



## **GREAT NORTHERN SPORTSMAN'S CLUB INC.**

### **Rules and Regulations**

In order to promote a safe, ethical, and enjoyable hunting experience for all Club members and their guests, the GNSC Board of Directors has drafted the following rules and regulations. In most situations it is only necessary for members and their guests to follow the game laws of the State of Illinois and behave with due consideration to other hunters who are afield. It is expected that all members be aware of these rules. The contents of this document is subject to change without notice.

#### ***General Hunting Rules and Regulations***

- 1) All Federal and State of Illinois regulations, including licenses, permits and seasons, are to be followed. Note: A valid hunting license is required of all members and guests hunting on Club property.
- 2) Ethical hunting assumes that the pursuit of all game should be done in the spirit of "fair chase." This implies that the game has a reasonable chance of escaping the hunter. For example, as mandated by Illinois law, "fair chase" typically precludes the use of motorized vehicles to assist in the harvesting of game. While at times hunters may dizzy and plant birds to ensure opportunities for controlled dog training, in general, birds released for hunting purposes will be allowed a greater opportunity for escape. Game birds transported to GNSC property must be released pursuant to the above stated "fair chase." While doing so will often make for a more difficult hunt, it will also generally be a more enjoyable and rewarding hunt.
- 3) Safe hunting also requires an adequate spacing of gun / deer hunters. To preclude hazards related to stand location, the Club requires that all deer hunters have stand locations to be used during shotgun deer season, whether permanent or portable, placed a minimum of 150 yards away from another Shotgun stand and approved by the "GNSC Game Warden" (currently John Kremmidas).
- 4) All persons hunting on Club property from an elevated position are required to use a Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) certified full-body harness AND Life-Line securely anchored to prevent unwanted descent. (Approved 10/ 2014)
- 5) During the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shotgun deer season ***ALL*** other hunting activities are suspended. During these two seasons, anyone who is not in possession of a valid shotgun deer permit is not allowed in the field with a gun.
- 6) Guests are welcome for some hunting activities. Members are responsible for the behavior of their guests while on Club property. A member can bring no more than two guests at a time. Any GNSC Board member or Officer can deny a guest the privilege of hunting if the situation warrants. ***Note: no guests may hunt deer or turkey on club property.***

- 7) All members and their guests must sign in at the Clubhouse prior to going afield for hunting or any other activity. Prior to leaving club property, members and guests are required to Sign Out.
- 8) Upon completion of a pheasant hunt, all game harvested will be leg banded with a DNR leg tag and accounted for on the tally sheet. At no time are leg tags to be carried afield; ***doing so is illegal.***
- 9) No intoxicating drugs or beverages may be consumed in the field. Those wishing to consume alcohol may do so within the Clubhouse area after they have completed hunting for the day. Drinking while driving on Club property is strictly prohibited.
- 10) Treestands and Ground Blinds – Each paying member is entitled to set up a maximum of three (3) stands/blinds for Deer hunting. ***Children and spouses of a paying member can use one of that paying member's treestands/blinds but are not entitled to additional treestands/blinds of their own.*** One (1) additional ground blind per hunter can be set up for Spring Turkey the afternoon before your hunt and must be removed when you go home. ***Children prior to the age allowed by Illinois law to hunt on their own may not have a blind of their own for turkey hunting and must hunt with a parent or legal guardian. (Approved August 2016, Revised January 3, 2018, Revised February 2021)***
- 11) Every Member must clearly mark/tag/identify his or her treestand or ground blind with his or her full name. Identification must be visible from ground level and outside of the blind. After June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, any untagged treestands or ground blinds will be removed and confiscated. (approved June 2016)
- 12) Treestand / Ground Blind placement for deer hunting - Every stand/blind site or location must first be approved by the appointed "GNSC Game Warden" (currently John Kremmidas). ***Treestand and blind locations cannot be transferred from one member to another or from a departing member to another member. When a member leaves the club or abandons a stand location, the process reverts to the club and decisions/approvals for assigning those locations are the responsibility of the GNSC Game Warden. The actual treestands are the personal property of the member who placed it and only the owner of the treestand can give permission to another member to use it.*** (Approved 8/14/16. Revised 02/2021)
- 13) Deer Harvest Rule:
  - Every member is entitled to harvest only three (3) deer per year.
  - Of the three (3) deer harvested, only one (1) can be "Antlered".

"Trophy Buck" option – If your first harvested deer is a buck, you may harvest a second buck, but it must be a true "Trophy Buck" / "once in a life time Buck" and then you will not be allowed to harvest a buck the following year. There is no scenario where you could harvest four (4) deer in the same membership year. (Revised January, 3 2018, revised September 2020)

### ***Other Rules and Regulations***

- 1) All members must sign a Waiver and Release document provided by the Club prior to using Club property for any purpose. In addition, it is the responsibility of any member to insure that his or her guests using Club property also sign the aforesaid Waiver and Release. Copies are available in the Clubhouse for this purpose.
- 2) All members are expected to properly care for all Club property (e.g. clubhouse and bunkhouse) and equipment (e.g. bird crates, chainsaw, tools, tractor, mowers, etc.). In addition, crates in which birds are transported should be properly cared for and must be returned to the point of pick-up on the same day.

