

# Tom's Creek Hunt Club 2023 Bylaws

## Article I

### Membership:

#### Section 1. Number of Members.

The maximum number of members as determined by the Board of Directors will be 30 for this season. This number can be raised or lowered by the acting President, if objections exist a majority vote by the Board of Directors shall be acceptable.

#### Section 2. Grandfathered Members.

Grandfathered Members are identified as current active members who are up to date on all duties with continued renewal of membership from the previous year.

#### Section 3. Dues.

**(a)** The annual dues of membership shall be fixed by a majority vote by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has deemed members who have remained in good standing from previous years of consecutive membership shall be Grandfathered at current membership rate.

**(b)** Dues for renewing members are due in full on or before **March 1**, of any given year, unless prior arrangements have been made between the member and the club President. If needed, the club will be starting to take new members on March 1.

**(c)** The primary purpose for the collection of dues is to pay the property lease, utilities, and associated maintenance/upkeep. Tom's Creek Hunt Club has an Open Book policy regarding the financial records and is a Not for Profit club.

**(d)** Any member who wishes to attain or donate items to the camp, for example refills the club house propane tank, who additionally wishes to be reimbursed for this expense shall obtain prior approval from a Board member in advance. At this point if a Board member approves reimbursement for the person in question,

the Board member accepts responsibility in the event a majority vote of the remaining Board members or the club President declines the request.

**(e)** Membership must be paid with a check mailed to the Treasurer. Cash payments at camp will no longer be accepted. Receipts will not be accepted for club membership dues.

**(f)** When a child of a member turns 18, that child must purchase their own membership unless they are a full-time student. If a full-time student, then the age will be 21. At 21 children of members must purchase their own membership regardless of student status. They would become members at their parent's grandfathered rate and would not have to be put on the waiting list.

**(g)** Due to the increased electrical demand and new water usage, the TCHC Board has decided to institute a reasonable camper fee on any camper utilizing camp water and/or electric. The fee will be set yearly by the board and communicated to the membership. This fee is due August 31<sup>st</sup>

#### **Section 4. Admission to Membership.**

**(a)** An appropriate membership card shall be issued to each member as evidence of membership.

**(b)** Membership and hunting guest cards shall be used to identify members and their hunting guest in good standing and shall be produced upon request by any other member or law enforcement as evidence of membership.

**(c)** Any person may be refused admission or readmission by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for any reason deemed to be sufficient.

#### **Section 5. Privileges of Members.**

**(a)** All members shall enjoy the privilege of using the club property year-round for various legal activities. Any land restrictions are listed in article III Section 2, paragraph (a). Full Campground activity is never restricted.

**(b)** The spouse and children, under the age of 18, of a member will enjoy the same privilege of using the club lease property at no extra cost. Children above the age of 18 shall be required to become a paying member or be the paid guest of said family member, unless that child is a full-time student, up to the age of 21.

**(c)** All members and guests are required to have completed an appropriate Liability Waiver. All members will be allowed guests on the club lease property free of a Guest Fee provided the guest does not hunt or fish the Club property.

**(d)** All members will be allowed one Hunting Guest per any given day with no maximum number of guests per Hunting Season. All Hunting Guest are to be accompanied by their sponsoring club member, this is to say a Hunting Guest does not visit the property “alone”.

**(e)** A Hunting Guest is identified as being an individual person. Once this individual person visits the property with a sponsoring member they are not allowed additional hunting privileges for the remainder of the Hunting Season by visiting the property as a guest through another member. Each Hunting Guest can hunt a maximum of FOUR days per Hunting Season at the rate of \$25 per day. The sponsoring club member is responsible to ensure the Hunting Guest is aware of being restricted to harvesting Does only. **Guests MUST have a type 94 TWRA license, or a TWRA Sportsman’s license. Harvesting bucks is limited to members only.**

If a Hunting Guest does harvest a buck a **\$500 penalty** will be assessed. It will be the responsibility of the member who hosted the guest to pay the penalty in full if their guest does not pay the penalty. Penalty must be paid in full before resuming club activities for the remainder of the season.

**(f)** A Hunting Season is defined as beginning with the opening day of Archery in September through the closing day of Gun in the following January, basically a four or five-month period.

