

Addendum 1

Bowhunting Code of Ethics

A member of The Australian Bowhunters Association Inc, being a responsible sportsperson, embraces a Code of Ethics, in the knowledge that any breach of the Code, or its Rules, could result in disciplinary action being taken by the Association, against the member.

A member undertakes not to bowhunt unless he or she has attended the Association's prescribed course of Bowhunter Education and has received the Certificate of Proficiency. Further the member is fully aware that only members who have obtained the Certificate of Bowhunter Proficiency shall be regarded, when hunting, as complying with the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

The Code

The Bowhunter respects the environment and therefore:

- (a) cuts no standing timber without the permission of the landowner.
- (b) ensures that camp fires are properly extinguished and observes the utmost caution against starting grass or scrub fires.
- (c) buries food scraps or rubbish at the camp site or removes same for later disposal where required by the landowner.

The Bowhunter respects the interests of both private and public landowners and therefore:

- (a) does not hunt property without the **PRIOR** permission of the owner or occupier, on each and every occasion.
- (b) does not hunt without the requisite permits, where required either as a legal, or Association, requirement.

- (c) is careful not to disturb livestock and is prepared to give assistance to stock in distress if appropriate and in serious cases will notify the owner, or occupier, immediately.
- (d) becomes familiar with property boundaries where necessary and thus ensures that there is no trespass on properties where prior consent has not been obtained.
- (e) leaves all gates as found, excepting as required by the owner or occupier.

The Bowhunter respects game hunted and therefore:

- (a) hunts only legal game species, as prescribed by the Association.
- (b) shall endeavour, as far as practicable, to obtain a quick clean harvest and therefore hunts at distances which will make this aim attainable and selects and maintains equipment appropriate to the game hunted.
- (c) uses only sharp broadheads, waits for clear, short shots and avoids shots at running game. Chooses not to shoot if the shot is questionable. Does not use the "Barbed" broadhead for land game.
- (d) shall endeavour, as far as practicable, to hunt down and mercifully dispatch all wounded game. Only after sincere and unavailing effort may the recovery of wounded game be abandoned. A member in the immediate area shall assist in recovery of wounded game, if requested to do so.

The Bowhunter takes pride in membership of the Association and associated responsibilities and therefore:

- (a) acts in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- (b) has obtained a good working knowledge of bushcraft, game hunted, first aid, and his own and equipment limitations.
- (c) carries, at all times, proof of membership of the Association.
- (d) obeys all rules for safe bowhunting and exercises commonsense whether on the hunt or on the field range and will insist that fellow hunters, or archers, will do the same.

- (e) will not display on personal vestments, Awards not legitimately earned.
- (f) will not cause the Association to be brought into disrepute.
- (g) obeys the Rules of Fair Chase and all Rules and Regulations, of the Association, at all times.

Addendum 2

Rules of Fair Chase

A member of the Australian Bowhunters Association Inc., being a responsible sportsperson complying with a strict code of hunting Ethics, observes the Associations Rules of Fair Chase, in the knowledge that a serious breach of the Rules, could result in disciplinary action being taken by the Association.

The member is therefore fully aware that if any breach of the Rules of Fair Chase occurs, the member shall not be regarded, when hunting, as complying with the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

The Rules

Land Game -Open Range

- (1) game must not be restricted by water, mud, snow, dogs, traps, snares, fences, or any other man made object.
- (2) game must not be shot with the aid of artificially projected light.
- (3) game must not be shot from a power vehicle or boat, or from horseback, where their use would restrict the game, or aid the hunter, in any way.
- (4) game must be shot in season and according to the law, as required.

