**CODE OF ETHICS**

**STAGHORN SHOOTING CLUB**

**Effective April 29th, 2018**

**OUR MISSION**

* Promote, facilitate and protect responsible firearm ownership in all the shooting sports,
* Promote awareness within the community of pistol and long gun shooting as a competitive sport and recreational activity.
* Provide a safe shooting, education experience and environment for its members.
* Provide guidance for the improvement of competitive and marksmanship skills and goals.
* Promote the sport of shooting, provide access for family participation to the facilities and various resources that actively and positively promote these ideals.
* Protect and preserve our shooting and hunting heritage and to offer shooting opportunities to youth and new shooters through education and instruction and to support stewardship in our local community.
* Promote and encourage competitive target shooting and practice shooting with a view to develop members who are proficient and safe in the use of firearms.
* Promote CLUB membership for all groups within the community

**OUR VISION**

* A community that values shooting as an enjoyable, safe and family based sport for men, women and children.

**OUR VALUES**

* Provision of a professional committee staffed with volunteers dedicated to helping all members.
* Assistance in maintaining and improving member(s) shooting safety and proficiency in firearm handling skills.
* Facilitating responsible shooting activities and instruction in a safe, controlled and supervised family friendly environment.

**OBJECTIVE**

The STAGHORN SHOOTING CLUB has a proud existence for some fifty (50) years. We are a conservation minded organization dedicated to the preservation of our natural environment and to the promotion of outdoor recreational activities and we have in excess of approximately two hundred and fifty (250) members.

As a CLUB whose members participate in shooting and hunting activities, we are concerned about the image portrayed to the public by illegal or unethical behavior by shooters and/or hunters, whether these are members of our Club or not. The objective of this document is therefore to outline a CODE OF ETHICS and a set of behaviors which the Club considers acceptable and which reflect positively on the sport of target shooting, hunting, and including those of archery.

The CODE OF ETHICS is outline in five basic principles, which are shown in the following. This document also lists certain unacceptable behavior, the impact of unlawful or unethical behavior on Club membership and other guiding principles.

Each member of the STAGHORN SHOOTING CLUB shall observe the CODE OF ETHICS and failure to do so could result in disciplinary action, suspension or loss of membership/removal from the CLUB. Membership in the Club is a privilege and is open for review by the Executive and Board of Directors at any time. The Executive and Board of Directors may propose a “Special Resolution” to be voted on at a General, Annual General or Special Meeting to expel a member who is in breach of this CODE OF ETHICS, the RULES AND REGULATIONS or the CLUB BYLAWS, by giving notice of the “Special Resolution” to all members at least fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting. The member who is the subject of such “Special Resolution” may attend the meeting to justify why his membership should not be revoked and failing to attend, forfeits his right to be heard. The “Special Resolution” expelling a member requires a 75% majority of members present at such meeting in order to be passed.

1. **ACT RESPONSIBLY AT ALL TIMES**

All members’ responsibilities surpass the demands of the law. Responsible members learn as much as possible about the game pursued, its habitat and lifestyle. They are familiar with the reasons for hunting seasons, restrictions and bag limits. Members believe strongly in the sustainable use of resources. Responsible members, hunters and target shooters are skilled in the use of the tools of hunting. Whether they use firearms or bows, traditional or more advanced firearms, they must be well practiced and know the firearm’s capabilities and limitations. When they shoot, they do so accurately and safely. Responsible members/hunters interests in wildlife extend beyond the field and table. They have a concern for the environment, non-game and endangered species and they support wildlife research, conservation efforts and law enforcement. Responsible members will shoot safely at all times, obey all shooting Range Rules and Regulations as posted, and help to keep our Range clean and safe by cleaning up after shooting not only their own targets, etc., but any litter seen on the Range. Members will always uphold and adhere to the 4 RULES of GUN SAFETY; all firearms are always unloaded, never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy, keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target and be sure of your target and what is beyond it. Each Range lane is to be used only for the purpose for which it is constructed and all equipment must be approved prior to usage.

1. **SHOW RESPECT FOR THE LAW**

Virtually every aspect of shooting and hunting is regulated by provincial and, in some cases federal laws. Laws determine who can hunt, where and under what conditions. Laws exist to maintain public safety and to ensure that wildlife is conserved.

Our CODE OF ETHICS requires that each member:

* Obey all applicable laws and regulations,
* Insist that other shooters and hunters obey all laws and regulations,
* Report offenders, lawbreakers and poachers,
* Respect the custom of the locale where the shooting and hunting occurs.

1. **SHOW RESPECT FOR THE LANDOWNERS**

A license to hunt is not a license to trespass. Trespassers and vandals who disrespect private property hurt the image of all sportsmen. Such actions encourage landowners to post their property. Landowners have every right to expect lawful and responsible behavior from the hunters who enjoy their property.

