



THE BUCKSNAG HUNTING CLUB CLUB HUNTING RULES 2018-19 Season

The mission of the Bucksnag Hunting Club is for Members, guests, and staff to enjoy their visit and have productive and safe hunts. These Rules were drafted jointly by the Club's Hunting Committee, Guides, and general Members and approved by the Club's Board of Directors with the intention that every Member be totally familiar with them. They are reviewed for revision annually. **As a condition of membership, all members and their guests are expected to follow the rules.** It is the members' responsibility to ensure that each of their guests is fully apprised of and agrees to comply with these Rules. They are designed to produce a safe and productive hunt.

The items and conditions in these Rules are those that the Club has a reasonable chance of controlling. The Club cannot control other factors, e.g., poor weather, unavailability of birds, hunting and shooting skills of the hunters, etc. While it is the Members' responsibility to ensure each of their guests understands and agrees to follow these Rules, it is the Guides' responsibility, in conjunction with the Member, to implement them in the field. If any Member or guest feels they cannot follow these Rules, they should notify the Club Manager well in advance of the hunt. **Failure to comply with these Rules can result in termination of the hunt and/or losing membership.**

1. **SAFETY.** There is **nothing more important** at the Bucksnag than every individual's safety. It is the paramount factor of a Member's or guest's visit including the hunting portion of the visit. No loaded guns are allowed on the Bucksnag property including the parking lot, Club House, cleaning room, etc. The Member is expected to ensure that no individual in their hunting party loads their gun until all hunters are in place, and the Guide gives the instructions to load. During the hunt, the Guide has the authority to cease the hunt immediately if, in their opinion, the hunters or conditions are unsafe.

2. **HUNTING FROM BLINDS OR SPREAD IN THE FIELD.** Members and guests must comply with all State, Federal and other applicable game rules and regulations. Failure to do so can cause the hunt to be discontinued and/or membership forfeited. Noncompliance with rules or regulations must be reported to the Club Manager promptly. **To ensure a successful hunt, it is strongly recommended all Members of the hunting party, including observers, wear appropriate camouflage clothing including facemasks.** When eyeglasses are worn, reasonable care should be taken that the glasses do not reflect sunlight or otherwise provide a distraction causing birds to flare. To provide the best opportunity for birds to work closely enough for a shot, Members of the party should remain well camouflaged and still when the Guide instructs them as such. It is the Members' responsibility to ensure that their guests are in appropriate clothing.
3. **ALCOHOL OF ANY KIND IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE FIELD.** It is the Members' responsibility to ensure that no individual who appears to be under the influence of alcohol (or otherwise) is allowed to enter the field for the hunt. It is also understood that the Guide is in control of the hunt and that their instructions and decisions are to be adhered to by all hunters.
4. **DEPARTURE FROM BUCKSNAG FOR HUNT.** The Guide for each party will contact the Member of the group to advise them of the early morning departure time from the Bucksrag for the hunt. It is the Members' responsibility to see that everyone in their party is ready to leave the Bucksrag at the designated time and with their guide. Failure to depart on time can result in arriving late in the field; not getting set-up for legal shooting time, and missed opportunities for good hunting.
5. **APPROPRIATE AMMUNITION AND FIREARMS.** Waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes hunted on the Bucksrag leased property generate a need for appropriate firearms and ammunition. The recommended firearms for ducks are 12 gauge shotguns using #2 and #4 shots. Remember legal nontoxic shot is required. For geese, 12 or 10 gauge shotguns are recommended and Ts or Triple BBBs shells are recommended. Failure to use these recommended guns and shells has a greater chance of resulting in crippled birds and poor hunts. **Please note that no firearms or ammunition is sold in Garwood or at the Club.**
6. **DOGS.** All guides will have a dog. With prior agreement of the Club Manager, members and guests may bring well-trained retrievers for the hunt. A limited number of kennels are available at the Bucksrag. **Dogs are not allowed in the house or trailer at any time.** As a courtesy to members and their guests, the Club expects the owner of the dog to maintain control of their dog, including behavior around the Bucksrag as well as in the field. **The owner of the dog needs to have an understanding with the Club Manager ahead of time as well as the guide before leaving for the hunt regarding the use of their dog or the guide's dog, to avoid conflicts. Consideration of all hunters is important.** Dogs should have appropriate immunizations and medications. Uncontrolled dogs in the field can quickly ruin an otherwise good hunt, and the Guide is expected to ask the owner of the dog to maintain control of the dog. If control cannot be maintained, the owner will be asked to take the dog back to the vehicle for the remainder of the hunt. Of course, an uncontrolled dog also represents a safety hazard for both the hunters and the dog.

7. **MISCELLANEOUS.** Each hunter is responsible for having on their possession their driver's license and a current, appropriate hunting license including required Federal and State Waterfowl stamps. Each Member of the party is responsible for their own field gear including clothing, appropriate camouflage, rain gear, shells, and a small flashlight. Members and guests should remember the Texas weather changes rapidly from one extreme to another. It is not uncommon to leave the Bucksrag with a temperature of 80 degrees and experience sleet and/or freezing rain within 2 to 3 hours. Watch the weather reports and bring appropriate clothing. It is important to remember that the Guide will give specific instructions to the party in regards to where individuals will be located, wearing appropriate camouflage clothing, keeping heads down until the Guide calls the shot, etc. Any party possessing or specially needing assistance should advise the Club Manager when the reservations are made or reasonably in advance of the scheduled hunt. We cannot assure the provision of this equipment if appropriate notice is not given.
8. **DECOYS.** Decoys, mechanical ducks, and related equipment are provided by the guides or the Club. Please be respectful of this equipment and follow the Guides' directions on putting out the decoys and picking them up. When goose rags on sticks are used, be particularly careful to insert the stick and remove it from the ground in a manner that does not cause it to break. The Guide will provide demonstrations on how to place the decoys out and how to pick them up prior to their use.
9. **MEMBERS AND/OR GUEST NO SHOWS.** If a Member has made a reservation and fails to cancel in accordance with the Club Rules and Regulations within 7 or 14 days, as is applicable, the member will be charged for that reservation unless it can be replaced. In the event a Member decides to drive in to the Club on the morning of the hunt, they must pre-arrange with the club manager & arrive at the Bucksrag as instructed by the club manager and check-in with the Guide. Failure to cancel in advance or arrive at the scheduled time will result in the host member being charged the Guide fee and the daily drive in fee.
10. **TIPPING GUIDES and House Staff.** Tipping is expected and should be based on the quality of services provided. Please remember high quality service is expected to be provided even though few or no birds are harvested.

As stated earlier, the above guidelines are designed to produce safe and productive hunts for all involved. A visit/hunt at the Bucksrag should be safe, enjoyable and productive. Following the above guidelines will significantly improve your chance to have a great visit and great hunt.