- (5) game must not be protected by law, but may be hunted under official permit, obtained from the appropriate authority.
- (6) game must not be held in Game Reserves or Sanctuaries, or in any specially controlled hunting environment, except as specifically prescribed for the taking of Closed Range Game, as provided.
- (7) the taking of the young of game is prohibited.
- (8) the use of poisons or drugs is prohibited and the primary cause of death must be a mortal arrow wound, however game may be quickly dispatched with the use of a hunting knife.
- (9) game must not be taken with the use of a power vehicle, or horseback for herding, driving, or tiring the animal, nor may aircraft be used for spotting.
- (10) the use of electronic tracking devices, or dogs for tracking or locating game, is prohibited. However, game may be found and claimed up to 24 hours after it has been killed.
- (11) the use of a firearm in the harvesting of game is prohibited, except where required by law, or by the Association, subject to that should a firearm be used as so required, no claim for recognition will be accepted.
- (12) no animal harvested with the bow, under the Rules of Fair Chase will be recognised by the Association, unless the animal is utilised in some way, either by trophy, for food, or photograph.
- (13) applications submitted after 3 months from date of harvest will not be accepted.
- (14) applications will only be recognised from current financial members of the Association.
- (15) the use of any method not considered to be in fair chase by the Association, is prohibited, for purpose of awards.

(16) Joint harvests shall not be recognised.

(17) Additional Rules Applicable to Buffalo.

The member must have a back-up person present during the hunt. (Back-up person must use a recommended high powered rifle.) The discharge of the firearm shall nullify trophy eligibility.

An application for game recognition shall be notated specifying the name of the member's back-up, including rifle caliber. (amended 94 AGM)

Land Game - Closed Range

Definition: Closed Range Game:

all game found on any property, farm, or reserve or park approved by the Australian Bowhunters Association Inc. as a "Closed Range".

provided also that whether game is in fact restricted or not to such area of land, shall not alter the classification of such game, as Closed Range Game.

provided also, that only those areas published in the official media, from time to time, as approved "Closed Range" areas, shall be recognised as such.

The Rules of Fair Chase for Closed Range Game shall be as for Open Range Game, with the addition of:

- (1) Game shall not be taken within 100 metres of a game fence, or such man-made device designed to restrict game to the area.
- (2) Where guides are required by law, or the owner/occupier of the area, the guide shall not participate in the hunt or the harvest. Guides should neither locate nor assist in the location of game, nor shall the guide muster or direct game to the hunter.
- (3) The guide may assist in the tracking and the recovery of wounded game, but shall not take part in the dispatch of a wounded animal.

Water Game

This classification is divided into two categories:

- (a) Bowhunting for Fish
- (b) Bowfishing

Definition:

Bowhunting for Fish: the taking of water game by walking in the water

Bowfishing: the taking of water game from a boat, or other similar water borne craft.

The word "fish" includes the categories of shark, stingray and a general category of scaled fish.

- (1) Game must not be restricted before the arrow connects, either by nets, traps, or any means or object, natural or man-made, but may be gaffed, drowned, or dispatched thereafter.
- (2) Game must not be protected by law and must be shot in legal waters, and the methods used must be in accordance with the law pertaining.
- (3) Game must not be allowed to run free on a floater, except in the case of Bowfishing, where the hunter in a boat could be described as a floater.
- (4) The game must be played by one hunter/bowfisherman and the line must be hand held throughout, except for bowfishing, where the line may be attached to a rod or reel.
- (5) A line of maximum breaking strain of 200 lbs (90kg) may be attached to the arrow.
- (6) For bowfishing only, a steel trace of a maximum of 40 feet in length is permissible.

- (7) No power heads of any kind are permitted.
- (8) No firearm or explosive of any kind is permitted.
- (9) No artificial light of any kind is permitted.
- (10) No herding of game is permitted.
- (11) Only one line is to be used to play the game.
- (12) The use of burley or baiting of game is permitted.
- (13) The use of any method not considered by the Association's Executive to be in fair chase is prohibited, for the purpose of Awards.

Interpretations

1. The Association does not recognise the taking of "young game" for purpose of any Awards. YOUNG GAME is defined as being the young of the species still reliant on their parent/s for survival.
2. In the case of a "joint kill", the Association will recognise the hunter with the first strike with an arrow as the "owner" of the kill, irrespective of where such first arrow hit.

Amendments Authority

Amendment Reference	Date	Minute Number	Rule Number	AGM or Executive
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