

IMPORTANT: Please read the rules and regulations thoroughly. You have signed an agreement to read the front portion of the book completely, if you don't understand something, or you are not sure if it applies to you, please call our office for clarification before you start using club property. If you break certain rules, your membership can be canceled or suspended. Failure to know club rules is not an acceptable excuse for violations. Strict enforcement of club rules for all members has always been our policy. It is not our desire to see any member reprimanded, but we do diligently enforce our rules. There are three major reasons we have the rules we have, and numerous minor reasons. The major reasons are: 1. **Safety** (see item #3 under rules and regulations), 2. **Landowner relations** (see item #5 under rules and regulations), and 3. **Member Satisfaction and fairness:** What is fair for one should be fair for all. There is no favoritism shown for any members. All members are playing on a level playing field and the rules apply equally to everyone including all staff personnel and Charter Members. Rules won't be made which lessen the enjoyment of being a member unless they are necessary to insure a safe and sensible operation. If you disagree with any rule, don't break it, but do let us know that you disagree and why. Year round you can send in your rule change suggestions. All rules are subject to change, but any rules voted in by the majority of members will never be overridden by club management, even if management disagrees with the rule. Members must bear in mind, however, that management makes all financial decisions.

We can't possibly have rules and regulations for every situation, or this book would look like a government policy manual. If we don't have a specific rule, or you don't remember the rule, and you are hunting, use your common sense and best judgment, but keep in mind you must only do what is legal, safe, and fair to the landowner and other members.

SOUTHERN OHIO SPORTSMEN RULES AND REGULATIONS Updated August 2010

1. **Member/Family Dependent/Guest/Floating Guest**

1.1. **Member-** A member shall be any person who has fully paid all current dues, who has no delinquent balance with the club, and who is in good standing.

1.1.1. **Membership Materials**

A. SOS club membership cards, vehicle identification signs, reservation system user name and password, and any other items used by SOS for member ID are for use only by the member. Such materials are solely for the member's personal use and are not to be otherwise used, duplicated or distributed in any way. Loaning or otherwise allowing the use of these items by anyone else is a rules violation.

B. **Vehicle ID:**

- 1) Each member on acceptance to the club is issued a vehicle ID with their unique member number. This ID must be placed on the member's vehicle (or vehicle using that day) readily visible hanging on the rear view mirror. There is a \$10.00 replacement charge lost ID.
- 2) Members are required to provide their vehicle make, color, model and license plate number for club records. The vehicle license plate number combined with the vehicle ID adds to the club's ability to enforce that only members are using club properties.

C. **ID Card:** Members shall carry their ID card whenever on club property. Upon request, the card shall be shown to SOS representatives, landowners, or SOS members. There is a \$10.00 replacement charge lost ID.

1.2. **Family Dependent-** As defined by the current Internal Revenue Service Regulations for Dependents. Spouse, and any child of a member still reported to the IRS as a dependent.

- A. Children within a family membership must hunt on the same farm as the parent is hunting and at the same time. At no time will any child ever be permitted to hunt on his own and not accompanied by the parent that is a member.
- B. Spouses within a family membership may hunt independently of each other on the same property as the member.
- C. All members are entitled to take their family dependents an unlimited number of

times.

D. Hold Harmless Agreement and Rules of Conduct forms must be signed by all of for all dependants before they access club property.

1.3. **Guest-** A guest shall be any person who is not a member of SOS or a member's family dependent. Guest approval shall be at the discretion of SOS. It is the member's responsibility to make sure their guests know and follow the club rules. There is a \$100 per day fee for all guests.

A. A guest shall be allowed to visit club land only 3 days in the most recent 12 month period.

B. A member may take 1 guest for deer/turkey firearms hunting and 2 for all other types of game/hunting, fishing or camping.

C. Inactive members are not allowed as guests. **Former SOS members pay a \$100 daily guest fee regardless of the type of membership you have**, unless you have a Floating guest membership you can take them under.

D. Hold Harmless Agreement and Rules of Conduct- All guests/dependents must complete and sign a hold harmless agreement and Rules of Conduct before they can use club property. The club must receive a hold harmless agreement and Rules of Conduct signed by the member once for each guests/dependents per lifetime. Guests/dependents under the age of 18 must provide a hold harmless agreement with the indemnification signed by a parent or guardians, since agreements signed by minors alone, are not binding. The member inviting the guest is responsible to get the Hold Harmless Agreement for their guest to SOS. Once any guest/dependent has signed a completed hold harmless agreement, it should be promptly sent to SOS, to be kept on file permanently. The guests/dependents name, address, phone number and birth date should be legible and completely written on the form, and members are to sign the form to indicate you witnessed their signature. If you fail to submit the hold harmless agreement promptly, future reservations for the same person can not be accepted, until the hold harmless has been received by SOS. Failure to do so will be a rules violation. If you know who will be your guest in the future, go ahead and have them sign the agreement now, and send to SOS (mail, e-mail or fax). Members should sign agreements as guardians for their minor children, if they anticipate they will be visiting our land. Wives of members, and children 18 or more years of age, must also sign the agreements if they will be visiting SOS land for any purpose.

