



Members' Code of Conduct

This code of conduct applies to all members of our *Society*, the Salmon Arm Fish and Game Club. Our members enjoy diverse interests and outdoor recreational pursuits. As individuals, we are privileged to hunt, fish and shoot in British Columbia's outdoors. This privilege is not a right.

Each member has an obligation to observe this Code of Conduct. A condition of membership in this Club is that you abide by the *Values* and *Code of Conduct* in this policy. Five core values and common-sense codes follow.

Core Values

1. Honourable Behaviour
2. Responsibility
3. Proficiency
4. Involvement
5. Respect for:
 - Law, Rules and Property
 - Fish, Wildlife and the Environment
 - Others

1. Honourable Behaviour

- a) Follow and obey the law.
- b) Respect the right of others to use the outdoors recreationally even if their views differ.
- c) Conduct and practice safe firearms handling always.
- d) Conduct and practice ethical hunting and fishing and know the applicable regulations:
 - i. follow the principles outlined in the *Code of Conduct for Recreational Fishing in BC*¹ while harvesting fish; and

¹ Website: https://www.bcfff.bc.ca/publications/quality_angling/2_ethical_angling.pdf



- ii. abide by "fair chase" principles and ethical hunting of wildlife outlined in British Columbia Wildlife Federation's CORE program.
- e) Waste no animal or fish: "use what you take" and "take what need."
- f) Be respectful to others both in word and deed.
- g) Ensure that your activities leave the environment in pristine condition.

2. Responsibility

- a) Obey all firearms storage and transportation laws.
- b) Comply with all range safety rules always: **SAFETY; SAFETY; SAFETY.**
- c) Respect the efforts of Club members to maintain and improve firearms ranges for your enjoyment:
 - i. use the appropriate firearm in the designated firearms range; and
 - ii. do not abuse targets and target stands by using unauthorized firearms and/or ammunition.
- d) Follow responsible firearms handling practices at all times.
- e) Respect other club members and treat them with dignity in both conduct and language.
- f) Obey the directions of range officers when they are present.
- g) Teach guests or other members as appropriate.
- h) Observe the rules of safe litter disposal at the range regarding ammunition.
- i) Clean up after yourself.

3. Proficiency:

- a) Know the limitations of your equipment.
- b) Develop proficiency in the use of your equipment in a safe manner regardless of equipment type and function.

4. Involvement:

- a) Develop your inquisitiveness about the environment, fish and wildlife. Learn about the game and fish you pursue, their habitats and life cycles.



- b) Share information regarding your outdoor recreational passions as the opportunity arises.
- c) Volunteer on reclamation, remediation and habitat restoration projects.
- d) Examine and support conservation efforts by participation, sharing experiences and teaching others.
- e) Advocate for the environment, fish and wildlife at risk; share your concerns with the Club and in writing with the British Columbia Wildlife Federation.
- f) Promote responsible recreational shooting and be an ambassador of the sport to new and young club members, and the public (guests).
- g) Participate in Salmon Arm Fish and Game Club sponsored events, competitions and open day events.
- h) Communicate your observations regarding environmental changes and threats to fish and wildlife you encounter in the outdoors to the:
 - i. advocate to the British Columbia Wildlife Federation and the *Ministries of Natural Resources Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations*, and the *Ministry of Environment* about:
 - fish and wildlife species at risk;
 - over harvesting of fish and wildlife; and
 - environmental degradations about water, land and forest.

5. Respect

I. Respect for Law and Rules

Provincial regulations govern every aspect of archery and shooting, and hunting and fishing of our outdoor recreational activities. These laws exist to maintain public safety and to ensure that our fish and wildlife are managed and conserved.



- a) Act with integrity, obey all laws and regulations regardless of personal views.
- b) Report poachers, offenders and lawbreakers of *Fish and Wildlife Acts and Regulations*.
- c) Follow all firearms range rules and rules governing the use of the Club's facilities.

II. Respect for Land and Property

- a) Use the outdoors responsibly. Clean up after yourself, take out what you take in.
- b) Leave the area you use in better shape than when you arrived.
- c) Abide by any recreational land use restrictions and act prudently when out on the land or water.
- d) Respect the environment. Where possible use existing trails and be conscious of the potential of causing damage using equipment.
- e) Respect private property. A license to hunt or fish is not a license to trespass. Landowners are justified in expecting lawful and responsible behaviour from our hunting and angling members.
- f) Seek permission, well beforehand if possible, to enter the landowners' property to hunt or fish on their private lands.
- g) Abide by any conditions the landowner stipulates regarding permission to hunt or fish on their property.
- h) Respect all private property and do not damage or harm buildings, fences, crops, livestock or other property.
- i) Develop positive relationships with the landowners.

