

# North Point Alberta NAVHDA Chapter Membership Code of Conduct

February 23, 2023

## Dear Members

The North Point Alberta NAVHDA (NPAN) Board of Directors welcomes you to our chapter. To ensure all members understand the requirements and expectations to maintain their active good standing chapter membership, the Board has instated the North Point Alberta NAVHDA Code of Conduct. All members are required to read and agree to the North Point Alberta NAVHDA Code of Conduct prior to being granted chapter membership.

## NAVHDA Introduction:

The North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) is a group of like - minded people with one thing in common: we all enjoy the thrill of hunting over a well-trained dog. NAVHDA sponsors several hundred noncompetitive "tests" each year, where dogs are judged to set of standards in situations designed to simulate real-world upland and waterfowl scenarios.

## Code of Conduct:

The rules and guidance in the code are not intended to penalize or cause difficulty but are necessary to protect the chapter's security, our members' safety, our dogs' welfare and the reputation of our Chapter membership in general. The North Point Alberta NAVHDA Code of Conduct establishes a standard of conduct to be followed by all good standing Chapter members in the normal course of organized sanctioned Chapter events.

## Insurance Coverage - Members, Guests and Visiting Handlers:

Insurance Coverage: All participants shall be covered by our Chapter insurance including members, guests, visitors, handlers and judges. Insurance fees are included in regular membership dues. To retain coverage for the event, all non-member visitors shall pay the fee as listed in the current fee schedule. Consumption of alcohol or drugs during chapter events voids chapter coverage and as such is prohibited. The chapter event is considered finished when participants leave the landowner's premises and or when the official time scheduled event is over if being held in a private or public venue.

## Treatment of Dogs:

All participants must consider the health and welfare of the dogs under their care and the dogs of other participants to be of the utmost importance. Mistreatment of a dog at the hands of an owner, handler, trainer, or judge will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The legal definition of mistreatment as described in the Criminal Code of Canada is "(a) willfully causes or, being the owner, willfully permits to be caused unnecessary pain, suffering " The definition of mistreatment shall be decided by the Board of Directors within the context of each situation. Severe mistreatment may result in automatic ejection from the event, immediate suspension and up and to termination of membership without refund.

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### **Firearm Safety:**

Only break-action shotguns and starter pistols are permitted for use during chapter training days and testing events. Starter pistols must use blank rounds only. All gunners must be vetted and signed off by a designated NPAN gunner representative prior to handling an approved shot gun. All members using an approved shot gun must carry with them their PAL or POL. Any participants entering the training field shall wear blaze orange. All participants must handle firearms safely, in accordance with provincial and federal regulations and best practices. Unsafe firearms handling may result in automatic removal of shooting privileges and required gunner re-vetting, ejection from the event, suspension of membership and possible termination without refund.

### **Payment of Fees:**

Payment owed to the chapter for dues, fees, or bird costs, shall be completed before participation in any chapter event. If any participant, member or non-member, is in arrears of payments, all future payments made by them shall be reassigned to re-pay past debts. Failure to repay debts may result in suspension of current membership without refund and possible denial of future membership.

### **Membership & Participation:**

Applicants for chapter membership or participation in chapter events may be denied if persons have a record of cruelty towards animals, violent behavior or are found to be under membership suspension or termination from another NAVHDA sanctioned chapter, or by another sanctioned club or association related to the breeding or testing of dogs.

### **Personal Conduct:**

All participants have a duty to both their dogs and to others to make chapter events productive and welcoming and are expected to assist and volunteer in the general duties of the event. All participants training a dog must give back to the club by volunteering at the event. Unsportsmanlike or unethical behavior, or abusive disrespectful treatment of other participants, event volunteers, test judges or executive members will result in automatic ejection from the event, suspension of membership and or termination of membership without refund.

