

# DEVEREAUX HUNTING CLUB BY-LAWS

## REVISED 2023

### OFFICERS

Officers of the club are President – Hap Harris, Sergeant At Arms – Randy Vernon, Treasurer – Bob Grahl, and Dove Meister – Scott Elliot.

The President shall call an annual meeting of the club. Such meeting is to take place in March or April each year, at the discretion of the President. At the annual meeting, members shall have the opportunity to vote on new members, review the financial report, elect officers or committee members and vote on property/leases, etc. The President shall prepare the agenda. The President or Treasurer shall present the budget for the year.

The president shall email priority issues and an agenda at least one week prior to the annual meeting of the club. Members may vote, via email or fax, as long as the correspondence reaches the president at least one day prior to the annual meeting. It is the responsibility of the member who votes by email or fax to phone the president to insure that said vote, etc. was received by the president. Proxy votes delivered to the President prior to the meeting must be printed and presented by the president at the annual meeting in order to be considered for specific votes/issues. The treasurer shall be responsible for general financial oversight, financial planning and budgeting, and financial reporting, banking, book keeping and record keeping.

The sergeant at arms shall be responsible for keeping order during meetings and club gatherings.

The dove meister is a member of the dove committee. Responsibilities of that committee are described within that section of the by-laws.

There shall be an election on even numbered years to elect or re-elect officers; President, Sergeant at Arms, Dove Meister, and Treasurer.

### COMMITTEES

The club shall have three standing committees which are the By-Laws Committee, Grievance Committee and the Dove Committee.

The **By-Laws committee** shall consist of six members, one of which must be the president. Members are Hap Harris (President), Walt Edmunds, Chip Patterson, Bill Harris, and Chandler Darby, Matthew Banks, and Scott Elliott. Responsibilities of the committee are setting hunting rules and regulations and to maintain a current set of by-laws each year and ensure these are posted on the website for ease of accessibility.

The **Grievance Committee** shall consist of five members, one of which must be the president. Members of this committee are Hap Harris (president), Bill Harris, Chandler Darby, Mathew Banks, and Chip

Patterson. This committee shall bear the responsibility of assessing fines, penalties, and expulsion for any member who has been reported to have violated one or more rules of the club. Complaints against a club member must be taken to the offending member first, in an attempt to settle the complaint before the issue is brought to the grievance committee. The grievance committee shall have an election to determine who will preside over any called meeting of the committee. The chairman shall notify both parties of any action taken by the club. Action taken by the grievance committee is final.

The **Dove Committee** shall consist of 5 or more members, one of which must be the Dove Meister. Members of this committee are John Moss, Scott Elliot (Dove Meister), Keith Henry, Chip Patterson, Joe Wheeler, Preston Moss, Donald Coleman, and Chandler Darby. Responsibilities of the committee are determining which field will be hunted each week during dove season, presiding over each hunt and any reported violations of club policy, determining "No Guest" hunts, and determining when children of members may occupy their own stand. Members are also responsible for ensuring fields are planted and maintained throughout the dove season.

Elections for committees are held on even numbered years at the annual meeting. Terms of committee members and Dove Meister shall be two years. Members may serve additional terms at the discretion of the president or the club membership, by vote. After each two-year term, the club may elect two new members, based on a vote by active club members.

#### **PROPERTY CAPTAINS**

The club shall have Property Captains who will serve as club advisors. Property captains shall serve two-year terms and may be re-elected by popular vote of the members. Property captains shall be responsible for notifying their assigned members of upcoming shoots, hunts, etc. Property captains shall also be responsible for seeing to it that all DHC rules and by-laws are complied with on assigned tracts/properties. The property captains shall be responsible for approving any expenditure of over \$1,000.00, along with the president. Property captains verify that all guest policy and hunt log-in rules are complied with for their assigned property.

#### **DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

Dues shall be \$1150.00 annually. Dues are due and payable no later than April 1 of each year. A late fee in the amount of \$100.00 will be assessed for any member whose payment has not reached the treasurer by April 1. If a member mails his payment and the envelope bears a postmark of April 1 or earlier, there shall be no late fee. Any member who has not paid his dues in full, including applicable late fees, by July 1, will no longer be considered a member of the club. At that time, the first alternate on the waiting list will be moved into his position. *Note: The President may, at his discretion, allow a new member who is in otherwise good standing, the opportunity to make payments (monthly/quarterly) for the initiation fee over the course of the year in the event that personal financial budgets dictate. However, the new member must be paid in full prior to the end of the hunting season/year. No member may carry over the balance of initiation fees into a new hunting season/year.*

New, incoming members will pay an initiation fee of \$2,000.00, plus the annual dues of \$1150.00. The initiation fee may be paid in installments, at the discretion or approval of the president. However, all fees must be paid in full, prior to September 1.

