

DIA ROD & GUN CLUB, INC.
HOUSE RULES
(Revised January 2015)

1. BACKGROUND

a. The primary document that governs the basic operation of the Club is the DIA ROD & GUN CLUB, INC. BYLAWS.

b. Article III A (BOARD OF DIRECTORS) of the Bylaws says: “The Board of Directors shall have the entire management of the business of the Club, and shall formulate and approve such procedures, policies, and programs as may be necessary to achieve the purposes of the Club.

c. These House Rules record in one document for ease of administration and reference the procedures, policies and programs adopted by the Board of Directors (BOD). Each new member will be provided a copy of these Rules as well as a copy of the Bylaws. Members will be notified whenever there is a change to the Rules.

2. GENERAL

a. In response to member demand, the Club sponsors a variety of fishing, hunting and shooting events on a seasonal basis. There are also spring and fall membership meetings that include dinner and in the fall several prizes. Participation in these events is open to all members in good standing. Events that are undersubscribed may be available to members’ guests when accompanied by the member and after payment of the full cost of the event for the guest plus a \$10.00 guest fee. Members are responsible for the conduct of their guests during all events.

b. The BOD is considering whether to require members to execute a “hold harmless” waiver for the benefit of the Club, and is seeking legal guidance to assist in making this decision. The BOD reserves the right to implement such a policy at a future date.

c. Club policy requires activity organizers to negotiate the best price possible for a Club-sponsored activity and pass that price directly to each participating member. All events offered to the membership as Club-sponsored events must have first been announced to the entire membership via the club bulletin, separate emailing/ mailing or at a Club general membership meeting. Further payment details are in paragraph 11.

d. The Club provides the services of a Federal Firearms Licensee. Firearms except Class 3 Firearms may be obtained at substantial savings to Club members. All federal and state laws apply. Residents of contiguous states can only purchase and take direct possession of rifles and shotguns. Handguns purchased by out-of-state residents must be shipped to FFL dealers in their state.

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e. The Club owns no equipment. Event leaders will work with participants to help ensure the equipment they bring is adequate to the event. When applicable, they will also provide advice about locations to buy or rent equipment.

f. To encourage family participation and to enhance the introduction of young men and women to various sporting activities, the Club allows sons, daughters and grandchildren ages 12 through 17 to join the Club as a Youth Member for a fee of \$20 per year. Youth members have all rights and privileges of regular members with the exception that they cannot participate when the Club addresses issues that require members to vote. Youth members must be under the direct supervision of the sponsoring adult member(s) while participating in Club activities.

g. Sign up for all Club events is on a first come basis after an event has been announced to the Club membership, either in the periodic newsletter, via a topic-specific e-mail or at a club membership meeting. The more popular events often fill up fast, sometimes within a day or two of their announcement. Event chairpersons usually maintain a standby list for these events to accommodate members whose plans force a change in their participation. Participation in an event is assured only when timely advanced payment is received by the event chairperson (see paragraph 11)

3. FISHING

a. Sponsored events include Chesapeake Bay fishing, ocean fishing, float-fishing and other fresh water fishing. An annual schedule of fishing trips will normally be announced in a Club newsletter published early in the year. Included will be information about the Points of Contact (POC) for member signup. Signup for the trips may be conducted by lottery at a membership meeting when there is high demand. No signups for high demand events may be accepted prior to the lottery. Members who are unable to attend the lottery may contact the appropriate fishing chairperson after the meeting to sign up for specific trips.

b. Depending upon member interest, fishing chairpersons will schedule additional trips during the season to accommodate significant member interest; members are encouraged to schedule subsequent trips directly with the chairpersons.

4. BAY FISHING

a. If not personally participating, the fishing chairperson will designate a trip leader from among the participants. The trip leader will establish the trip departure time and notify each participant.

b. At the conclusion of the trip, the trip leader will divide the fish equally among the participants and coordinate a tip for the boat crew.

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5. FLOAT-FISHING

a. Float-fishing trips may be scheduled on desirable rivers, streams and lakes where member interest dictates. These trips may be either day trips or overnight camping trips and may include waterfowl hunting in season.

b. Since day trips can be scheduled on short notice, members should contact the float-fishing chairperson throughout the season to arrange trips.

