onto the area occupied by traffic.

PARTICULAR RULES FOR HUNTING WITH DOGS:

Use of dogs Dogs/Other Animals:

The use of dogs and other animals may be used to assist hunters but only if:

- (a) their use is not in contravention of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW) or other similar/relevant legislation for the state that you are hunting in, and
- (b) their use is with the permission of the occupier of the land concerned.

Using Dogs to Hunt:

All dogs being used to hunt must:

- (a) wear a collar which has a metal tag or label attached with the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the dog,
- (b) be microchipped,
- (c) not chase any other species of animal.

These requirements are in addition to the special conditions for hunting deer and other game animals using dogs. (i.e. In NSW, a dog may only be used for locating, pointing, or flushing deer, but hunting with scent-trailing hounds is not permitted. A person hunting alone must not use more than one dog and a group that is hunting together must not use more than two dogs for hunting wild deer.)

Housing requirements:

Dogs must be kept in kennels or crates which:

- must protect dogs from rain, wind, extreme heat and cold.
- Be kept clean, hygienic and free from odour.
- Be designed and maintained to avoid injury/escape.
- Be of sufficient size to allow dogs to be comfortably and humanely housed.
- Be kept in such a way as to not cause a nuisance to others.
- Be kept in such a way as to reduce stress to the dog.
- Fencing must not allow dogs to roam from premises where they are kept.
- Bitches on heat must be securely confined.

Dogs must be provided with adequate care which includes:

- Provide fresh, clean water at all times.
- Provide a diet which is balanced and maintains dog's health.
- Provide prompt veterinary attention when and if required.
- Provide treatment on a regular basis for external/internal parasites.
- Provide vaccination as advised by vet.
- Provided exercise and to keep dog in good physical health.

Keeping of dogs:

Dogs are to be kept with reference to applicable local, state, and federal laws.

Training of dogs:

Dogs must be:

- well trained and obedient, using appropriate and humane methods.
- Stock proof and socialised with other dogs, animals, and people.
- Discouraged from exhibiting anti-social and undesirable behaviour.
- Under appropriate control always.
- In the case of pig hunting, trained either to bail (or to hold pigs only by the ears where permitted by law).
- In the case of deer hunting a dog may only be used for locating, pointing, or flushing deer. hunting with scent-trailing hounds is not permitted.

Transportation of Dogs:

When travelling on public roads in an open vehicle, dogs must be suitably restrained, crated, or caged and protected from the elements. Cages and crates, must supply ample room for each dog to comfortably stand, turn around and lay down.

Working of Dogs:

When working dogs, the handler must consider the weather conditions, temperature, and fitness of the dog, so as not cause stress to the dog. Dogs must wear protective gear when working. Minimum requirement is a cut collar, which protects the throat and neck. Breastplates, vests, tracking collars, reflective tags, flashing tags and glow tags are strongly encouraged.

Number of dogs used on a pig:

Maximum number of dogs on a pig at any time is:

- 2 holding dogs (where permitted by law)
- 2 bailers
- 1 pup in training.

The fewer dogs the better. The number of dogs you need will depend on their working ability, size/condition of the pigs and country you are hunting.

HSSA advocates the use of the minimum number of dogs required to catch and dispatch the pig effectively and safely without causing undue stress to either animal.

There may also be further requirements put in place by local, state, federal law, or land holder's request. These requirements must be followed.

Handling and dispatch of pigs:

The dispatch of the pig should be carried out with full regard for the welfare of the animal. It is unacceptable to use killing methods that:

- Cause severe and prolonged pain and distress.
- Result in deliberate mortal wounding of animals so that they die later away from the shooting or capture area.

The Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (ACPA) specifies examples of behaviour, which are taken to be causing cruelty to an animal, including to:

- Abuse, terrify, torment, or worry it.
- Overdrive, override, or overwork.
- Kill it in a way that is inhumane, cause it not to die quickly, or cause it to die in unreasonable pain.
- Unjustifiably, unnecessarily, or unreasonably injures or wounds it.

Methods used to dispatch pigs must be rapid, effective and the most humane alternative possible to minimise pain and distress. Dogs must respond to commands from the controller/handler and not harass the pig.

