

Guidelines for the Application and Awarding of Dedicated Hunter Status in the SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association



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Secretary SAHGCA (2004-2005)

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1. What is Dedicated Status?

When Act 60 of 2000 (Firearms Control Act) was promulgated, the granting of “bona fide” hunter status by the SAPS was stopped. People who have this status retain it until such time that they have to relicence.

The Firearms Control Act has created a complete new environment for hunters as well as hunting associations. The most important changes are:

- Both the firearm and the owner have to be “licensed” in future;
- Hunting Associations can now be accredited by the CFR.
- The Act distinguishes between “occasional” and dedicated” hunters;
- There is a general restriction on the number of firearms a hunter may possess;
- New categories under which a firearm owner may licence his/her firearms were created;
- Dedicated hunters may licence more firearms than the general restriction of four.

In terms of the Act a “**dedicated hunter**” is a person who actively participates in hunting activities and who is a member of an accredited hunting

It is important to note that the awarding of dedicated status by a hunters association is an internal decision within the guidelines of the Act and relevant regulations. Following is an extract of the Act pertaining to dedicated hunting and sport shooting:

Clause 16 Licence to possess firearm for dedicated hunting and dedicated sport shooting

(1) A firearm in respect of which a licence may be issued in terms of this section is any---

- (a) handgun which is not fully automatic;*
- (b) rifle or shotgun which is not fully automatic;*
- (c) ~~deleted by the amendment bill 2006~~*
- (d) barrel, frame or receiver of a handgun, rifle or shotgun contemplated in paragraph (a) and (b).*

(2) The Registrar may issue a licence in terms of this section to any natural person who is a dedicated hunter or dedicated sports person if the application is accompanied by a sworn statement or solemn declaration from the chairperson of an accredited hunting association or sport shooting organisation, or someone delegated in writing by him or her, stating that the applicant is a registered member of that association;

(3) A firearm in respect of which a licence has been issued in terms of this section may be used where it is safe to use the firearm and for lawful purpose.

(4) Every accredited hunting association or sport shooting organisation must-

(a) keep a register which contains such information as may be prescribed (in regulation 4(2)); and

(b) submit an annual report to the registrar which contains such information as may be prescribed (in regulation 4 (2))

The abovementioned portion is an extract from the Act, but what do the Regulations prescribe?

Accreditation of hunting association or sports-shooting organisation

4. (1) A hunting association or sports-shooting organisation that applies for accreditation must, in addition to the relevant information required by regulation 2, submit proof to the satisfaction of the Registrar that –

(a) in respect of its registered members it provides in its founding document for a category of dedicated membership that applies for a licence as contemplated in section 16 of the Act;

(b) (i) in the case of a hunting association, the hunting association conducts a relevant training course in respect of dedicated hunters that complies with the provisions of the South African Qualifications Authority Act, 1995 (Act No. 58 of 1995) read with the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act No. 97 of 1998) of which it shall be a prerequisite that a member of the hunting association must successfully complete before that member may be registered as a dedicated member and dedicated hunter with the hunting association

(c) it has a dedicated procedure in place to regularly evaluate its dedicated members for their –

(i) bona fides to be or remain a dedicated hunter or sports person, as the case may be; and

- (ii) *dedicated participation in their applicable hunting or sports-shooting activities, as the case may be;*
- (d) *it keeps on record the particulars of the participation by a dedicated member in his or her hunting or sports-shooting activities as a dedicated hunter or dedicated sport person, as the case may be;*
- (e) *it will in respect of a registered member only allow dedicated membership to the association or organisation as long as –*
 - (i) *the dedicated member is a person in good standing as a dedicated member with the association or organisation, as the case may be; and*
 - (ii) *in the case of a dedicated hunter that it will not register a person as a dedicated hunter with the organisation while that registered member conducts business in hunting on the strength of a dedicated hunters licence that was issued in terms of section 16 of the Act.*
- (f) *documentary proof of membership by the hunting association or sports-shooting organisation of a national or international association or organisation which, to the satisfaction of the Registrar, has the primary bona fide object to promote responsible hunting or sports-shooting as the case may be.*

(Remark: Our membership of the International Hunters Education Association – IHEA – comply fully to this requirement)

The Regulations also prescribe a register of all Dedicated Members with the following specific instructions:

