

# **3D Archery Association of Australia**



## **Bowhunting POLICY**

Effective from 1/02/2017

## PREFACE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to 3D Archery Association of Australia Bowhunting Policy.

The 3D Archery Association of Australia Inc is fast becoming one of the countries most professional Archery sporting organisations. This is an exciting and challenging time for the organisation as we position ourselves towards delivering professional policies and improved services that offer the athlete more opportunities within 3D Archery.

The Bowhunting Policy is another of 3DAAA's policies developed to protect the organisation and the member while enhancing the Association's ability to manage development into the future. I am confident that with further policy developments and relationships with other stakeholders, that 3DAAA will continue to develop a strong sporting and responsible organisation.

Yours in Archery

Mike Elvin  
President  
3D Archery Association of Australia Inc.

## 1.0 Authority

This Policy is issued by the President under Rule 2.1.(s) of the Association's Constitution.

## 2.0 Sunset clause

Unless reviewed or revoked, this Policy will remain effective until 30 December 2021

## 3.0 Background

3DAAA was formed primarily to promote the sport of 3D archery in Australia. As we have grown and matured as an organisation, we have been involved in wider archery activities as a member of the Archery Alliance which formed in 2012.

Unfortunately during the same period, archery in general has come under ever increasing scrutiny through the irresponsible actions of a small number of people to the point where these illegal activities and animal welfare issues are reported on a weekly basis by the media. In recent times there have been calls for the registration and licencing of archery equipment as well as age restrictions on its use. If such an occurrence were to occur, it would have a devastating impact on our future growth.

In an effort to mitigate these negative stereotypes, the Archery Alliance identified a number of issues which might threaten our sport. On the very top of that list, was the fallout from illegal bowhunting driven by media hype and animal rights groups. With our society now more urbanised than ever, the general population is unable to differentiate between illegal activities and genuine and ethical use of archery equipment. A point often ignored by mainstream media as a method of increasing the hysteria around the issue.

Whilst the Australian Bowhunters Association(ABA) is the peak body in Australia for bowhunting activities and would appear to be the most likely recipient of any restrictions, serious impacts would also be felt by 3DAAA and Archery Australia through association. Government reaction to a perceived problem remains one of the biggest threats we face to the current way we purchase, store and use our bows.

Although our core business is 3D archery, we do recognise that some of our members hunt and are not members of ABA. It could be argued by opponents to the practice that these people are operating un-ethically as our Association does not have any Bowhunting Code of Practice covering the activity as does ABA and therefore the Association condones the un-ethical practice.

The Committee has developed this Policy in order to protect the Association and our members from these assertions.

The Archery Alliance and its member associations have also been involved with the NSW Game Licencing Unit to develop an Ethical Bowhunter strategy to assist in the combating of these illegal activities and as another defence against claims of in-activity on the issue.

## 4.0 Scope

This policy applies to any member of 3DAAA irrespective of their class of membership.

## 5.0 Accreditation

### 5.1 Accreditation Hierarchy

There are a number of levels of accreditation acceptable to the Association. Complying with one of these accreditation schemes will ensure the member is complying with this Policy.

#### 5.1.1 ABA Accreditation

This accreditation is issued by ABA and will satisfy the requirements of this policy, provided the member complies with the ABA requirements and individual state legislation wrt additional licencing requirements. Eg NSW G and R licence requirements.

#### 5.1.2 NSW DPI Game Licence

This accreditation is issued by the Game Licencing Unit of the NSW Department of Primary Industries and will satisfy the requirements of this policy provided the member complies with the DPI requirements and hunts only in NSW.

#### 5.1.3 3DAAA Accreditation

This accreditation is designed for an association member who wishes to hunt in any state where there are no additional legislative requirements to do so or they do not wish to join ABA. If a member undertakes any hunting activity without this accreditation, they are regarded as not complying with this policy and will be subject to disciplinary action under this policy.

If a member wishes to hunt in a jurisdiction which requires additional licencing requirements, it is the member's responsibility to gain that accreditation before hunting.

### 5.2 3DAAA Accreditation requirements

To be an accredited 3DAAA bowhunter, the member must:

- Lodge an application to be accredited
  - Maintain their current 3DAAA membership during the accredited period.
  - Undertake an approved bowhunting education course as set by the Committee from time to time
- Or
- Be a financial member of ABA with a current Bowhunter Proficiency Certificate
- Or
- Hold a current State Bowhunting licence eg NSW DPI G Licence
- Not have had disciplinary action taken against them under this policy for a period of not more than 2 years from the date of the application.

### 5.3 Accreditation period

Normal accreditation will remain in force for a period of 4 years from the date of accreditation. Accreditation however will be suspended immediately a member becomes an un-financial member of the Association. A member may reapply to have the balance of that accreditation reinstated upon re-joining.

### 5.4 Register of Accredited Bowhunters

Accreditation and expiry dates will be recorded against the member's details within the Association's membership database.

### 5.4 Approved Bowhunter Education Courses

It is the long term goal of the Association to develop its own education course and accreditation process.