- Participants shall respect the landowners and land where chapter events are held.
- Vehicles must be driven and parked in designated areas.
- Any participant assisting as a trainer, prior to initiating physical contact with a dog other than their own, shall provide a clear description of their intentions and receive clear permission from the dog's owner for said contact.
- Dogs shall be under the continuous control of their owner/handler and shall be kept leashed unless running their discipline or exercising in designated areas.
- Dog waste shall be removed promptly from mowed areas and transported from the event by the dog owner.

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- Children must be under the continuous supervision of their parent or guardian. Where a child attends the parent's shooting discipline as part of the gallery, a second parent or guardian must supervise that child. Children must be a minimum of twelve years old to enter the field where live ammunition is in use.
- Any Chapter or landowner equipment used by participants must be treated with care and respect and returned to the trailer or correct storage location before the end of each event.
- All birds transported, stored, handled and dispatched for the event shall be treated humanely, and with the utmost respect. All purchased live or dead birds shall remain the property and responsibility of the purchaser, not the gunner or the chapter, and shall be properly stored out of sight (bagged, out of the sun, etc.) and be transported from the event location by the bird owner.
- All Birds ordered and purchased by members for training or testing will be picked up from the designated Chapter Bird receiving location as established prior to bird order.
- The chapter will not be responsible for housing or feeding membership personal bird orders. Personal bird orders are orders for birds that members intend to use outside of sanctioned events.
- The chapter will order and house birds for membership in preparation for scheduled sanctioned training days.
- All members will be required to sign up for sanctioned training/testing days a minimum of seven days prior to event day. This will ensure bird orders will be made and arrive on time to service the members attending the event.
- Chapter owned equipment will only be used for sanctioned events or as approved by the voting majority of the Executive Board members.
- Failure to pay for lost or stolen signed out equipment within required approved invoice dates could result in termination of membership and possible legal action.

### **Imagery, Video & Meeting Recordings:**

During Chapter sanctioned events and meetings there may be member pictures, video and voice recordings taken to further promote NPAN chapter growth. All pictures, videos, and voice recordings will only be used within the confines of the chapter web site, social media, NPAN meeting files, and will not be shared with any third parties or chapter members without approval from the person within the imagery to the specific members portrayed in the NPAN chapter video, voice recording or imagery.

### **Use of Social Media:**

Members are asked to observe best practice using social media and are urged not post confidential chapter information. All chapter business will be conducted by the Board of Directors, and assigned members only through the use of either personal or chapter email addresses. Informal discussions, comments, posts and photos on social media should always promote chapter pride and unity and illustrate our respect for the game. Inappropriate use of social media or the chapter

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member contact list for purposes other than promoting the best interests of the chapter shall be grounds for immediate termination of all membership privileges without refund of fees.

### **Membership Contact Information:**

All active member contact information will be available to other active members to encourage and enable information shares and training opportunities. Any members wishing not to share their contact information with the general club membership will need to notify the NPAN Secretary via email to ensure their contact information is not shared with other club members.

### **Reporting, Judging and Recourse & Incident Investigation Reviews & Actions:**

Any Chapter member may report and give evidence to the Board of Directors, to either support or refute any occurrence, behavior or offence committed by any other member that breaches this Code of Conduct. Most occurrences can be corrected through open discussion or friendly reminders.

All incidents including but not limited to, insurance infractions, social media misuse, mistreatment of dogs, inappropriate personal conduct, firearm safety incidents or any other incidents requiring immediate event removal, membership suspension and or termination will be investigated by an assigned NPAN chapter investigation team. The assigned incident investigation leader will provide an incident report to the North Point Alberta NAVHDA Chapter Board of Directors within two weeks of the incident. All incidents requiring membership suspensions or terminations will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and a motion for resolution (reinstatement of suspended membership or termination of membership) will be voted on by North Point Alberta NAVHDA Board of Directors during the next scheduled Board meeting or before as directed by the North Point Alberta NAVHDA President.

Thank you for taking the time to read and agree to the North Point Alberta NAVHDA Code of Conduct and welcome to our chapter!

North Point Alberta NAVHDA Board of Directors