**(g)** It is the responsibility of the sponsoring club member to make sure the Hunting Guest fee is paid before the Guest hunts the club property. Failure of a member to forward the Guest Fee can result in disciplinary action, which may or may not include additional fees, suspension of membership and privileges, and or possible termination of membership.

## **Section 6. Termination of Membership.**

**(a)** Any member in default of full payment of dues is subject to having their membership terminated. Such members will not be entitled to any refund of dues already paid. Starting in 2017, this will include workdays missed.

**(b)** Any individual member may terminate their membership at any time with a verbal or written resignation, or simply by not returning. Such members will not be entitled to any refund of dues already paid yet refund of any payment can be considered by the Board.

**(c)** Any individual member may have their membership terminated for any cause or conduct which is contrary to the well-being and safety of other members, their families and guest. No member so terminated will be entitled to any refund of dues already paid.

**(d)** Upon termination of membership, all club keys, duplicate keys, membership and guest cards, and any other club materials afforded to the terminating member shall be surrendered to any club Officer or Board Member.

## **Section 7. Duties of Members.**

**(a)** Members are expected to act accordingly to the other people at camp. There is a time and place for everything. Swearing and vulgar talk should be refrained from when not appropriate. As a Club, we want to maintain a family atmosphere.

**(b)** It is the duty of each member to attend a minimum of **4** mandatory Club Workdays per year. More than four Club Workday dates will be determined by the Board of Directors and announced via email prior to the month of March, thus allowing flexibility for members to coordinate their schedules. Members who do not complete the mandatory workdays will have their membership suspended for the remainder of the season. The board will assess the member prior to accepting membership dues for the next season.

**(c)** No more than 2 workdays will be credited to food plot sponsors who come to work on their individually sponsored food plot. If you sponsor a food plot, and do not plant a fall crop, the food plot will revert to club sponsored and it will be

available to other members at the next club dinner. Also, if a food plot is sponsored and there is no stand on the food plot one must be erected or built before the beginning of the upcoming deer season.

**(d)** If a member brings a piece of powered equipment to scheduled workdays, that member will be given credit for double the number of workdays if the powered equipment is used for Club work. Examples of powered equipment are, Tractor, Wood splitter, Mini Excavator. Chainsaws and other small, powered tools are specifically not included in this list.

**(e)** It is the duty of each member to assist in every feasible manner in promoting safety to other members, their families, and guests. Working safely, hunting safely, and playing safely can never be promoted enough.

**(f)** It is the duty of each member to always act in every matter in a manner befitting a good sportsman and a good citizen.

**(g)** Members are expected to follow all TWRA rules and regulations.

**(h)** All applicable Local, State and Federal Laws will apply.

### **Section 8. Special Provision.**

**(a)** A special provision has been added for rabbit and coyote hunting. This hunting can start and take place on the club lease property on the Monday following the last day of the Big Game/Deer season. That Monday will be the Monday which follows the last juvenile deer hunt as prescribed by the TWRA. This hunting will end July 31.

**(b)** Membership dues for those individuals who wish to participate only in rabbit hunting on the lease property has been fixed at \$100.00 by the Board of Directors.

**(c)** Membership dues are not required for those individuals who wish to participate only in coyote hunting on the lease property.

**(d)** Members who only participate in rabbit or coyote hunting are not required to attend mandatory workdays. All other Bylaws shall apply.

## **Article II**

### **Board of Directors:**

#### **Section 1. Identification of Responsibilities.**

**The Board of Directors shall consist of 5 elected persons identified as:**

#### **The President,**

Final authority when a tie vote exists between Board Members.  
Monitoring any and all established budgets.

#### **Vice President,**

The Vice President is the General Manger of the Club. Maintains clubs Internet presence, coordinates acquisition of new membership. Ensures web presence is current, possible multiple social media sources. Maintains proper records and reporting for the Membership Roster. Maintains proper records and reporting for Guest Fees and any other fee collected. Issues and holds all keys to property. Provide documentation of workdays completion to the Secretary.