Use of dogs to handle captured feral animals should be minimised. The aim always should be to handle captured animals quickly. It is preferable that dogs be only used to locate and bail feral pigs to enable humane dispatch.

Holding dogs should be used to hold the pig for the shortest time possible while the pig is humanely dispatched and only where this method is permitted by law.

All captured pigs are to be dispatched, catch and release must not occur.

PARTICULAR RULES FOR HUNTING WITH BOW AND ARROW:

Bow Hunting Safety:

Every bowhunter has a duty of care to ensure that wherever they shoot it is undertaken in the safest way possible. The following points are fundamentals of bowhunting safety which all bowhunters should practice whenever they pick up archery equipment.

- Always point the bow and arrow in a safe direction.
- Only nock an arrow when it is safe to shoot.
- Identify your target beyond all doubt and know what is in front of it, immediately behind it, and beyond it.
- Broadheads are razor sharp – only remove them from a quiver when you intend to shoot them or sharpen them.
- Never dry fire a bow (releasing the bowstring without a nocked arrow). It may cause serious damage to the bow and can injure the archer.
- Do not drink alcohol or take drugs before or during bowhunting.
- Immediately repair defects in equipment.
- Learn basics of bushcraft and survival before venturing into the bush to bow hunt.
- Target arrows with blunt edges are for target shooting. Only use sharp broad heads or varmint points for small game when bowhunting.
- Only purchase archery equipment from reputable retailers that take the time to fit a bow to its intended purpose and to your body shape and ability.
- Learn and practice bowhunting techniques and know the limitations of your equipment and your personal skill level.

Hunt Ethically, Responsibly:

Bowhunters have a conscience that guides ethical decisions in making quick, humane kills. Let's review four ways to ensure lethal shots.

- Practice regularly to stay sharp, focused and in sync with your equipment. Repeating the same actions, motions and techniques develops muscle memory and consistency. Take lessons, join leagues, and shoot 3D tournament to improve your shooting skills. The more you practice, the more proficient you will become.
- Hunters must match their equipment to their quarry. They need different arrows for targeting different species. For example, you would use broadheads when targeting deer versus judo tips for rabbits. Similarly, you may require different draw weights for different species and the hunter is to research and ensure that their equipment is sufficient for their target species. The draw weight should ensure that arrows can penetrate the animal's hide, muscles, and organs to inflict quick death.
- You must know your effective shooting range, and only shoot when your quarry is within it. Do not take risky shots, such as shooting in low light, or when a target is moving, or obscured by brush or branches. Only release your arrow when you are certain you're taking a clean shot.
- The most important factor in a killing shot is placing your broadhead in the vitals. Lethal shot placement requires knowing your target species anatomy and shooting angles to determine where to aim. Although a shot to the brain is likely the quickest, most lethal shot, it has a small margin of error. If you miss your mark, a broadhead could cause debilitating jaw or facial injuries. Plus, most broadheads will not penetrate the skull enough to cause immediate death. Therefore, bowhunters should target the deer's much larger chest cavity, which includes the heart, lungs, and major arteries. A broadhead puncturing a deer's chest causes quick death from massive blood loss. It is also best to shoot deer when they're broadside or quartering away. These shots ensure arrows pass through the body cavity's most vulnerable area, which creates better blood trails and humane harvests.

PARTICULAR RULES FOR GEL BLASTERS:

Awareness of relevant legislation:

It is the responsibility of a society member to be aware of and comply with all relevant provisions of legislation relating to Gel Blasters.

Gel Blasters may be banned in your particular state and you may not be able to possess, hold or use a Gel Blaster.

Examples of laws for QLD are; the Weapons Act 1990, Weapons Regulation 2016 and Weapons Categories Regulation 1997 and the Criminal Code Act 1899.

(Note: there may be other laws and regulations relevant to particular places and Gel Blasters such as council by laws. It is the Gel Blasters responsibility to obtain awareness and understanding of such laws.)

Permission required to enter land:

You must not use a Gel Blaster on any land without the express authority of the occupier of the land.

Conditions of participation in a match:

A completed Deed of Assumption of Risk, and a Driver's Licence/18+ card/student ID (for minors) will need to be sighted before play.

Must not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the match.

You must be over the age of 13 to participate.

