POLISH HUNTING ASSOCIATION

HUNTING REGULATIONS

REGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT¹⁾

of 23 March 2005

laying down the detailed requirements for carrying out hunting and tagging carcasses

Pursuant to Article 43(3) of the Act of 13 October 1995 – the Hunting Law (Journal of Laws of 2002 No 42, item 372 as amended²) the following is ordered:

Chapter 1

General Provisions

- **§ 1.** This Regulation lays down the following:
- 1) detailed requirements for carrying out of hunting;
- 2) detailed requirements for tagging carcasses of elk, red deer, fallow deer, mouflons, roe deer and wild boars;
- 3) model for an individual hunting permit;
- 4) model for the daily record of hunter's presence at the individual hunt.§ 2. Whenever the Regulation mentions:
- shooting tower this shall be taken to mean an overground hunting stand used by hunters during the hunt while waiting for game;
- 2) loaded firearm this shall be taken to mean a firearm with at least one cartridge placed in the chamber or in the magazine;
- 3) flock this shall be taken to mean a group of elk, red deer or fallow deer;
- flank this shall be taken to mean a wing of a line of hunters bent in the direction of the approaching battue;
- 5) queen this shall be taken to mean a doe leading the flock and watching its security;
- beat this shall be taken to mean a certain area of field or forest between the battue – before the start of beating – and hunters, from which game is flushed out;
- 7) hunter this shall be taken to mean a natural person permitted for hunting;
- 8) battue this shall be taken to mean one beater or a group of beaters acting in cooperation;
- 9) variety meat this shall be taken to mean edible internal organs of big game: lungs, heart, liver and kidneys;
- 10)beater this shall be taken to mean a hunt member, whose task is to beat the game;
- 11)night-time this shall be taken to mean the time beginning one hour after the sunset and ending one hour before the sunrise the following day;
- 12)leash this shall be taken to mean a cord, on which a hound is led;
- 13)beating this shall be taken to mean driving game by the battue towards a line of hunters waiting on their stands;

¹⁾ The Minister of the Environment manages the part of government administration – the environment, pursuant to (12)(2) of Regulation of Chairman of the Council of Ministers of 11 June 2004 laying down the detailed scope of competencies of the Minister of the Environment (Journal of Laws No 134, item 1438).

² The amendments to the consolidated text of that Act have been published in the *Journal of Laws* of 2002 No 113, item 984 and of 2004 No 92, item 880, No 172 item 1802, and No 173, item 1808.

- 14)driver with hound shall be taken to mean a hunter driving game with a hound or hounds within the beat;
- 15)wounded game shall be taken to mean game hit and injured;
- 16)set trigger shall be taken to mean a device reducing, when shooting, the resistance of the trigger;
- 17)adjustment shall be taken to mean regulation of the telescopic sight, and then checking on a shooting range of the accuracy of shooting;
- 18)stand shall be taken to mean a place, in which a hunter during the group hunting is waiting for the game.

Chapter 2

Requirements for Hunting

§ 3.1. To carry out hunt and culling of animals posing an extraordinary danger to human life, health or economy, only hunting firearms shall be used, from which, after the maximum loading, no more than six shots can be fired; the magazine of a self-loading gun may contain no more than two cartridges.

2. Big game hunting shall proceed, without prejudice to paragraph 3, only with the use of hunting firearms with riffled barrel and calibre at least 5.6 mm and hunting cartridges used for them with part-jacket projectiles, which at the distance of 100 m from the muzzle have the energy of at least:

- 1) 2,500 J in the case of hunting elk;
- 2) 2,000 J in the case of hunting red deer, fallow deer, mouflons and wild boars;
- 3) 1,000 J in the case of hunting roe deer and young wild boar;
- 4) 500 J in the case of hunting carnivores;

3. The game referred to in paragraph 2, except for elk and stags, may be hunted with smoothbore barrel, with the use of hunting bullet cartridges.

4. To carry out small game hunting, without prejudice to paragraph 5, only hunting shotshells shall be used with pellet diameter of up to 4.5 mm.

5. Carnivores may be hunted with the use of hunting bullet cartridges specified in paragraphs 2 and 3, hunting shotshells specified in paragraph 4, or hunting cartridges with full-jacket projectiles.

§ 4.1. To carry out hunting only such optical instruments shall be used through which it is possible to see in natural light only.

2. It is allowed to trail wounded game with the use of artificial light.

§ 5.1. The following shall be taken into account during the hunt:

- hound hunting may be performed from 1 October to 15 January; this restriction shall not apply to hound hunting in relation to waterfowl, hound-and-battue hunting of foxes and trailing of wounded game with a hound on leash;
- 2) trailing of big wounded game in the hunting district in which the hunter has no permit to hunt may be performed on condition that the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district is notified on this fact within 24 hours of the start of trailing; the person trailing the wounded game may be assisted by a beater or another hunter, and also with the use a hound on leash;
- 3) a hunter should seek, trail and kill the wounded game as quickly as possible to save it unnecessary suffering;

- 4) it shall be admissible to pick up small game that, after a shot, has fallen in other's district in the field of vision from the boundary of this district;
- 5) hunting fowls should be carried out on condition that a hound trained for that is used, while the proportion shall be at least one dog per three hunters;
- 6) hunting big game may follow on condition that in seeking wounded game a hound trained for that is used.

2. If 1 October will be the day following holiday, the period of hound or battue hunting referred to paragraph 1 subparagraph 1 shall begin on the first day of the holiday immediately preceding the day of 1 October.

3. If 15 January will be the day immediately preceding holiday, the period of hound or battue hunting referred to in paragraph 1 subparagraph 1) shall end on the last day of the holiday immediately following the day of 15 January.

4. For the purpose of setting the beginning and the end of hound or battue hunting referred to in paragraph 1 subparagraph 1), holidays shall means Sundays and holidays laid down in specific legislation on holidays, and Saturdays.

§ 6. During the hunt the following must not be the target of shooting:

- 1) queens;
- 2) game at feeding stations, salt-licks, ploughed-up land for wild boars and points of permanent feeding, except for hunting at bait stations for wild boars and carnivores;
- 3) game from motor and horse-drawn vehicles and motorboats with working engine;
- 4) game at fenced feeding grounds in the vegetation period of plants grown on them and during their being made available to game;
- 5) fowls while not in flight, expect for hazel hens, geese and coot;
- 6) hares in stillness in field area;
- 7) unrecognized objects.

