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## Hunting regulations

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The regulation is established on the basis of § 4 (3), § 24 (3), § 27 (4), § 29 (2), § 32 and § 42 (3) of the Hunting Act .

## Chapter 1 Hunting requirements and list of small game

### § 1. List of small game

The list of small game species is included in the annex to this regulation.

### § 2. List of dog breeds permitted for hunting

(1) It is permitted to use dog breeds used for hunting in Estonia listed in the list approved by the Estonian Kennel Club, taking into account the specifications of the Hunting Act and this regulation.

(2) The list of dog breeds used for hunting in Estonia, approved by the Estonian Kennel Club, has been published on the website of the Estonian Kennel Club.

### § 3. Bird hunting seasons, times and conditions for the use of permitted hunting methods and hunting with hunting dogs

(1) Collared doves may be hunted by decoy, ambush or sneak hunting from 1 August to 31 October.

(2) Bait, ambush or sneak hunting of avian species (e.g., mallard, merganser, black-tailed godwit, black-tailed godwit) and gulls (black-headed gull, osprey, herring gull, great black-backed gull) may be conducted, as well as hunting with a hunting dog, except for hunting dogs belonging to FCI ( *Fédération Cynologique Internationale* ) group 6, and for the purpose of population regulation, hunting of gulls with a box trap or crow trap may be conducted from 20 August to 31 October.

[ RT I, 12.03.2024, 15 - entry into force 15.03.2024 ]

(3) Partlastele ja kajakalistele võib pidada jahti lõikes 2 nimetatud jahipidamisviise ja vahendeid kasutades merel, Narva veehoidlal, Võrtsjärvel, Peipsi ja Pihkva järvel 20. augustist 30. novembrini.

[RT I, 12.03.2024, 15 - jõust. 15.03.2024]

(4) Hallhanele, rabahanele, suur-laukhanele, kanada laglele ja valgepõsk-laglele võib pidada varitsus-, hiilimis- või peibutusjahti ning jahti jahikoeraga, välja arvatud FCI 6. rühma kuuluva jahikoeraga, 20. septembrist 30. novembrini, sealhulgas valgepõsk-laglele nende lindude tekitatud põllukahjustuste piirkonnas kahjustuste vältimise eesmärgil.

[RT I, 15.07.2016, 1 - jõust. 18.07.2016]

(4<sup>1</sup>) Suur-laukhanele, kanada laglele ja valgepõsk-laglele võib pidada hiilimis- või varitsusjahti 15. märtsist 31. maini nende lindude tekitatud põllukahjustustega põllumassiividel kahjustuste vältimise eesmärgil Keskkonnaameti loal, milles määratakse lubatud küttemismahud liikide kaupa, kohustuslikud küttemisandmed ning vajaduse korral muud tingimused.

[RT I, 12.03.2024, 15 - jõust. 15.03.2024]

(5) Metskurvitsale ja kormoranile võib pidada otsi- või varitsus- või hiilimisjahti ning jahti FCI 7. ja 8. rühma kuuluva jahikoeraga 1. augustist 30. novembrini.

(6) Nurmkanale võib pidada otsijahti FCI 7. ja 8. rühma kuuluva jahikoeraga 1. septembrist 31. oktoobrini.

(7) Jahifaasanile võib pidada otsi-, varitsus- või hiilimisjahti või jahti jahikoeraga, välja arvatud FCI 6. rühma kuuluva jahikoeraga, 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni.

(8) Kännivaresele ja hallrästale võib pidada varitsus- või hiilimisjahti väljaspool pesitsusaega kahjustuste vältimise eesmärgil.  
[RT I, 15.07.2016, 1 - jõust. 18.07.2016]

(9) Hallvaresele ja kodutuvile võib pidada peibutus-, hiilimis- või varitsusjahti ning jahti varesemõrraga 1. juulist 31. märtsini.

(10) [Kehtetu - RT I, 15.07.2016, 1 - jõust. 18.07.2016]

#### **§ 4. Väikeulukite jahiajad, lubatud jahipidamisviiside kasutamise ning jahikoeraga jahipidamise ajad ja tingimused**

(1) Rebasele võib pidada peibutus- või varitsus- või hiilimisjahti ning jahti kastlõksuga 1. augustist 31. märtsini, uru- või ajujahti ning jahti jahikoeraga või piirdelippe kasutades 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni.

