

Hidden Valley Lake Property Owners Association Deer Management Program Bow Hunting, Deer Culling Policies

Approved 12/16/10

The following Bow Hunting, Deer Culling Policies have been created for the specific purpose of defining how and when deer shall be hunted within Hidden Valley Lake (HVL) during times certified only by the HVL POA Board of Directors. During the certified hunting times, an **HVL POA Hunting Tag** shall be issued to approved hunters for the express purpose of granting them 1) permission to discharge a bow-type weapon within HVL, 2) to harvest deer within HVL and 3) to hunt only in approved hunting zones within HVL.

I. Hunting Zones

All community property within HVL may potentially be designated as an approved hunting zone.

All hunting zones shall be approved by the HVL POA Community Manager and the locations shall be documented at the HVL POA Office.

Private property may be used to extend the size of a hunting zone provided the property owner gives written permission by signing a **Property Owner's Waiver**.

- 1) The property owner shall be provided the names of the hunters assigned to use the approved hunting zone that includes their property.
- 2) Any private property approved shall be adjacent to community property within HVL.

II. Bow Hunting Applications

HVL POA Bow Hunting Application shall be submitted in person to the HVL POA Office. Incomplete applications, late or faxed applications, and duplicate applications shall not be accepted.

Applicants must be twenty-one (21) years old or older and first priority for qualification shall be given to HVL POA members in good standing. Hunters between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty (20) may apply to the HVL POA Community Manager for special consideration.

III. Hunter's Qualifications

Each licensed hunter candidate shall participate in and pass an **HVL POA Archery Proficiency Test**. To qualify, the candidate shall place four (4) out of five (5) arrows in an eight (8) inch circle with the equipment the applicant plans to use during the HVL deer hunting season. The distance for the **HVL POA Archery Proficiency Test** shall be twenty (20) yards. Candidates shall be allowed two (2) opportunities to qualify. The proficiency test shall be supervised by the HVL POA Community Manager on a date to be announced.

Each hunter submitting an application shall show proof that he/she has successfully completed a State of Indiana or federally-approved **Hunter Safety Education Course**.

The HVL POA shall issue an **HVL POA Hunting Tag** to qualified hunters that shall be worn visibly displayed at all times when hunting.

IV. Harvested Animal Procedures

Qualified hunters shall record all harvested animals at a State of Indiana Check-in Station and shall submit a separate **HVL POA Deer Cull Report** to the HVL POA Office.

In the event that a disabled or killed deer is located on unapproved private property, the following procedure shall be followed:

- 1) The hunter shall immediately notify the POA Office (if open) or the HVL POA Deputies by phone before entering the private property and attempting to remove the deer.
- 2) An HVL POA Deputy shall be dispatched to notify the private property owner and shall request that the hunter be allowed to remove the deer from the property.
- 3) Upon successfully notifying and gaining permission from the property owner, the hunter shall enter the property and, under the deputy's supervision, shall properly remove the deer.
- 4) In the event that the private property owner cannot be successfully notified, the hunter shall be authorized by the HVL POA Deputy to enter the private property and, under the deputy's supervision, shall properly remove the deer.
- 5) In the event that the property owner is successfully notified and refuses to give permission to allow the deer to be removed from the property, the responsibility of disposing of the deer shall lie with the property owner.

V. Hunting Dates

The 2010 hunting dates shall correspond with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (INDR) bow hunting season with the following exceptions:

- 1) No hunting shall be allowed **after noon** on holidays, weekends or school break periods.
- 2) Should it be decided, the HVL POA may apply for a special **INDR Fish and Wildlife Permit** to extend the hunting season or to request certain exceptions to the standard bow hunting regulations. Should that permit be applied for and granted, the HVL POA shall notify all persons involved in the HVL Deer Management Program of the new policy details.

VI. Rules and Regulations

Each qualified hunter shall attend a mandatory **Orientation Meeting** conducted prior to the start of the HVL deer-hunting season. The meeting will cover HVL POA hunting rules, reporting instructions, hunter etiquette and hunting zone assignments. During the meeting, a **Hunter's Liability Waiver** shall be signed by each qualified hunter in attendance and the original copies shall be filed with the POA Office.

Upon assignment of qualified hunting zones, all hunters assigned hunting zones that include private property shall collect a **Property Owner's Waiver** from the property owner(s) involved. The original copy of each signed **Property Owner's Waiver** shall be filed with the POA Office and a copy of the appropriate form shall be carried by the hunter at all times when hunting.

Hunters shall hunt at all times from a surface elevated from the deer.

Hunters shall only hunt within their assigned hunting zone(s).

A hunter physically located on private property shall only shoot in the direction of an approved hunting zone.

Hunters are encouraged to communicate with other hunters in adjacent zones before selecting a stand site in their hunting zone.

All hunters shall use a safety belt or rope while occupying a tree stand.

All tree stands shall be removed after the hunting season is completed.

Hunters shall be provided with the phone number of a food pantry that can be notified if they determine that they do not want the deer meat that they harvest.

Field dressing of deer shall be done only in the designated area determined by the HVL POA Community Manager.

After completing the reporting of his/her harvesting of at least five (5) non-antlered deer, a hunter shall be allowed to shoot one (1) antlered deer. All offenders shall be banned from participating in all future HVL Deer Management Programs.

Still-hunting, defined as the continuous movement of a hunter through an animal's environment, shall not be allowed.

The use of decoys shall not be allowed.

All harvested deer shall be completely covered while being transported within HVL