**STONINGTON PROPERTY**

**HUNTING RULES**

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GENERAL RULES

1. Deer hunting on the Stonington properties is allowed in the following categories;

(a) Private Land – Archery

(b) Private Land - Muzzleloader

(c) Private Land – Shotgun (No rifle deer hunting on Stonington property)

(d) Private Land – Revolver

2. Small game hunting is allowed and shall be in accordance with state laws.

3. Turkey hunting is allowed and shall be in accordance with state laws.

4. Trapping is allowed and shall be in accordance with state laws. The location of any traps shall be documented in the Stonington Hunting Book.

5. All hunting will be conducted in compliance with Connecticut Hunting Laws and Regulations as well as Groton Sportsmen’s Club rules and regulations. A current copy of the CT Hunting Abstract will be kept in the book. As stated in the printed hunting regulations, they are a guide, printed before the season, and the most up-to-date rules and regulations are posted on-line.

6. The total annual number of hunters will be recommended by the SHWC based on current factors. The SHWC shall present a report with a maximum hunter density plan when needed to support that recommendation. In the event the number of hunters needs to be limited a lottery will be held.

7. Private Land Consent Forms shall be completely filled out prior to being signed by either the President, Vice President or any authorized Executive Board member for all properties. In addition to executive board members the Stonington Habitat and Wildlife Committee Chairman or their designee may sign consent forms for the Stonington property. A list of all approved hunters should be maintained in the Stonington Hunter Book. A mock State of Connecticut Private Land Consent Form will be kept in the Stonington Hunting Book in the clubhouse as a guide.

8. Hunters hunting on the Stonington property must sign in and out using the logbook kept inside the clubhouse. Hunters on the Stonington property shall indicate where they will be hunting in the book and on the property map when it is in use.

9. The annual season on the Stonington property is defined by the start of Connecticut’s Hunting season determined by CT DEEP and ending IAW Connecticut Hunting Season. The exact dates that the seasons start and end are defined each year by the Connecticut DEEP and may run into the following year.

10. Hunters must park in the dedicated parking spots. The parking locations are the main parking lot, the 300 yard range, the 440 hunter parking area (left side of driveway, prior to the 440 house), off Al Harvey Road (designated lot), and off Route 184 (designated lot).

11. The 500 foot firearms hunting law shall be followed at all times. Respect our neighbors. Know where you are.

12. Do not cross open firearms ranges.

13. Hunter safety orange shall be worn in accordance with state law when using the clubs hunting areas. In addition to state law, all non-hunting users of club property during firearms deer and turkey season shall wear a hunter orange vest of at least 400 square inches and a hunter orange hat. It is recommended that dogs wear hunter orange also.

14. The use of a vehicle, UTV, or ATV is permitted for game recovery. Mobility handicapped hunters, with prior annual approval, may transit to and from a stand by vehicle. See UTV Rules for more details.

15. The bag limit on the Stonington property is one deer of either sex per annual season. For the 2022-2023 deer season ONE additional archery deer is allowed.

16. Any wounded deer not recovered count against the club member’s bag limit.

17. The use of artificial attractants and decoys will be in accordance with State of Connecticut DEEP Rules and Regulations. The SHWC may ask for additional restrictions annually.

FAMILY MEMBER HUNTING

18. Hunting by family members (Eligible family members are the spouse, and

children, grandchildren, and stepchildren who are under 18 years old) is allowed

on the Stonington properties. Family members must possess a hunting license, except where exempt, have their own, signed Private Land Consent forms and can only hunt when accompanied by the related Club member. A Club member may accompany only one Family member at a time. The Club member is responsible for the actions of their family members.

19. Family members on the Stonington Property must hunt in an adjacent zone and enter and leave the hunting area together with their club member. Junior hunters (ages 12 to 15) must hunt in the immediate vicinity of the related Club member to allow full supervision at all times.

20. Deer taken by Family members apply to the member’s annual Club bag limit on the Stonington property.

TREE STANDS AND BLINDS

21. The construction and/or use of permanent tree stands or putting nails or spikes in trees are prohibited on Club property. The construction and/or use of permanent box blinds is allowed if construction and location is approved by the SHWC Chairman.

22. Portable tree stands and ground blinds should be installed on Club property after August 1st. All tree stands and ground blinds should be removed by March 31st. Portable tree stands and ground blinds used for additional hunting seasons may be installed prior to August 1st and removed after March 31 with annual verbal permission from the Habitat and Wildlife Committee Chairman or his/her designee.

23. Falls from stands while hunting are the number one cause of injury of hunters. Hunters using tree stands on club property MUST use a fall arrest system (e.g. a full-body harness) manufactured to Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) standards.

24. Hunters use tree stands at their own risk. Members are encouraged to thoroughly inspect their tree stands and repair/replace any worn or rusted parts prior to installing them on Club property each season.

25. All portable tree stands and ground blinds installed on Club property must be clearly marked (visible from the ground, near average eye level) with the owner’s name, membership number, cell phone number and the month and year they were installed.

26. Any, and all, temporary stand locations shall be approved by the Habitat and Wildlife Committee Chairman or his/her designated representative prior to placement.

27. All stands and blinds shall be listed in the Stonington Hunter Book. The listing shall include the member name, member number, cell phone number and location on club property as well as the date placed in the field.

28. Placing a stand or blind does not prevent any other member from hunting that area of property or placing their stand in that zone. Hunting is first come, first served on a daily basis.

29. Still hunting the property is allowed provided it does not interfere with other hunters. Multiple zones may be selected.

30. Should the hunter density pose a safety issue, or conflicts between hunters arise, the SHWC may immediately impose a hunt from stationary stands only ruling and limit the number of hunter accordingly.  That notice will be visible on the cover of the SHWC hunting binder. That ruling will be disseminated to the membership at the earliest convenience.

31. The BOD and/or the SHWC Chairman, due to safety reasons, may make emergency changes to any and all club hunting rules. Any emergency restrictions or changes will be posted in the Stonington Hunters Book. Those changes shall be presented at the next general meeting.

UPDATED JULY 30, 2022

ED CULLEN

CHAIRMAN