

BOWHUNTING CODE OF ETHICS

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

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 Bowhunter 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 campfires are properly extinguished and observes the utmost caution against starting grass or scrub fires; and
- c** Removes food scraps and rubbish from the campsite for later disposal or as 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 and certificates, 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; and
- 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 kill, and will therefore hunt 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; and
- 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 bush craft, 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 common sense whether on the hunt or on the field range, and will insist that fellow hunters, or archers, 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; and
- g** Obeys the Rules of Fair Chase, and all Rules and Regulations of the Association at all times.

RULES OF FAIR CHASE

A member of the Australian Bowhunters Association Inc.TM being a responsible sportsman complying with a strict code of hunting Ethics, observes the Association's 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 man-made object.
- 2** Game must not be shot with the aid of artificially projected light.
- 3** The taking of game 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes prior to sunrise will not be recognized by the Association.
- 4** 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.
- 5** Game must be shot in season, and according to law, as required.
- 6** Game must not be protected by law, but may be hunted under official permit, obtained from the appropriate authority.
- 7** Game must not be held in Game Reserves, Sanctuaries, or in any specially controlled hunting environment, except as specifically prescribed for the taking of Closed Range Game, as provided.
- 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, or the use of aircraft for spotting or directing.
- 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 being shot.
- 11 The use of a firearm in the harvesting of game is prohibited, except where required by law, 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, food, or photograph.
- 13 Applications submitted three months after date of harvest will not be accepted.
- 14 Applications will only be recognised from current financial ABA members.
- 15 The use of any method not considered to be in fair chase by the Association Executive is prohibited, for the purposes of awards.
- 16 Joint kills shall not be recognized for award purposes, but may be recorded with ABA by the owner of the animal (the hunter who shoots the first hitting arrow at the animal is deemed the 'owner').
- 17 The taking of immature game (reliant on their parent/s for survival) will not be recognized by the Association.

LAND GAME - CLOSED RANGE

Definition: Closed Range Game:

All game found on any property, farm, 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 where a game fence, or other such man-made device designed to restrict game to the area encaptures the game to such an extent that it is unable to move away from the hunter at all.
- 2 Where guides are required by law or owner/occupier of the area, the guide shall not participate in the hunt or harvest.
- 3 The guide may assist in the tracking and 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: the taking of water game by walking in the water
- b** Bowfishing: the taking of water game from a boat, or other 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 by 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 pertaining laws.
- 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 to death 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** For bowfishing only, a steel trace of a maximum 10 metres in length is permissible.
- 6** No power heads of any kind are permitted.
- 7** No firearm of any kind is permitted.
- 8** No artificial light of any kind is permitted.
- 9** No herding of game is permitted.
- 10** Only one line is to be used to play the game.
- 11** The use of burley or baiting of game is permitted.
- 12** The use of any method not considered to be in fair chase by the Association's Executive is prohibited, for the purpose of awards.