

# **PIEDMONT HUNT CLUB, INC.**

## **2020 GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RULES**

**(For details of rules refer to the 2020 Rules & Regulations)**

1) The Piedmont Hunt Club (PHC) provides a safe and organized place for the membership and guests to engage in hunting activities and to enjoy the outdoors. All local, state and federal laws will be observed. Any member who knowingly violates or willfully abuses the PHC Rules & Regulations may be dismissed from the club at any time with no refund of dues. It is a firm policy of the PHC that all annual membership dues, fees and any monies owed the club are not to be refunded for any reason.

2) The Membership Year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. A new member's membership year begins on the date dues are received after January 1 and runs through December 31 of the same year. Deadline for payment of annual dues (\$1,450) for existing members is March 1. Members can purchase guest days as follows: (2 for \$100, 4 for \$200 or 6 for \$300) or can purchase a Corporate Membership for twice the annual dues with unlimited guest day use. The maximum number of guest days a member can possess is 6 with the exception of Corporate Membership. All guest days expire on December 31 of the same year purchased. Guest days are required during deer and turkey season only.

3) A member's dues include associate members which consist of: children who are age 17 or younger, spouse, mother and father. During deer and turkey season, members may bring as guests (No cost and no limit): children who are age 17 or younger and full time students who are single whose age is 18 to 24. All associate members and guests must be accompanied by a member while on the club. The member will be fully responsible for any actions/problems created by the associate members and guests. The member must make sure associate members and guests have completed a Liability Release Form and abide by the club's Rules & Regulations and the Quality Deer/Turkey Management Requirements.

4) No alcohol or illegal drugs are allowed on our leases, camp common area, maintenance shed, sporting clay, firearm and archery ranges. Alcohol is allowed only within the confines of the member's camping area and should be consumed in moderation. Individuals should drink responsibly; any unruly, disorderly or rowdy activity will not be tolerated. Discretion should be demonstrated when youths are present. No members, associate members or guests are allowed to hunt, access our leases, perform work activities or use the sporting clay, firearm or archery ranges after the consumption of any alcohol during the same day.

5) Members are required to participate in at least "Three Work Days" per year.

6) No access or scouting allowed before hunting season as follows: August 15 prior to Deer Season and March 1 prior to Turkey Season.

7) During hunting season members must Sign In & Out before accessing the club's hunting properties. Beginning at 5:00 AM a drawing process will determine who gets first choice. After 5:00 AM and during the remainder of the day, hunt unit(s) selection is determine by "First Come - First Choice" by selecting hunt unit(s) which are available. The number of hunt unit(s) allowed at sign ins and per day are:

- Deer Season (September thru December) One hunt unit selected at each sign in, with a total of two sign ins per day.
- Small Game, Feral Hog & Coyote Season (January & February) Four adjacent hunt units selected at each sign in, with unlimited sign ins per day.
- Turkey Season (March, April, May) Two adjacent hunt units selected at each sign in, with unlimited sign ins per day.

8) During deer season, only Quality Bucks and Mature Does are to be harvested. Quality Bucks must have a 15 inch wide outside antler spread. It is very important to use much restraint and scrutiny in judging bucks antlers before shooting and not mistakably shoot a Non-Quality Buck; much emphasis is put on this. In addition to the present NQB fine (\$100), any hunter taking a NQB with a branched antler, effective immediately, will not be allowed to hunt on the PHC for 15 consecutive days. Second offense in the same season, the NQB fine will be (\$200) with a 30 consecutive day suspension from hunting will be implemented. Although the suspension period prevents hunters from harvesting deer, as not to disrupt hunting opportunities for others, violating members, associated members and/or guests will be allowed to access club property in a non-hunting capacity. Suspension days if applicable will continue into the following deer season beginning first day of deer season (September 15). This regulation does not apply to youth hunters, first time buck kills or NQBs taken with our archery exemption. Youths age 17 and younger are allowed one "Quality Exemption" annually. Hunters will be allowed to harvest Five Bucks and Five Does per season, One Buck and One Doe per tract. Archery Hunters will be allowed to harvest One Archery Deer of Choice. This One Archery Exemption can be used to harvest a Quality Buck, a Non-Quality Buck or a Doe. This provision allows Archery Hunters to take only One Additional Deer of choice for the entire season and in only One Tract. Button Bucks and Spikes with antlers 2 inches or less will be considered a doe in overall harvest per tract. Total annual deer harvest per hunter not to exceed Five Bucks and Five Does.

9) During deer season; only stand, still and stalk hunting methods will be permitted. No Man Drives or Dog Hunting allowed.

