

As of June 8, 2022

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Code Book

The regulations in this Code Book are hereby adopted by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

06.00 Killing Device, Firearm, And Ammunition Regulations

- [06.01](#) Certain Killing Devices And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Rabbit And Squirrel
- [06.02](#) Certain Firearms And Ammunition Prohibited During Modern Gun Deer Seasons
- [06.03](#) Certain Firearms Prohibited During Muzzleloading Seasons
- [06.04](#) Archery Tackle Restrictions
- [06.05](#) Firearms Prohibited While Archery Or Crossbow Hunting
- [06.06](#) Certain Firearms And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Wild Turkey Or Quail
- [06.07](#) Certain Killing Devices And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Raccoon, Opossum, Or Bobcat At Night
- [06.08](#) Certain Killing Devices And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Migratory Game Birds
- [06.09](#) Certain Killing Devices Prohibited For Hunting Bear
- [06.10](#) Certain Weapons And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Elk

06.01 Certain Killing Devices And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Rabbit And Squirrel

It is unlawful to hunt rabbit or squirrel by use of:

- A. Rifled slugs or shot larger than No. T shot;
- B. Rifles or pistols larger than .22 caliber rimfire;
- C. Muzzleloading firearms larger than .40 caliber; or
- D. Traps.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Rabbit and squirrel may be taken with muzzleloading firearms larger than .40 caliber during open muzzleloader bear and deer seasons.
- B. RESERVED.
- C. Rabbits may be taken during open rabbit season with box traps having interior dimensions not larger than 8 inches in width and 10 inches in height, and no more than 8 traps per individual.

PENALTY: Class 1

**06.02 Certain Firearms And Ammunition
Prohibited During Modern Gun Deer Seasons**

- A. It is unlawful to hunt deer during statewide modern gun deer seasons with:
1. Prohibited muzzleloading firearms (Code [06.03](#));
 2. Any .410 shotguns using ammunition other than slugs;
 3. Any shotguns using shot smaller than No. 4 buckshot;
 4. Handguns with either:
 - i. Barrels shorter than 4 inches,
 - ii. Conventional straight-walled calibers less than .357, or
 - iii. Bottleneck-case calibers less than .22;
 5. Rifles and handguns using rimfire cartridges in compliance with Code [06.11](#);
 6. Any centerfire rifle smaller than .22 caliber; or
 7. Air Rifles, except big bore air rifles that meet all of the following requirements:
 - i. A minimum of .40 caliber;
 - ii. Produce a minimum of 400 foot pounds of muzzle energy;
 - iii. Are charged via an external tank; and
 - iv. Propels a single, expandable slug.
- B. It also is unlawful for any person to hunt deer during modern gun deer seasons in Deer Zones 4, 4B, 5, 5B with any firearms other than the following:
1. Shotguns (.410 or larger) with slugs only;
 2. Legal muzzleloading long guns (Code [06.03](#));
 3. Handguns having barrels between 4 and 10 inches in length and chambered specifically for straight-wall centerfire cartridge cases and hunting with lead and, lead alloy, soft-nose and/or hollow-point bullets no less than .30 caliber; or

- As of June 8, 2022
4. Big bore air rifles that meet all of the following requirements:
 - i. A minimum of .40 caliber;
 - ii. Produce a minimum of 400 foot pounds of muzzle energy;
 - iii. Are charged via an external tank; and
 - iv. Propel a single, expandable slug.
 - C. Archery, muzzleloader, or modern gun may be used during the private land antlerless modern gun deer hunt, hunter orange will still be required, and only 1 weapon of choice is allowed.

EXCEPTION: In compliance with Code [05.19](#).

PENALTY: Class 1

06.03 Certain Firearms Prohibited During Muzzleloading Seasons

It is unlawful to hunt deer or bear during the muzzleloading deer or bear seasons with or to possess:

- A. Firearms capable of being loaded by means other than through the muzzle or of firing centerfire or rimfire ammunition;
- B. Muzzleloading firearms firing more than one projectile per barrel or chamber (buckshot prohibited);
- C. Muzzleloading long guns smaller than .40 caliber or with barrels shorter than 18 inches in length; or
- D. Muzzleloading handguns with barrels less than 9 inches in length, of smaller than .45 caliber, and loaded with a projectile weighing less than 200 grains (.45 caliber or larger conical bullets, or .530 and larger round balls).

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Any caliber muzzleloading handgun or (cap and ball) percussion revolver is permitted to be carried when a legal muzzleloading long gun is in hunter's immediate possession.
- B. In compliance with Code [05.19](#).
- C. Hunters of a deer camp enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program who has been issued an Unrestricted Weapon Antlerless Permit or Management Buck Permit may hunt deer in compliance with the terms of the permit.

