



# NSA Code of Discipline

## *Guidelines*

The primary goal with the code is to enforce a code of safety on members, so as to protect co-shooters, co-hunters, members of the public, and domesticated animals against injury or harm caused by the purposeful or negligent use of firearms – [this aspect is primary and takes precedence over all other aspects of the code.](#)

The code tries to enforce appropriate compliance with the law in terms of stipulations of the Firearms Control Act (Act 60 of 2000 as amended), relevant regulations and local ordinances that might have relevance on the participation in the sport by members of the NSA.

The disciplinary code must be read with all sets of regulations and codes of the NSA as they may be set from time to time, and which are all meant to be guidelines for conduct in the field and on the range (thus a system of shared values). They are not meant to be sets of technical regulations for which ways to escape implementation should be sought.

The implementation and enforcement of the code of discipline in the NSA will be done in the context of firearm safety first, good sportsmanship, good comradeship, and within the principles of respect for life and the fairness of the chase.

The body for discipline in the NSA is the Executive Council and legal advisor(s) as appointed from time to time.

## *Procedure:*

1. All disciplinary actions must comply with all elements of the natural rights of the individual and of fairness in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
2. Under no circumstances will the identity of the person(s) who laid the charge be made known to the implied member(s); with the understanding that the Executive Council

must be very certain of the reasons why they would challenge a member to appear before them for disciplinary reasons.

3. All disciplinary actions against members of the NSA are conducted in *camera* and within the auspices of wise council to implied members and to the NSA in general.
4. Implied members who are challenged to appear before the Executive Council, must be informed of the date, place and time of such hearing 21 days before the hearing takes place, and must also be furnished with a full written reason for being challenged to appear before the Council (*written representation will be permitted in instances where this is necessary due to distance and circumstance*)
5. During the sitting of the Executive Council (discipline) the implied member must be given ample opportunity to state his/her case as to why s/he should not be found guilty or have time to supply proof why s/he is not guilty of the accusation
6. An implied member may only be represented by a member of the NSA during sittings of the Executive Council (discipline), and no legal representation of any nature will be allowed
7. Only members of the Executive Council, the implied member(s) and his/her representative, as well as members called as witnesses, may be present during sittings of the Executive Council (discipline).
8. All disciplinary actions implemented against members must be implemented as consensus decisions of the Executive Council.
9. In instances where the Executive Council cannot reach consensus on a decision the implied member(s) will be declared not guilty, and the case will be considered as concluded, with no further action that can be taken against the implied member(s) in respect of the same allegation(s) again.
10. Decisions of the Executive Council, with motivated charge and reasons for the decision reached is presented in written form to the implied member(s).
11. The Implied member(s) have the right to appeal which will be taken under consideration by an appropriately qualified legal person(s) appointed by the Executive Council; the decision of this person(s) is final and binding on all parties.

## **Action**

### **Category 1 transgression**

**(immediate expulsion from the NSA– without warning. No *pro-rata* refund of membership fees)**

- Deliberate or accidentally committing an act with a firearm in gross disregard of the safety code and in a manner which could have hurt or killed a person or domesticated animal.
- Conviction in a court of law of any criminal offence involving an element of violence

- Conviction in a court of law of contravention of the Firearms Control Act (Act 60 of 2000 as amended) which results in the withdrawal of a firearms licence.
- Deliberate disregard of the Provincial hunting and wildlife regulations which pertain to hunting or in respect of the conservation of wildlife.
- Repetition of a Category 2 transgression within 18 months of the original ruling by the Executive Council.

## *Category 2 transgressions*

**(compulsory temporary suspension for 6 months with single final warning)**

- Wilful and large scale transgression of any of the stipulations of any clause of the constitution or of the codes of conduct of the NSA.
- Unintentional and unwitting transgression of any of the stipulations of national or provincial sets of regulations or ordinances with relevance to hunting as amateur sport or the conservation of wildlife.
- Omission of a member to report a co-member of committing a category 1 transgression to the Executive Council, or to take on the spot action to stop such transgression, or for not taking on the spot appropriate action to protect the lives of people or of domesticated animals
- Misuse for personal financial gain or advantage or without management approval, of NSA arranged hunting opportunities, or hunting concessions on land which has been acquired by the NSA for exclusive hunting purposes for it's members (shooting ranges included).
- Action against land owners or land occupiers, members of the public, or co-members which brings the good name of the NSA or of the sport in disrepute – or through omission which has the same effect.

## *Category 3 transgressions*

**(warning – discretionary action in accordance with the nature and intensity of circumstances)**

- Transgression of the stipulations of the constitution or codes of conduct of the NSA.
- Three independent charges laid against the same person by different land owners, land occupiers, or co-members.
- Purposeful or unwitting actions which bring the good name of the NSA or hunting or sport shooting as amateur activity into disrepute.