E. FEES- The member in whose name the reservation is made will be solely responsible for the payment of all member, guest and daily fees due, even if guests are invited by another member of the party. Fees are subject to change, with reasonable notice. Fees are the same for all members. Fees are due on or before the date of the reservations, and considered delinquent if not paid before the reservation date. SOS will suspend any member and not allow them to make any additional reservations after 30 days until the due amount plus late charges are paid. We do not bill members for current fees, we only send statements if fees become delinquent and each statement will have a \$3.00 bookkeeping service charge added to defray the unnecessary billing and bookkeeping expense. We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express cards, if you find that method of payment more convenient. Many members send in money to keep on account, from which we can deduct guest fees.

F. Guest Changes- If you make any changes in the guests/dependents that you named when you made your reservations, whether you are substituting one person for another, adding additional guests, or reducing the number in your party, you must make your changes before 8:00 AM on the day of the reservation on-line or call the office. Or by calling the office before you enter the club land you reserved, if you do not know of the changes till that time. DO NOT TAKE DIFFERENT, MORE OR LESS GUESTS ON CLUB LAND, UNLESS YOU HAVE NOTIFIED US IN ADVANCE OF THE CHANGES. Failure to notify SOS before you enter the property is a rule violation, and you will still be responsible for payment of any fees which would have been due, for the people named in the reservation, if you fail to notify us of the change in advance. Membership subject to

cancellation if our security personnel find you taking different or more guests than those you have listed on your reservation, if you didn't notify us of the changes in advance.

1.4 **Annual Guest-** Annual guest memberships are \$495 per year. An annual guest membership allows a member to take a guest more than the 3 days in a 12 month period. 1 guest per day is allowed under the floating guest membership, but you can still take 1 or 2 regular guests depending on what type of hunting you are doing. There is no extra charge for an annual guest.

1.5 **Tag Along-**Any person accompanying a member who is not hunting or fishing. There is no fee for a tag along, but you must have a **Hold Harmless and Rules of Conduct** for them.

2. State and Federal Rules, Regulations, Laws, Etc.

- 2.1. **Applicable-** All state and federal rules, regulations, laws, etc., currently in force shall be a part of SOS rules as if written here and shall be rigidly adhered to by all members, family dependents, and guests of SOS. The member who makes the reservation is responsible for informing all people in his party what licenses are required and asking if they have all the licenses they need.
- 2.2. **Violations-** All violations shall be promptly reported to the proper enforcement authorities by SOS members.
- 2.3. **Summons, Tickets, Etc. -** Any member, family dependents, and guests receiving summons, tickets, while hunting on SOS property, shall report such actions to SOS by the member.

3. **Safety:** Accidents don't just happen, they are caused. If every hunter abides by common sense safety rules which all of you should be aware of, then there wouldn't be any accidental injuries, deaths, or property damage caused by guns or arrows. Hunting club insurance is very expensive and difficult to get. The insurance rates are increasing rapidly, due to injuries which result in claims or litigation. If we have an accident, our rates will either increase and the cost will be passed on to members thru higher dues, or our insurance could be canceled, in which case we would have to cease doing business, until we find another firm willing to insure us. Our success and your continued enjoyment of hunting depend on the safety practices of every member.

- 3.1. **Responsibility-** Every SOS member shall be responsible for themselves and their family dependents and guests to conduct themselves in a safe manner and to observe safety rules at all times.
- 3.2. **Hunter Safety Regulations-** All members, family dependents, and guests shall meet all legal requirements of federal or state regulations with regard to safety. Current hunter safety cards where legally required shall be carried while using SOS property.
- 3.3. **Accidents, Violations-** Any accidents, violations of safety regulations, or unsafe conduct shall be reported to SOS by the member.

4. Alcohol or Illegal Drug Use

- 4.1. **Use on SOS Property-** The consumption or use of alcohol or illegal drugs while on club property is strictly prohibited.
- 4.2. **Under Influence-** The use of SOS property by anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited. Under influence of alcohol shall be as legally defined by the Motor Vehicle Laws in the state where using SOS property. A minimum of 2 hours per drink shall pass with a maximum of 8 hours after drinking before entering SOS property.
- 4.3. **Transportation of Alcohol or Drugs-** The transportation in any form of illegal drugs on SOS property is prohibited. The transportation of alcohol in sealed containers on SOS property is not a rules violation unless the information on a specific property prohibits such transportation.
- 4.4. **Violation-** Any violation of these rules shall be reported to SOS by a member.

