

# General Hunting Regulations

**This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.**

No person shall hunt except as prescribed by law. See section "Permits for Hunters with Disabling Conditions", page 7, for special rules.

Persons required by law to wear corrective lenses to operate a motor vehicle (as noted on a valid driver's license) must wear corrective lenses when hunting with a bow or firearm of any kind.

## .22 Rifles

A valid rifle permit must be possessed while hunting with a .22 caliber rifle.

It is unlawful to possess and use .22 caliber rifle except while hunting woodchuck, [no rifle hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)] hunting raccoon and opossum with hounds, and dispatching trapped animals other than muskrat.

.22 caliber rifles must be loaded with short cartridges only, except when hunting woodchuck.

.22 caliber rifles need not be plugged, but must be loaded with no more than 3 shells. No 10-17 year olds may hunt with any rimfire or centerfire rifle.

## Bow and Arrow

"Bow" means any long bow, recurve bow or compound bow that is hand held and hand drawn, with no mechanical device built into it or attached to it that will enable the archer to lock the bow at a full or partial draw. All draw locking and draw holding devices are prohibited. Hand held release devices are permitted.

All bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds at the archer's draw length, except compounds, which must have a minimum peak draw weight of 35 pounds. All arrows used for hunting deer, turkey, coyote, or woodchuck must be fitted with a well-sharpened metal head with a minimum width of 3/4 inches.

Arrows fitted with heads other than specified for deer, turkey, coyote or woodchuck, may be carried in the woods and fields during the small game season or other seasons which overlap with the bow and arrow deer season.

### It is unlawful to:

- use a crossbow or variation,
- use or possess a poison arrow or one with an explosive tip,
- use a bow one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise during any season,
- use a bow and arrow from any vehicle, moving or stationary,
- have both a firearm and bow in possession or under control while hunting.

## Dogs—Hunting and Training

Allowing dogs to run at large is prohibited.

Persons may train dogs without firearms in daylight at any time except during any open firearm deer season.

No person shall train a raccoon or opossum hunting dog on WMAs other than during the per-

iods of September 1 to October 1, 2002 and from March 1 to May 1, 2003. Training hours shall be one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

It is illegal to use dogs to pursue or run black bear, or to track wounded deer.

Note: For special areas and regulations for dog training on WMAs see the section of Wildlife Management Area Regulations, page 58.

## Falconry

No person shall use a raptor for hunting without a falconry permit and a valid hunting license. No person under 14 years of age may hunt by means of a raptor.

Falconry permits will be issued only to persons who pass a comprehensive examination and who can provide proper facilities for housing a raptor.

Beginning falconers must be sponsored by an experienced falconer.

No person shall possess a firearm while hunting with raptors.

For additional information, write to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, or call 908-735-8793.

### SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED:

- Carrying a loaded firearm or nocked arrow within 450 feet of a building or school playground without possessing written permission from the owner or lessee.
- Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow on or across highways or roads. Discharging a firearm or a bow and arrow from a motor vehicle.
- Hunting for or shooting any wildlife by aid of a light, except when hunting raccoon, coyote or opossum while on foot.
- Hunting or shooting with the aid of a light attached to or carried in a vehicle.
- On National Wildlife Refuges, the distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait is prohibited.
- Hunting with arrows, darts or any other device propelled by any means that is used for the purpose of injecting or delivering any type of drug into an animal.
- Using electronic calling devices except when hunting for fox, raccoon, crow and coyote.
- Loaded firearms in a motor vehicle. Possession of a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle is considered proof of pursuing or taking of wildlife.
- Transporting an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.
- Shooting into a squirrel's nest.

### The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the following apply:

- Baiting is prohibited.
- No permanent tree stands or screw-in steps are permitted.
- You cannot possess a loaded firearm while on any publicly traveled roadway within the area.

## Farmer Regulations

The occupant of a farm may allow his dog to run at large on land he occupies, except during the firearm deer seasons.

Farmers and their lessees occupying or farming their land, members of their immediate families, or their farming employees may kill crows, woodchuck, and fox on farm property at any time when found destroying livestock or

crops. However, they must use legal firearms, ammunition and other lawful procedures.

Farmers may trap foxes destroying poultry, crops or property at any time, subject to state law and local ordinances. Farmers or their agents may shoot or trap coyotes by lawful procedures at any time when found destroying livestock or crops. A regional Division law enforcement office must be notified within 24 hours of killing a coyote.

## Firearms and Missiles

A person may not go into the woods or fields with a firearm except during prescribed seasons.

Airguns are not legal hunting firearms.