(2) Kährikule võib pidada peibutus- või varitsus- või hiilimisjahti ning jahti kastlõksuga aasta ringi, uru- või ajujahti ning jahti jahikoeraga või piirdelippe kasutades 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni.

(3) Kaitseala piires olevatel merelaidudel ja väikesaartel võib rebasele ja kährikule jahti pidada kastlõksu- või jahikoeraga 1. oktoobrist 30. aprillini.

(3<sup>1</sup>) Šaakalile võib pidada peibutus- või varitsus- või hiilimis- või ajujahti ning jahti piirdelippe kasutades 1. septembrist jahiaasta lõpuni ning jahti jahikoeraga 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni.  
[RT I, 04.09.2018, 11 - jõust. 07.09.2018]

(4) Mägrale võib pidada jahti 1. septembrist jahiaasta lõpuni, sealhulgas:

1) varitsus- või hiilimisjahti või jahti kastlõksuga 1. septembrist jahiaasta lõpuni;

2) uru- või ajujahti ning jahti jahikoeraga 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni.

(5) Enam kui 10 urusuudmega mägra urusüsteemi alal on urujaht keelatud.

(6) Urujahil lahtikaevatud uruosad tuleb jahi lõppedes kohe kinni ajada.

(7) Mets- või kivinugisele või tuhkrule võib pidada jahti püümisrauaga puult või ehitisest või jahti kastlõksuga või pidada nendele varitsus- või hiilimisjahti 1. oktoobrist 31. märtsini ning jahti jahikoeraga 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni.

(8) Mingile ehk ameerika naaritsale võib pidada varitsus- või hiilimisjahti või jahti kastlõksuga aasta ringi ning jahikoeraga 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni.

(9) Hall- või valgejänesele võib pidada jahti FCI 3., 4., 6. ja 10. rühma kuuluva jahikoeraga 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni.

(10) Ondatrale võib pidada jahti mõrraga, piirdevõrguga või varitsus- või hiilimisjahti 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni.

(11) Koprale võib pidada:

1) jahti mõrraga, piirdevõrguga, püümisrauaga või FCI 3. ja 4. rühma kuuluva jahikoeraga 1. augustist 15. märtsini;

2) jahti jahikoeraga 1. oktoobrist jahiaasta lõpuni;

3) varitsus- või hiilimisjahti või kobrast välja püüda FCI 3. ja 4. rühma kuuluva jahikoeraga 1. augustist 15. aprillini;

4) jahti aasta ringi kopra tekitatud kahjustuste korral varitsus- või hiilimisjahina või koprapüügina FCI 3. ja 4. rühma kuuluva jahikoeraga Keskkonnaameti loal.

5) [kehtetu - RT I, 12.03.2024, 15 - jõust. 15.03.2024]

(12) Hiilimis- või varitsus-koprajahil vibuga peab nool olema kinnitatud vibu külge nõõriga.

(13) Aasta ringi on keelatud koprajaht Võrtsjärvel, Emajõel, Pärnu jõel suudmest kuni Pärnu-Rakvere-Sõmeru mnt sillani, Narva ja Kasari jõel ilma lisajõgedeta, välja arvatud Keskkonnaameti loaga.

[RT I, 21.07.2023, 1 - jõust. 24.07.2023]

#### **§ 5. Suurulukite jahiajad, lubatud jahipidamisviiside kasutamise ning jahikoeraga jahipidamise ajad ja tingimused jahil**

(1) Karule, välja arvatud poegadega emakarule, võib pidada varitsus- või hiilimisjahti 1. augustist 31. oktoobrini karu tekitatud kahjustuste piirkonnas kahjustuste vältimise eesmärgil või inimese elule või tervisele tekkiva ohu vältimiseks.  
[RT I, 21.07.2023, 1 - jõust. 24.07.2023]

(2) Lure, ambush, sneak or brain hunting of wolves may be conducted and hunting may be conducted using boundary flags and a hunting dog from 1 November until the end of the hunting year.  
[RT I, 20.12.2019, 29 - entry into force 23.12.2019]

(3) Lynx, except for lynxes with pups, may be hunted by decoy, ambush, sneak or stalking, and hunted with a hunting dog from 1 December until the end of the hunting year.