5. Landowner-

- 5.1. **Landowner Rights-** The landowner has rights that take precedence over hunting rights, SOS members will not interfere with farm activities such as farming, lumbering, cattle operations, etc. If you're unable to use the farm you reserved contact SOS immediately.
- 5.2. **Responsibility to the landowner-** Every property leased by SOS is covered by a comprehensive, formal lease which spells out specific responsibilities which the club and landowner jointly agree to comply with. Our lease agreements must be followed to the letter, by all members, in order to

preserve the integrity and honor of the club. All terms of the lease are reasonable, logical, sensible, and entice landowners to lease to SOS, instead of other clubs or individuals. Many landowners who lease to SOS wouldn't even consider allowing hunters on their land, before SOS approached them and SOS **guaranteed them we would follow the rules shown in this book.**

- 5.3. **Landowner Requirements-** Individual landowners have specified certain requirements such as, check at house before hunting, don't open certain gates, etc. When viewing the maps these requirements are found in the description and the alerts and restrictions sections. **These requirements shall be strictly adhered to by all SOS members, family dependents, and guests.**
- 5.4. **Lease Terms-** SOS member's and their guests are strictly prohibited from discussing any terms of SOS's lease's with any landowner who is leasing land to SOS. Member's who are interested in exploring personal land leases should respect the club's prior rights and avoid any conversations with landowners which might compromise the club's proprietary rights. Any person who leases or attempt's to lease directly, or indirectly, any leased SOS land which they are introduced to thru their membership or as a guest of a member, will be permanently banned as a member and guest from all SOS land thereafter, unless their first attempt to lease is made at least 5 years after the expiration of the last SOS lease on the same land.
- 5.5. **Landowner Contact-** Never phone the landowner unless your call has first been approved by the office. When you are on the farm you have reserved, if you see the landowner you should wave, exchange greetings, and be friendly. Do not go out of you way to interrupt the landowner if it is obvious he is very busy and doesn't have time for a conversation, but don't ignore him if he is close enough to say hello. Landowners do like to know we appreciate the opportunity to use their land. If a landowner wants to discuss club business, refer him to the office, or offer to tell him you will ask the office to call him. You can compliment the landowner on his land, but don't tell him his land is the best or better than our other land, if he is told his land is superior our cost goes up.
- 5.6. **Landowner Relations-** We value your membership greatly, and hope our association with you lasts many years, but we think it is only fair to tell you that we value our relationship with landowners even more. Yes, there is lots of land out there, but it is also not easy to get the hunting rights to good quality land, at a price which keeps membership affordable for you. To avoid antagonizing landowners remember to leave nothing on the land that you carried onto it. Trash, spent shells, metal pull tabs, plastic bags, etc., should never be left behind. Insignificant things can end up costing lots. So if you can carry it on the land, you can carry it off the land. Just follow the rules, that's all we ask. If you don't follow the rules, and you cause the club to lose a lease, you have not only hurt all members, but you will probably stop other neighboring landowners from leasing to us as well. We need the landowners more than they need us. Let's keep them happy, they are very hard to get, and extremely easy to lose.

6. Reservations

- 6.1. **Member Reservations-** No member, family dependent, or guest shall enter upon SOS property without a member first making a valid reservation with SOS and receiving confirmation of the reservation. Reservations can only be made by actually talking to SOS office personnel, during normal hours or 24/7 with the on-line reservation system. Request for reservations cannot be left on the recorder, e-mailed or faxed in.
- A. By Phone-** Call 937-603-7701 Monday through Friday 8:30 A.M. To 5:00 P.M. Central Time.
- B. Rules for Using the Reservation System:**
- 1) All reservations need to be made a minimum of three days before you plan to hunt to insure that your reservation gets processed and no more than Sixty days before you plan to hunt.
 - 2) Members who hunt together but make reservations separately, each taking a different unit, but then planning to hunt together on the land reserved for the other, are abusing the system. If two or more members are hunting together, one of them should make the reservation for both of them, and usually on the same unit. Members, who engage in this unacceptable practice, may be required to phone in their reservations, rather than continue to use the online system, which

will be an inconvenience to them as well as our office staff. Please don't try to find clever ways to get around the rules. **Please note:** The day before your reservation after 3:00 P.M. members can call to pick up additional units/farms for the following day's reservations on all types of game, but Deer-Firearm. Fridays after 3:00 P.M. additional land is given for Saturday, Sunday and Monday reservations. Holidays, whatever the last day we are in the office after 3:00 P.M.

