



HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



7758 HASTINGS ISLAND ROAD, RIO VISTA, CALIFORNIA 94571-1026
PHONE (707) 678-3325
E-MAIL: CLUBMAIL@HIHP.COM

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NONLEAD AMMO RULES NOW IN EFFECT

Effective July 1, 2019, nonlead ammunition is required when taking any wildlife with a firearm anywhere in California. Although Private Licensed Gamebird Clubs, like Hastings were the last of the areas subject to this phased-in change, which began in 2015, State Law now dictates that you must hunt only with non-lead ammunition.

A full list of shotshells approved for waterfowl and upland game hunting can be found at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Nonlead-Ammunition/Certified>. On that webpage, you will also find the list of Federally approved shotshell for waterfowl hunting, which meet the California requirements, also.

The Club's *Rules and Regulations* now state that you may hunt with 12ga and 20ga shotguns, using shot sizes of 5 or 6. Use of 28ga or .410's will be granted at Management's discretion and on a case by case basis. We still do not permit the use of magnum shells, so please make sure to leave your magnum "duck loads" at home.

The Club intends to enforce shot size for safety reasons. Larger shot sizes and magnum loads carry farther, creating the potential to rain shot down on other hunters—a situation no one enjoys.

While we will not actively be checking every hunter, as to whether or not they are using nonlead ammunition, remember that our Fish and Wildlife Wardens regularly visit the Club and may check the type of ammo that you are using to hunt. If you have been shooting trap with lead ammo, make sure it does not end up in your shooting vest in the field.

NEW AMMUNITION PURCHASE LAW

Also effective, July 1, 2019 everyone purchasing ammunition in the State of California must first undergo and pass a background check, prior to the actual purchase of that ammo.



VINCE CRUDULE WITH BUCKLEE

This is a big change that can result in a delay in purchasing your ammo, from a less than a minute, to a wait of up to 14 days. In short, we cannot sell you ammo without your being approved to do so by the California Department of Justice. The process is similar to buying a gun.

With that being said, we have found that a bit of prior planning can make the process fairly easy. The main thing is to make sure that you are a "known person" in the DOJ's database.

The main point is that if you are not a known person in the DOJ's system, and you think that you are going to show up, buy some ammo and go hunting, you may be sorely disappointed. Plan ahead if you need to buy ammo, or this process may ruin your plans for a day of hunting.

The easiest way to be prepared is to register on DOJ's California Firearms Application Reporting System

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

New Member Orientations Begin	September 7, 2019
Bird Cards Ready to Pick Up	September 7, 2019
Club Annual Trap Shoot	September 7, 2019
Fall Hunter Safety Class	September 7-8, 2019
2018-2019 Pheasant Season Begins	September 28, 2019
Last Day to Pay off Cards	September 30, 2019
Yolo Pheasant's Forever Junior Hunt	October 5, 2019
CWA Becoming An Outdoorswoman Event	October 19, 2019
State Season—Hens only releases	Nov 9—Dec 22, 2019



Frank Cambra, on opening day of hens

BIRD RELEASE PRACTICES

Over the course of a Season, the Club has always and continues to maintain a 60/40 split of roosters to hens in its releases. The 2018-2019 Season marked the first time for releasing only hens during the State Pheasant Season. For 6 weeks, the Club released hens rather than roosters in late November and December. The feedback we have received has indicated that this change provided better hunting.

Most of our Members reported that having hens earlier provides birds that fly when flushed, and do not run away from a dog on point. Members also mentioned their dogs had a much better time hunting the hens in the Fall, as the birds still maintained a scent that dogs could locate easily.

Releasing hens during State Season has allowed the Club to continue with roosters until at least the first week of March. This meant that in the past Members spent a significant portion of the Season hunting hens that had become “eggy” and lost their scent prior to breeding season, they were now able to shoot fast-flying roosters. With the positive feedback, the Club will be continuing the policy during the 2019-2020 Season. If you have any questions on the topic, please see our website www.hihp.com and the article **“Hens During State Season”**.

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(CFARS). This can be done in one of two ways: If you are not already in their database, you can register a firearm with the DOJ. As long as your information (name, address, etc.) has not changed since that registration, you will be a known person and likely quickly complete the eligibility check. The second way is to apply for and receive a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). This process requires you to submit your fingerprints via a Live Scan. The initial cost of the COE is \$71, plus whatever the Live Scan charges for your fingerprints. Annual renewals currently cost \$22.

The cost of the ammunition eligibility check if you are in CFARS or have a COE is \$1 per eligibility check and the process is fairly quick. Also, with each eligibility check there is no limit as to how much or what type of ammo you can purchase.

The last type of eligibility check is the “Basic Check”. This applies to anyone who is not already in the CFARS system or does not have a COE. Each and every check costs \$19 and will result in a waiting period, like several days long. Passing the Basic Check does not put you in the CFARS system and each and every subsequent Basic Check will cost an additional \$19 and have the associated waiting period.

As you can see there is a lot of efficiency and long-term cost savings in becoming a “known person”, but admittedly, you are giving up some privacy by either registering your firearm or applying for a COE.

That being said, all of us have applied for COE’s. But remember, there is a waiting period (up to 90 days) for processing a COE application, so don’t wait until the last minute.

We recognize that there ARE going to be members who come to the Club to hunt and will not be able to do so because they get delayed in their eligibility check process, due to this new law. While this makes us very unhappy (and certainly you will be, too, should you be that person), our hands are tied. Until you pass the eligibility check, we cannot sell you ammo.

Also, we are not able to condone private parties making illegal ammo sales amongst each other, while at the Club. If you are short on ammo and try to buy some from another member in the “parking lot”, both of you are breaking the law. If you are indiscrete enough that we observe what is going on, we will have to ask both

of you to leave for the day. PLEASE do not put us in that very much unwanted and awkward position.