§ 7.1. Hunting at night-time may proceed in relation to:

- wild boars, muskrats and hunting carnivores by a hunter equipped with hunting firearm with attached telescopic sight referred to in § 4(1), and with binoculars;
- 2) geese and ducks during their flights and passages;

2. A hunter hunting at night-time shall be obliged to keep exceptional caution, and in particular:

- 1) know exactly the terrain in the hunting area;
- 2) not to shoot in the direction of settlements or public roads;
- 3) before the shot, in the case specified in paragraph 1 subparagraph 1, in identify personally, through binoculars, the target and terrain in the line of fire;
- 4) in the case of firing a shot and non-picking-up of the game at night-time, check the result of the shot in the daylight.

Chapter 3

Hunting Safety Provisions

§ 8. The hunter shall be responsible for the safe use of arms and ammunition and shall be obliged to abide by the following rules:

1) use hunting firearms that is in good working order;

- 2) adjust the arms at least once a year;
- 3) check, each time before loading of arms, whether barrels are not clogged up;
- 4) keep the arms always with barrels directed upwards or downwards: during the loading and unloading of arms, moving about in the terrain, during breaks in hunting, taking place in a vehicle or leaving it and in other similar circumstances irrespective of whether or not the firearm is loaded.

§ 9.1. When crossing, driving through or staying in a district, in which the hunter has no permit to perform hunting, using public means of transport and when in the area of cities, towns and settlements, hunter's firearms shall be unloaded and kept in the case.

2. When crossing or driving through developed land, or when driving with a vehicle in the district in which the hunter carries out the hunt, firearms must be unloaded.

§ 10.1. During group hunting, firearms may be loaded not until a stand has been taken before the first beating.

2. During group hunting between beatings, the hunter must remove cartridges from the chambers before leaving the stand. Another loading of chambers may follow not until the stand in the next beating has been taken.

3. After the completion of the last beating, and before leaving the stand, the hunter must unload the firearms.

4. The field master should check at random during breaks in the hunt, whether the hunter have removed cartridges from the chambers, and after the end thereof, whether the hunters have unloaded their arms.

5. Using telescopic sights at group hunting shall be admitted only with the consent of the field master, on condition that the magnification of the telescope is no more than three.

§ 11.1. When crossing terrain obstacles, and in particular ditches, footbridges, fences, ascending or descending the shooting tower and during break in hunting, when firearms are put aside, the hunter must remove cartridges from the chambers.

2. When moving in uneven, bushy, swampy, slippery terrain, in deep snow, when reprimanding a dog or retrieving, carrying of fowls, firearms must be secured against the possibility of firing a shot.

3. The firearms put aside during breaks in hunting must be unloaded, placed close to the hunter and in his or her field of vision, and be secured against falling.

§ 12. Game shall not be aimed at and shot where:

- 1) there are hunters, other persons or farm animals, buildings or vehicles at the line of fire, and the distance from them does not satisfy the conditions of firing a safe shot;
- 2) the game is on hilltops;
- 3) the game is at a distance less than 200 metres from operating agricultural machines.

§ 13.1. Aiming at game and firing a shot shall be admissible not until a detailed, personal identification of the game has been made, and in conditions ensuring the effectiveness of shot and possibility of picking up of the downed game and safety for the surroundings.

2. A hunter may fire a shot to game which is at a distance of no more than:

- 1) 40 m in the case of shooting with shotshells or bullets from smooth-bore shotguns;
- 2) 100 m in the case of shooting bullets from rifles, with the use of open sight;
- 3) 200 m in the case of shooting bullet from rifles with telescopic sight.

§ 14. The set trigger shall be used only during individual hunt, and its setting may follow not until thorough identification of game and taking to shooting is performed; where the shot has not occurred, the firearm shall be secured against the possibility of a shot, and the set trigger then released.

§ 15.1. A hunter must not perform hunting in a state after consumption of alcohol or other intoxicants.

2. During group hunting the field master shall not admit to hunting or shall exclude from the hunt persons breaching the rules referred to in paragraph 1.

§ 16.1. The hunter shall be obliged to maintain particular caution when using firearms:

- 1) in areas of limited visibility or in conditions of reduced visibility;
- 2) during intensification of agricultural work, maintenance and exploitation work in the forest and during the harvest of fruits of the forest.

2. Where a hunter is accompanied by a person who does not hold permit to perform shooting, he or she shall be obliged to instruct that person of the appropriate behaviour during the hunt.

§ 17. During group hunting:

- shooting along the line of hunters shall be prohibited; shooting along the line of hunters shall be taken to mean a firing a shot so that the bullet or the outermost pellets of the bundle or, in the extension, would penetrate at a distance of less than 10 m of the neighbour's stand;
- shooting from a stand in the line of hunters in the direction of stands on the flanks and from the stands on the flanks in the direction of the line of hunters shall be prohibited, if the distance between these stands and landform features does not ensure safety;
- 3) no stands in ditches, pits or hollows in terrain shall be taken;
- 4) after taking a stand, the hunter shall be obliged to assume upright or sitting position;
- 5) firing a shot may follow only from the upright position; this restriction shall not apply to shots fired from shooting towers;
- 6) a bullet shot fired to quarry situated outside the beat shall be admissible within the range of no more than 100 m;
- 7) a bullet shot fired to quarry within the beat shall be admissible, taking particular care, where the distance is no more than 40 m;
- 8) shooting towards deer within the beat may follow only with the consent of the field master, in conditions ensuring safety;
- shooting of quarry within the beat shall be prohibited where the battue is within a range of 150 m from the hunter in an open area and 100 m or less in the woodland area;
- 10)shooting fowl in flight in the direction of battue or other hunters shall be admissible where the shooting is aimed upwards with the angle of at least 60°, and no branches or other obstacles are situated in the line of fire;

11)shooting between individual beatings shall be admissible, with the consent of the field master, only to the wounded or ill game animals.

§ 18. During a boat hunting, only one hunter may shoot in a given moment to the game, firing a shot in the direction other than that of other persons in the boat.