6. HUNTING

a. Sponsored events include deer hunting at Fort A.P. Hill, combination spring gobbler hunting and fishing trip at Fort A.P. Hill, upland bird hunting at local shooting preserves, waterfowling in Maryland and Virginia, and dove hunts when fields are available for exclusive use of the club. Out-of-area hunts are also occasionally available. Sporting clays are frequently offered in conjunction with a preserve hunt; skeet and trap shooting and sporting clays may be offered during the semi-annual membership meetings. Additional shotgun, rifle and pistol shooting events and hunting opportunities may be offered when sufficient membership interest warrants their scheduling.

b. More details about hunts are available directly from the respective committee chairpersons or event leaders when announced.

7. DEER HUNTS

a. Fort A.P. Hill: Club sponsored deer hunts at Fort A.P. Hill, VA usually include two nights lodging and all meals, and two full days of deer hunting at the post. The Club normally attempts to schedule one muzzleloader and one shotgun hunt annually. To ensure each member has an opportunity to join one of the deer hunts, members may sign up as a primary hunter for one deer hunt and as an alternate on the remaining hunts. As vacancies occur on a hunt roster, the hunt organizer will move alternates to primary status.

b. Leased deer hunting property: The Club currently has no leased property. Members are encouraged to locate potential deer leases and refer the information to the BOD. A member who refers a property that ultimately results in a signed lease will receive a 100 per cent subsidy of the member's cost to participate for the first year of the lease.

8. UPLAND BIRD HUNTS

a. Pheasant, quail and partridge hunting at shooting preserves within a reasonable daily commute is scheduled to meet member demand. The Club goal is to schedule enough hunts to allow all interested members to participate at least once

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annually. The unique character of licensed preserves permits hunting seven days per week from early fall through spring. The preserve manager generally provides a guide and dogs; however, members may use their own trained hunting dogs. Members wishing to exercise this Club opportunity must call the event chairperson to schedule a hunt.

b. The club may from time to time schedule an overnight bird hunt for quail or pheasant when the membership interest warrants. These have been very successful hunts in past years.

9 WATERFOWL HUNTS

a. Goose and duck guided hunts are available in Maryland and Virginia during the early and subsequent seasons. The guides provide the decoys and retriever.

b. Members wishing to exercise this club opportunity must call the event chairperson to schedule a hunt.

10. DOVE HUNTS

a. The Club schedules dove shoots in September when the chairperson is able to arrange for exclusive use of a dove field.

b. Recent Club experience dictates that members should plan on finding their own dove fields for hunting in September. Good candidates are the Virginia Wildlife Management Areas (Phelps and Pettigrew), Quantico Marine Reservation, and Fort A.P. Hill.

11. PAYMENT FOR EVENTS

a. Some of the events discussed above require that the Club contract for services and receive reimbursement from Club members. The Club does not profit from these events.

b. The following procedures serve as a guideline for Club events that require advance expenditure of funds to -- for example -- reserve a fishing charter, rent canoes, reserve a cabin at AP Hill, reserve waterfowl and other bird or shooting activities, etc.

c. Participation is limited to event capacity as determined by the event owner (e.g. boat captain, preserve owner) or the Club event coordinator. The event chairperson will establish the pro rata cost per person for the event. A full payment of 100% is required from each Member to establish and hold a reservation. The payment must be received by the due date published by the chairperson. The final pro rata cost may need to be adjusted as the event date approaches. .

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d. In the event that a paid event member cancels after the payment date, he/she will receive a full refund only if they or the chairperson is able to provide a replacement. *If a replacement cannot be found, no refund will be provided.*

e. All payments regarding an event made by the Club to an outside organization or in the form of a refund to a member will be by the Club Treasurer.

12. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

a. The Club has a working volunteer arrangement with the US Fish & Wildlife Service staff at the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. It includes mentoring children at the annual Fishing Event at Occoquan Bay NWR in May of each year, and assisting in the myriad deer management activities at Occoquan Bay NWR in the fall and winter,

b. The Club also has an excellent working relationship with Fairfax County and assists in their deer management programs and activities.

c. The Club has also assisted the BLM staff at Meadowood on Mason Neck in their deer management activities.

d. Please respond to the periodic calls for help with these events. Depending on the event, volunteers may also be able to participate in the hunt activity. In addition, you can enjoy the excitement of the young novices who get to hunt and fish for the first time or have pride in assisting government entities charged with managing the deer herds in Northern Virginia. Some rewards just can't be measured.

13. SAFETY

a. Everyone is a safety officer on all Club sponsored events and must take immediate corrective action any time a safety violation or hazard is observed or reported, and must report it as soon as possible to the event coordinator.

b. Serious breaches of safety are grounds for removal from the event at the discretion of the event coordinator or chairperson, and for removal from the club at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

END OF HOUSE RULES