It is unlawful to possess in the woods and fields shot larger than #4 fine shot except for hunting deer, waterfowl, woodchuck (farmers only) or coyote.

For hunting, shotguns must be plugged so it is not capable of holding more than three shells at one time. Rifles need not be plugged but may not be loaded with more than three rounds.

## Hunter Orange

Hunters must wear a cap made of daylight fluorescent orange or an outer garment containing at least 200 square inches of fluorescent orange material visible from all sides at all times while engaged in hunting. A camo orange hat alone is not adequate.

This applies to all persons while hunting deer, bear, rabbit, hare, squirrel, fox, railbirds, and game birds including while in a tree stand.

Exceptions: this law does not apply to waterfowl, crow, wild turkey, coyote, woodchuck nor bow-hunters except that a bow hunter using a deer decoy must wear hunter orange, as described above, while transporting the decoy into and out of the woods and fields.

## Hunting & Trapping Education Requirements

New Jersey requires that anyone applying to hunt with a shotgun, rifle or bow show a previous resident license of the appropriate type from this or any state, or a course completion card of the appropriate hunter education course.

The New Jersey Hunter Education course is now offered as a home study video-based program. Students can obtain course materials at most license agents and Division field offices. After completing an extensive homework assignment, the student may choose from a list of testing facilities and dates to complete their Hunter Education course. More details on the program, including course material availability, facility locations and dates, can be found on the Division's web page [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) or by calling 877-2HUNTJ.

## Muzzleloading Rifles

It is unlawful to use smokeless powder in a muzzleloader while hunting in New Jersey.

Properly licensed and permitted hunters 10 years and older may hunt with a muzzleloading

(continued on page 16)

## Highlights of Important Changes in the 2002–2003 Hunting Regulations

Hunters can anticipate another outstanding season as the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife continues to modify and improve its wildlife management programs.

Last year's deer regulation changes have proven to be very successful in achieving antlerless harvest goals. To further enhance antlerless deer harvest objectives while maximizing recreation, many important changes in the hunting regulations have been made for the 2002-03 deer seasons.

- Hunters are limited to buying *one* permit per *zone* this year. Hunters will no longer be allowed to purchase more than one bow, shotgun or muzzleloader permit for one zone.
- Buck Stubs—All 2002 and 2003 licenses include antlered buck stubs. After taking an antlered buck, the hunter must attach a buck stub to the deer before transporting it to the deer check station. Upon checking the deer, the hunter must surrender *both* the buck stub and transportation tag to the check station operator, who must attach both of these to the data form. Buck stubs valid for the permit muzzleloader and permit shotgun season that are not used by

December 31, 2002 **WILL** be valid to be used during the January and February, 2003 permit muzzleloader and January and February, 2003 permit shotgun days.

- The fall bow season will open on September 7, 2002 in selected deer management zones. The early part of the fall bow season, September 7–27, 2002, is now Earn-A-Buck. Last year hunters were allowed to shoot only antlerless deer during this period. This year, hunters who harvest an antlerless deer may begin to hunt for the one buck allowed during the fall bow season. See the Regulation Sets on page 29 for further descriptions of bag limits and regulations.
- The permit bow season dates have been changed. Unlike last year, the permit bow season is now closed during the first three days of the early permit shotgun and muzzleloader season in November. However, it will be open for the three day Thanksgiving segment, Thursday–Saturday. See the Regulation Sets on page 29 for further descriptions of bag limits and regulations.
- The Earn-A-Buck regulation ends after December 14, 2002. If a hunter has not satisfied the antlerless deer requirement by this date, the

one legal buck may be taken during the Permit Muzzleloader and/or Permit Shotgun seasons without first taking an antlerless deer. There are no Earn-a-Buck requirements during the Winter Bow Season. See the Regulation Sets on page 29 for further descriptions of bag limits and regulations. Deer management zone boundaries have changed between Zones 22 and 51. See page 43.

- Zone 22 has changed from "Regulation Set 5" to "Regulation Set 4" this year. This change includes a reduction from a 26 day permit shotgun season to a seven day permit shotgun season. See the Regulation Sets on page 30 for the season dates and bag limits for Zone 22.

And changes for other hunting opportunities:

- The woodchuck shotgun season opens with the grouse and squirrel season. See page 52
- Red and Gray fox are legal game during the February Coyote season. See page 49
- Vehicles used by physically challenged hunters possessing a permit to shoot from a standing vehicle must display handicapped license plates or a special placard available from the Division. See page 7.



