



BRITISH GAME ALLIANCE

LOW GROUND SHOOT STANDARDS

The Code of Good Shooting Practice sets out the framework that enables shoot managers, guns, gamekeepers and their employees to deliver sustainable shooting, paying attention to the management of habitat and avoiding nuisance to others. The FSA Wild Game Guide *The Wild Game Guide* sets out the regulatory requirements relating to the handling of shot game.

It is the BGA members' responsibility to be aware of and adhere to all relevant legislation. The BGA is not a regulatory authority.

The details below are not exhaustive and reference should always be made to the full Low Ground Shoots Manual.

The BGA will regulate the following standards through our auditing partners.

- 1 Records must be kept to demonstrate the following: environmental stewardship, management of the shoot, staff training, full traceability of purchases from game supplier through to game sales; purchase, administration and disposal of medicines; purchases of feed; records of larder management. (Record templates are available to all members).
- 2 Members must ensure the land is managed to continually benefit wildlife and its environment.
- 3 Members must have a documented predator and pest control plan in place. Full records must be kept of all predator and pest control actions. UK legal requirements and BGA standards must be adhered to at all times.
- 4 Members must be able to demonstrate that birds released have been reared to UK legal requirements and BGA standards, even when sourced from abroad.
- 5 Stocking densities must not compromise animal welfare or have a negative impact on the surrounding biodiversity. Members should refer to the GWCT's releasing guidelines.
- 6 Each shoot must have a named person who is responsible for bird welfare.
- 7 Release pens must be checked daily ensuring adequate water, food, and habitat is available.
- 8 Ducks must be released onto open water in numbers appropriate to the carrying capacity of the wetland habitat and encouraged to become wild.
- 9 All shoots must be registered with a vet or vet practice. The vet or practice should be an active member of the BVPA.
- 10 Medicines and veterinary treatments must be authorised for use in the UK and must only be used when necessary and when prescribed by a veterinary surgeon. Antibiotics must not be used prophylactically.
- 11 Critically Important Antibiotics must only be used as a last resort and under strict veterinary guidance.
- 12 Stated withdrawal periods must be adhered to for all medication before game is shot and enters the food chain. Members must be able to demonstrate how withdrawal periods are managed.
- 13 Records for the purchase, administration and disposal of all medicines must be kept. Prescriptions for medicated feed must be kept. All medicine records must be kept for a minimum of 5 years.
- 14 Birds must not be released to replenish or replace stock shot during the season. Birds must not be shot within four weeks of being released and must be mature and fully adapted to the wild.



- 15 Adequate food and water must be provided throughout the season and thereafter until appropriate levels of natural food are available.
- 16 All game must have an agreed market before release (where applicable) and before shoot days are planned.
- 17 Adequate picking-up must be available to ensure all birds are quickly accounted for and wounded birds dispatched accordingly.
- 18 Members must take responsibility for ensuring guns use non-lead ammunition where legally required.
- 19 Shot game must always be regarded as food. Food safety legislation and BGA standards relating to the handling and storage of game must be adhered to at all times.
- 20 A 'Trained Person' must be present to examine the game throughout every shoot day.
- 21 Game that is being supplied into the commercial food chain must be placed into a chiller with an ambient temperature of 4C or below within a reasonable timeframe and where possible within 2 hours of being shot. When in use the temperature must be recorded at least twice daily.
- 22 Game handling and storage facilities and their fixtures and fittings must be constructed of impervious, non-absorbent, washable and non-toxic materials. All game handling, storage facilities and equipment must be kept clean and hygienic. The construction and management of them must comply with all relevant food hygiene legislation and BGA standards.
- 23 All shoots supplying in fur and in feather game to a game dealer, or supplying game meat to the final consumer, must be registered as a Food Business with the Environmental Health Department of their Local Authority.
- 24 Shoots must offer and where possible facilitate guns to take home game or game products.
- 25 Game that is unfit for consumption, along with processed game carcasses must be disposed of in accordance with UK legislation and BGA standards.
- 25 Where a member or its employees are convicted or cautioned for wildlife crimes, the shoot will be expelled from the BGA and their membership withdrawn.
- 26 Individuals with an unspent conviction for wildlife crimes must not be employed in any capacity directly relating to the management of the shoot.
- 27 It is recommended that the use of plastic wadded cartridges is prohibited except when using non-lead ammunition.
- 28 Members must ensure that their shoot is maintained in a manner that does not bring the industry, the BGA or the Shoot Assurance Scheme into disrepute.

I agree to abide by the BGA standards as seen above and should I be found to be in major breach of these standards I understand that my membership of the BGA could be terminated and steps may be taken to inform industry stakeholders.

I have read, understood and agree to the BGA's [*complaint process*](#) and will allow for ad-hoc inspections by external auditors, as well as in the case of a substantive formal complaint made in regard to my shoot. Records will be made available on request, as outlined in the complaint process during the investigation of a formal complaint.

To see our supporting document which explains in more detail each of the standards to which our registered Shoot Owners must adhere, please [click here](#).