

## Code of Ethics

This guide is designed to offer practical & sensible advice to new members and act as a reminder to existing members, on the ethics and values expected from a member of the Devon Wildfowling & Conservation Association (known here after and within as the Association). Remember it is the responsibility of each member to uphold the good name of, The Association, at all times! This includes responsibility for your own behaviour and that of others.

Although this code has not formally been adopted into the Associations rules, it can be used as part of any such disciplinary procedure, where a member has been found to be acting continually outside of the standards set out in this code.

This code of ethics will be distributed to all members annually, will be updated periodically and will be used in conjunction with a Code of Ethics meeting, the associations Code of Practice and the associations rules.

### Early Season Shooting

Often the summer months seem to extend well into September, the public and other estuary user groups can often be in abundance on such evenings. Members should always carefully consider, the impact on the public, the potential damage to the reputation of the Association and the reputation of the wider shooting community, especially during the first 4-6 week of the season. Some points members may wish to consider at this time of year are.

- Always consider how many other fowlers are out? Its vital members consider the possible disturbance they are making whilst wildfowling. This is especially pertinent in the early weeks of the season.
- Always carefully consider the times at which you choose to go fowling, the estuary can be significantly quieter at 6.30pm than 5.00pm on a sunny evening in the first couple of weeks of the season.
- Consider whether you can access the area you want to shoot via an alternative route, E.g. is it necessary to walk through the beer garden of The Turf Locks on a warm sunny evening when the pubs garden will likely be full of people sat outside having food or a drink?
- If the Turf Lock has a beer garden full of people, do you really need to shoot on or very close to the club's boundary? Perhaps consider if some fowl are passing far enough away to offer an alternative spot to shoot.
- Please remember that the club only has a limited number of visits. Is it really necessary to go out more than a couple of times in a week? Remember it is a long season and all permit holders are entitled to go out.

### All Other Times (but still including early season)

- Members should always consider the number of shots and their shot to kill ratio. If you are having a bad day as we all do, sometimes it looks a lot better to put the gun away and try another day, than to keep banging away and create unnecessary disturbance.
- Always consider the range at which you are shooting and be honest with yourself about your ability to kill the bird at said range. Wounding birds is almost certainly one of the most potentially damaging things we can do if witnessed by the general public.

- Other key concerns when shooting that members should always consider include, which direction is the bird going to fall and the potential difficulty of retrieving the bird which maybe caused by the tide or surrounding cover.
- Members should consider the image shooting in groups causes and the potential unnecessary additional disturbance it may cause.
- When guiding new members, the experienced member guiding should consider if it is necessary to shoot as well. This would use additional visits and possibly cause additional disturbance.
- As a member of the association, we all have a duty to act and report where we feel the actions of a club member falls short either of this code or the club rules. You do not have to be a warden or club official to approach a fellow fowler in a friendly non officious manner and offer some helpful advice. If the member chooses to ignore and continue in the same vein, you are duty bound to report the incident. Please remember that failing to act potentially makes you as bad as the member concerned and where matters of safety are concerned almost certainly liable.
- When dealing with members of the public club members are to remember that at all time, they have a duty to be polite and courteous. This will help to maintain the good name of the association and the sport of shooting. Club members should never engage with members of the public where they act in a threatening or aggressive manor.