3) We continue to see members making online reservations incorrectly, showing their dependents as guests. This will cause you to be charged for guest fees, when in fact they aren't, but if you put them down as guests, you will be expected to pay guest fees for them. We must rely on your information to be correct, we simply don't have the time to question and verify all the information you put down.

6.2. **SOS Reservation Requirements-** SOS shall have the exclusive right to establish procedures, methods, times, etc. for members to make reservations. SOS will inform all members of such with an E-mail or mailing to the current address furnished by the member to SOS. You are not allowed to engage in any type of activity except that which your reservation permits. If you are going scouting you cannot hunt or fish, etc. Never assume it is okay to hunt for any game not approved on your reservation, and never assume you can go fishing, camping, mushroom picking, etc., unless approved in advance. It will be the member's responsibility to be informed on current reservation requirements. Ignorance of the current requirements will not be an acceptable excuse for violating them.

- A. **Reservations need to be made at least three days in advance of the date you plan to hunt to insure that the reservation is processed and confirmed.** If you wish to hunt at the spur of the moment please make your reservation as normal and then follow up with a call to the SOS office to notify us of the late reservation. Never assume that a reservation has been approved. **SOS staff will notify you to confirm your reservation.**
- B. **Reservation can be made as far out as sixty day in advance of the date you plan to hunt for any season.** This should allow members to plan ahead for their hunt as well as allow all members an equal opportunity to reserve a property.

Note: Reservations made more than 20 days in advance must be confirmed no less than 5 and not more than 10 days before the date reserved, or it will be assumed member has forgotten reservation and is not going to use it. If not confirmed before the 4th day before date reserved, your reservation will automatically be voided if same property is requested by another member.

6.3. **Scouting Property-** You are entitled to scout any of our land without charge, but you must first make a scouting reservation on-line or with the office. While scouting you are only allowed to **carry a cased or holstered sidearm for self defense.** If you only want to scout from the road (which we do not believe is a fair way to judge land), you can do so without a reservation, but you will not be allowed to step on our leased land without an approved reservation. Scouting reservations still require you to register all guests/dependents with SOS when you make your reservation, and you must obtain signed hold harmless agreement's and Rules of Conduct for all guests/dependents.

6.4. **Waiting List-** You should never find yourself unable to reserve a suitable farm for the type of hunting you want, in the approximate area where you want to hunt, but you will sometimes want a certain farm, which someone else may reserve ahead of you. When this happens, just ask to be placed on a waiting list for the farm, in the event there is a cancellation, which frequently happens. If we have a cancellation you will be notified right away.

6.5. **Reservation Prohibitions-**

- A. No Commercial activities on club properties.
- B. **No GUIDING HUNTS FOR COMPENSATION:** SOS strictly forbids any professional guiding of hunters, fisherman, campers, etc., for compensation. SOS

does not exist for the purpose of “commercial use” of land leased for member’s personal enjoyment. Guests are only allowed to pay members the exact amount charged by the club for their guest fees.

C. **No mushroom hunting** without first confirming with SOS.

D. **No target shooting** on club properties.

E. No infringement on other member’s enjoyment of club properties.

F. No trapping on club properties.

G. No Raccoon hunting on club properties.

H. **Coyote hunting** is by calling and shooting and not by dog running on club properties. You must remove any kills from the property.

I. **Squirrel hunting** is shotgun or pellet gun, **no rifles allowed**.

6.6. **Landowner-** Reservations or permission to hunt given by a landowner are not acceptable or valid, only confirmed reservations with SOS are acceptable.

6.7. **Unauthorized Person-** It is a reservation violation for a member, family dependent, or guest to go on SOS property with any member without first giving their name to SOS with a confirmed reservation. The person’s name can be added on-line or by calling SOS. If the office is closed a person can be added by leaving the member name and number, farm reserved, date of reservation and the guests/dependents name.

6.9 **False Information-** While making reservations, it is a violation of SOS rules to give false information about other members, family dependents, or guests.

6.10 **Cleaning Game-** If you clean your game on club land, be sure to dispose of all unwanted parts in a place which will not upset the landowner. Don’t clean game in driveways, and don’t leave guts, heads, feathers, hides, etc., where the landowner will see the mess. Dispose of “waste” in a location which is completely out of sight.

6.11 **Game-**

A) Quail Hunting- Good sportsmen only shoot birds in flight, do not intentionally reduce coveys to less than 6 birds, which is the minimum size covey which can survive harsh winter weather, and do not bust coveys after 3:00 PM when the nights are too cold for singles to survive, since they need a couple hours to call back to covey.

