



“ABA Rules of Fair Chase” August 23, 2020

The Pope & Young Club and the Boone & Crockett Club have established, defined and maintained “rules” that define an ethical code of hunting referred to as FAIR CHASE. The Alberta Bowhunters Association had adopted the Pope and Young Club Rules of Fair Chase at the 2010 AGM. The concept of fair chase bowhunting is the very core of the P&Y/ABA’s belief system and one of our major focuses.

We have recently created our own “ABA Rules of Fair Chase” – they mirror that of P&Y and B&C for the most part.

From P&Y:

The fair chase philosophy reaches to the very foundations of the hunting spirit; it should be a dominant factor in the personal hunting ethic of every responsible individual; it is key to bowhunting’s future with deep roots in our hunting heritage.

Simply defined, fair chase is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit of free-ranging wild game animals in a manner which does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the animal.

The **“ABA Rules of Fair Chase”** shall not include the taking of animals under the following conditions:

- Helpless in a trap, deep snow or water, or on ice.
- From any power vehicle or power boat.
- By “jacklighting” or shining at night.
- By the use of any tranquilizers or poisons.
- While inside escape-proof fenced enclosures.
- By the use of any power vehicle or power boats for herding or driving animals, including use of aircraft to land alongside or to communicate with or direct a hunter on the ground.
- By the use of electronic devices for attracting, locating or pursuing game or guiding the hunter to such game. These devices would include:
 - artificial lighting.
 - sights with built-in electronic range-finding capabilities.
 - drones/unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)
 - thermal imaging equipment other than for use in searching for a wounded animal.
 - electronic game calls as defined in the Alberta Hunting Regulations (are allowed for use for hunting predators and snow geese).

- By the use of a bow or arrow to which any electronic device is attached with the exception of lighted nocks and recording devices that cast no light towards the target and do not aid in rangefinding, sighting or shooting the bow.
- Any other condition considered by the ABA Executive that would be considered unacceptable or contrary to the ethical conduct expected of an ABA member.