DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES AND CODE

Introduction

This code serves as a guideline for members of the SA Wingshooters Association and its Disciplinary Committee on disciplinary procedures and measures.

The primary objective is to enforce safety rules that protect members and the general public from injury. These are paramount and take precedence over any other consideration. Secondly, the code seeks to enforce compliance with the Laws of the Land, firearms control acts and applicable local regulations of the country where the member resides or shoots. The code also seeks to enhance the public image of wingshooting in all its forms, the wise utilisation and conservation of gamebirds and their habitat.

This disciplinary code forms part of and must be read together with the various codes of conduct of the Association, which are intended as guidelines to behaviour and not intended to be a set of laws which are open to technical avoidance and legalese. It is the intention of the Association to apply them in a spirit of sportsmanship, good fellowship and respect for life.

Procedures

All disciplinary procedures must be reasonable and fair and must comply in all respects with the principles of natural justice and with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The general spirit of the disciplinary procedures must be of the nature of a peer group seeking to provide wise council to the benefit of the member/s involved and of the Association in general.

All disciplinary matters must be handled by the Ethics & Disciplinary Committee in camera and any decision taken regarding disciplinary advice or measures against any member must have the full consensus of all the members of that committee. The member implicated must be fully informed in writing at least 21 days in advance of the allegation and the time and place of the disciplinary hearing, and must be given the opportunity to present evidence or refute allegations.

No legal representation will be allowed at disciplinary hearings, neither for the member concerned nor for the Association, but the implicated member has the right to be represented by a fellow member of the Association. Only the members of the Disciplinary Committee, the implicated member and his representative and persons whom the committee or the implicated member may call to present information or give evidence, may be present at a hearing.

All disciplinary decisions by the Committee, with the reasons, must by submitted in writing to the Executive Council, which then finally confirms or rejects the decision and informs the implicated member in writing of the decision, together with reasons for the decision.

The implicated member has the right of appeal, which shall be considered by a qualified attorney or advocate or senior juristic person nominated by the Executive Council and who may be a member of the Association and whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

Category 1 Transgression:

(Immediate Termination of Membership and Status as Dedicated Hunter without any prior warning)

1. Deliberately 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 domestic animal;
2. Conviction in a court of law of any criminal offence involving an element of violence or conviction in terms of the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 which results in the withdrawal of a firearms licence;
3. Deliberate disregard of the Provincial hunting and wildlife regulations;
4. Repetition of a Category 2 transgression within 18 months of the original ruling by the Disciplinary Committee.

Category 2 Transgression:

(Compulsory temporary suspension with final warning)

1. Committing a transgression of the Safety Code;
2. Deliberately committing a gross transgression of the codes of conduct or ethical rules;
3. Contravening provincial conservation and hunting regulations;
4. 'Venue piracy': appropriating a fellow shooter's venue or Wingshooters' venue for own private/syndicate use;
5. Failing to report a member committing a Category 1 Transgression and not taking appropriate action on the spot to prevent a possible injury to a third party or animal;
6. Bringing into disrepute, by any direct act or omission, the sport of wingshooting and shotgunning and the SA Wingshooters Association.

Category 3 Transgression:

(Discretionary, depending on circumstances)

1. Any gross disregard or breaking of the general code or the various specific codes of conduct, whether deliberate or inadvertent;
2. Three separate complaints received by the Association about the conduct of the same person from different landowners or fellow shooters;
3. Persistent minor transgressions of the codes of conduct;
4. Any other action which is against the spirit of the Codes of Conduct of the Association and generally accepted standards of decency and good manners. Δ

If someone is injured or killed, 'sorry' is too late