§ 19. In the event of accident during group hunting the field master shall stop the hunt in order to forthwith organize aid to the injured, and then shall:

- 1) give first aid to the injured;
- 2) organize transport of the injured to a health-care establishment or call a physician;
- 3) secure the place and tracks of the accident;
- 4) as far as possible, reconstruct the circumstances, in which the accident happened, identify the witnesses and draw up a situational sketch;
- 5) draw up the records.

§ 20.1. Where the accident at a group hunting happened in connection with the use of firearms, the field master, besides the duties specified in § 19, shall be obliged to:

- 1) take away firearms from the perpetrator and the injured;
- 2) forthwith notify of the accident the nearest Police station;
- 3) identify the numbers of stands the hunters were occupying during the accident and secure the sheets with stand numbers.

2. The records referred to in § 19 subparagraph 5 shall be drawn up in three copies signed by the field master and witnesses to the accident.

3. The copies of the records shall be forwarded to the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district, and in the case referred to in paragraph 1, also the Police.

Chapter 4

Individual Hunting

§ 21.1. Individual hunting shall be taken to mean hunting carried out by one hunter acting independently of other hunters present in the same hunting district.

2. Individual hunting may not proceed with the use of battue or a driver with a hound.

§ 22.1. Individual hunting shall be carried out in order to take game specified in the individual hunting permit, referred to hereinafter as the "permit".

2. The permit is a numbered and registered official form and shall be issued per one hunting district in two copies, one for the hunter and the other for the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district.

3. Once issued, a permit may be extended only once.

4. The hunter who supplies carcasses of game taken during the individual hunting to a collection point shall show the copy of the permit to a person running the collection point in order to make an appropriate entry.

5. The hunter shall be obliged to return the permit to the body issuing it after its being utilized or where its validity date has expired.

6. The model for the permit is appended as Annex 1 to this Regulation.

§ 23.1. A daily record indicating the presence of hunters at the individual hunt, referred to hereinafter as the "daily record", should be available at the territory of the hunting district.

2. The place in which the daily record have been laid out and personal details (first name, last name and address) of the person authorized for making entries shall be notified, in writing, by the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district to the competent Forest District Manager; the records shall be made available to him or her, and also the persons authorized by him or her, at any request.

§ 24. The model for the daily record is appended as Annex 2 to this Regulation.

Chapter 5

Group Hunting

§ 25.1. Group hunting shall be taken to mean hunting proceeding with the participation of at least two cooperating hunters, or a hunter and a beater, organized by the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district and carried out by the hunter appointed by the leaseholder or manager, referred to hereinafter as the "field master", without prejudice to § 5(1)(2).

2. Group hunting may proceed both with battue and hounds.

3. The first beating must not begin earlier than at sunrise, and the last beating must not end later than at sunset.

§ 26.1. The field master shall be responsible for its being carried out in accordance with the provisions and in conditions ensuring safety to the members and the surroundings.

2. The field master shall carry out the hunt in a way preventing damage to crops.

3. The field master may assign to other participants some activities related to the hunt.

§ 27.1. During group hunting, its participants shall be obliged to subordinate to the decisions of the field master.

2. Where the orders made by the field master during the group hunt or the methods of his or her management of the hunt are inconsistent with the law or may pose a hazard to the surroundings, a hunter may withdraw from the hunt, notifying of this the field master.

3. In the event referred to in paragraph 2, the hunter shall forthwith notify of this fact the leaseholder or the manager of the hunting district.

§ 28. The leaseholder or manager of the hunting district, with a view to ensuring safety of persons and property, shall notify the competent Forest District Managers and borough administrators (mayors, presidents of cities) of the dates of the group hunting organized.

§ 29.1. Before the start of the hunt, the field master or a hunter authorized by him or her shall prepare a list of beaters, perform briefing of the battue, inform of the

conditions of the hunt, and in particular of the duties and expected behaviour during the hunt, including how to use the hounds and trail wounded game.

2. The persons admitted to the battue shall be provided care, and during the hunt checked for presence.

3. The persons organizing group hunting or field masters shall be responsible for the provision of beaters with an outer garment ensuring their good visibility by the hunters.

§ 30.1. The field master shall be responsible for preparing a list of hunters before proceeding with the briefing.

2. Hunting shall be considered as started in the moment of starting the briefing.

§ 31.1. The field master during the briefing of hunters should:

- 1) inform of what game and in what quantity has been assigned for shooting;
- 2) inform of the holder of the first-aid kit;
- 3) discuss signalling and safety measures, with particular attention to terrain and weather conditions, and communicate other comments concerning the hunt;
- 4) show up all hounds that may be used in the hunt to the hunters participating in it;
- 5) check the documents authorizing for participation in the hunt.

2. After the briefing, stands shall be drawn; the numbering of the stands shall be counted starting from the left flank.

3. The field master has an option not to participate in the drawing of the stands; in such event he or she shall occupy the stand behind the last of the deployed hunters.

§ 32.1. During the hunt acoustic signals shall be used, meaning:

- 1) the start of battue;
- 2) prohibition of shooting within the beat;
- a) end the beating and duty of removing cartridges from the chambers.2. The field master shall:
- determine the kinds of signals denominating actions referred to in paragraph 1;
- 2) may order the omission of the first and the second signals as irrelevant or having the potential of causing confusion among the hunt participants; the battue shall then proceed at the time specified by the field master, and the conditions of firing a shot shall be determined based on § 17;
- 3) be obliged, in the case specified in subparagraph 2, to inform all participants of the hunt of these changes and the meaning of each of the signals;
- 4) be responsible for the deployment of hunters on their stands;
- 5) each time before the distribution of hunters to their stands communicate them the place or direction of the assembly point after the end of beating.

§ 33. During the group hunting:

- 1) the hunter shall take up a stand in the place indicated by the deployer, however, he or she must not shift more than three metres to the right or to the left of the line of hunters;
- 2) during taking up the stands and at the stand the hunter shall be obliged to keep quiet and calm;

- after taking up the stand the hunter shall assume visual communication with the hunters in the neighbouring stands and, where possible, confirm it with a visible movement of the hand;
- 4) the hunter shall stay on the stand until the signal informing of the end of beating, without prejudice to subparagraph 5;
- 5) in the situation that requires giving help in emergency to other persons, the hunter, when leaving the stand, should, if possible, communicate of this his or her neighbours and unload the firearms, without prejudice to subparagraph 6;
- 6) leaving the stand with loaded firearms shall be admissible only in the event of helping a person attacked by game animal.

