

HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR YOUTH

Licence Requirements

You want to be out there chasing big game, not sweating the rules and regulations – but you’ve still got to get your licences sorted out before you head out into the field.

The following are the basic licensing requirements for youth hunters in Alberta.

Youth First-time Hunters (12-17 Years Old)

Under 14:

Must complete Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course

14-17 Years:

Must complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course

Or,

successfully complete the Alberta Hunter Competency exam

General Requirements - Youth Hunters

Minimum Age:

A youth must be at least 12 years old to hunt under the authority of any hunting licence in Alberta.

Under 16:

All hunters under the age of 16 must have written permission from a parent or guardian to purchase

hunting licences.

11 Years Old:

Hunters who are 11 years old may apply in the draws for licences if they meet the above criteria but they must be 12 years old anytime before or during the open season for that draw.

You may not hunt until you are 12 years old.

Under 18:

To hunt with a firearm, hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent, a legal guardian or a person 18 years of age or older who has the written permission of the parent or legal guardian.

Get it right!

There are many regulations you need to be aware of as a hunter.

Always refer to the most recent edition of the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations for full details on hunting regulations in the province.

Regulations

Federal Firearms Legislation

The Firearms Act requires that individuals wishing to acquire non-restricted firearms must take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) and pass the tests or challenge and pass the CFSC tests without taking the course.

Topics covered in the Canadian Firearms Safety Course include:

- The evolution of firearms, major parts, types and actions
- Basic firearms safety practices
- Ammunition
- Operating firearm actions
- Safe handling and carry procedures
- Firing techniques and procedures
- Care of non-restricted firearms
- Responsibilities of the firearms owner/user
- Safe storage, display, transportation and handling of non-restricted firearms

HUNTING TERMS

Firearms Terms

- Action Assembly: Contains the moving parts which load the gun.
- Actions: Firearms are generally classified by their type of action. There are five basic types of action: bolt action, pump action, lever action, hinge action and

semi-automatic action.

- Aperture Sight: A firearm sight that contains a small hole that a shooter peeps through to aim at the target.
- Barrel Assembly: The metal tube through which the bullet or shot travels when the gun is fired.
- Calibre: The inside diameter of the barrel before the rifling has been cut, usually expressed in hundredths of an inch or in millimetres. For example, a .22 calibre barrel measures 22/100 of an inch in diameter.
- Open Sight: A firearm sight that works by aligning an open rear sight and a front bead sight on a target.
- Rifling: A series of grooves that twist through the barrel. Rifling makes the bullet spin as it leaves the gun, making it more stable in flight and therefore more accurate.
- Safety: The safety locks the trigger and blocks the gun's action so it cannot be fired.
- Scope Sight: A firearm sight that includes a mini telescope which is mounted on the rifle.
- Shotgun Choke: The narrowing found at the muzzle end of most shotgun barrels. The choke controls the pattern or spread of the shot and determines the distance at which the shotgun will be most effective.

- Shotgun Gauge: Shotgun barrels are classified by gauge instead of calibre. The gauge is the number of lead balls it takes to reach one pound. Each ball is the same diameter as the bore. For example, a 12 gauge shot gun accepts 12 lead balls that together weigh one pound.
- Sight: A device used to aim a firearm. There are three basic types of sights: open, aperture and scope.
- Stock Assembly: The handle of the firearm.

General Terms

- Archery: The art, practice or skill of shooting with a bow and arrow.
- Big Game Carnivores: Big game carnivores are meat-eating mammals which have teeth along the sides of their jaws for cutting food. Only five of the large species of carnivores found in Alberta are classed as game animals: cougar, coyote, wolf, black bear and grizzly.
- Big Game Ungulates: Big game ungulates are divided into two major categories: horned and antlered. Horned ungulates include bighorn sheep, mountain goats and antelope. Antlered ungulates include deer, caribou, elk and moose.
- Bowhunting: The sport of hunting game using archery equipment.
- Field Dressing: The procedure performed by a hunter to remove the entrails and skin from his game to prevent meat and hide from spoiling.

- Upland Game Birds: All upland game birds in Alberta are gallinaceous or "chicken-like." Upland game-bird species include in Alberta include: pheasant, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, gray partridge, ptarmigan and Merriam's turkey.
- Waterfowl: A large and important group of game birds that includes wild ducks and geese. Waterfowl nest in spring, raise their young over the summer and migrate south in the fall. Alberta's waterfowl game species include: Canada goose, mallard duck, Ross's goose, snow goose, white-fronted goose.