B) Pheasant Hunting- Use the proper ammunition. Small shot shells made for shooting quail will usually be too light for pheasants, resulting in crippled and lost birds, which run off to die somewhere else.

C) Turkey Hunting- Look for the beard, and don’t shoot till you plainly identify your target. When carrying your turkey, be sure it is well covered with “florescent orange” material.

D) Deer Hunting- Always make sure your bullet will hit the ground. Never fire when the ending spot for the bullet trajectory is air. Before you set up to shoot a deer, figure out ahead of time how you are going to get the deer back to your vehicle. Be sure you have not picked a spot which is so far from you vehicle that you will find it physically impossible to move the deer to your truck. Deer carts work great; however, if you need to use an ATV you must call the office for approval.

E) Waterfowl- No sky blasting allowed. Don’t shoot first, if you will ruin the shooting for hunters in another blind, if birds are going to their decoys. Pull up metal stakes, when picking up “field” decoys. Do not tear down cover from blinds. Do not leave trash in blinds.

F) Fishing- Catch and release policy. SOS members are expected to only fish for recreation, not food. Before you fish on club land, if you want to keep fish for eating, you should ask for approval at the time you make your reservation.

- Never assume that you automatically have the right to fish on any land which the club has leased. Some of our leases do not allow us to fish, and others allow us to fish only in specific ponds.

G) Camping- If you plan to camp on club land overnight, you must advise us of that when you make your reservation. Some landowners don’t allow camping, but most have no objection; however they may only allow camping in certain areas. Some landowners will charge you directly an extra fee if you camp, this can be confirmed when you make a reservation.

6.12 **Cancellations-** Reservations which are not going to be used, **MUST BE CANCELLED BEFORE 8:00 AM ON THE DAY RESERVED, unless you intend to keep the**

reservation, but encounter a problem which prevents you from reaching your destination, such as illness, car trouble, bad weather, etc., in which case you should call our office immediately upon determining you will not be using the reserved property, to advise us of your decision. If you fail to cancel in the time stated above, you will be charged for any guest or dependent fees, which would have been due, if you would have kept the reservation.

Failure to make prompt cancellations prevents other members from using the property. Phones are answered by machine 24 hours a day when office is closed, so cancellations can be left on the recorder. Be sure to leave complete information when canceling including farm #, member #, and date reserved. Reservations can also be cancelled by e-mail to eric@huntprivatelandohio.com. Reservations can not be cancelled for any reason after you have stepped onto the reserved property.

6.13 Sharing reserved land with other members- Reservations are accepted on a first come first served basis. When you make a reservation, we may ask you if you are willing to share your reserved land with another member. If you are willing to do so, it may help to satisfy another member, and may give you an opportunity to meet each other and develop a new friendship. We will not allow another member to “just show up” on land you have reserved, but we will give the other member your name and phone number, ask him to call you, seek your permission, and coordinate your activities. After the member receives your approval, he is required to call our office back to confirm he has made contact with you, before we will consider his reservation confirmed. You are not required to share land. **You should never find another member on your reserved land, unless you knew in advance who would be there.** If you are the second one to ask for a property which another member has already reserved, the above tells you what can be expected. You must make contact with the member who has reserved the farm, to get his approval to share, and then you must call our office to confirm you received approval and will be sharing.

A) Coordinating with other members- Some of our units/farms are split by creeks or fence rows, etc. On these farms we ask that members call the office to coordinate with the member on the other unit/farm.

7. Vehicle Use

- 7.1. **Vehicle I.D. Tag-** When parked on or adjacent to SOS property, members shall place their I.D. Tag on whatever vehicle they are using hanging from the rear view mirror so your member I.D. # is readily visible through the windshield. If you lose your I.D. notify the office immediately, and a replacement will be sent. If you get to a property and realize you don't have your I.D. call the office for instructions before you enter the property. There is a \$10.00 replacement charge for lost tags.
- 7.2. **Vehicle Access-** You are not allowed to drive on any club land with any size vehicle including ATV's, Dirt Bikes, Motorcycles, cars, trucks, etc., unless you have first requested permission from our office, and received our approval to drive on the land. Our leases with landowners explicitly prohibit driving on their land, and your membership agreement with SOS also prohibits driving on the land without approval. Unauthorized use of ATV's is one of the major reasons we lose leases, and make landowners unwilling to lease their land. ATV permission if given is strictly limited to retrieval of deer, moving equipment (deer stands, etc) and some health issues. No vehicle may be driven across, through or alongside standing crops or anywhere where a rut would be left behind.
- 7.3. **Vehicle Parking-** Vehicles shall be parked in designated areas where indicated. Do not block access to gates, field roads, etc. with vehicle. No road barrier of any type shall be permitted without landowner approval.
- 7.4. **Gates-** All closed, unlocked gates shall be immediately closed after passage. All locked gates shall only be unlocked with club or landowner permission and locked immediately after passage.

