

# WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

## CHAPTER 26

### REGULATIONS GOVERNING HUNTER SAFETY

Section 1. Authority. This regulation is promulgated by the authority of W.S. §23-1-302 and §23-2-106.

Section 2. Regulation. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) hereby adopts the following regulation governing hunter safety. This regulation shall remain in effect until modified or repealed by the Commission.

Section 3. Definitions. For the purpose of this regulation all terms and definitions will be as set forth in Title 23, Wyoming Statutes, and the Commission also adopts the following definitions:

(a) "Accompanied" means being directly supervised at all times by a mentor who is within sight and direct voice contact.

(b) "Certified instructor" means an individual certified by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to conduct hunter safety courses.

(c) "Certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms" means a certification issued for the completion of an approved hunter safety course.

(d) "Mentee" means a person who has received special authorization from the Department to take wildlife and who has not received a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms. A mentee shall be accompanied by a mentor at all times while hunting.

(e) "Mentor" means a person who has attained the age of majority, can demonstrate he has obtained a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms, possesses a valid Wyoming hunting license and is directly supervising not more than one (1) mentee at a time while in the field.

#### Section 4. Hunter Safety Instructor Certification.

(a) Instructor workshops shall be conducted by the Department to certify or upgrade volunteer hunter safety instructors.

(b) All instructors shall assist a certified instructor in a hunter safety course prior to being certified as an instructor. All instructors shall attend a new instructor orientation

workshop within two (2) years of becoming a certified instructor. Either of these requirements may be waived after Department evaluation of the applicant's prior teaching experience.

(c) If a certified instructor is not available locally, a volunteer may be certified at the discretion of the Department.

(d) Any person may assist a certified instructor in teaching a class provided the certified instructor is in attendance.

(e) All volunteer persons who wish to become certified instructors shall complete an application form provided by the Department. This application process may include a criminal/child abuse history check of the applicant.

(f) All applicants shall possess a Certificate of competency and safety for the completion of an approved course in the use and handling of firearms.

(g) Volunteer hunter safety instructors may be certified based on the supervision, evaluation and recommendation of an active certified hunter safety instructor with at least two (2) years of current active service in the Wyoming Hunter Safety Program. The supervising hunter safety instructor shall be assigned by the Department.

(h) No person who has applied to become a certified instructor shall receive an instructor certification if the Department could suspend or revoke that person under the criteria in Section 5.

Section 5. Suspension or Revocation of Instructor Certification. Instructor certification may be suspended or revoked by the Department for the following reasons:

(a) Conviction of violation of Game and Fish statutes or Commission regulations;  
or,

(b) Conviction of possession, sale or use of any controlled substance; or,

(c) Conviction of a felony or a misdemeanor domestic violence offense; or,

(d) Misuse of firearms or demonstration of unsafe conduct with firearms; or,

(e) Documented public complaint concerning misconduct or failure to teach a hunter safety course as prescribed by the Department; or,

(f) Fraudulent activity leading to improper certification of students.

Section 6. Hunter Safety Course.

(a) The hunter safety course shall consist of a minimum of twelve (12) hours and a maximum of eighteen (18) hours of instruction. The eighteen (18) hour maximum may be waived when the course is offered by a school system. Instruction shall include the following subjects:

- (i) Hunter responsibility, ethics and sportsmanship.
- (ii) Safe use of firearms and archery equipment.
- (iii) Outdoor safety.
- (iv) Game care and wildlife identification.
- (v) Game and Fish statutes and regulations.
- (vi) Principles of wildlife management.

(b) Class size shall be limited to thirty-five (35) students except with prior approval of the Department.

(c) Firearms handling is required; firing of live ammunition is recommended and encouraged when possible.

(d) Handbooks and instructional aids shall be provided by the Department.

(e) Each student applying for certification shall successfully complete the hunter safety student examination supplied by the Department. The minimum passing score shall be seventy percent (70%). The examination shall be administered verbally if the instructor feels the student is unable to read and comprehend the examination.

(f) If there are any questions regarding certification of an individual, the Department reserves the right to rescind the certification or to retest the individual and rescind the certification if necessary.

Section 7. Fees for Hunter Safety Course.

(a) There shall be no charges by the Department for participation of students in a hunter safety course.

(b) Certified instructors may charge each student a fee, not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00), to offset out-of-pocket expenses such as, but not limited to, classroom and

equipment rental or supplies.

(i) Exception: Courses conducted through community colleges or adult education programs may have the course fee assigned by the sponsoring agency.

(c) Students may not be required to purchase any equipment or supplies.

(i) Exception: Purchase of ammunition may be required. Any other costs shall have prior approval of the Department hunter education coordinator.

(d) Persons who apply for a duplicate hunter safety card shall be assessed a five dollar (\$5.00) fee. Payment shall be made to the Department before issuance of the duplicate card.

#### Section 8. Instructor Responsibility.

(a) The certified hunter safety instructor(s) share responsibility with the Department for determining a student's eligibility certification.

(b) Certified instructors shall provide the Department with all the information necessary for adequate and accurate record keeping and certification of students. This information shall be submitted on a form provided by the Department.

(c) If a volunteer hunter safety instructor does not participate in a class at least once every three (3) years, the instructor shall be removed from an active participation status and placed on an inactive status. To regain an active status, an instructor shall assist an active instructor with one (1) course of at least twelve (12) hours duration. Their participation shall be recorded on the supervising instructor's report.

#### Section 9. Certification of Students.

(a) The Department shall issue an original certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms to any person successfully completing the approved Wyoming Hunter Safety Course.

#### Section 10. Hunter Mentor Program.

(a) Any person born on or after January 1, 1966, who has not received a certificate of competency and safety in the use and handling of firearms may apply to the Department for a special authorization to take wildlife with the use of a firearm while being accompanied by a mentor. A special authorization issued to an individual shall be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue and shall be in the possession of the recipient at all times while in the field. The application may be obtained from Headquarters, Department Regional Offices or on the Department's website (<http://gf.state.wy.us>). No

at all times while in the field. The application may be obtained from Headquarters, Department Regional Offices or on the Department's website (<http://gf.state.wy.us>). No person shall apply for and receive more than one (1) special authorization to hunt with a mentor.

(b) Any person acting as a mentor to a mentee with a special authorization pursuant to this section shall not provide supervision for more than one (1) mentee at a time in the field and shall accompany the mentee at all times to provide constant supervision.

Section 11. Bowhunter Education.

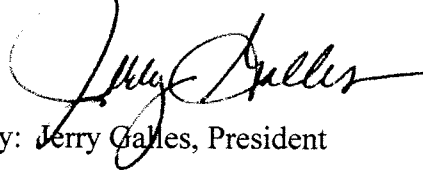
(a) The Wyoming Game and Fish Department shall endorse the bowhunter education cards of students whose cards are issued by the National Bowhunter Education Foundation upon the certification of qualified bowhunter education instructors in Wyoming.

(b) All graduates of the bowhunter education program in Wyoming shall meet or exceed the requirements set forth by the National Bowhunter Education Foundation. This endorsement shall make cards issued in Wyoming reciprocal with states that require a mandatory bowhunter education program.

Section 12. Violation of Commission Regulations. Failure to abide by the provisions of this regulation shall be punishable as provided by Wyoming statutes for violation of Commission regulations.

Section 13. Savings Clause. If any provision of this regulation is held to be illegal or unconstitutional, such a ruling shall not affect other provisions of this regulation which can be given effect without the illegal or unconstitutional provision; and, to this end, the provisions of this regulation are severable.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION



By: Jerry Gales, President

Date: August 1, 2008

