

## DURHAM COUNTY WILDLIFE CLUB SAFETY RULES VIOLATIONS AND SANCTIONS

At the Durham County Wildlife Club (the AClub®), safety is a top priority. Safety is the responsibility of each member at all times. It is the obligation of each member to report any unsafe condition or activity, any violation of Club Rules or damage to Club property. The report should be made promptly to a Range Officer, the person in charge of the shop (the AShopkeeper®), a Board Member or the Chair of the particular committee involved. If the offending person is a Range Officer, the report should be made to the Shopkeeper, Committee Chair or any Board Member. The report shall, in turn, be forwarded to the Club President for final disposition by the Board of Directors. Only the Board of Directors shall have final authority over safety violations.

In an effort to have uniform punishments for varying levels of safety violations, the following levels of violations and punishments shall be used wherever possible. These classifications are not meant to be all inclusive. The Board may, by majority vote of Board Members present at a particular meeting, add violations or modify the violation levels as individual situations may require. In addition, the Board may, in its discretion, by majority vote of Board Members present, alter or amend these guidelines or, where appropriate, suspend their application.

### Violation Levels:

Minor - These are generally violations of Club Rules that do not involve improper handling or discharge of a firearm or placing oneself in a line of fire, and therefore do not constitute a threat to the safety of persons or property. Examples of minor violations would include: dog off leash; missing badge; smoking in clubhouse; driving too fast on Club roads, on the pistol range - being forward of the green line (without a firearm) when not permitted; cross firing. Repeated minor violations by one member can be grounds for an Intermediate or Major Violation, depending upon the situation.

Intermediate - These are generally violations that have the potential to result in injury to persons or damage to property. Examples of Intermediate Violations would include: failure to comply with the legitimate request of a safety/range officer; improper/unsafe gun handling, failing to have action open when not on a shooting station ready to shoot, and when the firearm is not in rack (except for break action shotguns which may be placed closed and unloaded in a gun rack); use of the patterning board during open hours; failure to wear proper safety equipment (i.e. safety glasses and ear protection); unsafe or inappropriate pointing a gun when not on a shooting station; going forward of skeet station 8 to retrieve hulls during open hours or, during off-hours, when an adjacent field is in use. Repeated Intermediate Violations by a member should be brought to the attention of the Board for appropriate handling and could constitute a basis for a Major Violation.

Major - These are generally violations that place persons and/or property in immediate and imminent risk of injury or damage. Examples of Major Violations would include: possessing a loaded gun when not on a shooting station (except for the carrying of a permitted concealed carry weapon which remains concealed); improper discharge of a firearm (i.e. when not on a shooting station or at the patterning board); shooting on stations 7 or high 8 on any skeet fields or on any station on a skeet field adjacent to where a trap house is being loaded, in which case both the shooter and puller shall be held liable for the violation; on the pistol range - handling a firearm anywhere behind the green line (including removing a firearm from a case); handling a firearm anywhere on the firing line while anyone is down-range; any other violation of the Club's Rifle/Pistol Range Safety Guide; on the lake, not wearing a flotation device by any child under age 12 in a boat or by those of any age in a boat who cannot swim.

### Punishments/Sanctions

Minor - These can generally be dealt with by any member or Range Officer when they occur, and no further action should be necessary. However, repeated Minor Violations by a member should be brought to the attention of the Board for appropriate handling. Sanctions for a Minor Violation will normally be a verbal or written warning from the Club President, Committee Chair or the event coordinator. A copy of any warning shall be provided to the Club Secretary.

Intermediate - Sanctions for a Minor Violation will normally be a written warning, but could also include a temporary suspension of shooting privileges by the Club President pending further review by the Board. A copy of any such warning shall be provided to the Club Secretary.

Major - The incident should be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Board meeting. Pending resolution by the Board, the Club President shall have the authority to issue a written warning and to suspend the shooting privileges of the member in question. A copy of any written warning shall be provided to the Club Secretary.

### Board Procedure

The Board shall have the final authority to determine the level of any violation and the appropriate sanction. In any proceeding where a violation is to be considered by the Board, the affected member shall be given reasonable notice of the date and time of the Board meeting and be asked to attend said meeting. Notices shall be given by the Club Secretary, shall be in writing and may be given either by US Mail or e-mail. A failure of the said member

to attend shall constitute a waiver of said member's rights as set forth herein. The member shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present his/her defense, including the right to cross-examine witnesses. Said member may be represented by counsel of his choice, at his/her expense. Decisions by the Board shall be by a majority vote of the Board members present at said meeting. Upon a guilty finding by the Board, the Board is authorized in its discretion to impose any one or more of the following punishments: suspension of shooting privileges for a time to be determined; suspension of membership for a time to be determined; revocation of membership (including permanent ban from shooting or other use of Club facilities as a guest). Findings by the Board shall not be appealable but said member may request reconsideration by the Board based upon new or additional evidence.

This document prepared by:  
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Approved By The DCWC Board Of Directors  
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