10) During turkey season, hunters will be allowed to harvest up to Three Gobblers (dependent upon state stipulations). Each Gobbler to be harvested in a separate tract, One Gobbler per tract. Similar to the archery exemption for deer hunting, Archery hunters will be allowed to harvest One Additional Gobbler with archery equipment in tract of choice. Total annual turkey harvest per hunter not to exceed Three Gobblers. Gobblers are defined as having 1/2 inch spurs and/or 6 inch long beard. Taking a Gobbler not meeting this requirement will result in a fine of (\$100). No late afternoon hunting, all hunters must be out of the woods and signed out by 3:00 PM, no exceptions.

- 11) All deer, turkey, feral hogs and coyotes harvested to be weighed, measured and data recorded at the hunt camp on date killed. Quality Bucks and turkeys are to be witnessed by two members and digital photo submitted.
- 12) A concerted effort must be made in the retrieval of shot and wounded deer; hunters must seek help, failure to do so may result in a fine. Deer found by 12:00 midnight the next day will be counted in the harvest; deer found after this time will not be counted in the harvest.
- 13) During hunting season hunters may encounter feral hogs and coyotes; it is strongly encouraged to harvest these animals.
- 14) No baiting of any type will be allowed at any time on the club for deer or small game, including raccoon. No baiting of any type will be allowed in conjunction with scouting cameras at any time. Bait is defined as containing any type of food products as an attractant. A club managed "Corning Program" is currently in place running from August 15 to January 15. The program will include "No Hunting Zones" (100 yard radius) of the baiting stations. Baiting Stations will be monitored by cameras, unauthorized entry will result in fines and expulsion from hunting. Continuing, expanding and/or abandoning the program will depend on the results and overall cost.
- 15) In the past, raccoon hunting has brought about many infractions to our club rules. However, due to the many requests by our members; Raccoon Hunting with dogs will be reinstated. Raccoon Hunting will be implemented similar to our Rabbit Hunting Rules. Only 10 participates will be allowed on any hunt. The responsible member will Sign In & Out as appropriate and will list all names of the participates. Raccoon Hunting will begin after the last deer hunt and will run until March 1. If the club receives any negative feedback, the Raccoon Hunting privilege will be terminated.
- 16) Personal Stands to be constructed of metal or similar long lasting material and should not be constructed of wood or any other disintegrative material. Due to safety concerns, the use of "Lock On or Platform Type Stands" is discouraged. All stands are to be securely fastened to a tree or post with a metal chain and tightened with a turnbuckle. All personal stands, blinds, cameras etc. must be clearly marked/tagged with the member's name. Hunters are strongly encouraged to use a "Safety Harness" when climbing. All hunters are required to wear a "Hunter Orange Vest and/or Hat" while moving about or hunting on club property.
- 17) Vehicles are to be driven on "Main Roads Only" and not allowed on any "Secondary Roads" at any time. "Under no circumstances are ATV's or vehicles to drive into food plots". Vehicles and ATV's are to park only in their "Designated Parking Areas" (Orange Signs for Vehicles - Green Signs for ATVs). "ATV's Only" are allowed to drive on "Secondary Roads" to: access ATV Parking Areas, to retrieve game during deer season, to hunt and scout during Small Game Season and to scout during May, June, July and through August 15.

**18) Vehicles Stickers to be appropriately displayed on all vehicles, which are parked or used to access club property.**

**19) All gates are to be closed and locked at all times. At no time are vehicles or ATV's to park in front of or behind gates blocking access thru gates.**

**20) Members must Sign In at the camp shed prior to using the Sporting Clay, Firearm or Archery Range and Sign Out when finished using the range. The Sporting Clay and Firearm Range can be used all day from last day deer season through September 15, except during Turkey Season. No rapid fire is allowed with any firearm. During both Deer and Turkey season the Firearm Range has time restrictions and can only be used for "Sight Check Only" from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, no target shooting and no Non-hunting handguns allowed during this time.**

**21) Members are responsible for removing game entrails/carcasses from the hunt camp area and properly disposing of them in a designated waste area or disposing of them by other suitable means.**

**22) "Hunt Camp Quiet Time" No loud activity (Loud music, radio, television, talking, laughing etc.) is allowed after 10:00 PM. No ATV riding in camp after 9:00 PM.**

**23) Because we are a "Family Oriented Club", members, associate members or guests are to refrain from arguing, using profanity or any other vulgar language.**

**24) Although very infrequent, members, associate members or guests may encounter Black Bears on some of our leases. Members are reminded that these elusive animals are highly protected and should not be harmed. The South Carolina Game Laws have placed severe penalties/fines associated with the killing/harming of any Black Bears in our Game Zone.**

**PHC Board of Directors**

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