In the medium term, the Association will apply to the DPI for Approved Hunting Organisation Status. This will allow the Association to issue the additional G and R licences required in NSW.

In the interim, through our involvement in the Alliance, ABA has agreed to allow 3DAAA members to undertake their Bowhunter Education Course. It is not necessary for the member to join ABA however there will be a fee charged for the course.

Members will be required to produce a current 3DAAA membership card and fulfil all the requirements of that course.

## 6.0 Disciplinary action

A member's accreditation may be cancelled or their association membership suspended or terminated if:

- they falsify information on the Bowhunting Application Form
- participate in any form of bowhunting activity whilst not being accredited under this policy
- they are convicted of an offence under any State or Federal Legislation in relation to bowhunting or any other criminal offence whilst in the conduct of bowhunting
- they are found guilty by the Committee of breaching the Code of Conduct
- they fail to notice the Association of any reportable offence under Section 6.1 below.

### 6.1 Mandatory Reporting

3DAAA must notify the Game Licensing Unit of any member who to the best of their knowledge has:

1. In the previous 10 years been found guilty of an offence under the Firearms Act 1996 that is, in accordance with section 84 of that Act, an offence that may be (or is required to be) prosecuted on indictment?
2. In the previous 10 years been found guilty of any other offence relating to firearms in NSW or elsewhere?
3. Been found guilty of any offence in NSW or elsewhere in the past 10 years involving cruelty or harm to animals, personal violence, damage to property or unlawful entry onto land?
4. Been found guilty of an offence in NSW of releasing a game animal into the wild for the purpose of hunting the animal or its descendants?

5. In the previous 10 years been found guilty of an offence under section 32C of the Forestry Act 1916 (before its repeal on 31 December 2012) or under Section 68 of the Forestry Act 2012 (Offences relating to hunting and using firearms)?
6. In the previous 10 years been refused a hunting permit under section 32B of the Forestry Act 1916 (before its repeal on 6 August 2004) or under Section 68 of the Forestry Act 2012 or have had such a permit cancelled?

## 7.0 Right of Appeal

A member, whose accreditation is cancelled or whose membership is suspended or terminated under this policy, has the right of appeal. The process to be followed is similar in nature to the process outlined in Section 23 of the Constitution.

## 8.0 Code of Practice

The Association has adopted the NSW Hunters' Code of Practice irrespective of which level of accreditation they currently hold unless Federal or State legislation requires a higher level of compliance in which case the legislation will take precedence.

### ***NSW Hunters' Code of Practice***

#### 1. Awareness of relevant legislation

It is the responsibility of the holder of a game hunting licence to be aware of and comply with all relevant provisions of legislation relating to hunting, animal welfare and the use of firearms.

#### 2. Safe handling of firearms

Where firearms are used, the rules for safe handling set out in the NSW Firearms Safety Awareness Handbook published by or under the authority of the Commissioner of Police must be complied with at all times.

#### 3. Permission required to enter land

A game hunting licence does not automatically authorise the holder of the licence to hunt on any land. The holder of a game hunting licence must not hunt on any land without the express authority of the occupier of the land.

#### 4. Target identification and safety

A game animal must not be fired at unless it can be clearly seen and identified, and the shot when taken poses no discernible risk of injury to any person or significant damage to any property.

#### 5. Obligation to avoid suffering

An animal being hunted must not be inflicted with unnecessary pain. To achieve the aim of delivering a humane death to the hunted animal:

- (a) it must be targeted so that a humane kill is likely, and
- (b) it must be shot within the reasonably accepted killing range of the firearm and ammunition or bow and arrow being used, and
- (c) the firearm and ammunition, bow and arrow, or other thing used must be such as can reasonably be expected to humanely kill an animal of the target species.

#### 6. Lactating females with dependent young

If a lactating female is killed, every reasonable effort must be made to locate and humanely kill any dependent young.

7. Wounded animals

If an animal is wounded, the hunter must take all reasonable steps to locate it, so that it can be killed quickly and humanely.

8. Use of dogs

Dogs and other animals may be used to assist hunters but only if:

- (a) their use is not in contravention of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, and
- (b) their use is with the permission of the occupier of the land concerned.

## 9.0 Insurance

Members who are accredited under this policy are covered by the Association's Insurance Policy whilst undertaking bowhunting activities, provided they also comply with any additional Federal or State legislation in force at the time of the incident. Failure to comply with this policy may render the insurance cover null and void.

## 10.0 Phase in period

Although this Policy comes into effect on 1 February, 2017, the Committee recognises that it will take some time to put in place the underlying support mechanisms such as changes to the membership database. All other aspects of the policy however will be in force as of 1 February 2017.

## 11.0 Changes to the Policy

As the Association's status as an Approved Hunting Organisation(AHO) is contingent on this policy. Any changes to this policy may impact on the Association's status as an AHO. Therefore any changes to this policy should first be reviewed by The Director Game Licencing, so that any decision to adopt the changes can be made in full understanding of their response.