PENALTY: Class 1

06.04 Archery Tackle Restrictions

- A. Archery equipment is limited to the following:
1. Compound bow, crossbow, longbow and recurve bow. Longbows and recurve bows with a draw weight of 35 pounds or more.
 2. Crossbows with functional mechanical safety device and a draw weight of 125 pounds or more.
- B. It is unlawful to hunt wildlife with any of the following archery tackle:
1. A longbow or compound bow with a draw weight of less than 35 pounds;
 2. A crossbow without a functional mechanical safety device or with a draw weight of less than 125 pounds;
 3. Arrows with an arrowhead width of less than 7/8 inch when open;
 4. Arrows or arrowheads containing poisons or chemicals;
 5. Arrowheads containing firearm ammunition;
 6. Arrows propelled from a compressed air system; or
 7. Arrows propelled by the action of an explosive or combustible propellant.

EXCEPTION: Small game may be hunted using arrowheads less than 7/8 inch in width.

PENALTY: Class 1

06.05 Firearms Prohibited While Archery Or Crossbow Hunting

It is unlawful to have a firearm in one's immediate possession while hunting bear, deer or turkey with archery tackle.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Legal firearms when and where a firearms bear or deer season is open.
- B. In compliance with Code [05.19](#).
- C. Hunters of a deer camp enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program who has been issued an Unrestricted Weapon Antlerless Permit or Management Buck Permit may hunt deer in compliance with the terms of the permit.

PENALTY: Class 1

06.06 Certain Firearms And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Wild Turkey Or Quail

It is unlawful to hunt wild turkey or quail with the use of rifles, muzzleloading rifles, handguns, or shot larger than No. 2 common shot (.15 inch in diameter).

EXCEPTION:In compliance with Code [05.19](#).

PENALTY: Class 1

06.07 Certain Killing Devices And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Raccoon, Opossum, Or Bobcat At Night

It is unlawful to hunt raccoon, opossum, or bobcat at night with any rifled slug or shot size larger than No. T, or with any rifle or handgun ammunition other than rimfire ammunition of .22 caliber or smaller.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. In compliance with Code [05.10](#).
- B. RESERVED.

PENALTY: Class 1

06.08 Certain Killing Devices And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Migratory Game Birds

It is unlawful to hunt or possess while hunting migratory game birds with the following:

- A. Lead shot larger than No. BB (.18 inches in diameter)
- B. Non-toxic shot larger than No. T (.20 inches in diameter)
- C. Any shot other than steel, tungsten-iron, tungsten-iron (Hevi-Steel), tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron nickle-tin (TINT), tungsten nickel iron (Hevi-Shot), tungsten-bronz (TBI), tungsten-tin bismuth (TTB) or such shot approved as non-toxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to [50 CFR 20.21](#)
- D. Any firearm other than a shotgun incapable of holding more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined. Shotguns requiring plugs must be plugged with a 1-piece filler which requires disassembly of the firearm for removal.

PENALTY: Class 1

06.09 Certain Killing Devices Prohibited For Hunting Bear

It is unlawful to hunt bear with killing devices other than those in compliance with Codes [06.02](#), [06.03](#), [06.04](#), [06.11](#).

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Shotguns 20 gauge or larger with only rifled slugs may be used.
- B. In compliance with Code [05.19](#).

PENALTY: Class 1

06.10 Certain Weapons And Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Elk

It is unlawful to hunt elk with:

- A. Muzzleloading firearms smaller than .50 caliber;
- B. Shotguns smaller than 20 gauge;
- C. Shot for shotguns other than slugs;
- D. Archery tackle that is not in compliance with Code [06.04](#);
- E. Conventional straight-wall case handgun calibers smaller than .41 caliber (.410) or bottleneck-case handgun calibers smaller than .24 caliber (.244/6mm);
- F. Modern firearms smaller than .24 caliber (6mm);
- G. Modern firearms that are not centerfire;
- H. Modern firearm ammunition with bullet weight less than 100 grains in compliance with Code [06.11](#); or
- I. Air rifles.

EXCEPTION:

In compliance with Code [05.19](#).

PENALTY: Class 1

06.11 Certain Ammunition Prohibited For Hunting Wildlife

It is unlawful to hunt wildlife with, or have in possession while hunting wildlife, the following types of ammunition:

- A. Military ball ammunition; or
- B. Full-metal jacket ammunition.

PENALTY: Class 1