If you are aged between 13-18, you require a parent to sign the waiver, and an adult to accompany you for the entire duration of the session. The accompanying adult does not need to participate but must remain on site.

Closed footwear must be worn at all times.

Full coverage eye wear and/or a suitable mask must be worn at all times on the field, or when otherwise instructed. Should the field management deem your eye wear/mask unsuitable for participation, then a full-face hire mask will be available at the cost of \$5 per session. Please note that this is purely in the interest of safety.

The FPS limit is 300FPS. All Blasters will be test fired into a chronograph before entry to the field, and spot checks occur.

Only Gel balls sold at venues from HSSA or operators of gel blaster fields are to be used to ensure safety.

Please note that games are strictly a booking-only, and walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

This isn't a spectator sport; no spectators will be permitted in or around the gel blaster field.

NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (NSW DPI) APPROVED HUNTING ORGANISATION (AHO):

Maintaining Approved Hunting Organisation status:

In order to maintain Approved Hunting Organisation status hunting clubs or organisations must:

- a. Ensure that they nominate a minimum of two office bearers from the hunting club or organisation as contacts, and supply NSW DPI a copy of the hunting club or organisation's constitution that contains a hunting code of practice in line with the NSW Hunters' Code of Practice which contain disciplinary procedures for members who breach relevant legislation, and the NSW Hunters' Code of Practice.
- b. Notify the Game Licensing Unit within 14 days of any circumstances that may give rise to the organisation no longer being compliant with the AHO requirements listed in the NSW DPI AHO policy.
- c. Comply within the nominated timeframe with any requests for information from the DPI Game Licensing Unit as part of Approved Hunting Organisation audit processes.
- d. Notify the Game Licensing Unit of any changes to the organisation's details, including the name and contact details of nominated contact officers within 14 days of the change occurring.
- e. Ensure that a current actively monitored phone number and email address is provided to the DPI Game Licensing Unit, for the purposes of effective communication.
- f. Notify the DPI Game Licensing Unit of any breaches to relevant legislation or to the NSW Hunters' Code of Conduct, by any member that holds a NSW Game Hunting Licence.
- g. Ensure the timely communication of material supplied by the DPI Game Licensing Unit to their members.

NSW DPI will audit of Approved Hunting Organisations:

All Hunters and Shooters Society Staff must fully comply with NSW DPI during such audit.

Audits will be conducted by the Game Licensing Unit on Approved Hunting Organisations using the following guidelines:

- a. Audits will be conducted annually on a randomly selected basis.
- b. AHOs will be notified of their audit in writing via email.
- c. AHOs must provide evidence of compliance with this policy to the DPI Game Licensing Unit within six weeks of the date of the email.
- d. Audit records will be retained for all audits for evidentiary purposes.
- e. Where there is concern of non-compliance, additional information may be sought by the DPI Game Licensing Unit from the AHO by a nominated date.
- f. Approved Hunting Organisations who do not respond to the Audit within the nominated timeframe will be determined as being non-compliant and may have their AHO status suspended or cancelled.
- g. Non-compliance with an audit request or a finding of “non-compliant” after an audit may see the organisation’s AHO status suspended or cancelled.
- h. All audited AHOs will receive correspondence within six weeks of the completion of an audit that details the audit outcomes.
- i. Hunting clubs or organisations that have their AHO status cancelled must immediately inform their members that they are no longer an approved organisation to ensure their members can find an alternate AHO for the purpose of maintaining a NSW Restricted Game Hunting Licence.

NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (NSW DPI) HUNTER LEARNING EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (LEAP) PROVIDER:

Maintaining accreditation with Hunter LEAP

Hunter LEAP Providers and Trainers must notify the Game Licensing Unit within 14 days of any circumstance that may give rise to the organisation no longer being compliant with the requirements listed in the NSW DPI LEAP policy, such as loss of registration as an Approved Hunting Organisation (AHO) or loss of registration as an Australian business.

Hunter LEAP Providers must notify the Game Licensing Unit of any changes to the name and contact details of the official contact person within 14 days of the change occurring.

Hunter LEAP Providers and Trainers must ensure that a current actively monitored phone number and email address is provided to the Game Licensing Unit for the purpose of effective communication.