#### **Treasurer,**

Maintaining the club's finances, paying invoices, ensures monies owed to the club are received. Maintains checkbook to ensure club debits are paid and members reimbursed for approved expenses. Receives collected dues, guest fees and fine collections. Provide documentation of workdays completion to the Secretary. Starting in 2023, by a vote of the Club, the Treasurer will be elected on a 3 year basis.

#### **Secretary,**

Maintains agenda and minutes for all Board meetings.  
Receives suggestions/requests from all members and presents them to the Board for consideration. Maintains records and documentation. Maintains a list of suggestions submitted by club members, adopted, or not adopted. Maintains a current list of membership as a backup, provided by the Vice President. Maintains an ongoing and final workdays tally.

**Board member position,**

Ensures that a plan is in place for all club work days, assigns team tasks and team leaders, in conjunction with nonvoting volunteers, for workdays. Provide documentation of workdays completion to the Secretary.

**Additional non-voting volunteer positions that assist the Board.****Road Maintenance,**

Maintains existing and possible future roads for safe vehicle travel. Maintains road access gates and places new gates as needed. Maintains road signage. Organizes bush-hogging throughout the property. Assists Director of Food plots with club tractor maintenance.

**Stand Locations and Identifications,**

Maintains proper documentation for the location of all existing stands and distributes this information to the membership when any changes occur. This person has authority to approve or decline requests for the placement of new stands. This person may also communicate with the Board prior to communicating the stand placement decision with the requestor. Updates map every two or three years. Registers Deer feeders and makes a tour of all registered feeder locations 20 days before the season starts to ensure all feeders are inactive.

**Club House and Property Maintenance,**

Maintains electrical and water and propane utilities for the Club House and Camper areas. Evaluates and recommends upgrades for these utilities with the Board members. Coordinates general repair of the Club House.

**Food Plots,**

Maintains list of existing and possible future Club sponsored wildlife food plots. Coordinates plot preparation with membership relating to individually sponsored wildlife food plots. Organizes annual soil samples. Maintains documentation on estimated plot location and size. Coordinate with sponsor to document what is planted in each plot. Coordinate lime/fertilizer deployment with sponsors where Co-Op resources are requested. Primary contact for club tractor maintenance. Maintains tractor maintenance records, oil changes and other requirements to keep tractor running.

## **Section 2. Resolution of Conflicts.**

**(a)** It is up to the Board of Directors to resolve conflicts arising from interpretation of the Bylaws, by majority consensus. A majority Board decision will be considered binding.

## **Article III**

### **Other Items:**

#### **Section 1. Hunting Areas.**

**(a)** Members are required to be present to sign in on the hunting area log on the morning or evening of their hunt. Signing the hunting area log serves two purposes. First, it will let other members know where members are hunting and what locations are still available to choose. Second, the hunting area log will be used to locate members in the event of an emergency.

**(b)** The owner of a hunting stand has preference when selecting their personal stand. The definition of a stand owner is when a member purchased the stand or materials to construct the stand, along with purchasing any such Lime, Seed and Fertilizer for a food plot, if this stand is positioned over a food plot. If a member allocates their own money to improve the overall quality of the Club property, they will be respected by having first rights concerning such. If a member does own a stand and has it placed overlooking a Club Sponsored Food Plot, then this stand is not considered personal.

**(c)** When a stand owner does not retain first rights for their stand based on the time of day, otherwise identified as the 501 rule. There are two time windows for selecting a hunting location, morning and evening. When selecting a hunting location, a stand owner has first rights up until 5:01 A.M. for a morning hunt and 2:01 P.M. for an evening hunt. After such time the stand is considered openly available for any member.

**(d)** Club members are required to communicate with an active Board member prior to deploying any hunt stand, portable carry in self climbing stands are excluded. This effort is to assist in ensuring one member does not accidentally encroach too closely to a previously existing stand.



**(e)** Any unidentified stands found on the club property after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 are subject to being removed and returned to the club house area.

**(f)** Deer Feeders – Any member who places a deer feeder on Club property must register the feeder type and location with the Stand Locations and Identifications Volunteer. All feeders must be ***emptied and disabled*** 20 days prior to the opening of archery season. Any feeder left active and full of feed will result in a \$100 fine to the owner of that feeder.