(4) Elk may be hunted from 15 September to 15 December, including:

1) bull hunting by ambush, sneaking or decoy from 15 September to 15 December, and hunting with a hunting dog, except for hunting dogs belonging to FCI group 6, whose maximum height at the withers is over 52 cm as approved in the breed standard, from 1 October to 15 December;

2) cow and calf hunting by ambush, sneaking or decoy or decoy and hunting with a hunting dog, except for hunting dogs belonging to FCI group 6, whose maximum height at the withers is over 52 cm as approved in the breed standard, from 1 October to 15 December.

(5) Red deer may be hunted from 15 August to 15 February, including:

1) ambush, stalking or decoy hunting of a bull from 1 September to 15 February and hunting with a hunting dog, except for hunting dogs belonging to FCI group 6, whose maximum height at the withers is over 52 cm, as approved in the breed standard, from 1 October to 15 February;

2) ambush, stalking or decoy hunting of a cow and calf from 15 August to 31 January and hunting with a hunting dog, except for hunting dogs belonging to FCI group 6, whose maximum height at the withers is over 52 cm, as approved in the breed standard, from 1

October to 31 January.

[ RT I, 25.01.2019, 8 - entry into force 28.01.2019]

(6) Wild boar may be hunted:

- 1) year-round by ambush, stalking or stalking;
- 2) from 1 October to 31 March by hunting dogs, except for hunting dogs belonging to FCI group 6, whose maximum height at the withers, as approved in the breed standard, is over 52 cm;

[ RT I, 14.08.2015, 20 - entry into force 17.08.2015]

3) by hunting using a trap in cases determined by the Environmental Board.

[ RT I, 13.01.2016, 6 - entry into force 16.01.2016]

(7) Wild roe deer may be hunted from 1 June to 31 January, including:

- 1) ambush, sneak or lure hunting of roe deer from 1 June to 31 January, and hunting with a hunting dog belonging to FCI groups 3 and 4 and a hunting dog belonging to FCI group 6, the maximum height at the withers of which is 52 cm as approved in the breed standard, from 1 October to 31 January;

[ RT I, 21.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 1. 24.07.2023]

- 2) ambush or sneak hunting of goats or lambs from 1 September to 31 January and hunting with hunting dogs belonging to FCI groups 3 and 4 and hunting dogs belonging to FCI group 6, the maximum height at the withers of which is 52 cm as approved in the breed standard, from 1 October to 31 January.

[ RT I, 21.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 24.07.2023]

(8) Grey seal may be hunted by ambush or stalking from 15 April to 31 December.

[ RT I, 21.11.2014, 2 - entry into force 24.11.2014]

## **Chapter 2**

### **Hunting safety**

#### **§ 6. General hunting safety requirements**

(1) In order to ensure hunting safety, it is prohibited to:

- 1) be intoxicated while hunting, having consumed alcohol, narcotics or psychotropic substances;
- 2) leave a hunting weapon unattended in a place accessible to another person;
- 3) point a hunting weapon or a cocked hunting bow at a person;
- 4) hunt with a malfunctioning hunting weapon;
- 5) shoot or shoot with a hunting bow in the direction of sound or movement of branches (hay, rushes, etc.) or at objects that are poorly visible (fog, against the sun, etc.), as well as in the direction of visible buildings;
- 6) hit wounded game with a hunting weapon;
- 7) put down a loaded hunting weapon;
- 8) cross obstacles (ditches, ditches, fences, etc.) with a loaded hunting weapon;
- 9) shoot or shoot with a hunting bow over or between people in a boat, also while standing in a boat, and change places in a boat if there is even one loaded firearm;
- 10) set traps in such a way that they are dangerous to other animals and people;
- 11) shoot using an artificial light source if the muzzle of the gun is lower than 2.5 metres from the ground at the moment of the shot.

[ RT I, 13.01.2016, 6 - entry into force 16.01.2016]

(2) Only arrows with flu-flu feathers are permitted for bow hunting of birds.

#### **§ 7. Hunting safety requirements when transporting and handling hunting weapons**

(1) It is the responsibility of every hunter to ensure safety when handling and storing a hunting weapon or bow during hunting.

