

Hunting Safety Regulations

1. Treat every firearm with the same respect due a loaded firearm.
2. Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction. Do not load firearm until safely in the stand, keeping the safety on until ready to shoot. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. Identify your target and what is beyond it. Know the identifying features of the game you hunt.
4. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the firearm you are carrying.
5. Unload firearms when not in use. Leave the actions open. Firearms should be carried empty in cases to and from hunting area.
6. Never point a firearm at anything you do not want to shoot. Do not horseplay with a firearm.
7. Never climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch or log with a loaded firearm. Never pull a firearm towards you by the muzzle.
8. Wear a safety orange hat and/or vest at all times while on the property when hunting deer, feral pig, squirrel, and quail.
9. When hunting for deer or feral pigs, hunters must hunt at least 10-feet off the ground but no more than 20 feet.
10. No type of tree stand may be erected on a dead tree (snag) or a tree with the upper 1/3 of the branches dead.
11. When hunting for deer or feral pigs, hunters must use a properly maintained stand that is certified by the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA).
12. Use a full-body safety harness at all times while in tree stand.
13. Each hunter must possess a working flashlight and use it while going to and from hunting area during the period of darkness.
14. Hunt in your designated hunting area only. Do not stray from your area for any reason.
15. No alcohol or other mind-altering drug may be ingested eight hours prior to or during the hunt.
16. No hunter may track an animal alone or without a Howell Woods staff member or designated hunt volunteer.
17. Emergency phone numbers: Howell Woods Office: 919-938-0115, Howell Woods Radio System: 938-0412 or call 911.
18. **All violators of any safety protocol will be immediately removed, without refund, from the property and prohibited from any future hunting opportunities at Howell Woods.**

General Hunting Regulations

1. To qualify for any hunt at Howell Woods, hunters must possess a valid NC resident or non-resident hunting license and any other required stamp or tag and be 10 years or older. *Feral pig hunters only - possess a valid hunting license (any state) or hunter safety certification and are 10 years (with adult relative) or older.*
2. Hunters between the ages of 10 and 15 must hunt with an adult relative (21 years or older) in the same stand/blind.
3. All hunters must sign in and out upon arrival or leaving the property at the designated location and have all harvested game inspected by a Howell Woods staff member or designated volunteer.
4. All harvested game must be inspected by a Howell Woods staff member or designated volunteer before processing. Field dressing or disposing of entrails or any other body parts of harvested game on the property is not allowed. All processing of game and disposal of waste must be conducted at the designated area.
5. All hunters and their equipment/vehicles and harvested game are subject to inspection by Howell Woods staff or designated volunteer, or state and/or federal officials at anytime while on the property.
6. Four wheel drive vehicles and ATV's (All Terrain Vehicles) are allowed but must stay on marked roads or trails and proceed at a safe speed. Safety helmets must be worn at all times when operating an open ATV.
 - o All vehicle types are allowed on roads marked with green road signs.
 - o Only ATV's are allowed on road/trails marked with brown road signs.
 - o Other areas may be off limits to ATV traffic due to management or maintenance issues and will be posted or advised by a Howell Woods staff member or volunteer prior to the hunt.
7. All hunters must take the mandatory Howell Woods Hunter Orientation and Safety Open Book test and pass with a minimum score of 90% with all safety questions answered correctly (marked with an asterisk). Hunters who fail to correctly answer the required number of questions will be given the opportunity to take the test again, answering only the missed questions. Only after passing the test will hunters be allowed to hunt on the property. Each species, except deer and feral pigs, have separate tests. Each test has to be taken only once every calendar year.
8. Unless otherwise stated in the Species Specific Regulations, all firearms/bows used and their appropriate season for use must meet the requirements as set forth in the North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest for the current year.
9. Scheduled hunts will be held regardless of the weather with the exception of severe flooding or wind damage on the property or the closing of the main campus of Johnston Community College for inclement weather conditions. Refunds or rescheduled hunts will not be considered for inclement or poor weather conditions for hunting, acts by other hunters (Howell Woods permitted hunters or trespassers) or other natural or human related conditions that are out of the control of the Howell Woods staff. If the Howell Woods staff cancels a hunt for any of the above reasons, a complete refund will be given for the cost of the hunt fee only (not lottery fee or monies paid for other services related to hunting). Dates for Management Partners hunts may be rescheduled according to the availability of Howell Woods.

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

1. All waterfowl season dates, bag limits, and hunting hours are set by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and are strictly enforced while on the Howell Woods property. All hunting/shooting will end by 11:00am (guns must be unloaded with actions open) and all hunters and dogs will be out of the hunting area by 12:00pm.¹
2. Hunting of all waterfowl species is from designated hunting blinds only², with a maximum of two hunters per blind.
3. Hunting parties will rotate hunting blind locations each day of the hunt period.
4. Trained retrievers are allowed and highly encouraged. All dogs must remain on a leash or in a kennel **until** arriving in designated hunting area.
5. Any decoy that is legal by US Fish and Wildlife Service/ NC Wildlife Resources Commission standards are allowed in any number or configuration. Decoys may be left in designated hunting area for no more than 12 hours.
6. Shotguns of 10, 12, or 16 gauge are allowed (20 gauge shotguns are not permitted for waterfowl hunting at Howell Woods) with a **limit of 18 shot shells per hunter** of approved shot type by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
7. Before arriving to or upon leaving the designated hunting blind, all shotguns must be unloaded with actions open. Shotguns may only be discharged while all hunting party members are within the designated hunting blind.
8. Non-motor powered boats may be used for transporting decoys and other equipment to and from designated hunting blind. Boats may also be used to transport hunters to and from their designated hunt blind. All boat passengers must properly wear a USCG approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) at all times while in the boat.
9. Minimum use of hip boots is required to access all blinds. Chest waders and/or a trained retriever may be required to retrieve downed birds at all blind locations.
10. A Howell Woods staff member or designated volunteer may collect wing samples on any bird harvested. Wing samples will not be collected on any bird that will be taxidermy mounted.

¹ Management Partners are allowed to hunt in the afternoons

² Management Partners are allowed to hunt outside of blinds