



BUSHVELD CONSERVATION BUREAU

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Failure to observe these regulations may invite censure, disciplinary action, or expulsion from BCB. A plea of ignorance of BCB regulations cannot be accepted as a valid excuse.

1. Any visit to a BCB controlled/obtained farm (henceforth referred to as a **BCB** farm) must be with the prior knowledge of the committee member(s) in charge of farm bookings (henceforth referred to as the Farm Liaison Officer **FLO**).
2. Proper authorisation in the form of a valid, signed letter of permission **must** be obtained prior to a farm visit.
3. Whilst on a BCB farm members must carry:
 - a. their firearm license(s)
 - b. current BCB membership card
 - c. letter of permission obtained from the FLO so authorised
 - d. valid game hunting license (if applicable)

In addition, a BCB car identification sticker should be prominently displayed on the vehicle.

4. All groups visiting BCB farms will have a "person-in-charge" who will be accountable to the committee and/or the farmer. Individuals in a group should adhere to the reasonable requests of the person-in-charge. The person-in-charge cannot be held responsible for the behavior of any other individual.
5. The letter of permission issued by BCB will state clearly those animal species that may be hunted on that particular farm. **No other animal may be hunted for whatever reason.**
6. Animal species protected by the game ordinance either temporarily (e.g. game birds out of season) or permanently (e.g. protected animals such as python, aardvark, aardwolf, etc.) **may not** be shot under any circumstances, even if the farmer requests you to do so. The onus is on each BCB member to know the Game Ordinances applicable to a particular species in a particular area.
7. No person may accompany a BCB member to a BCB farm as a guest hunter unless included in the category of family member. The exception to this rule is in the case of pigeon shooting **only**, using shotguns **only**. The name(s) of such guests must be disclosed when making the booking, as also the name(s) of any other non-hunter(s) accompanying a member to a BCB farm.
8. The onus is on the BCB member to acquaint himself/herself with the boundaries of the farm on which he/she is hunting. A BCB member arrested as a poacher is not a good advert for your association.
9. The use of firearms that are illegal in terms of State or Provincial Law are illegal in terms of BCB regulations.
10. A BCB member is not permitted to discharge a firearm on a BCB farm where such may constitute a nuisance or a hazard. Sighting in your rifle in the farmyard at 06h00 on a Sunday morning or leaping out of your car to zap a baboon in the feedkraal that houses the farmer's milk cow herd can cost the association that particular farm.
11. Unnecessary shooting anywhere is strongly discouraged. A farmer is likely to view with deep suspicion a report of one baboon killed after he has endured the discomfort of a 100 shot fusillade. He may wonder how many of his sheep have been inadvertently shot!
12. Nothing may be removed from a BCB farm without the farmer's permission. You may believe the farmer can readily spare a few mielie cobs from a 50-hectare field, but does the farmer believe that? Remember, the reason why you are there at all is to help him put a stop to "problem animals" removing mielies from his fields!



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13. No litter whatsoever may be left on a BCB farm. Shell cases must be scrupulously removed, excrement buried and garbage physically removed from the farm on your departure.
14. No fires may be lit in open areas without the permission of the farmer. Cigarettes must be carefully extinguished. Never leave a camp - even for 10 minutes - without first extinguishing your fire. Water alone is not adequate - use sand.
15. Report-back forms **must** be completed for every hunt. Failure to provide this association with information requested, could prejudice your access to farms. The committee reserves the right to refuse you further bookings if you do not provide report back forms.
16. The premises at Norscot Manor **must** be vacated before 23h00 (eleven pm) every Wednesday evening. The management of Norscot Manor have an agreement with the surrounding residents that there will be no disturbance, including the start-up of cars or blowing of hooters after 23h00. Failure to observe this simple rule will exclude the BCB from the use of this venue.
17. Firearms handling must be especially safe at all times. Drinking while on a hunt, careless pointing of a firearm or failure to observe the basic rules of gun safety will be seen as dangerous behavior which should be reported to the committee without fail. Some of the basic rules are:
 - a. Treat all firearms as loaded at all times
 - b. Never point a firearm at a person, whether loaded or unloaded
 - c. Never rely on the "safety" mechanism of a firearm
 - d. Never climb over or under a fence with a loaded firearm
 - e. Check your line of fire and particularly the background to your target before firing
 - f. Never travel with a loaded firearm in your vehicle
 - g. Ensure that those in your company can see that your fire arm is safe, i.e. bolt open, shotgun barrels broken
 - h. Whenever handling a firearm, always check that it is unloaded. Never rely on your memory in this respect. Pulling the trigger is **not** the way to check whether a firearm is loaded
 - i. Never return a firearm to case or gun bag without first emptying the chamber and magazine
 - j. Never shoot at flying birds at a barrel angle of less than the safe 45 degrees. Never shoot at birds perched on sunflower heads
 - k. When assigned a shooting position as one of a group of hunters, **do not move** from that spot until the agreed end of the shoot
 - l. Never fire at an animal target unless you have positively identified it. The "right" colour eyes at night is **not** adequate. An absolutely clear view unencumbered by vegetation is essential at any time
 - m. A firearm owner may only allow another person to use his firearm while under his direct control. By this is meant within arm's length control.
18. Farm/Hunt booking procedure:
 - a) You may book your hunt with the FLO at the Club meeting on Wednesday evenings when he is present. He will then issue you the Farm Permission documents. Or
 - b) You may book a **new** hunt by telephone or email with the FLO from:
 - a.i) Monday 09h00 to Wednesday till 18h00,
 - a.ii) Thursdays till 15h00
 - c) You may enquire about **existing** hunts, i.e. if there is a Hunt or Bird Shoot *already* organised for the weekend, until 14h00 on Fridays. The FLO will give you the name and telephone number of the Shoot Leader for that farm for that outing, who may then at his own discretion, allow you to join in the shoot that he has arranged.



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- d) For more accurate records to be kept, and in the light of trends in the Firearms Control Bill, it is better that each shooter on a hunt (especially on pigeon/dove shoots) fills in a separate Report Back Form **and** returns/faxes it to the FLO a.s.a.p. after the hunt.

NB These Report Back Forms are kept on file and copies can be obtained from the FLO to assist members prove "reasonable need" in support of applications for appropriate hunting firearms, as well as for proof of their hunting activities. Likewise, considering the trends in proposed firearm control legislation, it may be a wise move for members to retain their Farm Permission forms on file somewhere to enable them to provide proof to the authorities of their hunting activities. The FLO only records the names of members against the hunts booked.

BY ORDER OF THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE

March 2014