DARR AMENDED RULES AMMENDED OCTOBER 2026

Approved at October 12th 2026 T&O Meeting

(These are for everyone's convenience, please familiarize yourself with them.)

Purpose: These rules are to provide for the management of the Darr Wetlands for purposes of conservation, recreation, enjoyment, and maintenance. The property is a valuable resource for club members. However, considerable effort, both financial and physical, are required to maintain the property for it safe and efficient use. These rules are designed to provide for the maintenance and safe use of the property for hunting and other recreational uses. The rules are designed to ensure that all members are given equal opportunity to utilize the property and provide incentives for those members who devote additional time to maintaining the property.

The President of the O.H.C.C. appoints a Chairperson for the Darr each year. The Darr Chairperson's responsibilities include the management of the property, maintaining compliance with the WRP requirements, providing for the maintenance of the property, insuring fair access for all members who have paid the hunting fees, and other members who wish to use the property.

The chairperson may appoint individuals to assist with specific functions and delegate duties as necessary for use of the property. The chairperson may appoint a committee of hunt members to provide member input in the operation of the Darr. All members, especially those who have paid the hunt fee, are encouraged to keep informed of work days, events, and to assist in the operation of the property. Members are encouraged to share their input and concerns with the chairperson.

I. General Rules

1. All state and federal laws are required to be followed at all times on all OHCC properties.

2. All OHCC members are permitted to utilize the DARR Property. Any member that wishes to utilize the property must make arrangements with the Darr Committee to complete orientation prior to using the property.

3. During waterfowl season, all activities on property other than Waterfowl or Deer hunting will start after 10:00am when waterfowlers are signed into the area. If Waterfowl season is closed, Ohio DNR rules apply.

- **a. Exception is any posted Club Release Hunt or Special Hunt sponsored by OHCC may start at 9:00am**

4. **During Waterfowl Season, any use of club property is restricted to Waterfowl or Deer hunting for two hours prior to sunset if any members are signed into the area. Anyone wishing to use the property for any other purpose must verify there are no members signed in to hunt Waterfowl or Deer 2 hours before sunset before entering the property.**

5. **Only designated parking areas may be used for cars and trucks on the property.**

6. **No consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted before or during hunting on OHCC properties or while firearms are being used for any purpose. If found doing so, you will be asked to immediately leave the premises.**

5. Use of the Darr property for other activities (Nonmember group activities i.e., Scouts, Competitions, etc.) is only available by prior scheduling with the Darr Committee Chairperson.

6. Everyone must sign-in and out on the log sheets in the barn, every time they come onto the property and indicate their use of the property (i.e. upland hunting, dog training, fishing, working, etc.) also indicate their starting locations on the sheets. (Members with special needs can make arrangements with Darr Chairperson)

7. For questions, clarifications, or to report violations of the rules, call the Darr Chairperson. In case of Emergency call 911, if and after the calling of 911 call Darr Chairperson at number posted at sign in board.

8. While on Darr Property during hunting season, Hunter Orange must be visible from 360 degrees unless Waterfowl Hunting or Bow hunting.

9. Special Upland hunting days are arranged and publicized in advance when the whole day or selected hours is reserved for upland hunting.

10. Members or individuals who drive on the dikes and cause damage are responsible for the cost of repairing the damage and may be suspended from Darr usage until the costs are paid.

11. Violation of these Darr Rules will be addressed by the Darr Chairperson in the first instance. If the violation is not able to be satisfactorily resolved by the individual and the Darr Chairperson, the issue can be referred to the Darr Committee. If not resolved, the matter will be referred to the OHCC Trustees.

II. General Hunting Rules

1. All O.H.C.C. members may only hunt or pursue any game (including released live or perished game animals) on the Darr property upon payment of the Hunt fee and completion of work time requirements as per the Darr Rules.

2. The Hunt fee for the Darr, is to be paid with the member's annual renewal, beginning January 1st each year or at time of acceptance as new member.

3. If the Hunt Fee is not paid at time of renewal, or with a new member application there will be no reduction in fee if paid at a later date for the year.

4. The hunt fee does not apply to members who are only fishing, frogging, taking turtles, bird watching, or other non-game pursuing activities.

5. Work Hour Requirements must be fulfilled to be eligible to hunt club property, or use club property for the purpose of training animals to pursue live or perished game. (See Work Hour Requirements Section for details)

6. Ammunition types and shot size on Darr property must follow State and Federal regulations.

7. Each hunter must sign in and indicate where they intend to hunt on the property by placing a tag on the map displayed inside the barn, or have a hunting partner place the tag for them before heading out to hunt. Upland hunters indicate there starting location.

8. Each hunter must sign out, on Hunting Log Sheet at the end of each hunt, and tags must be removed from map indicating they are out of the area. Hunters must record their harvest information on provided harvest tags and place in the provided drop box.

9. Hunters with special needs may use wheelchairs or ATVs for access to the hunting areas and their blind and may make special sign in arrangements with Darr Chairperson.