**(g)** Club members are asked to communicate with a stand owner prior to their selecting a sponsored stand and signing the Hunting Area Log, if the owner is at camp. This is to reduce confusion, promote open communications between members and to show respect to the stand owner.

## **Section 2. Antler/Harvest Parameters, Property and Hunting Restrictions**

### **(A) Restrictions;**

There are no land closure dates in 2023

### **(B) Membership Deer and Buck Limits;**

There will be a limit of one buck and four does for a total of five deer that can be harvested by a membership in one hunting season. Guests can only harvest doe. All deer harvested by the member, family of, or guest of, will count towards the member's five deer total. If a specific number for doe is put as a quota, the total deer limit for a member could decrease or increase with the quota number. All club rules and club regulations apply for buck and doe harvest.

Any member, family of, or guest of, who shoots a deer and knowingly leaves the deer lay due to the legality of the deer to club standards will have their membership immediately and permanently terminated with no opportunity for reinstatement with the incident also being reported to TWRA officials.

### **(C) Appealing Suspension.**

Members that have their membership revoked or suspended for any reason, cannot appeal their suspension to the Board of Directors until the tenth day after the suspension is issued. A unanimous decision by the Board of Directors will be required for a member to be reinstated. Any member, family of, or guest of, who shoots a deer and knowingly leaves the deer lay due to the legality of the deer to club standards will not be able to appeal their termination of membership.

### **(D) Deer Harvested Elsewhere.**

Deer harvested elsewhere, other than on TCHC property, will need to be at club standards to be brought onto TCHC property to be field dressed, stored, skinned, cut up and or deboned. This will not apply to deer that have already been processed.

### **(E) Deer Harvest Guidelines**

Tom's Creek Hunt Club will use the following deer harvest guidelines; all antlered male deer shall be at least 3.5 years or older, have an inside antler spread outside the ears *AND* have a minimum of 8 points. This 8-point minimum and width restriction is set forth to protect young bucks thus allowing them an opportunity to grow larger.

Bucks harvested that do not meet the antler spread restriction must have the lower jaw removed and given to a board member to be aged by a professional. The buck must age to be 3.5 years or older. Results from this age test must be returned to the board. **If you have doubts, don't shoot!**

**A \$250 penalty and suspension of membership will be assessed to anyone shooting an antlered buck less than this antler spread/ 8-point/3.5 year minimum.**

**(F)** Any harvested male or female deer shall be a minimum of 80 pounds prior to being field dressed. This minimum weight restriction is set forth to protect young deer and fawns. **A \$100 penalty will be assessed to anyone shooting a deer less than this 80-pound minimum.** If a club member isn't sure a deer doesn't meet this requirement it is suggested they do not shoot.

**(G)** Button bucks are not considered a legal harvest as they will fall under the 80-pound body weight restriction. A button buck will be considered a non compliant deer. **A \$250 penalty will be assessed to anyone shooting a button buck.**

**(H)** If an antlered buck is taken that does not meet the guidelines of section (2.E), a fine will be paid and will also result in the hunting privileges of the member, and anyone hunting under that membership, to be suspended for the remainder of the current season. Two such events in the period of 2 years will result in automatic membership termination. Any member may appeal to the board, after a 10 day period, the decision of the board is final

**(I)** The exception to the 3.5 year old/ 8 point minimum rack and 80-pound body weight is for children of a member who are participating in the State wide TWRA Juvenile hunt **if they have never harvested a deer.** Once a juvenile has harvested a deer of any sex, all antler/harvest parameters of a regular member apply even during the statewide TWRA Juvenile hunt. This restriction is further qualified by identifying the Juvenile as being the age of 16 or younger at the time of the hunt.

**(J)** If an adult member or adult family member has never harvested a deer, club rules apply

### **Section 3. Drugs, Alcohol, Irresponsible Behavior, Lights Out and Quiet.**

**(a)** Absolutely no drugs allowed on club lease property.

**(b)** Alcohol will be permitted on club lease property by those members 21 and older. Absolutely no drinking of alcohol will be tolerated by members who are handling firearms or intend to handle firearms.