Our CODE OF ETHICS requires that each member:

* Seek permission to enter and hunt on private lands,
* Respect any conditions placed by the landowner on where and when to hunt on his property,
* Respect all buildings, fences, crops and livestock,
* Attempt to develop a positive relationship with the landowner

1. **SHOW RESPECT FOR WILDLIFE**

Hunters have a deep respect for the game they pursue. Their interest in wildlife extends beyond the field and their concern for wildlife and the environment extends to non-game and endangered species. Fundamental to all hunting is the concept of conservation of natural resources. Hunting on today’s world involves the regulated harvest of individual animals in a manner that conserves, protects and perpetuates the hunted population.

OUR CODE OF ETHICS requires that each member;

* Harvest game only in FAIR CHASE. FAIR CHASE, as described but not limited to the sportsmanlike and lawful pursuit and harvesting of any free-ranging, native North American game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over such,
* Recognize and live by the capabilities and limitations of yourself, your equipment and other during your hunting expedition,
* Attain and maintain the skills necessary to make the kill as certain and quick as possible.
* Shoot only when a quick, clean kill is assured and forego the long-range or obscured shot that may wound an animal or be unsafe,
* Make every effort to avoid injuring and animal and to retrieve a wounded animal,
* Make full use of any game harvested, avoid letting edible meat spoil or be wasted,
* Measure success of the day by the quality of the outdoor experience, not by the quantity of game taken.

1. **SHOW RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

In today’s society it is critical that all shooter and hunters behave in a manner that is not offensive to other shooters, hunters and the general public. They must demonstrate their respect for both the written law and unwritten moral code that dictates a deep respect for the wilderness and the game they seek.

Our CODE OF ETHICS requires that each member:

* Exercise a personal code of behavior that reflects favorably on your abilities and sensibilities as a shooter and hunter.
* Serve the shooting community, associated organizations of the Club and individuals with respect and honesty,
* Will not compromise the Club’s principles for any reason or advantage,
* Display respect for safety and laws, integrity, fairness and strive to be honest and trustworthy,
* Will welcome new members and patrons with an attitude of sportsmanship and friendship and will strive to provide a safe and welcoming environment, to avoid harm, and respect the privacy of others,
* Behave in a way that will bring no dishonor to either the hunter, the hunted or the environment,
* Avoid displaying your harvest on your vehicle or in your yard,
* At all times use safe and responsible firearm handling,
* Obey all firearm storage and transportation laws and observe the rules of safe litter. Do not dispose of garbage either in your shooting and hunting area or on the route to and from. Leave your camp area and shooting Range cleaner than when your found it and take out and dispose of any garbage properly,
* Take the time to share your shooting and shunting skills and experience with novices.

**UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**

The STAGHORN SHOOTING CLUB considers the following types of behavior unacceptable;

* Shooting outside of prescribed area and hours as directed by the RULES AND REGULATIONS,
* Hunting with the use of lights, except for recovery of game shot during legal hours and season,
* Shooting and hunting in protected or closed areas or on private lands without the Landowners permission
* Spotting or herding game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for the purpose of pursuit and harvesting,
* Herding or chasing with the aid of motorized equipment,
* Use of electronic devices such as but not limited to artificial lighting, night vision optics and thermal imaging equipment or any device deemed unfair chase or illegal by law,
* Confining game by artificial barriers, including escape-proof fenced enclosures,
* Transplanting game for the purpose of harvesting,
* Harvesting by use of traps (unless licensed to do so) or pharmaceuticals,
* Harvesting game while in the act of swimming, helpless in deep snow or helpless in any other natural or artificial medium,
* Harvesting game or another person’s license
* Use of bait of any kind where illegal by law
* Abusive language or actions toward other outdoorsmen whether fellow shooter, hunters, hikers or any persons.

**IMPACT OF CHARGE, OFFENCES AND UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR ON CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

Any member of the Club charged with an offence under the Wildlife Act or any Act and in either case deemed by the Executive and Board of Directors to be unethical or harmful to the Club shall immediately become a “Member Not In Good Standing” and shall be subject to being expelled in accordance with the procedure earlier defined under “OBJECTIVES”. If the subject person is not expelled, he shall remain a “Member Not In Good Standing” for the balance of the calendar year and may apply to have his membership re-instated in the following year.

Club members who have reason to believe that another member may have engaged in unlawful or unethical practices or are accused of multiple offences deemed to be unethical or harmful to the Club are to refer the matter to the Executive and Board of Directors. If warranted by the circumstances, the Executive and Board of Directors may convene a meeting to consider the facts and circumstances and make recommendations for further action to Club members at a General, Annual General or Special Meeting.

**OTHER CLUB PRINCIPLES**

The STAGHORN SHOOTING CLUB condemns the pursuit and killing of any big game animal kept in or released from captivity to be killed in an artificial or bogus “hunting” situation (“canned shooting”) where the game lacks the equivalent chance to escape afforded free-ranging animals, virtually assuring the shooter a certain or unrealistically favorable chance of a kill. The STAGHORN SHOOTING CLUB condemns artificial and unnatural enhancement of a big game species’ genetic characteristics’. Unacceptable practices for genetic enhancement include, but are not limited to, artificial insemination, controlled or unnatural breeding programs, cloning, and translocation of breeding stock for “canned shooting” purposes.