III. Waterfowl Specific Hunting Rules:

1. **Waterfowl hunting is allowed all days of the week per the early, regular and late seasons as published by ODNR, and follow all dates and times per ODNR.**
2. **Waterfowl hunting (shooting of a firearm) may only be from a designated areas marked on the map unless retrieving a wounded waterfowl.**
3. **Blind drawing will be held following the March Darr Meeting each year. "Blind" is defined as area marked on the map for hunting of waterfowl and deer. Eligibility to participate in the blind drawing is based on a minimum of 20 hours of documented work at the Darr property or a Darr sponsored activity. Thereafter, for each additional 50 hours of documented work at the Darr property or Darr sponsored activity, the member will receive an additional ticket for the blind drawing, up to a maximum of 3 tickets. A member is only permitted to select 1 blind area per year Blind areas not drawn can be assigned on a first come first serve basis starting at the April Darr meeting.**
4. **The Darr Property includes designated OHCC Ottawa landfill properties per wetland inspector.**
5. **If you enter the Blind Drawing and select a Blind it is with the understanding that you are responsible to have that blind prepared and ready to hunt Two Weeks Prior to the Youth and Veterans annual Waterfowl Weekend. Failure to have the blind ready (as determined by the Blind Coordinators and the Darr Chairman) will result in forfeiture of the Blind for that season and the disqualification from entering the Blind Drawing the following year.**
6. **Blinds not signed into by the blind holder within 60 minutes of legal shooting time are open to be hunted by any eligible club hunter.**
7. **If the blind holder occupies a blind, any O.H.C.C member, who is eligible to hunt may join that person with the agreement of the blind holder. Up to three persons may hunt from each blind or safe capacity of the blind.**

IV. Upland Specific Hunting Rules:

1. When waterfowl seasons are open:

a. **Posted Release day hunts start at 9am**

b. **If Waterfowl hunters are signed in, Daily (Non Release Day) Upland hunting begins at 10 a.m.**

c. **Upland Hunting when Waterfowl and Deer seasons are closed is open and follow all Ohio DNR rules.**

2. All fields that are safe to hunt will be used on bird releases, so as much of the property is used as possible, to ensure the least amount of hunters per field.

3. No more than 6 Guns/Hunters can be hunting in any field at any one time.

4. If more than 6 hunters per field is present for a hunt a rotation of hunters will be done so as not to exceed 6 guns/hunters per field at any time. a. As an example, if 60 people show up and 6 safe fields are used 60/6=10 but only 6 gun/hunters in the field at a time. The 10 or more will divide the time up so all hunters/guns have equal hunting time in their assigned field.

Note: If numbers of hunters regularly exceeds the maximum, the Darr Chairperson and Committee will re-valuate how to conduct future releases.

5. Some type of hunter orange apparel (visible in all directions) is required for all upland hunting.

6. Members must be on time to hunt for scheduled release dates.

7. Upland hunters may move to another field after the announced time of the completion of the day's event, when the field is vacated by other hunters.

8. Daily Bag Limits

There will be a daily bird limit per hunter for upland hunting as follows.

All birds harvested on club property must be properly tagged and reported on harvest tags and placed in drop box.

- **i. Pheasant 5**
- **ii. Chukar 5**
- **iii. Quail No Limit**

Other limits are as per ODNR regulations

9. If you provide and release your own personal birds, and pursue them on club property there is no daily limit.

a. **You must pre-tag all released birds with your supplied identifier tags and follow all ODNR regulations and identify on the sign in sheet that you provided birds.**

V. Trapping

Trapping permits will be done in two draws:

1. **Opening day of trapping season until December 31.**
2. **January 1 until trapping season is closed for the year.**
    a. **The second draw will be a first come pick of the units but only can pick if your next years membership dues are up to date.**
    b. **All dues OHCC and hunt dues must be paid to be in the draw.**
    c. **The draw will be run by a member appointed by the Darr Chairperson.**
3. **No trapper can use traps that will likely injure a dog or person.**
4. **When waterfowl or Deer seasons are open:**
    a. **trapping begins at 10 a.m.**
    b. **If no one is signed in waterfowl or deer hunting, trapping may begin 1/2 hour after sunrise.**
    c. **Trapping must end 2 hours prior to sunset.**
5. **Trapping when Waterfowl season is closed is open and follow all Ohio DNR rules. All traps must be marked visibly so other members hunting or doing other actives can avoid traps**

VI. Fishing & Frogging

1. **Fishing can be done at the Darr property year round.**
2. **Fishing & Frogging is closed during ODNR hunting seasons.**
3. **Froggers must follow all fishing rule and state laws.**
4. **Turtle trapping and setting of lines must follow all ODNR regulations and is.**

VII. Work Hour Requirements

1. Work Hour Requirements:

a. A minimum of 20 hours Darr related work with a minimum of 10 of those hours on a Darr property work party project is required to be eligible to hunt club property, or to utilize club property for the purpose of training animals to pursue live or perished game animals.

i) Any member with special needs will be accommodated and special assignments made so they can fulfill this requirement.