While we highly disagree with the new California Ammunition Purchase laws, we will nevertheless follow them.

NONLEAD SHOT ALTERNATIVES

Non-Toxic shot isn't new to Waterfowl hunters and has been in use for many years. Non-Toxic shot has evolved with many improvements, such as new powders, special wads, primers, and most importantly, new compositions of shot. All of these changes have made non-toxic shot more efficient. Steel was the material of choice when all this began, but now there are a host of other products that compete with steel.

Depending on the manufacture you can choose between tungsten, tungsten-matrix, heavy-shot, nice-shot, bismuth, steel, amongst other options. Steel itself can be alloyed with other material such as tungsten, copper, nickel, and iron. Steel was and probably is the most popular due to the price. It's probably the least expensive of any of the other substitutes. It's just plain cheaper to shoot. Steel however has its drawbacks and in the interest of space and time, we will talk only about factory ammunition.

There are several rules you must know and abide by when using steel. First is to check with the manufacture of your shotgun and determined if it's safe to use with steel. Understand that steel is harder than lead, which means you must take special care with your choice of choke in your gun. If you squeeze down the shot too much, you may damage the choke and/or barrel. Improved Cylinder or modified maybe your best choices for hunting.

If you shoot an older gun, you may want to reconsider your choice of shot period! Fixed choked and older guns are susceptible to choke damage from hard shot and possible separation of the soldered rib holding the barrels together on a double barrel shotgun.

Since steel is lighter than lead, you will have to choose a larger pellet size in steel to maintain pellet energy. With steel the normal rule of thumb is two sizes larger than what you're using in lead. This will pose a dilemma for you in areas or clubs that restrict your shot size. The easy way to overcome that problem is to pick closer

shots and avoid anything approaching 40 yards. A 25-30 yard shot may become the new norm in the hunting fields.

One major problem currently with non-toxic shot is most manufactures have geared their product towards waterfowl and wild bird hunting. Speed is of the essence in duck hunting and many manufacturers have a muzzle velocity somewhere in the vicinity of 1,350 to 1,500 feet per second, or in some cases faster. It's certainly in the realm of possibility that your shot could travel further than you expected. This could lead to the possibility of injuring another hunter, dog, or damaging property.

Although Hastings Island Hunting Preserve has changed its regulations concerning shot size, Hastings Island does not recommend any particular manufacture of shotgun shell or type of shot material. No one enjoys recoil which can be detrimental especially if you have a retinal condition with your eyes or a shoulder injury. Since there are numerous factors at play here, a good rule of thumb is to use the lightest recoiling (less velocity) shell available to you, that will still take down your birds humanly. Lyman's 5th Edition, Shotgun Reloading Handbook is a reloading guide, but it contains some of the best information concerning shotgun shells and their components.

Stay safe and enjoy your hunting experience. Remember, if it's not safe; don't shoot! There's always another bird just around the corner at Hastings Island.



Adam Tharp and his FIRST pheasant!!!

A NOTE FROM DANIELLE REGARDING SAFETY

As the 2019-2020 Hunting Season gets close I believe we should all take an extra look at our safety practices.

The term "Hunter Ethics" comes to mind as we get ready to enter the field. We have to be in the right mind-set when hunting, and getting our game should not be the most important thing to you. Some of you are saying; but I paid for them and I'm going to get my birds!

Always question if your shot will be safe. Surrounding areas should be constantly scanned for other hunters, vehicles and the proximity of roads in the area, and the various "No Shoot Zones" throughout the Club. As you enter a field, look around for other hunters and the direction they are moving in. It's safe practice and common courtesy to give other hunters the proper amount of space. Think about it this way, those other hunters were in the field before you, so show some courtesy and don't encroach upon others.

When moving into the "Safety Zones" or "Field Closed" areas, your gun should be unloaded with the action open. The parking lots are another place where "Muzzle Control" becomes important! Point your gun in a safe direction with the action open. The ground isn't a safe place to point your barrels within a crowded parking lot. Show common sense and respect for others and please, always double check your guns to make sure you have unloaded them when necessary. I always show my gun to my hunting partner before I place it in a carrying case. You can't be too careful!

Remember, if you're careless, once that shot leaves the barrel, you can be sorry until the cows come home, but you can't call it back.

Happy and Safe Hunting to All!

Danielle

BIRD CARDS

Fully paid Bird Cards are available for pickup at the Clubhouse, beginning Saturday, September 7th. All bird cards with balances, must be paid off by September 30th. As of October 1st, bird cards with outstanding balances will increase to the Late Bird Card Price and be subject to a finance charge on the amount owed.

HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

The Club is pleased to host our annual Fall Hunter Safety Course on September 7 and 8, 2019. The class is limited to 25 students. The fee is \$10.00 per student, payable on the first day of the Class. Instruction starts at 8:00am sharp, so please make sure to arrive on time and participate both days. The Club will be offering lunch for a modest cost, or you are welcome to bring a lunch of your own.

In order to register for the Hunter Safety Class, please go to the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife website: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/hunter-education>.

The Class is very popular, and early reservations are highly recommended!



TERRI BARNES WITH FLYER AND GAUGE

CLUB ACCESS FROM HIGHWAY 113

We anticipate that the private, non-Club owned, road from Highway 113 to the Club will be in very poor condition this Winter. During or after wet weather conditions, we do not recommend your using this road to reach the Club. Instead we suggest that you access Hastings Island from Rio Vista via Liberty Island Road to the Club's bridge at Hastings Island Road. Feel free to call us regarding the best route to access the Club.



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RIO VISTA, CALIFORNIA 94571-1026

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WWW.HIHP.COM