- 4(2) (a) A register contemplated in section 16(4) (a) of the Act must contain the following information -*
- (i) the full names, identity number and residential address of all persons having applied for dedicated membership;*
 - (ii) the motivation for the application by the person applying for dedicated membership;*
 - (iii) whether dedicated membership was granted or refused and if refused the reason therefore; and*
 - (iv) dedicated membership number and expiry date of membership.*
- (b) An accredited organisation or association contemplated in section 16(2) of the Act must in addition to regulation 2(12)(a) and (b) annually and before the official year end of the organisation or*

association, as the case may be, submit to the Registrar a written report reflecting –

(i) the details of all dedicated members whose registered dedicated membership with such accredited organisation or association terminated; and

(ii) the reasons for the termination of such dedicated membership.

From this section it is clear that the declaration of someone as a dedicated hunter is an enormous responsibility on any accredited hunting association and will make an appeal on organisational resources. Any hunting association will have to take a strategic and sustainable view on the management of their dedicated members and the integrity of its procedures and processes. *SA Hunters have done exactly this in their approach to declaring their members dedicated hunters.*

2. SAHGCA Policy with respect to Dedicated Status

SAHGCA has made provision for two categories for the granting of dedicated hunter status, viz. For members who had been awarded the status of “bona fide” hunters before 1 July 2004 and secondly those members who never had “bona fide” status.

2.1 Process for members with previously granted bona fide status by the SAPS.

The policy of SAHGCA (Approved by the EXCO on 23 October 2004) (revised March 2006) is that members who already had bona fide status 1 July 2004, may apply and will receive dedicated status under the following conditions:

- The member must have applied for dedicated hunter status on the prescribed form (The Application Form);
- The member must be a paid up member of the Association;
- The member has a valid bona fide certificate (certified copy to be attached to the application);
- The member must already have completed the prescribed dedicated hunters course or equivalent or have completed a relevant academic course at an registered institution.**(No application will be considered without the necessary proof)**

- If a member is over the age of 70 years he/she will be exempted from completing the course.
- The member has paid the registration fee of R200.00 with the application.

2.1.1 The Application

The application form is completed and signed by the member and handed in at or posted to his/her branch or the national office if he/she has not yet been allocated to a branch. Payment or proof of electronic transfer of the registration fee of R200.00 must accompany the application. The application will then be scrutinised by the dedicated person at the branch, for accuracy before passing it on to national office. If the member qualifies, dedicated hunter status will be awarded and a solemn declaration as required by section 16 of the Act will be issued together with the e Dedicated Hunter Certificate and patch.

2.1.2 The Documentation

The member must ensure that all documentation is correct and copies of originals properly certified.

2.1.3 The Awarding

The Dedicated Hunter certificate will be processed within 21 days and posted to the member unless other arrangements for collection or delivery have been made.

2.2 Process for members without prior bona fide status.

The policy of SAHGCA for members who did not have bona fide status before 1 July 2004, must apply and will be granted dedicated hunter status under the following conditions:

- The member will apply for dedicated hunter status by completing the relevant application form (see item 13), attaching all supporting documents, signing the form and handing it in at his/her branch or national office together with the R200,00 application fee.
- The member must be a paid up member of SAHGCA;
- The member must have successfully completed the Dedicated Hunters Course (both theory and practice) or have completed an equivalent training (Members older than 70 are exempted)
- **Note that no application will be accepted without proof that all abovementioned conditions were met.**

2.2.1 The Application

The application form is completed and signed by the member and handed in at or posted to his/her branch or the national office if he/she has not yet been allocated to a branch. Payment or proof of electronic transfer of the registration fee of R200.00 must accompany the application. The application will then be scrutinised by the dedicated person at the branch, for accuracy before passing it on to national office. If the member qualifies, dedicated hunter status will be awarded and a solemn declaration as required by section 16 of the Act will be issued together with the e Dedicated Hunter Certificate and patch.

2.2.2 Documentation

The member is responsible to ensure that all documentation is correct and that all copies of originals are certified.

2.2.3 The Interview

The interview is no longer a requirement. **It is however important that the member is made aware of the statements and/or declarations he/she signs and that it is his/her responsibility to ensure that he/she adheres to the conditions to retain dedicated status. The onus is solely on the applicant to ensure that all the compulsory requirements are met to maintain dedicated hunter status.**

2.2.4 The Awarding

The Dedicated Hunter certificate will be processed within 21 days and posted to the member unless other arrangements for collection or delivery have been made.