§ 34.1. During big game group hunting, the field master may deploy hunters at the usual places of passage of the game, and also on the sides and the rear of the beating.

2. Where a hunter or hunters play the role of battue in a given beating, they shall be absolutely prohibited from shooting, without prejudice to paragraph 3, and their firearms must be unloaded.

3. Where the battue consists only of one or two hunters using hounds, the field master may permit one or both to shoot during the beating to wild boars exclusively.

4. Where during a big game hunt shooting hares is admitted, hounds must not be used for beating the game.

§ 35. Hare hunt shall proceed with the participation of at least six hunters, and on the following conditions:

- 1) beating proceeds without hounds;
- 2) hunters are distributed in a line along one side of the beat and on the flanks, and the battue is situated opposite to that line;
- 3) no more than two hunters may occupy the flank.

§ 36.1. The hunter, after taking up the stand, may shoot the appearing game on condition that his or her neighbours have already taken up their stands.

2. The hunter may shoot game where it is at most at half the distance between the stands, without prejudice to paragraph 3.

3. Game that is nearer the stand of the neighbour may be shot not until the neighbour has fired two ineffective shots or he/she gave clear indication of resignation from shooting or the second shot.

§ 37. In the case of small distances between hunters' stands, the field master may order shooting only to the left; this restriction shall not apply to the hunter standing on the right flank.

§ 38. The field master may order firing the first shot to a specified game species or decide, in the given beating, of the exclusiveness of shooting a specified game species.

§ 39. A hunter may, with the consent of the field master, take a hound to the stand. In such event:

- 1) the dog shall be held on leash;
- 2) the hunter may use the dog to trail wounded game not until the beating has ended and with the consent of the field master.

§ 40.1. The duty to trail and finish the wounded game shall rest on the hunter who wounded it.

2. The field master shall be obliged to see to it that the duty referred to in paragraph 1 is observed.

3. The field master, on request of the hunter, should help him or her during the trailing of wounded big game.

4. The hunter trailing wounded game may not demand stopping the hunt.

5. The hunter who returns from trailing wounded game shall be obliged to stay in a safe place; he or she may join in the hunt after the end of beating and notification of the return to the field master.

§ 41.1. A hunter who was late for the hunt, may participate in it, with the consent of the field master, not until the first beating has ended and may not request the repeat of drawing of stands, and shall take up the stand indicated by the field master.

2. A participant of the hunt who intends to leave the hunt before its completion, may do that during the break between beatings and after notifying the field master.

3. It shall be the duty of the field master to inform all participants of the joining in or leaving by one of the hunt participants.

§ 42.1. Group hunting shall be deemed to be completed in the moment of announcement of its end by the field master.

2. The field master, within 7 days of the date of completion of the hunt, shall prepare a report, containing:

- 1) the number or numbers of hunting districts;
- 2) date of performing the group hunting;
- 3) specification of game species provided for shooting;
- 4) the time of commencement and completion of the group hunting;
- 5) list of participants;
- 6) specification of the taken game;
- 7) destination of the taken game;
- 8) comments concerning the course of the group hunt.

3. The field master shall forward the records referred to in paragraph 2 to the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district.

4. For carcasses of game taken during the group hunting, the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district shall issue a certificate of origin of the game, which shall be numbered and registered official forms.

5. The game certificate of origin shall be issued in two copies, one of which shall be delivered to the person operating the collection point along with the carcasses of the taken game.

6. The game certificate of origin shall be a numbered and registered official form, containing:

1) the stamp of the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district;

- 2) place and date of issue;
- 3) number of document;
- 4) information concerning game taken during a group hunting:
 - a) species and gender of the game animal;
 - b) date and time of the downing;
- 5) place of downing:

- a) number of the hunting district;
- b) forest district;
- c) province;
- 6) legible signature for the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district.

Chapter 6

Settlement of Disputed Shots

§ 43.1. Where two or more hunters were shooting the same game, which resulted in downing the game, the shooters shall agree between themselves who has downed it.

2. In the event of lack of agreement as to who should be assigned the small game downed with pellets – the field master may settle the dispute, using the following criteria:

- 1) after consecutive shots the decisive shall be the shot that immobilized the game;
- 2) after simultaneous shots the decisive is the one fired from a shorter distance, and in the case of equal distances the shot fired to the left;
- 3) where another hunter has shot to death wounded fowl this shall belong to the hunter who has wounded it.

§ 44.1. Where the interested hunters cannot agree who should be assigned the game shot with a bullet, each of them shall assign from among the hunters one mediator, who in turn shall select a super-mediator.

2. The team of mediators shall issue a decision, using the following criteria:

- 1) after two or more consecutive accurate bullet shots the decisive is the first shot immobilizing the game or deemed to be the fatal one;
- 2) after simultaneous shots the decisive shall be the shot deemed to be the fatal one;
- after simultaneous shots deemed to be fatal, the decisive shall be the shot fired from the shorter distance, and in the case of equal distances – the shot fired to the left.

§ 45.1. The settlement of the dispute over a taken game should follow immediately after the picking up of the disputed game and notification of this to the field master.

2. Where the interested hunter does not lodge his or her claim to the disputed game immediately after the picking up of the disputed game, this shall deprive him or her of the right to apply for its assignment.

§ 46. The decision of the field master or a team of mediators on disputed shots shall be final and binding and should be notified to all hunters taking part in the hunt.

Chapter 7

Falconry

 $\$ 47.1. Hunting with the use of trained birds may proceed individually or in a group.

2. In hunting with the use of trained birds the following methods shall be used:

- 1) individual hunting with a trained bird of prey flown from the glove, from free flight, from accompanying flight, from a lookout, from a horse or a driving up;
- 2) group hunting with a moving line of falconers.

3. During a group hunt, in the course of work done by one bird, all the others should rest on the falconer's gloves and at this time they cannot be used for the hunt.

Chapter 8

Pokot

§ 48.1. *Pokot* is a traditional way of displaying the taken quarry before the end of the group hunt.

2. By the downed game, which lays in a specified order according to hunting hierarchy and tradition, hunters and beaters gather and stand.