8. Land Use

- 8.1. **Safety Zone-** Hunting and shooting will not be allowed within 300 feet of any dwelling, barn, or other structure which is occupied by humans or domestic animals, or any other area designated as a safety zone. Never shoot firearms toward roads, buildings or livestock, regardless of the distance.
- 8.2. **Property Damage-** SOS members, family dependents, and guest shall not cut, injure, or destroy any trees, crops, roads, fences, buildings, or other improvements located on SOS property. Never hunt in standing crops, especially with dogs.
- 8.3. **Improvements-** Do not make any improvements on the leased land including construction of structures, buildings, power lines, water lines, roads, etc. You will be permitted to place deer stands

in trees, if permitted by SOS, as long as no damage is done to the trees. No nails, spikes, wire, or other metal shall be embedded in or used to attach anything to any tree. You will be allowed to construct blinds, in locations approved by SOS, for waterfowl hunting unless individual restrictions are noted on property information forms or maps.

- 8.4. **Posting-** If you would like to carry some signs with you, just in case you see places which need additional signs, just ask and we will be glad to send you some.
- 8.5. **Fires-** You will not be allowed to set any fires or allow fires to be set on SOS property, other than contained cooking fires while camping, where no danger of spreading beyond control exists. Extinguish completely all fires when you leave. If conditions exist to create a fire hazard, or at owner's request, no fire is allowed and any existing fire shall be extinguished.
- 8.6. **Trespassers-** You **should never find anyone else hunting on the land you reserved, unless you were aware they would be there before you arrived.** If you find other people on the land you have reserved, you are not expected to endanger yourself, in order to eject them from the property. If you feel comfortable in approaching them, please do so, ask them who they are, write down their names and descriptions, and ask if they have permission to be there. If they say no, inform them they are trespassing, and ask them to please leave immediately. If they don't leave upon request, don't try to force them to do so, but inform them you will go to call the law. Then use the nearest phone and call us at (937) 603-7701 and ask how we want the situation handled. If they will leave on request, and they gave you their name, give us the information when you turn in your harvest report. If they claim they have permission to be there, they might be telling the truth, but don't just assume they are, be sure you get their names and descriptions, and ask the name of who gave them permission, and who they are. Don't let them just give you "relationship titles" such as landowner, father, tenant, etc., instead ask for the name. Then call us, we often find landowners have given someone permission to hunt on their land in the past years, before we leased the land, but they failed to tell the person the land was leased, to make them aware they no longer had permission. Do not become abusive with presumed trespassers, they could in fact have landowner's permission to be there, in which case we will have a bone to pick with the landowner, but our office will take care of it.

SOS will diligently pursue all trespassers at all costs, if we have good identification, which involves at least having a good vehicle description and license number, and some description of the trespassers. We do need to know immediately when you find trespassers, if we don't hear about it for a day or two, it weakens our position, but we will still run the license number through the police to identify the vehicle owner, locate their home address, and contact them. If anyone is going to be arrested for trespassing, we want that decision left up to us. Do not take it upon yourself to call the law to file a trespassing complaint. If we do not at least get a license number, there is little we can do. If we can determine through a license check who the trespasser is, or that it is a former member, we won't hesitate to file a complaint for prosecution.

8.8 Exclusivity Exceptions- Most land is leased by SOS for the exclusive use of SOS members and their guests. A small percentage of leases contain an exception addendum, which may allow a few specifically named people who are guests of the landowner, the right to hunt or fish on the land. The exceptions, if any, usually name the landowner, a son, dear friend, neighbor, tenant farmer, etc. Our lease is designed to protect your enjoyment, and it is important that you understand the terms under which the landowner and their guests are allowed to use the property, so we have shown a copy of the pertinent part of the addendum giving permission to hunt and fish, to JUST the people named in the addendum. If you ever encounter any other person hunting or fishing on our land, who says the landowner gave them permission, please get their name, vehicle license number, and call us at (937) 603-7701 immediately for instructions. Most of the time, when you encounter someone who says they have the landowners permission, it was in prior years before SOS leased the land, and they no longer have permission. You should never find any landowner or their guest hunting on the farm you reserved, unless you were told they would be there at the time you made your reservation. If you experience any landowner violations of our lease agreement, please give us all the facts, including names, descriptions, license numbers, etc. Without actual names and license numbers, we really can't identify, locate, contact, and have trespassers prosecuted.