3. How do I apply?

The process begins with successfully completing the prescribed dedicated hunters course or equivalent. Both theory and practical shooting tests must be completed successfully. After completing the course, the application form is completed with the necessary documentary proof attached. The application together with the fee of R200,00 is then submitted to the national office for processing.

4. What is the cost of dedicated status?

A once off fee of R200,00 is payable to the national office of SAHGCA to cover the cost of administration and upkeep of the system.

The fee of R200,00 is utilised as follows:

- Branches receive R25.00 (or 15% of the fee after tax) as handling fee of new applications;
- Every dedicated member receives a high quality certificate depicting his/her status.
- The dedicated member receives a high quality patch in English/Afrikaans.
- The balance of the fee is utilised for updating and maintenance of the system to comply with the regulations of the Act (Act 60 of 2000 as amended) to annually report on the status of our members.
-

The fee is payable with the either at the branch or directly to the national office. Payment may be made directly into the bank account of the association. **Please ensure that your membership number is used as reference when submitting your payment an attach proof of payment to your application**

S A Hunters and Game Conservation Association
ABSA, Pretoria North Branch
Account number: 01443990077
Branch code: 632-005

5. Which qualifications are acceptable for dedicated status?

The Firearms Control Act (Act 60 of 2000 and amendments) formulates the requirements as follows:

4 (b) (i) in the case of a hunting association, the hunting association conducts a relevant training course in respect of dedicated hunters that complies with the provisions of the South African Qualifications Authority Act, 1995 (Act No. 58 of 1995) read with the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act No. 97 of 1998) of which it shall be a prerequisite that a member of

the hunting association must successfully complete before that member may be registered as a dedicated member and dedicated hunter with the hunting association.

At the time of compiling these guidelines no course(s) were available that complied with the provisions of the South African Qualifications Authority Act, 1995 (Act No. 58 of 1995) read with the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act No. 97 of 1998) and to date no such courses had been registered. What is therefore the status quo? The current situation is that all associations who are also members of the Hunters/SAPS Consultative Forum may continue with the courses submitted at the time of accreditation (e.g. SAHGCA - Green Book, or CHASA – Blue Book)

6. Branch Register of Dedicated Hunter Members

Every branch must keep an elementary register of all members who have received dedicated hunter status. The national office will provide branches with the lists of dedicated hunters registered at the branch. The primary records will be kept at national office. Branches are required to keep a register to provide information to national office when required from time to time. The R25,00 contribution per dedicated member is to provide for this admin.

Example of a branch register

SAHGCA Member no.	Renewal Date	Full name	ID number:	Fixed address	E mail address	Tel no:	Cell phone no:

7. What if I cannot be an active branch member as result of circumstances beyond my control?

It is a reality that some members may not be in a situation that enables them to participate in branch activities. SAHGCA does not want to be the cause of members losing their privileges as dedicated hunters due to circumstances beyond their control. It is however a requirement of the Act that members provide proof of their hunting related activities.

Regulation 4(1) states – inter alia-the following:

“A hunting association or sport-shooting organisation that applies for accreditation must, in addition to the relevant information required by regulation 2, submit proof to the satisfaction of the Registrar

(c) it has a dedicated procedure in place to regularly evaluate its dedicated members for their –

(i) bona fides to be or remain a dedicated hunter or sports person, as the case may be; and

(ii) dedicated participation in their applicable hunting or sport-shooting activities

(d) it keeps on record the particulars of the participation by a dedicated member in his or her hunting or sport-shooting activities as a dedicated hunter or dedicated sport person as the case may be;

In order not to compromise its accreditation, SAHGCA is obliged to comply with above regulations and submit a report annually to the Registrar.

8. What is the process if there is doubt about my status?

An Appeal Board has been established under chairmanship of past president, Remie Mulder, who will handle all possible queries on dedicated status and make recommendations to the President. In the event that a branch or the national office cannot decide on the awarding of dedicated status of a member, it will be referred to the Appeal Board for final decision.