§ 49.1. The field master shall communicate the results of the hunt, announce the King and Vice-Kings of the Hunt and perform decoration.

2. *Pokot* should be, as far as possible, honoured with traditional hunting signals.

Chapter 9

Tagging

§ 50.1. Tagging shall be performed with a tag which is subject to strict numbering and registration.

2. The tag shall consist of two parts, of which one shall be placed on a cut made between the tarsal bone and the Achilles tendon, and the second shall be attached to variety meats of the taken game.

3. The structure of the tag shall make it impossible to use it again.

4. The model and description of the tag is appended as Annex 3 to this Regulation.

§ 51.1. The person running a collection point shall refuse to admit game carcass, if, together with the carcass, permit has not been made available or certificate of origin not supplied.

2. The supplier shall receive from the person running the collection point a document certifying the acceptance of the carcass to the collection point, which shall be a numbered and registered official document.

3. The document certifying the acceptance of a carcass to the collection point shall include:

- 1) stamp of the entrepreneur running the collection point;
- 2) name of the place of the collection point;
- 3) number of the document;
- 4) specification of the leaseholder or manager of the hunting district;
- 5) first and last name of the hunter or the person supplying the carcass;
- 6) address of the hunter or the person supplying the carcass;
- 7) date, time and place of downing the game;

- 8) specification of the species of the taken game and the number of carcass in the permit or the game certificate of origin;
- 9) the number of the tag referred to in § 50(1);
- 10)number of the hunting district;
- 11)province;
- 12) specification of the quality class of the carcass;
- 13)weight of the carcass in kg;
- 14)unit price per one kg;
- 15)value of the carcass;
- 16)number of the permit or game certificate of origin;
- 17)statement of the hunter or the person supplying the game on lack of weight and quality reservations and on the annexing of the statement referred to in Article 23(2) of the Act of 29 January 2004 on Veterinary Requirements for Products of Animal Origin (Journal of Laws No 33, item 288 and of 2005 No 10, item 68 and No. 23, item 188);
- 18)date and time of acceptance of the carcass confirmed with the signature of the accepting person;
- 19) signature of the hunter or person supplying the carcass.

Chapter 10

Final Provisions

§ 52. This Regulation shall enter into force after 14 days of the date of its announcement³.

THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

³⁾ This Regulation was preceded by Regulation of the Minister of the Environment, Natural Resources and Forestry of 4 April 1997 on the detailed rules and requirements for hunting and tagging obligation (Journal of Laws No 35, item 215, of 1999 No 3,item 19, and of 2002 No 13, item 12), which was repealed based on Article 2 of the Act of 17 June 2004 Amending the Act – Hunting law (Journal of Laws No 172, item 1802).

Annexes to Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of 23 March 2005 (item 548)

Annex 1

1. Stamp of the leaseholder	or manager	Permit to carry out individual hunt							
of the hunting district									
0 Detaile of the houston		Registered to	Registered form – No						
2. Details of the hunter:									
2.1. First and last name									
2.2. Address:									
3. Place of the hunt	. +.								
3.1. No. of the hunting district:									
3.2. Forest district:									
3.3. Province:		^(*) of the follow							
Permit to shooting / hunt with									
4.1. Species and description			of the tag marking the						
(in accordance with the term	inology of the		notation on assignment for						
annual hunting plan)		own consumption							
1)		1)							
2)		2)							
3)		3)							
4)		,							
5)		5)							
6)		6)							
()									
5. Report on individual hunder of the downed game**)	nting. Species	s, bag limit, da	ate and time, description						
or the downed game									
Species	Date, time an	d place of the	Description of the form of						
	dow	•	antlers***)						
1)									
2)									
3)									
4)									
5)									
6)									
7)									
/	nit [.]								
6. Date of issue of the permit: 8. The permit shall be extended 7. This permit shall be valid until: 8. The permit shall be extended									
		until:							
		Girtui							
For the manager or leaseholder of the hunting		For the manager or leaseholder of the hunting							
district		district							
(legible signature / signa	atures)	(legible signature / signatures)							

*) Delete as applicable.
**) Fill in before transporting.
***) Applicable to deer.

DAILY RECORD^{*} of hunters' presence at individual hunting

Hunters' Club /OHZ (Game Rearing Centre)in	
Hunting district no in in	ce.
Region Poviat (administrative district) Forest district Other	
The daily record shall be available at (place) First name, last name and address of the person authorized to keep records on the person authorized to keep records of the person authorized to keep records on the person authorized to keep	

(place, date)

stamp of the Hunters' club or OHZ

^{*} The log should be stitched through and have numbered pages.

No.	First and last name of the hunter	No. of hunting permit	Unambiguous specification of the hunting grounds	Date, time of the start of the hunt (the entry must be made before the hunt)	Signature of the hunter or the person authorized for accepting the notification	Date, time of the completion of hunt (in the event of night-time hunt, the entry must be made until 9:00 after the completion	Species, number, gender of the downed game, number of all shots fired	Signature of the hunter or person authorized to accept notifications
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	of the hunt) 7.	8.	9.

MODEL AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TAG USED FOR TAGGING CARCASSES OF BIG GAME

I. Model of the tag used for tagging carcasses of big game

Scale 1:1

- II. Description of the tag used for tagging carcasses of big game
 - 1. The tag shall be made entirely of plastic of orange colour.
 - 2. The tag shall consist of two parts, bound with each other in a way guaranteeing their irreversible detachment.
 - 3. Each part of the tag includes:
 - 1) a unique number of the tag of the given entrepreneur and bar code containing the features identifying the tag;
 - 2) number of the entrepreneur who runs the collection point and performs tagging either in the register of enterprises in the National Court Register or Business Activity Register;
 - 3) tape to be placed into the opening situated at the base of the tape.

COLLECTION OF HUNTER'S ETHICAL PRINCIPLES, TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

A collection of ethical principles, traditions and customs prepared by the Commission of Hunting Ethics, Traditions and Customs of the Supreme Hunters' Council, adopted by the Supreme Hunters' Council on 6 June 1992.

Hunting is a special branch of social life. It combines into a harmonious whole the protection of the native environment with the performing of a hunt, cultural, socialconventional and recreational qualities with educational and economic values. These objectives have been realized by the hunters associated within the Polish Hunting Association, in accordance with the legal, statutory and internal provisions, and based on hunting traditions, customs and ethics.