(2) In a means of transport, a hunting weapon must be unloaded and in a gun bag or holster, except when hunting from a boat and immediately before shooting when hunting wild boar from a motorized or all-terrain vehicle with the engine stopped.

[ RT I, 13.01.2016, 6 - entry into force 16.01.2016]

(3) An unloaded hunting weapon is a weapon that does not have cartridges in the barrel or in a magazine attached to the weapon.

(4) When changing shooting locations during a joint hunt, an unloaded hunting weapon may be left outside the bag in the means of transport.

#### **§ 8. Hunting safety requirements for collective hunting**

To ensure hunting safety, it is prohibited to:

- 1) load a hunting weapon at the shooting range before determining the locations of neighboring hunters;
- 2) be present at gathering points with a loaded weapon. At the gathering point, the weapon must be unlocked or with the lock open;
- 3) be present at the hunting range, except for ambush hunting from a high seat, without a red or orange outer coat or vest that is clearly distinguishable in nature;
- 4) leave the shooting range without the permission of the hunting director before the end of the hunt;
- 5) shoot or shoot with a hunting bow in the direction of the hunters and the hunters, unless you are sure of complete safety;
- 6) designate intensively used state roads as a hunting line, where safe hunting is not guaranteed;
- 7) start chasing wounded game before the end of the hunt;
- 8) the hunters must be present with a loaded hunting weapon in the hunt, except in the case of shooting standing game with a dog in the hunt;
- 9) Drivers must cross the hunting line before the appropriate signal.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Organizing big game and bow hunting shooting tests and issuing shooting test certificates**

## **§ 9. Issuer of big game and bow hunting shooting test certificate**

(1) A certificate for a big game and bow hunting shooting test (hereinafter *shooting test*) shall be issued by the Environmental Board or a person who has entered into a contract under public law with the Ministry of Climate on the basis of subsection 10 (1) of the Hunting Act (hereinafter *the issuer of the certificate*).

[ RT I, 13.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 16.07.2023]

(2) A shooting test certificate is issued to the hunter who has completed the shooting test.

## **§ 10. Shooting test acceptance committee**

(1) In order to accept a shooting test, the issuer of the certificate shall form a shooting test acceptance committee (hereinafter the *committee*) of at least three members, whereby one member of the committee must be a shooting instructor, or in the case of a bowhunting shooting test, an archery instructor. The chairman of the committee shall be appointed by the issuer of the certificate.

(2) An archery instructor for the purposes of this regulation is a bowhunting instructor with a certificate from the International Bowhunting Education Program (IBEP).

(3) The committee is competent to make decisions if at least two committee members are present, including a shooting instructor, or in the case of a bowhunting shooting test, an archery instructor.

(4) A member of the committee appointed by the chairman of the committee shall draw up a report in which the results of the shooting test are recorded. The report shall be signed by the members of the committee who accepted the shooting test.

(5) The certificate issuer shall retain the shooting test protocols for three years.

## **§ 11. Time and place of shooting test**

The time and place of the shooting test are determined by the person issuing the certificate.

## **§ 12. Taking a big game shooting test**

(1) A big game shooting test must be conducted with a smooth-bore or rifled hunting weapon in the hunter's possession, the ammunition of which is a centre-fire cartridge loaded with a bullet.

[ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

(2) An applicant for a big game shooting test certificate must have a weapons permit with them when taking the shooting test.

(3) The big game shooting test acceptance committee shall identify the applicant for a big game shooting test certificate by checking the weapon permit before the test. The identity of the person shall be confirmed by the test taker with his or her signature on the shooting test report.

(4) The big game shooting test is conducted under the guidance of a shooting instructor.

(5) In order to use a smooth-bore hunting weapon in big game hunting, the applicant for a shooting test certificate shall perform the exercise "running wild boar", in which:

1) a round target (with an external diameter of 50 cm) or a target with the complete silhouette of an Estonian wild boar may be used as a target;

[ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

2) the shooting distance is 35 metres;

3) before performing the exercise, the weapon may be in a waiting position on the hip or shoulder;

4) [Repealed RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015] 5) six single shots are fired, of which two shots are fired at a stationary target and four shots at a moving target; 6) there is 3 minutes to fire two shots at a stationary target; 7) two runs are fired at a moving target from right to left and two runs from left to right; 8) the shooting attempt is considered completed if at least five of the six shots have hit the target area.