**(c)** With respect to non-drinking members, members who do consume alcohol will do so in moderation. Drunken behavior will not be tolerated on club lease property. Irresponsible behavior of any kind will not be tolerated on club lease property.

**(d)** With respect to all members, lights out and a quiet rule has been adopted into these bylaws. Lights out and quiet in the bunk house during any stay by members will be at 2100 hours (9:00pm). This time is only flexible by the members who are currently staying on any given night. It will only take a single member to apply this rule and enforce the lights out and quiet at 2100 hours (9:00pm). Any member

wanting to continue any activity will do so quietly in the lounge area, if the activity in the lounge area cannot be accomplished quietly member or members will be asked to cease and desist activity or continue activity elsewhere other than the bunk house and lounge area.

#### **Section 4. Littering.**

**(a)** With respect to the club lease property whatever trash is created by a member should be properly disposed of in a legal manner by that member.

**(b)** Trash around all hunting areas will be picked up by members using these areas before members leave the hunting area.

#### **Section 5. Harvest of Game.**

**(a)** Members are requested to field dress harvested animals at the cleaning rack station at camp, with the understanding that as soon as this activity is complete, all remains are to be removed from the camp area to the designated area on Rd 0.

**(b)** All game harvested by a club member shall be properly recorded with TWRA as such. All game harvested by a guest member shall be recorded with TWRA associated to the Guest's legal bag limits. A member's annual deer harvest is affected by deer harvested by their Hunting Guest.

**(c)** All harvests will be logged in the Harvest Log located in the clubhouse. This will help the Club keep records year to year and ensure that all deer have been reported to TWRA. The information collected will be decided by the board.

**(d)** To qualify for a Youth harvested deer, the Youth must be in control of the weapon used to harvest.

#### **Section 6. Locking of Gates.**

**(a)** All gates leading onto and exiting off the lease property must remain locked always. **When entering and exiting the lease property members must lock the gate behind them to prevent unauthorized entry.**

## **Section 7. Enforcement.**

**(a)** It is not the desire of the Board of Directors to police or referee with respect to these Bylaws. The desire is for every member to police themselves and treat others with respect. These Bylaws are straightforward and easy to understand, there should be no misunderstanding of what is right and what is wrong.

**(b)** In the event enforcement of these Bylaws needs to be addressed, the Board of Directors will convene in person, or by collective electronic communication, to decide the proper course of action to be taken. The Board of Directors will allow any charged member the ability to defend themselves regarding said charge if said charge warrants disciplinary action. Any decision with a majority vote of the Board of Directors regarding said charge will be binding.

## **Section 8. Waiver and Release of Liability**

**(a)** It is the responsibility of each club member and guest to sign and submit the Tom Creek Hunting Club Waiver and Release Liability form provided by the club.

**(b)** Any club member and guest, accompanying a minor(s) under the age of 18, shall have the Tom Creek Waiver and Release Liability form signed by the respective parties.

**(c)** The signed forms shall be completed and made satisfactory at the discretion of a board member before the parties may proceed with activities on the property.

**(d)** The club will retain the forms as needed and they shall remain in force as needed.

## **Section 9 Rifle Range Rules**

**(a)** It is highly recommended that you sight your rifle in before the season starts. Do not show up on opening day with expectations of sighting your rifle in.

**(b)** The range will be closed the weekend of the velvet hunt, opening weekend of the Archery season, opening weekend of Muzzleloader season, and the opening weekend of Rifle season. These weekends include Friday through Sunday.

**(c)** During non-Hunting season the rifle range can be used from Sunrise to Sunset.

- (d) As a courtesy, it is requested that you inform all other members currently at camp that the range is hot.
  
- (e) During the hunting season, which includes the Velvet hunt in August and from the start of Archery to the end of the landowner's hunt in January:
  - a. See above for closed weekends.
  - b. During hunting season, you must use the sign out sheet to sign out for the rifle range.
  - c. When you are the only member at camp, the range may be used at your discretion.
  - d. If another member comes to camp and notifies you that they are there to hunt, the rules below apply.
  - e. If there are other members at camp the range will be open from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for light shooting only. Light shooting is described as checking the zero of a bumped scope or dropped gun.
  - f. Exceptions to these guidelines require consent of all present hunters.