Hunting has taken a significant place in the history of Poland, making a considerable contribution to the material and spiritual culture of the nation, which has been reflected in arts and which has formed durable social-conventional and moral values.

Present-day hunters do their best to preserve, develop and enrich these values by observing in their daily activities not only the law, rules and statutes, but also ethical norms and customs.

COLLECTION OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- The hunters organized in the Polish Hunting Association implement the objectives of the Polish hunting. The membership of the Polish Hunting Association is a statutory and moral duty, accepted consciously and voluntarily, to actively and diligently participate in the implementation of all objectives of our organization. The right to possess and use hunting firearms for the purposes that are in line with the PHA Statutes and rules evokes a feeling of increased responsibility.
- 2. The hunter regards a thorough observation of hunting law and full subordination to the requirements of organizational discipline as his or her basic duty.
- 3. The hunter does not restrict his or her participation in hunting only to carrying out of the hunt and does not leave the care for rearing and protection of game to the colleagues. Carrying out of the hunt and other activities related to game management, the hunter is guided by the good of the native environment, its retention for the generations to come, demonstrates attention to the natural environment of man and environmental balance.
- 4. In pursuing hunting, the hunter does not seek material gain, for hunting cannot be a means to attain it. The most precious gain of hunting is the interaction with the nature, hunting experiences and joy experienced within the hunting companionship.
- 5. The material manifestation of hunter's success are trophies. The hunter feels particular respect to his or her trophies, preserves and maintains them, and their being made available at shows treats as an honourable duty.
- 6. The hunter constantly broadens his or her knowledge both in respect of ecology and hunting management, as well as history and tradition of the Polish hunting. He or she is a permanent reader of hunting books and periodicals.
- 7. The hunter participates in the implementation of PHA statutory objectives, mobilizing all his or her knowledge and experience.

- 8. While hunting and carrying out rearing work in the hunting grounds, the hunter is guided by the principle of superiority of agricultural and forestry management he or she cooperates with the owners of land to protect game.
- 9. While in hunting grounds, the hunter shows respect for the work of the farmer and forester and by his or her conduct creates the atmosphere of mutual friendliness.
- 10. By his of her conduct in contacts with the population living in the leased land, the hunter contributes to strengthening good opinion of the Polish Hunting Association, disseminates the knowledge on modern hunting, tries to win its allies, in particular among the youth.
- 11. The accepted organizational duties are carried out by the hunter in a conscientious manner. The trust and gratitude of the companions are their only reward.
- 12. The hunter is sensitive to the problems of local communities and as far as possible helps to solve them.
- 13. The hunter cares for the assets of the hunters' club. His or her material obligations towards the Association are met on time and honestly.
- 14. The hunters jointly participate in all work organized by the hunters' club, proportionally to their physical capabilities, fitness and skills.
- 15. While participating in the life of the Association, the hunter uses in speaking and writing the traditional hunting vocabulary, perfecting its knowledge.
- 16. The hunter does not cause excessive anxiety in the hunting grounds.
- 17. In the organizational life and during the hunt, the hunter shall employ the principle of equality of all members of the PHA. In relations with his or her companions, beaters, guests and other persons, the hunter is kind, loyal and friendly. He or she is characterized by respect and kindliness towards the companions and readiness to help them, contributes to preserving good atmosphere during joint events, tactfully treats the co-participants of hunting, subordinates to the orders of companions who perform some functions, is punctual and reliable, offers advice to less-experienced companions.
- 18. The hunter gives particular respect and tactful care to the oldest hunters who, due to their limited physical fitness, are not able to fully participate in hunting and management work in hunting grounds, provides more comfortable places in vehicles for older and disabled companions, during the hunt offers them help in trailing or dressing and moving the game.
- 19. The hunter treats beaters with respect and due attention, providing them with appropriate meals and rest, tries to maintain friendly atmosphere between the hunters and beaters.
- 20. The hunter cares for an ethical attitude towards game. Searching for wounded game is treated by the hunter as moral obligation, and the game found is finished in a humane way. The hunter does not make beaters search wounded big game.
- 21. The hunter never treats shots fired to game as shooting training.
- 22. Respect to and appropriate handling of the downed game not only reflects well on the hunter's culture, but also express his of her respect for the nature.
- 23. During the hunt the hunter maintains moderation and self-control, not allowing hunting passion to transform into greed. A good hunter is not necessarily that which becomes the king of the hunt.
- 24. The hunter can refrain from shooting, if the circumstances indicate no chances for the game to escape or for the hunter to pick up the shot game. He or she also refrains from firing a shot to game in the circumstances of one's dubious priority.

- 25. The hunter is aware of the rich heritage of the Polish hunting which he or she tries to duly represent in contacts with foreign hunters.
- 26. Performing the culling of the game, the hunter takes into account not only the cold criteria, but also one's own role played in the nature.
- 27. The hunter cares for security during hunting. He or she always hunts with tested firearms, knows its technical parameters; is aware of his or her shooting skills, which are constantly perfected.
- 28. Disputes arising during the hunt are settled by the hunters in a friendly atmosphere and in accordance with established rules.
- 29. During the hunt hunting customs are observed, and most of all the dubbing as hunter, handing a "*złom*", preparing *pokot* and using hunting signalling.
- 30. During the hunt, the hunter wears aesthetic hunting attire both suiting the tradition and taking into account the customs in his or her own circle.
- 31. The hunter gives attention to his or her hound companion and helper during the hunt; cares for satisfy its needs, does not force it to effort beyond its capabilities. When using a hound, the hunter avoids conflicts with the neighbourhood. The ageing hound deserves calm old age.
- 32. While limiting the population of pests in the hunting grounds, the hunter demonstrates particular prudence and avoids feud with the local population.
- 33. The doubts related to ethical behaviour are settled by the hunter in his or her own conscience, while observing the law and hunting customs.

HUNTING CUSTOMS AND CEREMONIAL

We live in a country of rich hunting traditions. During a thousand-years history of our state – and it should be remembered that hunting had been one of the most important occupations of our ancestors long before the Polish statehood – various forms of hunting customs and ceremonial have developed.

A rich hunting jargon has developed as well, which is a living reflection of the life of our ancestors, manifestation of the development and richness of our language, evidence of one of the traditional branches of national culture.