(6) In order to use a rifled or combined hunting weapon in big game hunting, an applicant for a shooting test certificate shall complete a rifled hunting weapon exercise with either a rifled or combined hunting weapon, running wild boar.

[ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

(7) When using a rifled or combined hunting weapon, a running wild boar during an exercise:

[ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

1) a round target (with an outer diameter of 34 cm) or a target with the complete silhouette of an Estonian wild boar may be used as a target; [ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015] 2) the shooting distance is 50 metres;

[ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015] 3) before performing the exercise, the weapon may be in a waiting position on the hip or shoulder; 4) six single shots are fired, of which two shots are fired at a stationary target and four shots at a moving target; 5) there is a time limit of 3 minutes to fire two shots at a stationary target; 6) two shots are fired from right to left and two shots are fired from left to right at a moving target; 7) the shooting attempt is considered completed if at least five of the six shots have hit the round target sheet or the hit area marked with number three on the Estonian wild boar target sheet (circle with a diameter of 34 cm). [ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

(8) [Repealed RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

(9) In order to use a smooth-bore hunting weapon in big game hunting, except for hunting for game, the applicant for a shooting test certificate shall complete a smooth-bore hunting weapon exercise at a standing target at a shooting distance of 35 metres, in which case:

- 1) a round target (with an outer diameter of 34 cm) is used;
- 2) the exercise is performed from a support or from a freely chosen position, except for the prone shooting position;
- 3) the time for firing six single shots is 9 minutes;
- 4) the shooting test shall be considered completed if five shots have hit the round target.

[ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

(10) In order to use a rifled or combined hunting weapon in big game hunting, except for hunting for game, the applicant for a shooting test certificate shall perform a rifled hunting weapon exercise on a standing target at a shooting distance of 50 metres, in which case:

- 1) a round target (with an outer diameter of 10 cm) is used as the target;
- 2) the exercise is performed from a support or from a freely chosen position, except for the prone shooting position;
- 3) the time for firing six single shots is 9 minutes;
- 4) the shooting test shall be deemed to have been completed if five shots have hit the round target.

[ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

(11) When performing the shooting test referred to in subsections 9 and 10, it is not permitted to mechanically attach the weapon to a support or to use knee pads, shooting mats or other aids during shooting, except for a sight and a weapon belt attached to the weapon.

[ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

### **§ 13. Taking a bowhunting shooting test**

(1) A bow hunting shooting test must be conducted with the bow in use by the hunter.

(2) The archery shooting test acceptance committee shall identify the person applying for an archery shooting test certificate before the test is taken. The person accepting the test shall confirm the identity of the person by signing the shooting test report.

(3) The bowhunting shooting test is conducted under the guidance of an archery instructor.

(4) The archery shooting test is conducted at six 3D targets. The targets are located:

- 1) IFAA ( *International Field Archery Association* ) Group 4 targets at distances of 10, 12 and 14 meters;
- 2) IFAA Group 3 targets at distances of 16, 18 and 20 meters.

(5) A bowhunting shooting attempt is considered successful if six out of six shots have hit the target's vital hit area. A hit is also considered to be an arrow touching the line.

### **§ 14. Issuance of shooting test certificates and keeping records of issued certificates**

(1) The issuer of a shooting test certificate shall issue the certificate to the applicant within 10 days after the shooting test has been completed.

(2) A big game shooting test certificate is issued to a hunter who has not taken a shooting test, but has achieved at least a third-place result in the exercise of running moose or running wild boar or running wild boar from a rifle or shooting standing silhouettes from a rifle in a competition specified in the national or county competition calendar in the year of issuance of the big game shooting test certificate, and this is recorded in the competition protocol.

(3) The certificate issuer shall keep records of shooting test certificates.

## **Chapter 4 Implementing provision**

### **§ 15. Entry into force of the Regulation**

The regulation enters into force on 1 June 2013.

### **§ 16. Implementation of the Regulation**

Big game shooting test certificates issued before 15 July 2015 are valid until their expiry date.

[ RT I, 11.07.2015, 1 - entry into force 15.07.2015]

Annex List of small game

[ RT I, 12.03.2024, 15 - entry into force 15.03.2024]