9. Litter

- 9.1 **Litter of Member-** All litter, such as spent shell cases, cans, bottles, paper wrappers, etc. that you, family dependents, or guests, bring to property should be removed with you and disposed of in proper receptacles for the purpose. If you observe litter on SOS land, please pick it up and

dispose of it also. Please report trash to the office.

10. Observation Reports

10.1 **Reporting-** The SOS member who had a reservation in their name shall go on-line within 48 hours after you hunt or fish and give a field observation report. The report shall include farm number, state, county, your name, dates hunted, party size, time on units, condition of trespassing signs, game seen, game shot, game lost, or fish taken, and any special insight to help fellow members. When reporting on-line some of the report information is already done for you. We do ask that you report all game sighted, not just the type you were hunting.

11. Rule Violations

11.1 **Violations-** SOS reserves the right to discipline, suspend, or expel any member without refund of dues paid for violations of these rules. SOS also reserves the right to restrict or prohibit the use of SOS land by spouse, family dependents or guests.

11.2 **Suspension-** The first time any member deliberately violates reservation, guest or alcohol/drug consumption rules, they will automatically be suspended for the next 30 days of the current fall/winter hunting season, unless there is less than 30 days remaining in the current season, in which case the number of days necessary to complete a 30 day suspension, will be taken from the beginning days of the following fall season. SOS considers the Fall/Winter season begins on November 1st, and ends on January 31st. The second time a member violates the above rules, membership will be permanently revoked.

MISCELLANEOUS CLUB INFORMATION

REFUNDS- SOS does not refund dues paid in advance, nor does it refund Application fees, unless an agreement to refund, signed by an officer of the club, was made in writing at the time payment was made. Even though there are valid reasons why members might deserve refunds, such as death, illness, relocation, financial distress, etc.

METHODS OF PAYMENT- Never mail cash, office staff is honest, but mail sometimes gets lost. If paying in person with cash, always be sure we give you a receipt. Your personal check is welcome, and we accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express cards. We will process your credit card transaction request electronically. Just present your card if you are in our office, or by phone just give us your credit card type, number, and expiration date, we'll do the rest. We also can draft bank accounts if requested.

IF YOU DO NOT RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP- By the anniversary date, it will automatically expire, unless you have contacted the club manager and made other acceptable arrangements. Once a membership has expired, it may not be reinstated at a later date, but you will be welcomed back into the club as a new member, if you submit a new application and full payment of the dues and application fee which is in effect at the time you rejoin. Once a new application is approved, you will be required to start all over again with a new number, ID, and book. All credits and points you may have had on the previous membership are forfeited upon expiration.

INACTIVE STATUS- *If for any reason you do not want to renew your membership, but you do want to remain a member, you are entitled to become inactive, upon payment of \$100 per year which will place your membership on hold for one year. During that year, you will continue to receive e-mail/mail correspondence which active members receive; you can attend meetings, and cast your vote on all matters placed before the members for a vote. The only thing you won't be able to do is to use club land, either as a member or guest of another member, for a period of one year until your next anniversary date, at which time you will either need to reactivate your membership by paying the then current annual dues, or you can elect to remain inactive for another year, upon payment of an additional \$100. Should you choose to become inactive, but want to reactivate before a year has passed, you may do so upon payment of the full annual dues, which were due at the time you chose to go inactive. Your membership will then become active for one year retroactive to the last anniversary date, before you chose to become inactive. If you are inactive for one full year,

before you reactivate your membership, your “skipped” year of dues will never have to be paid. You will not receive credit toward your dues, for any inactive fees you pay. Loyalty plans will be extended by equal number of years the member was inactive.

WEBSITE- www.huntprivatelandohio.com. Please review the content, and remember to send photos and stories. If any of the photos you have cannot be displayed on the internet, please don't send. We encourage you to Email your photos to us. We assume all photos received are sent with the understanding we have automatic approval to reproduce, use on the internet, in brochures, and in our newsletters and show exhibits. Your comments on our website will be appreciated. Please tell us what else you would like to see on the site.

EXTRAS- Extra services or facilities offered by the landowner, usually for extra cost. Check cost in advance with office.