Making available this description of hunting customs and ceremonial, we believe that they should be widely applied by all hunters' clubs and individual hunters alike, contributing to the enrichment of the forms of self-education among the ranks of hunting companionship, and hunting vocabulary be a factor cementing our milieu.

Hunting tradition is a living fabric. In many hunting milieus new, original customs are cultivated that enrich hunting culture and create our common heritage. These initiatives should be nourished and cultivated.

1. Using the Hunting Vocabulary

The origins of the Polish hunting vocabulary can be traced back to ancient times. It has been moulded over a span of hundreds of years, constantly enriched along with the development of hunting practice and knowledge. It has been shaped by social and economic transformations. In hunting ceremonies the duty of using hunting vocabulary during the hunt and in among the hunters has been observed. In his poem titled *Flis* (the 16th century), Sebastian Klonowic writes:

In greyhound, must one trunk say for muzzle who once the hunting soup has tried she-cat for hare, ear not the ear but "slukhy" must one say, fatty – modest, fast – curious

one should say, if a righteous hunter one wants to be.

The hunting vocabulary has always been a living vocabulary, undergoing constant development. New terms come into use, the reality removes outdated terms. The source of acquaintance with the Polish hunting vocabulary is not only the book by Stanisław Hoppe, *Dictionary of Hunting Terms (Słownik języka łowieckiego)*, but also the magazine *Łowiec Polski* and other professional publications issued in the present day.

2. Hunting Signals

Hunting signals are first and foremost a system of communication of hunters. They are not only of practical importance during the hunt, but also are an intrinsic element of hunting customs. Everyone remembers the excellent strophes by Adam Mickiewicz of *Pan Tadeusz* – Book Four: Bear Hunt:

Then Grechekha grasped his leather-strapped buffalo horn: Long it was, all coiled and patterned like a boa constrictor ... First a sprightly flourish: reveille and the call to sport; Then a series of whining sounds: the bay of hounds– Followed by staccato booming notes: the crack of carbines.¹

There is a centuries-old tradition of using hunting signals blown on the horn or the trumpet. Ancient hunters distinguished between more than 30 musical phrases facilitating the hunt in difficult forest conditions. Nowadays, besides signals used in accordance with the hunting rules, there are used signals enriching the ceremonies related to the hunt. Their names are given in specific texts describing hunting ceremonial (score appended).

The number of hunters familiarized with hunting signals and participating in buglers competitions has been increasing year in year out. The Supreme Hunters' Council wishes that this element of tradition would enrich our hunting life.

3. The Oath

The oath is the first hunting ceremony a young hunter admitted to the Polish Hunting Association experiences. The apprenticeship in the hunters' club and administrative nuisances are left behind; the exam passed, the certificates and permits required by the law or internal regulations acquired, admission fee paid up. Hunting life begins. Then, the young hunter should swear a ceremonial oath. This ceremony introduces the young hunter into the climate of hunting tradition and customs. In principle, the oath is taken in the hunting grounds during a hunters' meeting before the first group hunt of the young hunter; it may also take place at a session of the Regional Hunters' Council or other events. During the oath ceremony, the young hunter is accompanied by his or her tutor, who had been responsible for him or her over the apprenticeship.

The oath is accepted by the club administration chairperson, game warden or field master. To honour the ceremony, the oldest participant of the hunt or the holder of the "Złom" decoration may take part.

The person taking the oath is called to step forward from the line of hunters prepared for briefing. He or she repeats the formula after the person accepting the

¹ Translated by Christopher Adam Zakrzewski.

oath, kneeling on the left knee, bareheaded (all other participants of the oath ceremony take their hats off, either), holding the firearm in the let hand, vertically and with the butt plate on the ground; behind him or her the tutor is standing and putting his/her hand or hunter's knife on the young hunter's shoulder.

Oath Formula

Acceding to the circle of the Polish hunters I hereby make a pledge: to conscientiously abide by hunting laws, act in accordance with the principles of hunting ethics, preserve the traditions of the Polish hunting, protect the native environment, care about the good name of hunting and pride of the Polish hunter.

After uttering the oath, the hunter gets up, the person accepting the oath shakes his or her hand and utters the following words:

In praise of the Polish hunting, be a righteous hunter, may forest abound.

The participants of the briefing reply: "May forest abound" (*Darz Bór*), and if there is a bugler, he or she sounds the signal "Darz Bór". After the hearing of the signal, the hunters put their hats on. The oather thanks the tutor for the effort made for the good of hunting and the club. The oathee accepts congratulations and wishes of the companions, and then enters the row.

4. Briefing of Hunters Before the Hunt

The briefing of hunters before the hunt should be serious and solemn in character, as it is the greeting of hunters with the hunting grounds (woodland – field) and a meeting of companions before hunting adventure.

The bugler sounds the signal "Hunters' meeting". The hunters stand in a row, beaters opposite to them. The briefing and hunt is carried out by the game warden of the club or a hunter assigned by the club board.

The person performing the briefing greets the guests, hunters and assistants. He or she greets the hunting grounds (woodland – field) in order that the hunters are successful.

Then the master is performing the activities provided for by the hunting regulations, that is, informing of the bag limit, discussing the system of signals and safety rules, making sure that all participants have the necessary documents.

Then drawing of stand sheets follows, in course of which the order corresponding to the rank of the participant and hospitality customs should be preserved. The signal "Assembly to the hunt" ends the briefing.

5. Hunters' "Baptism of Fire" and Dubbing

Hunter's "baptism of fire" is a very old ceremony connected with admitting a neophyte to the hunters' circle, repeated after the downing of the first animal of a given game species. It is performed during the hunt. After sounding a bugle call, if there is a bugler, meaning that quarry has been downed, the highest-ranking hunter orders the junior to kneel on the left knee and, marking with blood of the downed quarry his or her forehead, utters the words:

I hereby dub you a knight of Saint Hubert.

If the hunter has taken his or her game animal at a group hunting and it was a big game animal, then, after an accomplished beat or during the *pokot*, the highest-ranking hunter calls the candidate for the ceremony to step forward from the row and calls him or her to accept the dubbing. During that time the bugler is sounding the "Dubbing" signal, and the participants of the dubbing take their hats off. The dubbed hunter kneels on the left knee to the back side of the quarry, the left hand resting on the firearm, right hand on the quarry. The master of ceremony reminds him or her of the duties of a righteous hunter and marks the neophyte's forehead with the blood, uttering these words:

I hereby dub you a knight of Saint Hubert,

be a righteous, valiant and honest hunter.

