



# NSA GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT

## RESPECT FOR LIFE

We cannot afford to let non-shooters perceive that we do not care.

Because as members of the NSA we do care !

Our actions should never cause non-hunters to become anti-hunters !

### As NSA members we declare that:

- all animals, including those perceived to be damage causing animals, are sentient creatures and should not suffer unnecessarily as a result of being hunted.
- we aim to always achieve the instantaneous kill of the quarry we shoot at;
- we ascertain that the shot quarry is retrieved (no matter how long it takes), and;
- we ensure that the shot quarry is put to good use and not wasted.

Having positively identified the quarry as being legally shootable, NSA members then take a shot only if they are sure:

- it is safe to do so;
- the firearm / cartridge combination is appropriate for the type and size of quarry;
- the target quarry is within personal range of shooting capability;
- the shooter is confident of bringing down the animal with one shot;
- the shooter is confident that s/he will be able to retrieve the shot animal.

### Therefore NSA members can state:

- we have respect for life;
- we practise self-restraint and condemn killing sprees;
- we condemn any wastage of game animals.;
- we avoid public displays of hunted animals
- we do not compete in any form of competition which involves the killing of any animal for **any** prize, whatsoever;
- we keep our photo's of our hunts for our private collections, and only publish those that do not offend, or which show clear respect for dignity of quarry;

- we condemn pictures showing piles of shot animals – with the shooter usually with a can of beer in hand (that includes pigeons and doves).

## **While on the shooting range or in the veldt, NSA members conduct themselves within the bounds of the following principles:**

### **1. Safety above all**

No dead game animal or shooting target can ever compensate for a shooting friend being hurt or maimed or killed.

- Experienced shooters are aware at all times where other shooters are.
- We never shoot at an obscured object or at something we cannot make out clearly.
- We do not consume any alcohol or habit forming substance before or during a shoot.
- It is our duty to immediately, in a kind and positive manner, correct any transgression of safety rules or unsafe behaviour by anyone without exception.

### **2. Conservation ethic**

Because Hunting and the "Great Outdoors" cannot be separated, all true hunters are also true conservationists. NSA supports sustainable use as the cornerstone of effective conservation;

- NSA members underwrite the principles contained in the IUCN's World Conservation Strategy (1980) and all adaptations of this code since then;
- NSA members supports the conservation of gamebirds as indicator species of the quality of the natural habitat;
- NSA members actively supports the development of rural communities, based on the sustainable use of renewable natural resources in general and of game species in particular.

### **3. Knowledge of the quarry and the Law**

- we strive to learn more about our quarry;
- we always identify the animal before shooting, and;
- we strictly obey the law and comply with all hunting proclamations and regulations.

### **4. Avoid the wounding of animals & cruelty to animals (wild and domestic)**

NSA members strive to improve their shooting skills on the shooting range and do not shoot at out of range game, and subscribes to the following prerequisites:

### - **Gun fit**

If your gun does not fit you well (i.e. its stock is not suited to your body length or shape or to the clothing you wear), you are unlikely to shoot accurately and consistently. A good shooting coach will soon determine how well a gun fits and what adjustments may be needed. Although it is usually perceived that this point is only applicable for shotgunners, the fact is also true for any firearm, including handguns (if your hand is too small to fit around the grip of a pistol, it does not fit you, and will have a detrimental effect on your shooting ability and accuracy with the specific firearm).

### - **Gun mount**

Similarly, if you do not mount your firearm correctly and consistently (i.e. bringing it into the shoulder and sighting), your shooting accuracy will suffer. Check your gun mounting when checking your gun fit. Practise dry mounting regularly (shotgun, rifle & handgun).

### - **Appropriate calibre**

A clean kill is caused by sufficient propulsion energy of the projectile and its striking force on the quarry's body, to penetrate and damage the well-protected and deep-lying vital organs. Using correct calibre in relation to size and range of quarry, is critical.

### - **Judging range**

It is notoriously difficult to judge range well. One tends to under-estimate range, especially as it increases. You need to know the range to each animal you intend to shoot:

- to be sure you are capable of hitting it, and
- to make sure the calibre being used at that range will be lethal.

Practise with objects at known range and with a rangefinder. Shoot targets at known distances. – within your personal range limit. Use trees or other features of known height to judge quarry range. Use a range finder by preference.

### - **Shooting accuracy**

If you cannot place your shot accurately and consistently on your quarry then, if you do not miss it completely, it is likely to be wounded rather than being killed.

Practise on a variety of targets at varying distances until you are sure what your personal secure range of fire is. Practise on targets, not on live quarry.

### - **Shooting within the limit of your skills**

If you shoot beyond the range at which you can consistently kill your quarry, your shooting success will suffer, as will any animal you are shooting at. Every person has a maximum personal range limit within which s/he can consistently hit the quarry – you should not shoot beyond it. The “mogge-trofte” (hoping to hit) approach is

irresponsible and does not show respect for your quarry. Determine your own range limits for consistently hitting your target – and shoot within them.

- **Shooting within the firearms' limits**

For each type (i.e. size) of quarry there is a minimum calibre needed to ensure a clean kill. If you shoot with the wrong calibre you are likely to wound and lose, rather than kill and retrieve. Select an appropriate calibre for your intended quarry, and do not shoot beyond the range at which it can deliver a clean kill.

- **Avoid shooting doubles (wingshooting)**

Do not shoot doubles (i.e. one bird with the left barrel and one bird with the right barrel). If you wound the second bird, you have no shot left to dispatch it effectively. The modern principle in shooting with compassion, therefore, is to use the second barrel on the same bird only in case you have not brought it down with the first shot (barrel). This indicates the level of competence with which you should shoot.

**5. Respect for landowners' rights**

NSA members look after the land and their host's property.

- We make sure what animals may and what may not be shot.
- We close gates and do not start veldt fires.
- We believe in the farmer's and the guide's right to charge a fair price or to a share of the bag.

**6. Putting something back**

NSA members always put something back into the activity and go out of their way to help young shots.

- They act responsibly and within the law and support the collective effort of their fraternity to promote the activity as well as the conservation of game species.
- They foster the spirit of goodwill and share the special magic of hunting as a cultural activity with shooters all over the world.

**7. Act responsible against any form of littering**

Because of respect for the environment we do not litter.

- We **always** clean up behind ourselves, even the litter of other people.
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