ii) If you are not able to work on work party date but wish to have your hours credited to a work party project, you must make arrangements with Darr Chairperson or Darr Project Leader.

b) Work hour credits will be tracked for the Calendar Year. Hours earned will be applied towards hunting/training eligibility for the following year.

c. Qualifying work party dates, and times will be determined by Darr Committee and communicated by Darr Chairperson.

d. Work projects and activities will be posted with along with the sign in sheet at the barn with maps and details.

e. Qualifying hours will be tracked from sign in sheets at work parties, events, and posted in the barn. Records will be maintained by Darr Committee appointee.

f. Reports with credited hours worked will be available at Club and Darr Meetings for reference and posted at the Darr Barn following each Darr meeting.

g. Those that choose not to work the 20 required hours may purchase hours in lieu of working.

Fee to purchase hours will be $10.00 per hour.

i) You may work all 20 hours, or any portion of the 20 hours, and purchase remaining hours to total 20. i.e., work 10 hours and purchase 10 hours for $100.00

ii) Funds from purchased hours will be deposited into the Darr Account in a line item for the purposes of:

iii) Maintenance and improvements of the physical Darr property and structures. These funds will not be used for the purchase of birds or hunting releases.

VIII. Guest Policy

1. Non-members of the OHCC are generally not allowed to hunt the Darr. Violation of this policy should be immediately reported to the Darr Chairperson. Persons poaching or trespassing should be reported to law enforcement.

2. A member in good standing, who is hunt/train eligible, may have an individual with a valid youth hunting license accompany him/her on any hunt.

3. Special guest hunts may be approved by Darr Committee and trustees (i.e., Veteran hunts, Ladies hunts, Guest hunts, etc.,) and may include non-members.

4. A member is allowed to bring an adult guest to observe on the property. Adult Guests are not permitted to hunt/train on the property other than special guest hunts.

5. Guests are not permitted on release dates other than a special guest hunt dates.

7. Member is responsible for guest while on property and each person must sign in. Guest must accompany the member while on property. Member and Guest must adhere to the following upon entering the Darr property:

a) All guests must be pre-approved by the Darr Chairman.

b) All guests must have a waiver of liability on file for that year, or complete one prior to starting any activity.

IX. Animal Training

1. Use of the Darr for training animals to pursue live or perished game is included under the hunt fee, and work hour requirements to be hunt/train eligible. No additional training fee is required of members who pay the hunt fee. Work hours requirements and Guest policies for training are the same as those for hunting and State and Federal licenses required must be current.

2. Daily restrictions on hours for training will be in place during open waterfowl and Deer seasons following the same guidelines as other activities.

3. The restricted area for training is the usable area inside a rectangular section outlined on the attached map, which will be posted in the sign in area at the Darr. It is described generally as:

a. Starting at the intersection of Benton-Carroll Rd and Duff-Washa Rd. on the south side of Duff-Washa and running east to the property line/dike. Then south to 30 yards north of Blind #24. Then west to the parking lot near the intersection of Benton-Carroll Rd and Velliquette Rd. Then north to origination point at Duff-Washa Rd.

b. This will provide grounds to be available for various uses and training needs without getting too close to hunted wetland areas and should prevent disturbing hunters and/or waterfowl resting thru the day.

X. Operation of Equipment

1. Power equipment and vehicles may only be operated by individuals approved by the Darr chairperson.

2. Persons operating tractors, mowers, or other equipment are responsible for being familiar with the specific piece of equipment and it's operation.

3. Prior to operating the equipment, the provided maintenance checklist must be completed by the intended operator and dated.

a. Each item on list is to be checked and any fluids added must be documented on the list.

b. Intent is to insure that oil, coolant, hydraulic fluids, are at appropriate levels and grease fittings have been lubricated as required, and that records will reflect what we need on hand to maintain the equipment.

4. Equipment is to be operated at proper PTO speeds. Never operated at the red line RPM, or at speeds which endanger either the operator, bystanders, the equipment, or other property.

5. Maintenance records are to be kept whenever any preventive or corrective maintenance is performed on any piece of equipment.

XI. Additional Rules

1. **Baiting with grain is not allowed on any part of the property.**
   i) **Crop Manipulation and Broadcasting of seed of any kind is only permitted from March 1st to July 20th of each year.**
   ii) **Prior to the opening waterfowl season each year there shall be a work party scheduled to inspect any areas where crops were mowed, or seeds were broadcast.**
      (1) This inspection will verify there is no residual food source visible.
      (2) If visible food sources remain, measures must be performed to cover or remove them before any waterfowl hunting can begin for the season.
2. **Mowing on property and supplemental feeding must be done in accordance with state regulations and WRP guidelines.**
3. **All volunteers that are not OHCC members must be approved by the Darr Chairperson and Committee and sign liability waivers and releases.**
4. **All Non OHCC members MUST sign a release before they will be permitted to Hunt on OHCC Property. Releases will be available at the OHCC properties.**

Requested and approved at OHCC Reg Trustees meeting Oct 2026