As in the "baptism of fire" ceremony, the custom demands that blood be removed not until the end of the hunt.

If the young hunter has taken quarry in an individual hunting, the ceremony of baptism or dubbing may be carried out by his or her "older" companion. This fact should be communicated to the club members at the first group hunting during the *pokot*.

It is also worthwhile to obey the rule that the first big game animal downed by the young hunter be dressed by himself or herself, without seeking physical help of the companions or beaters, but only listening to their hints.

6. Decoration with a Twig of "Złom"

Złom is a short (20–30 cm) twig of spruce, fir, oak, beech or other trees (pine, alder) or bush (heather) typical for the place of the hunt.

Złom is used for revering every downed big game animal. The hunter, whom the woods abounded, is standing to the back side of the downed quarry, and the field master in the case of group hunting, or his companion in the case of individual hunt breaks off the *złom*, puts its one part into the quarry's mouth as the so-called last mouthful, the rest puts in the wound, thereafter breaks off a piece of blood-smudged twig, and hands it with the left hand, on the hunting knife or hat, to the fortunate shooter, shaking his right hand with the words "May the forest abound" (*Niech bór darzy*). The ceremony may be performed with a sound of hunting horn sounding that the given game animal (species) has been killed. The hunter puts the "złom" received behind the ribbon of the hat or attaches it to the cap and wear to the end of the hunt.

If the game animal has been taken by a solitary hunter during individual hunt, the hunter, before the dressing, puts to the animal mouth "the last mouthpiece", and the second part of the *złom* bedecks one's own headgear, and may also sound the signal "Game in the bag".

It has been traditional that *złom*, as the Polish origin of the word indicates, is broken off, and not cut off with a knife or hunting knife, and it is handed in before the dressing of game.

7. Pokot

Pokot (bag, kill) is a traditional way of accomplishing hunt.

By the downed game, laying in a specified order according to hunting hierarchy, hunters and assistants (beaters) gather and stand.

The game animals are laid on their left sides, from the right to the left side.

In the first row of the bag, big carnivores are laid down (bobcats, wolves), in the next rows in turn: elk, red deer, fallow deer, wild boars, roe deer, foxes and other furred carnivores, then: hares, rabbits, then fowls, ie, pheasants and other game birds. Foxes are laid with their brushes straightened along the line of the back. Every tenth small game animal is pulled out by half-length forward.

The hunters stand in a row at the head of the bag, assistants opposite to them, signallers before the assistants. If the *pokot* takes place at dusk, bonfire is light or burning torches are set up.

The tradition forbids to cross the game laying on the bag by hunters and assistants alike.

The field master reports to the highest-ranking hunter in the club: announces the results of the hunt, the "king of the hunt" and "vice-kings", thanks the hunters and assistants. Thereafter the bag is bugled for each of the downed game species, except fowl, which will be bugled with the signal "Fowls in the bag".

According to tradition, during the report and bugling of the *pokot*, hunters and assistants stand with their headgear off. If there is no hunter the field master could report to, he or she only announces the results of the hunt.

After the reporting or announcement of hunt results, the king and vice-king of the hunt are announced and decorated. It is advisable that the *pokot* be summed up with some words about friendly atmosphere and ethical conduct during the hunt.

The bugle call "The end of the hunt", and "May forest abound", listened to bareheaded, end the hunt.

Picture

8. Saint Hubert's Day

The hunting tradition includes also celebrating the day of the hunters' patron saint – St. Hubert – 3 November. The custom should be cultivated, although the hunt is often carried out not on the patron's day, but on the next holiday.

The Hubert's hunt usually comes as the first group hunt in the season's autumn. The hunt on that day is imparted a special festive character. Usually the duration of the hunt is shortened to organize a common bonfire or feast. Guests living in the territory of the hunting district and cooperating with the club should be invited to the St. Hubert's celebrations.

9. New Year or Christmas Eve Hunt

New Year of Christmas Eve hunt is a traditional hunt organized in our Association. The hunt have always been imparted a special character – its aim has been to strengthen the companionship bonds, emphasize the aesthetic value of hunting, enrich hunters' experience with other contents than the hunt itself. Traditional hunt on that day should be completed earlier, so that, by the bonfire or common table, in a friendly atmosphere, hunting experience of the outgoing year could be summed up, friendship established on this base consolidated, and companions wished good hunting days over the next year.

There are hunters' clubs that on that day, on the occasion of the hunt, celebrate an ancient Slav custom of sharing food with animals.

Present day's expression of that custom is specific. Hunters, before the first beating, go to feeding stations and there they place feed. Being a fine tribute to

tradition of our forefathers, this custom should be disseminated among hunters' clubs.

It is universally accepted that the most representative, classic – and at the same time the most hunter-like of our hunting songs is the song "We are going hunting" (*Pojedziemy na łów*). Below is presented the translation of Wacław of Olesko's text (of 1833) of this song.

We are going hunting, hunting,

companion of mine! Hunting, hunting, to the hunt, to the green-lined oak land companion of mine! And here's running hare, hare, companion of mine! Let go greyhound from the leash, let them chase it, let them catch. companion of mine. We are going hunting, etc... Look, there's running roe deer, roe deer, companion of mine! Let go greyhound from the leash, let them chase it, let them catch, companion of mine. We are going hunting, etc... Look, there's running sable, sable, companion of mine! Let go greyhound from the leash, let them chase it. let them catch. companion of mine. We are going hunting, etc... Look, there's running maiden, maiden, companion of mine! Let go greyhound from the leash, let them chase it, let them catch, companion of mine. Now let's take our shares, shares, companion of mine! You are taking hare and deer, and I sable and the girl. companion of mine. And if you feel angry, angry, companion of mine! You take saddle, and I horse, now you chase me, now you course, companion of mine. And if you feel angry, angry, companion of mine! I take sabre, and you stick, Now you heat me, now you beat, companion of mine! And if you're still angry, angry, companion of mine! Yours is throat and mine is sword. your head's going be taken off. companion of mine.

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