- 3) All members and guests are expected to properly dispose of any and all trash which they create while in the field or at the Clubhouse. Members whose stand locations contain excessive trash will be considered in violation of this rule. All harvested game should be disposed properly. If the area around the Clubhouse is used for skinning/butchering deer or other game, any waste should be placed in the dumpster. (We don't want to feed the coyotes and raccoons.)
- 4) Motorcycles, mini-bikes, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and/or any other non-licensed vehicles may not be operated on Club property except ATV's used to remove downed game or for agricultural purposes.
- 5) During the archery deer season, stands and/or blinds may be worked on only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. This applies to the construction/repairing of Shotgun stands/blinds and the relocating of portable tree stands or ground blinds.
- 6) The erecting or repairing of tree stands during the gun deer season(s) is not allowed at any time for any reason. In addition, if any stand is in disrepair, any Club officer, member of the Board of Directors, or Club-assigned game warden has the right to deem it unfit for hunting until satisfactory repair is made.
- 7) From September 2010 forward, the construction of wooden tree stands is prohibited unless authorized by the GNSC Board of Directors. Wooden tree stands constructed prior to September 2010 may be used as long as they are kept in good repair. Abandoned (wooden) tree-stands will be condemned and cannot be used by any member.
- 8) Smoking in all GNSC Buildings is prohibited. State and Local laws regarding smoking must be adhered to. (Approved July 2016).
- 9) Personal Gear will not be left in GNSC buildings during the hunting season starting September 1<sup>st</sup> thru February 1<sup>st</sup>. Personal gear left behind during the hunting season will be moved to the shed. (Approved July 2016.).
- 10) Food Storage – If you bring food and drink supplies, they must be stored in available cupboards, drawers, or placed in a container outdoors or near your personal gear. Do not store your supplies in common areas like the kitchen countertops or Livingroom. (approved 01/23/2019)
- 11) Camping Trailers are allowed on the two acres known as “Clubhouse Property”. Campers must remain in designated areas and cannot stay on club property for extended periods of time in accordance with local laws. (Approved July 2016). Campers must be unplugged from electrical outlets before you go home. (Approved January 3 2018)

### ***Membership & Eligibility Rules***

- 1) A “paid” membership in GNSC consists of one (1) paying adult age 18 years or older. The spouse and dependent children of a member have equal club privileges, though children under age 18 must be under adult supervision while engaged in activities on club property. **Note:** exception is made for children over 18 who are ***full-time students up to age 23***. During such time they continue to have club privileges under the membership of their parent.
- 2) Children of existing members who become eligible for “paid” membership may submit an application. Subject to approval of the GNSC Board of Directors, the children of existing members typically are granted immediate club membership.
- 3) Previous members, ***in good standing when they left GNSC***, may submit an updated application for membership. Previous members accepted back into GNSC are charged current dues rates and the initiation fee is waived. (Other fees may apply).

- 4) All fees including but not limited to: work party Opt-out fees, late fees, and other fees must be paid in full by October 1st<sup>th</sup>. Failure to do so will result in the suspension of all club privileges. (Approved 8/5/13)

### ***Penalties for Rule Violations***

- 1) When a rules violation is brought to the attention of the GNSC Inc., the Club officers will gather the necessary information to impose an appropriate penalty (if warranted), which will then be presented to the GNSC Inc. Board of Directors for approval.
- 2) When a guest of a member is found to be in violation of any of the Club rules, it is expected that particular guest will not be invited again to hunt on Club property. In addition, should a member's guests be repeatedly found to violate Club rules, that member will lose the privilege of inviting guests to hunt Club property.
- 3) Any member who witnesses a violation of the Club rules should at least make the violator aware of the infraction and should consider reporting the incident to a club officer. It is easy to let the violations of others, especially friends, go unnoticed, but those who do so are not helping the violators and are certainly not showing concern for their own and others safety and well-being.
- 4) A member is obliged to abide by the penalties assigned by any Club person with such authority, but may appeal the penalty, within 60 days, to a hearing by the GNSC Board of Directors.
- 5) In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between these Rules and Regulations and the GNSC Membership Agreement, same will be resolved in favor of the terms of the Membership Agreement, it being understood that the terms and provisions of the Membership Agreement are paramount to these Rules and Regulations.

### **Board of Directors Great Northern Sportsman's Club**

### ***Declaration***

I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Great Northern Sportsman's Club. I understand that if found to be in violation of these rules, my hunting privileges may be suspended, or my membership in the Club may be terminated.

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*Printed Name*

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*Signature*

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*Date*

***Sign and date this page and return to a GNSC Officer***

*Revised 01/03/2018 ,September 2020*