III. Respect for Fish and Wildlife

- a) Practice ethical harvesting of fish or wildlife:
 - i. if you think something is questionable, even if legal, do not do that activity;



- ii. recognize your capabilities and limitations and determine the likelihood of a quick, clean and ethical kill;
 - iii. forego the obscure or unsafe shot that may wound an animal and balance your skills and equipment with the animals' ability to escape;
- b) Exercise caution when hunting or fishing regulations are unclear regarding a specific activity.
 - c) When fishing, use the appropriate lures and flies prescribed by the fishing regulations; said regulations exist for specific reasons.
 - d) Provide every opportunity for fish to revive prior to releasing them.
 - e) When harvesting an animal or fish, treat it with respect:
 - i. make full use of it; and
 - ii. keep it clean and avoid letting edible meat or fish spoil.
 - f) Follow the principles outlined in the *Code of Conduct for Recreational Fishing in BC²* while harvesting fish. See Appendix I.
 - g) Harvest game only using fair chase and ethical hunting principles in *British Columbia Wildlife Federation's CORE Manual*. See Appendix II.
 - h) Seek quality outdoor experiences over quantity of game or fish harvested.

IV. Respect for Others

- a) Exercise a personal code of behaviour that reflects favourably on you as a Club member, and your ability as an archer or shooter, a hunter or angler.
- b) Treat others with respect and dignity.
- c) Avoid all callous displays of harvested fish and wildlife, or any part thereof.
- d) Ensure personal conduct reflects well on you should others observe your activities either in person or in recording.

² Website: https://www.bcfff.bc.ca/publications/quality_angling/2_ethical_angling.pdf



6. Future Updates to this Code of Conduct

1. Updates to this Code may be recommended by any member of the Executive Committee or the general membership.
2. Updates will be examined by the Board of Directors and presented and discussed in the Club by the general membership.
3. Implementation of such recommendations noted in points (1) and (2) must be done through special resolution and vote by the general membership.

Appendix I: Code of Conduct for Recreational Fishing in BC³

- a) Practice conservation and proper release methods for fish not retained.
- b) Leave the fishing site clean or cleaner than when you found it.
- c) Use appropriate fishing techniques and tackle that reduces harm to unwanted fish or fish prohibited from retention by regulation.
- d) Do not fish if the fishing regulations seem unclear to you.
- e) Do not fish if you are unsure of your location and cannot place that location within the maps provided by the regulations.
- f) Restrict live bait use to only those fish that normally reside in the waters you are fishing.
- g) Clean your boat and motor and avoid introducing invasive aquatic plant, fish and shellfish species.
- h) Avoid damaging sensitive areas when boating or anchoring.
- i) Avoid the spilling or dumping of oils, gasolines or other pollutants.

³ Website: https://www.bcfff.bc.ca/publications/quality_angling/2_ethical_angling.pdf



Appendix II: Fair Chase and Ethical⁴ Hunting Principles⁵

- a) Obey motorized equipment restrictions in Hunting Management Zones.
- b) Do not herd, chase or harass wildlife using motorized equipment as law and regulation dictate.
- c) Abide by the law that forbids drone air assistance to locate any game.
- d) Do not spot game from aircraft for the purpose of landing, pursuing and harvesting wildlife as law and regulation dictate.
- e) Do not harvest game while in the act of swimming or helpless in deep snow.
- f) Do not build barriers or corals to harvest wildlife as law and regulation dictate.
- g) Do not use electronic devices such as: artificial lighting; night vision optics; thermal imaging; or any equipment or device deemed unfair to the chase or illegal by law.
- h) Use of the electronic devices, drones or the inappropriate use of aircraft disqualify trophy submissions. Even two-way radios will disqualify your submission.
- i) Make sure of what you are shooting. Wildlife wearing radio collars are off limits.

⁴ The principled, decent and lawful pursuit of game than minimizes or eliminates animal suffering.

⁵ British Columbia Wildlife Federation (BCWF) CORE Manual