In the event that additional fees are assessed during the year, all assessments must be paid in full within thirty (30) days after notification of such assessment by the president or secretary/treasurer. If any member has not paid in full any assessment within that time frame, he will no longer be considered an active member of the club.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

A maximum of 52 members is allowed. Upon vote by the membership, children or parents of members in good standing may be allowed to join if the membership is already at maximum. However, no legacy members (children, etc.) shall join if the membership will exceed 55.

Children or parents of members may hunt with the member, with no guest fee applicable. However, deer and turkeys killed by the child or parent of a member shall count toward that which is allowed for each member. Upon a member's child reaching his/her 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday, the child is no longer considered a free guest. At the age of 23, the child is considered a guest and all guest fees and restrictions apply (ex. No guests for deer hunting until after the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of firearm season, etc.). If the child wishes to become a full member, he/she must pass the election process of the general membership and all dues, fees, etc. will be applicable.

All members of DHC are considered voting members to elect new members and to vote on those issues not determined by the by-laws committee such as the purchase of major equipment, etc. Members shall also vote on leases and properties and shall vote on new members.

Expenses incurred by club members will be reimbursed only if the receipts are submitted within thirty (30 days).

## **RIGHTS/PRIVILEGES**

It should be noted that Devereaux Hunting Club properties, facilities, etc. are meant for the recreation of its dues paying members. Certain rights and considerations will be given to such members which will include space/beds in the lodge, etc. regardless of time of arrival, etc. Beds and sleeping space in the lodge is made available to members on a first come, first served basis for each weekend (members may not reserve a certain bunk for the season, etc.). This consideration is made to ensure that members will have access to bunks before guests or children of members.

## **WORK DAYS**

Certain maintenance is required to keep up the lodge, food plots, stands, dove fields, etc. Each member of the Devereaux Hunting club is required to serve two work days or assist in some way as they are physically able. Failure to participate in two work days will result in a fine of \$150.00 per day not served.

## HUNTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

### DOVES

No guests are allowed unless accompanied by a host member. There shall be no more than two guns in a single blind with only one person shooting at a time. A one limit per blind rule applies when a member has a guest shooting in the blind with them. “*No guest*” days are determined by the Dove Committee. The Dove Committee will determine when children of members may occupy their own stand, based on the size of the field, numbers of hunters present, etc. Children of members may only occupy their own stand if they have passed the Hunter Safety program and have a valid hunter’s license. Children of members must respect the area and blind/stand of dues paying members. No member may account for more than two stands on any shoot unless obvious vacancies allow otherwise. The Dove Committee or the President must approve of additional stands for such a member and his guests. The Dove Committee shall have the final authority to determine which field shall be hunted each week, and shall preside over the hunt itself and any and all reported violations of club policy.

The Dove Meister, President, and Members who assist by scouting fields shall have the opportunity to have first stand selection for the shoot of that week, as approved by the Dove Committee.

Guest fees for each shoot shall be \$25.00 for each shoot, unless otherwise increased by the Dove Committee or the President. Host members shall be responsible for collecting and paying guest fees.

Members are responsible for the behavior of their children, and/or guests.

All state and federal wildlife regulation apply during all DHC dove shoots. After a member has collected his daily limit, he must vacate his stand in order to offer opportunities for other members. A member may not continue to shoot in order to assist his child or guest with a limit. Individual limits prevail.

### DEER

Members may not take a guest on any property for deer hunting until after the second weekend of the main firearms season. Children and parents of members may accompany the member from opening day forward. After the second weekend of the firearms season, members may take one guest. No member may account for more than two stands on any given hunt. Children, parents, and guests of members are not allowed on any DHC property without the member being present.

Guest fees are \$25.00 per half day hunt.

All members and guests must sign in and record all kills. Failure to report kills will result in a minimum fine of \$50.00 and can result in expulsion. Members and guests must pin in prior to each hunt. No member or guest may pin-in prior to the day of the hunt. Members must record their time of arrival and departure in the log book. **A log MUST be kept and maintained at every property.** It is the responsibility of the property captain to ensure that log books are kept in order and that all hunters comply by giving accurate times, dates, kills, etc. All hunters must pin in upon arrival and remove their pins when leaving the property. Failure to pin in or out in the log book will result in a fine of no less than \$50.00 for the

first offense and \$100 for the second offense. An additional failure to pin in or out will result in expulsion from the club. The grievance committee may assess higher fines, if specific allegations are made due to previous violations, etc.

