

Haystack Hunt Club
Charles City County, Virginia
By-Laws

ARTICLE I

NAME: The name of this Club is Haystack Hunt Club.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Club is to provide its membership with safe hunting opportunities during the regular season as set forth by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and to create a family-type hunting experience void of drama, personal agendas, and strife. To provide these opportunities the Club will secure, maintain, and protect, either through purchase or lease those properties suitable for hunting as prescribed by the VDGIF.

GOVERNANCE: The Club is governed by a four-person Board consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Huntmaster (although any Board member can serve as the Huntmaster). The Board will be elected annually at the Club's annual membership meeting.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP and DUES: The number of members and the dues structure of Haystack Hunt Club shall be determined at an annual meeting of the Club. This meeting will be held as quickly as deemed appropriate after the end of hunting season.

- A. Established members must have dues paid within 30 days following the annual meeting, but no later than April 1.
- B. Members not having paid dues by April 1 will be dropped from the active roles and will need to go through the new application process.
- C. New applicants will pay \$100 application fee when submitting an application. This fee does not go towards the annual membership. New applicants must have dues remitted within 30 days after being notified by the Board of Directors of being accepted for membership.
- D. Legal spouses of current members wishing to join the Club will pay one half the current dues.

ARTICLE III

RULES and REGULATIONS

- 1. All organized hunting will be directed by the Huntmaster or his/her designee.
- 2. All organized hunts will proceed from the dog pens/skinning rack to hunting area at the discretion of the Huntmaster or his/her designee.
- 3. On organized hunt days there will be NO STILL HUNTING permitted on properties controlled by the Club, until after 3pm and the Huntmaster is notified, or his/her designee.

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4. Guest Procedures:
 - a. No guests will be permitted during the first week of the regular hunting (gun) season, or during Archery and/or black Powder season. Guest can only hunt on sanctioned Club hunt days.
 - b. Guest fees for hunting will be \$30.00 per day, payable to the Secretary/Treasurer or designee, prior to hunting.
 - c. It will be the responsibility of the member bringing the guest himself/herself to turn in the guest fee prior to hunting
 - d. Visitor or guest cards will be issued to all guests prior to hunting.
 - e. Each guest will be allowed to hunt no more than 3 days during the season. If the guest chooses to join the Club, guest fees paid that year will apply to annual dues
 - f. Each guest can shoot two deer per day, subject to the kill restrictions in the by-laws, one of which must be a buck, for a total of three during a season
5. School age children or grandchildren (up to the age of 18, or fulltime college student) of Club members only, will hunt free of charge at any time during the hunting season, with the member. All children hunting must have a liability waiver signed by his/her parents or legal guardian. School-aged children old enough to take a stand, by themselves are required to work a minimum of 12 hours each year.
6. It shall be the responsibility of each member to contribute to the cleanliness of the area in and around the skinning shed. All trash, refuse, and garbage should be disposed of in the proper manner, i.e., taken to the dump when necessary.
7. The discarding of empty cans, paper products or any matter that would cause litter is strictly prohibited by members, guests or any other persons while hunting on leased or rented property.
8. All members are required to abide by and adhere to property owner's requests during the hunting season.
9. It is the practice of the Club to assess \$5 fee for missed deer. This is done on the honor system.
10. All members will be required to participate in the financial requirements of the Club. This may include such items such as raffle's, fund raisers, and any other programs necessary to maintain Club.
11. Workdays
 - a. All members must work 24 hours annually at scheduled Club workdays. If individual schedules don't support the scheduled workdays, it is the member's responsibility to get with the Club secretary for a list of required tasks prior to working at the Club. Members will log work hours, day worked, and tasks completed and submit to the Club secretary. This is necessary to track all work completed as well as track what still remains. Working on personal stands, scouting deer, etc., does not count as workdays. Members over the age of 70 or with health-inhibiting issues will support workdays at their discretion.
12. Kill Limits
 - a. Muzzleloader—mountable deer only
 - b. Archery and regular season—6 points are larger.
 - c. Does—2 maximum—hunted anytime during archery, muzzleloader, or gun seasons. (Board reserves the right to modify this anytime during the season)

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13. Hunt Sign-In

- a. All members and guests are required to sign in and sign out on Club days and use markers or tags to identify where members and guests are hunting on Club hunt days. Each hunter will be required to remove his marker after the hunt is over. Only that hunter is authorized to remove his marker. Each hunter will sign in on non-hunt Club days at the appropriate box at each main entrance to the Club (e.g., Gravel Pit, Hawkes Nest, and Skinning Shed)
14. Cameras—use before the season starts and limited to specific stand where the member is using (avoid trampling through the woods after the season starts)
15. Members desiring meat on Club hunt days, must make their desires known when signing in on Club days. Hunters killing the deer will get their pick of meat on their deer
16. Deer can be cleaned and skinned anytime on day of hunt
17. Deer can field dressed on non-Club hunt days
18. All hunting markers must be placed on map board by 0645 on Club hunt days. Hunters will leave for their stands at 0700, with dogs in woods by 0800. Any deviations required will be by the Huntmaster.

ARTICLE IV

SAFETY

1. All members are encouraged to practice safe hunting habits during the entire hunting season. This shall mean BEFORE hunting, WHILE hunting, and AFTER the hunt is over.
2. All members reserve the right to confront or consult with another member or guest when unsafe practices are observed. If said practices continue, after consultation, the accuser shall carry the complaint directly to the president for corrective action.
3. Communications—VHF radios are allowed on Club hunt days
4. Harness—encouraged by all members when off the ground and mandatory by all minors
5. Speed Limit—all vehicles and ATV's shall not exceed 25 mph on all roads and trails

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ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

To establish and promote a safe, family-based hunting experience, each member shall read and sign the following hunting Covenant. Failure to adhere to any of these Covenants will serve as grounds for either a warning, suspension, or immediate termination from the Club.

1. Each member will treat the landowner's property as his or her own property by establishing an "owner" mindset.
2. Each member will create and foster a safe hunting environment as outlined in the by-laws
3. Each member will implement smart shooting practices so as to minimize unnecessarily wounding deer and not harvesting the animal
4. Each member will refrain from using language not appropriate for young children, guests, or spouse
5. No member will partake of any alcohol or mind-altering substance while hunting or carrying on their person a firearm on the property. Any violation of this Covenant will result in immediate termination from the Club. Similarly, any intoxicated member or guest will be asked to leave the property and their hunting privileges terminated immediately
6. Each member will respect another member's stand and their personal investment in associated food plots. While every member has the right to use any stand on the property, due consideration will be given to the member installing or erecting the stand, by first requesting permission to hunt that member's stand.
7. At no time will a new stand be erected within 200 yards of an existing stand without agreement from the existing stand's owner and Club Board
8. No member will engage in any discourse, gossip, or divisiveness against another member or members. Issues, disagreements, or suggestions for improvements will be handled in a mature manner directly between the member (s) involved. Unresolved disagreements will be brought to the Board for immediate resolution
9. Each member will ensure that any hunter under 18 years of age has completed the approved DWR Hunter's Safety course and possesses the appropriate hunting license
10. Each member will assist the dog driver (s) as necessary when releasing, hunting, and collecting dogs at the end of the hunt
11. While the minimum number of work hours for each member is 24 hours annually, each member will support food plot preparation and planting as required.

Agreed and Acknowledge

Print Name: _____

Signed Name: _____