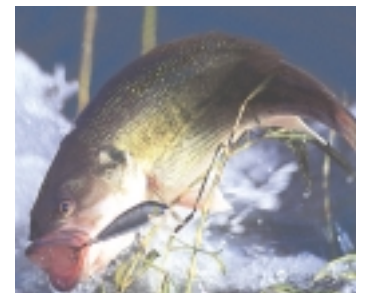
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# General Hunting Regulations

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rifle. A valid rifle permit must be possessed while hunting with a muzzleloading rifle.

It is unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle on WMAs, except for deer and squirrel hunting during the special season in certain zones. For muzzleloader rifle squirrel hunting, see page 50. For muzzleloader deer hunting, see page 22. For rifle permit information, see page 7.

## Non-Resident Game Removal

A non-resident licensee may remove from the state each day a daily bag limit of game. However, a non-resident may not take more than two day's bag limit from the state after one week's stay (Sunday to Saturday inclusive). This does not apply to game raised or killed at a licensed commercial preserve and legally tagged.

## Sunday Hunting

No person may hunt with firearms or any other weapon or carry a gun in the woods or fields or on the waters on Sunday: except on semi-wild & commercial shooting preserve lands for the purpose of shooting stocked game; and when using a .22 rifle for dispatching trapped animals.

Persons are allowed to hunt raccoon or opossum between midnight on Saturday and one hour before sunrise on Sunday during the prescribed season.

## Trespass Law

Hunters and trappers are required to secure permission prior to entering private lands to hunt. On agricultural lands, the law provides that these lands need not be posted to enforce the trespass law. Hunters must ask permission to recover a deer.

Hunters must not hunt in unharvested crops without first obtaining permission from the owner. Anyone causing damage to cultivated crops, orchards, fences, buildings or livestock may be arrested without warrant by the owner, occupant, lessee, or any officer of the law. Violators are liable for a fine of up to \$2,000 and restitution to the property owner in addition to the loss of hunting privileges for a period of 2 years.

## Wildlife

**Taxidermists note:** the sale of wild birds and game animals or parts thereof is prohibited in New

## Deer Season Permits

(continued from page 11)

mid-October (609-292-9192). Information will also be available via news releases and on our website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com). Hours for all over-the-counter sales are 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Hunters may send someone to purchase over-the-counter permits on their behalf if the person produces the absent hunter's applicable license. However, a hunter on line is limited to purchasing permits for a total of three individuals. Photocopies of licenses are *not* acceptable. Hunters on line cannot purchase permits for other hunters on line in order to circumvent the "first-come, first-served" rule.

A list of available zones will be posted at the entrance of the over-the-counter sales locations.

Jersey. Legally trapped furbearers may be sold. Questions concerning the above should be directed to regional Division law enforcement offices.

It is illegal to capture, kill, injure or have in possession any wild bird other than a game bird.

No one may rob a bird's nest.

The removal of the skin or feathers or mutilation of any wild bird or mammal in the woods or fields for the purpose of concealing sex or identity is illegal.

All nongame mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians are protected. Penalties for taking these species range from \$250-\$5,000.

There is no open season on bobcats or bears. It is illegal to kill, attempt to kill or possess bobcats or bears, except parts of bobcats or bears legally taken in other states may be possessed but not sold in New Jersey.

## Wildlife Damage Control

Property owners or their agents, and occupants of dwellings that are suffering damage from squirrel, raccoon, opossum, skunk, woodchuck or weasel may control them by lawful means at any time subject to local ordinances.

## Attention: Canadian Hunters and Other Nonimmigrant Aliens

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) enacted a regulation requiring all nonimmigrant aliens who temporarily import firearms or ammunition into the United States to first obtain an ATF Form 6 Import Permit. This regulation applies to those entering the U.S. for legitimate hunting or lawful sporting purposes. Nonimmigrant aliens must possess a valid hunting license or an invitation/registration to a legitimate shooting event in addition to the ATF approved import permit to enter this country with firearms or ammunition.

The approval process may take from 6 to 12 weeks, so plan accordingly. Permits are valid only for one year and covers only a single entry. Hunters and shooters who plan to make several trips into the United States with firearms or ammunition may secure multiple permits in advance to cover those entries.

To obtain an ATF Form 6 application, call the ATF's Explosives Imports Branch at 202-927-8320 or download one from the ATF website at [www.atf.treas.gov](http://www.atf.treas.gov).

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms reminds nonimmigrant aliens that they are generally prohibited from possessing or receiving firearms or ammunition in the United States. The exception to this applies to those possessing a valid U.S. hunting license or permit.

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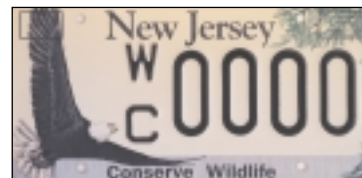
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