### **Section 10 Food Plot Policy**

Tom's Creek Hunting club is a food plot club. There are areas of great hardwood. With the clear cutting in 2008 the current status of the property is scrub brush, young growth trees vines and thorn bushes.

Several premium food plots were not planted, under planted, or just failed in 2022.

In order to create a better hunting experience for all members, the Board is recommending a new Food Plot Policy in 2023.

Starting in the 2023 club year the following rules are recommended for approval at the February Club Business meeting.

- (a) Each member is strongly encouraged to sponsor at least one food plot.

- a. Some members with more than 2 plots may have to give up plots to ensure at least one plot is available for every member.
- (b) A soil sample must be taken in 2023, and at least every 3 years thereafter.
  - a. Copies of your soil sample report should be emailed to [toms creekHC@gmail.com](mailto:toms creekHC@gmail.com) so the club has a record of each plot.
  - b. In 2023, the club will take soil samples from each plot. You will be charged for the soil samples for your plot(s)
- (c) Lime should be applied, as needed, to condition the soil to the proper PH
- (d) At a minimum, the plot must be planted in the fall. The whole plot must be planted.
  - a. If clover is planted as a perennial, it must be maintained with weed control and mowing during the year.
- (e) Plots must be worked (cultivated and planted) in their entirety every year.
- (f) Failure to follow these rules will automatically result in your food plot being reassigned to the food plot pool for redistribution at the next year's club meeting.

### **Food Plot information**

The Club has had several years of experimentation on food plots. There is experience on best practices, it is suggested that you use these best practices.

The Club has 2 tractors and there are several more privately owned tractors at the club. Food plotting works best worked as a team.

You are encouraged to ask for help and/or participate in designated food plot weekends, which count as workdays. Plan ahead as food plots are big undertaking.

Exceptions require approval from the Board or Food Plot Chairman if one is designated by the Board.

## **TCHC 501 Rule**

Due to the perceived volume of members hunting on any given day this rule is hereby posted to ensure all members participating in morning deer hunting activities have a safe, productive, and enjoyable deer hunt.

This rule will be adjusted and amended as needed as the hunting season moves forward in order to help ensure a safe and enjoyable hunting experience for all members.

On any given day all members wishing to hunt *must choose their hunting location on the morning* of their hunt. Those members spending the night at camp before the next day's hunt will be allowed to choose their hunting location prior to the next morning.

On any given day all members participating in the morning deer hunting activity must be actively ready to leave camp for their hunting location no later than 5:00 am. All members participating in the morning deer hunt shall be at their chosen hunting location no later than one half hour before sunrise. If for any reason those members who have chosen a hunting location the night before are not actively ready to leave camp for their hunting location at 5:00 am, those members will forfeit their right to that location at 5:01 am, that hunting location shall become available at 5:01 am and any other member actively ready to leave camp at 5:01 am shall have the opportunity to claim that hunting location for their morning hunt.

Once members arrive at their hunting location, departure from their location will be restricted to a departure time of 10 am. Those members who knowingly are in a hunting location that upon their departure will not interrupt, interfere, or disturb other members will not be restricted to the 10 am departure time.

Those members arriving at camp, or starting after 5 am must choose from the remaining available hunting locations and choose a hunting location that will not interrupt, interfere, or disturb those



members who are already at their hunting location and who had previously adhered to the 5 am start time.

In the event a member is able to harvest a deer, that member will be afforded all leeway to keep intact the integrity of that harvest. Which would include all means available to collect and transport the deer regardless of what that time may be.

It is not the intention of this rule to keep any member from hunting. This rule is intended to consolidate and coordinate the movements and traffic of vehicles and members to a specific period of time. Not only is this a measure of safety but, it will also keep unnecessary movements and traffic of vehicles and members from interrupting, interfering, or disturbing other members who are already at their hunting locations during the most legalist of times a member can see to shoot. Midday hunting activity shall be planned and discussed by participating members, parameters of the morning hunt, other than time, should be considered. Midday time is 2:30 and is the same as the morning, members are expected to stay on stand until hunting closes for the evening, normally 30 minutes after sunset.

**END**