Hunter LEAP Providers and Trainers must notify the Game Licensing Unit within 14 days of any change to their:

- i) street address and mailing address
- ii) email address
- iii) telephone contact numbers, and
- iv) Australian Citizenship requirements.

Hunter LEAP Trainers must notify the Game Licensing Unit of any event that would affect the outcome of their Working with Children Check and Criminal History Check.

Hunter LEAP Providers and Trainers must comply with any requests for information from the Game Licensing Unit, such as during an audit and review or other circumstance, within the nominated timeframe.

Hunter LEAP Trainers must retain their accreditation books until all certificates have been issued then must return the completed book to the Game Licensing Unit.

Delivery of education and training under Hunter LEAP

In order to ensure consistency and an acceptable standard of delivery, Hunter LEAP Partners must:

- a. Read, understand and comply with this policy and any procedures and standards for hunter education and training issued by the Game Licensing Unit.
- b. Read, understand and comply with the Hunter LEAP Trainer's Guide: Training standards and techniques and the Hunter LEAP Trainer's Guide: Delivering the R-Licence Assessment Course.
- c. Read, understand and comply with the specific guidelines for standards, procedures and learning outcomes contained in each Hunter LEAP Training Package, and other documents that set out required standards and procedures such as the Hunter LEAP Short Course Delivery Guide.
- d. Deliver the material supplied without change unless prior approval has been obtained from the Game Licensing Unit.

Review and audit of Hunter LEAP Providers and Hunter LEAP Trainers

Reviews of Hunter LEAP Providers and Trainers will be conducted by NSW DPI, all staff and members of Hunters and Shooters Society of Australia must comply with such review or audit.

Reviews and audits will be conducted by the Game Licensing Unit on Hunter LEAP Partners using the following guidelines:

- a. Audits will be conducted randomly and will focus on the delivery and record keeping requirements for Hunter LEAP Partners.
- b. Hunter LEAP Partners will be notified of an audit in writing via email and by telephone two weeks prior to the audit taking place.
- c. Hunter LEAP audit details and expectations will be explained to Partners prior to an audit taking place.
- d. Hunter LEAP Partners will be notified in writing of the outcome of any audit and review they have been subject to.
- e. Audit records will be retained by the Game Licensing Unit for no more than 10 years.

VICTORIA POLICE LICENSING AND REGULATION DIVISION:

Maintaining Approved Shooting Club status:

In order to maintain Approved Shooting Club status HSSA must:

- 1) Provide written advice to the Chief Commissioner (Victoria Police) on persons who Resign, are suspended, or expelled from HSSA within 7 days.
- 2) Provide written advice to the Chief Commissioner (Victoria Police) on people who do not continue to be a financial member of the club within 28 days of them becoming unfinancial.
- 3) Provide written advice to the Chief Commissioner (Victoria Police) of acceptance of each new member within 28 days.
- 4) Provide written advice to the Chief Commissioner (Victoria Police) of refusal of a new member within 7 days.
- 5) Provide written advice to the Chief Commissioner (Victoria Police) if we believe that a person who is a member of HSSA is not a fit and proper person to possess, carry or use a firearm.
- 6) Provide written advice to the Chief Commissioner (Victoria Police) of any change to the committee and executive or constitution within 7 days.

QUEENSLAND POLICE WEAPONS LICENSING BRANCH.

Maintaining Approved Weapons Club status:

In order to maintain Approved Shooting Club status HSSA must:

- 1) The club's primary purpose must recreational shooting.
- 2) Own or have written permission to shoot on suitable rural land.
- 3) Advise the authorised officer of details of any gain or loss of access to suitable rural land.
- 4) Advise the authorised officer of any changes to any land management procedures for the suitable rural land.
- 5) Provide a list identifying the financial status of members upon request.
- 6) Provide details of the approved representative.

Appendix 1 - Deed of assumption of risk – Hunting

Appendix 2 - Deed of assumption of risk – Gel Blaster

Appendix 3 – Complaint record form

Appendix 4 - Incident report form

Appendix 5 - Safety/Equipment Check List

Appendix 6 – Approved Hunting Organisation Policy (NSW DPI)

Appendix 7 – Hunter LEAP Policy

Appendix 7 – QLD Biosecurity clean down procedures