Members may harvest only two legal bucks and three does per DHC Georgia property. **All kills must be reported in the log book.** Exceptions will be made when a member and guest harvest a deer on the same hunt.

General areas hunted are on a first come, first served basis. However, no member may hunt another member's stand without that owner's permission. Member's stand must be marked with member's name or tag. However, a member's stand does not necessarily reserve any given amount of territory. Common sense dictates. Members and guests are asked to respect each other by allowing a reasonable amount of space between stands on any given hunt.

Bucks harvested must have an outside spread of 14-1/2" and minimum of four points or more on one side. A fine of \$100.00 will be assessed for any buck under these limits. All fines on deer must be paid before the member is allowed to hunt again on any DHC property, once he has been notified by the president or the property captain. A youth hunter may take any legal buck as his/her first buck ever. However, such deer would still count as a host member's buck for that property.

No target practice is allowed on any club property within two weeks prior or within the hunting season. Target shooting, sighting in, and recreational shooting should be done elsewhere, from two weeks prior to the deer season, until the season ends.

All state Game and Fish regulations apply. Any other violation must be reported to the grievance committee. Any member who knowingly kills an illegal deer on DHC property will be expelled from the club per action taken by the grievance committee.

## **TURKEY**

Members may take one guest per day during turkey season. However, they must both hunt the same bird and remain together in the same area. They may not split up and hunt separate birds. Members are allowed to take one legal gobbler during the spring season from each DHC property. Birds that are killed by children or guests will count against the member's allotment. Guest fees for turkey hunters are \$25.00 per day. Dependent children of members are not required to pay guest fees. All pin in rules for deer hunters apply to turkey hunters. **All kills must be reported in the log book.** Kills must include the general location of the kill. Any baiting of turkeys or the taking of more than one gobbler per property will result in the immediate expulsion from the club of the member who is responsible.

## **DUCKS**

All State and Federal rules and regulations apply. Duck hunting is allowed on a first come first served basis. No hunting shall take place after 12:00 noon. Ducks may only be hunted on Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and the last day of the season. No guests are allowed until after the Thanksgiving weekend. Guest fees are \$25.00. Dependent children (age 23 and younger)

of members are not required to pay guest fees. Baiting club property or shooting over the limit will result in expulsion from the club of the member who is responsible.

## **FISHING**

A member may take up to two guests, as long the member and his guests are capable of sharing one boat. No unescorted guests or children of members are allowed on DHC fishing properties. All state fishing rules and regulations apply to all members and their guests.

## **GENERAL**

Each member is expected to read, understand and abide by the by-laws of the Devereaux Hunting Club.

Common sense and courtesy will be the general rule for all DHC property and activities.

Hunters must remove all trash and from their stands or blinds (If you take in, take it out). Dove, turkey, and duck hunters are asked to pick up spent hulls. Any member who uses DHC facilities will be responsible for cleaning up after themselves (includes lodge, deer stands, etc.). Failure to clean up will result in a fine of not less than \$100.00 and/or expulsion from the club. If a member is cited for leaving trash, etc. at DHC camps, he must clean up within 24 hours of notification by the President. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 per day fee after notification.

No member may hunt after using alcohol. *Violation of this rule will result in action taken by the grievance committee. Such action could result in expulsion from the club. The same action shall hold true of recreational drugs. Such drugs are not allowed on any DHC property and simple possession will result in expulsion of a member.*

A.I. Clause: Occasionally, the club has had to endure with individual members who, for one reason or another, have shown that they are not a good fit for membership. The overall comradery and esprit de Corps of the club and its members are an important component to a quality outdoors experience and club membership. Therefore, in an attempt to deal with individuals, via their actions and /or “unfortunate personality”, the club has the right to remove such members for cause. A DHC member may be expelled from the club by a request from five (5) members to the president. In such case, the president will call a special meeting or an electronic meeting to vote for expulsion of such a member. In the event that such a meeting and vote by the members in good standing results in a 51% majority vote against a particular member, that offending member will be expelled from the club. In such event, a prorated refund would be given the expelled member, if the member is expelled during the active hunting season. Once a vote has been cast and action taken, the expelled member will no longer be considered for membership in the club. This clause falls under the purview of the Grievance Committee.