Important: Deer hunting policies for SOS land

- ★1 You must keep a daily record of game seen each day and game harvested. Report to SOS after every reservation. (within 48 hours of hunt date).
- ★2 **Please notify us immediately when you harvest your deer, so we can allow other members to use the land if your party has filled their tags and no longer needs the remaining days of your reservation.**
- ★3 Be considerate of other members who want to hunt on the farm you reserved and let us know as soon as possible of any days you do not plan to use your reserved land. **Do not keep land tied up with a reservation if you are not fully intending to use the land on each and every day you have it reserved.** All members paid dues so we could lease the land you are enjoying, don't be selfish, it's theirs to use too.
- ★4 Use extreme caution if you use a tree stand. Never use any steps, equipment or, stand which is not yours.
- ★5 **ALWAYS USE A SAFETY BELT OR HARNESS WHEN CLIMBING UP TO OR DOWN FROM YOUR STAND, AND NEVER USE THE STAND UNLESS YOU ARE USING A SAFETY STRAP. Falls from tree stands are the most common cause of injury from hunting accidents!**
- ★6 Do not cut limbs off of trees without approval from us and/or landowner. Cut limbs are to be disposed of or removed, do not litter property with tree trimmings. Nails, screws and spikes in trees are strictly forbidden. Our lease with landowner forbids altering or damaging any tree without approval. Be sure to select a tree which has no lumber or veneer value, such as elm, cottonwood, etc.
- ★7 Before you pick a spot to hunt, be sure you first determine and plan ahead, how you are going to transport your deer back to your vehicle since our lease and your club rules do not allow you to drive off the established roads without landowner approval.
- ★8 **BE SURE YOU WEAR BLAZE ORANGE AND BRING SOME EXTRA TO PUT ON YOUR DEER!**
- ★9. Before you fire your gun or release your arrow, always know where the bullet or arrow is going to end up if it misses the target. If your projectile will continue beyond the target, what will it hit? Preferably, it will end up in the dirt, and not traveling in the air to possibly hit an unintended target.
- ★10. Whenever you leave a tree stand, blind, or feeder (if allowed) be sure you leave a plainly visible permanent tag showing your member number, and name. We recommend you paint those things on the item being left, and tag it too, so if the tag disappears, it will still have identification.
- ★11. Whenever you find a blind, stand, feeder, animal trap, etc. on any of our leased land, which is not identified, you can put a note on it that complete identification of owner name, address and phone number, is required, and if placed there without our permission, it is subject to confiscation.
- ★12. Never place a feeder on SOS land unless we first give you permission, and it is identified as yours.
- ★13. Never bait any property, to attract any type of game, unless you have received our prior permission.
- ★14. If the member with the reservation fills his tag and wants to leave, but others in the party haven't, the remaining party must leave unless another member in the party will put the remainder of the reservation in his name and accept responsibility for all others in the party. The office must be informed of changes in the reservation.
- ★15. If you fail to give harvest reports at least every other day, you may be denied future use of the same property, and we may limit you to a maximum of 2 day reservations in the future.
- ★16. Late reports or false reports are inconsiderate of other members and the landowners.
- ★17. Use a 2 wheel deer cart to remove your deer. Take one with you, and plan to use it.

Lastly a reminder of #18,19 & 20 on the rules of conduct signed by you:

18. I agree my guests and I will only use equipment which we personally own, are familiar with, know how to use, and trust completely.

19. I agree my guests and I will never use any equipment we find on any property, including tree stands, ladders, blinds, steps, climbing devices, etc., as it is assumed they are unsafe, and of unknown condition. Any tree we choose to climb, is dangerous and will be our choice, and completely at our own risk.

20. I agree my guests and I will never climb up or down any ladder, stand, or tree without a safety harness attached, to prevent serious injury in case we fall.

Trespassing Notice:

The form below should be carried by all members to use, whenever you find an unidentified vehicle on our land. This type of message has been used successfully by members to get owners of unidentified vehicles to call our emergency number, so they can contact us if they are not knowingly trespassing, but if they are trespassing, most will call us to avoid legal problems. If the trespasser doesn't call, they get the message anyway, and probably won't have the audacity to come back.

The notice should be taped to their windshield. Print and photocopy so the ink won't run in wet weather. Carry a small roll of duct, scotch or masking tape.

Once done call the office to pass the information on to SOS staff.

NOTICE

Are you TRESPASSING ?

Your vehicle does not have identification displayed to show you have authorization to be on this property.

You are requested to call us immediately to explain your presence and identify yourself. Call (937) 603-7701

We will delay calling the sheriff to request you be issued a citation to appear in court on trespassing charges, if you call us within 8 hours of the date and time this notice was placed on your vehicle to explain why you are on the property without approval. Do not return before you call.

If you fail to call us promptly, we will file a trespassing complaint. In addition to possible criminal trespass charges, we may also pursue civil action for damages.

Vehicle License # _____ State ____ CTY _____

Make _____ Style _____ Color _____

Farm # _____ Unit ____ Mbr# _____ Date __ / __ / __ Time __ : __