9. Can my dedicated status be terminated?

Dedicated status can be terminated in terms of the Act under the following circumstances:

- A member ceases to be a member of an accredited hunting association;
- A member is found guilty in a disciplinary hearing and suspended as a member;
- A member is found guilty of contravening any law or ordinance pertaining to hunting or nature conservation
- A member does not actively participate in hunting related activities or and cannot produce proof thereof. **Proving participation in hunting related activities remains the sole responsibility of the member.**
- **The member will be notified by mail of his/her non-compliance with the regulations and be given 14 days to rectify the situation or provide the necessary proof to the national office, where after his/her status will be suspended.**

Remark: Dedicated status earns you the right to possess more than 4 firearms. If you have more than four firearms and your dedicated status is terminated, you could be illegally in possession of firearms after 1 July 2009. **The responsibility lies solely with the member to maintain his/her membership with an accredited association and to protect his/her status by active involvement in hunting related activities.**

10. Can I appeal against termination of my DH status?

- If a member is of the opinion that his/her dedicated status had been unfairly terminated by the association, an appeal may be lodged with the Appeal Board, by written request to CEO at the national office. Reasons for termination are vested in the Act, the salient elements being as listed in section 9 above.

The Appeal Board may also be approached if a member had been subjected to a disciplinary hearing, found guilty and his/her dedicated status terminated as result. In such a case the member must notify the CEO of SAHGCA within 7 days

of his/her intention to appeal and the appeal must be heard within 30 days of termination of dedicated status.

Once the appeal process had been initiated, the dedicated status of the member will remain unchanged. Should the Appeal Board decide in favour of the member, his/her dedicated status will remain unchanged. Should the Appeal Board uphold the result of the disciplinary hearing, the member's dedicated status will be terminated immediately and the Registrar notified of the termination within 7 days. **Please note that the member will have no claim against the association or its management if dedicated status is terminated as result of non-compliance with the Act and/or circumstances depicted above.**

11. Can a Professional hunter be a dedicated hunter?

A professional hunter may indeed be a dedicated hunter, but the law prohibits a dedicated hunter to act as professional hunter. **A dedicated hunter may therefore not utilise his/her dedicated status to conduct a business. A declaration to this effect is made by the member on the application form.**

12. May I hold dedicated status from more than one organisation?

The Act does not prohibit holding dedicated status at more than one organisation. It may be advantageous to do so in the event that members are also sport-shooting enthusiasts. It may have cost implications. Your dedicated status at the Central Firearms Registry is depicted against your ID number. Should your dedicated status at one organisation be terminated through non-compliance with the Act, it will automatically be terminated at the other associations. Resignation from one organisation however will not lead to automatic termination at another.

13. The Application Form






S A Jagters- en Wildbewaringsvereniging
S A Hunters' and Game Conservation Association

Application to be declared a Dedicated Hunter

I, the undersigned,	Title:
Surname:	
Full names:	
Name called:	
ID Number:	
Residential address:	
Postal address:	
Telephone (day time):	Cell phone:
E-mail address:	Fax:
Branch affiliation:	
SAHGCA Membership number:	
Proficiency Certificate number: (if already declared as such by SAPS) :	

Hereby declare:

-  that I am a paid-up member of SAHGCA;
-  that I have already successfully done the Dedicated Hunter course as presented by SAHGA. (certified copy of my certificate attached);
-  certificate of equivalent course or proven relevant field of study, attached hereto if applicable, if I have not done SAHGCA'S Dedicated Hunter course;

- ☞ that I am a registered Professional Hunter (certified copy of my PH certificate attached) **[Delete if not applicable]**
- ☞ that I realise I may not practise a trade related to hunting on the grounds that I possess Dedicated Hunters Status in terms of article 16 of the Firearms Control Act, 60 of 2000;
- ☞ that I actively partake in hunting and other hunting related activities as testified to in the attached references (at least two) of my hunting activities of the last 12 months;
- ☞ that the reason for this application is as follows:

I furthermore declare that I am aware that **I am personally responsible** to keep the abovementioned up to date and to actively partake in hunting or hunting related activities so that I will be able to submit proof of my hunting and related activities of the previous 12 months. I further declare that I realise it is my own responsibility to maintain the above and to keep being involved in hunting or hunting related activities and that in the event of renewal of my annual membership, on request should be able to present substantiation of my involvement in hunting activities during the previous 12 months, and that the SAHGCA must and shall inform the SAPS should I not comply hereto and that I, in such case, lose my Dedicated Status and that I will have no claim whatsoever against the SAHGCA or its management or any of its officials. **The responsibility to meet the conditions maintaining my Status up to date and to stay active as prescribed in The Dedicated Status Manual, lies solely with me.**

I have read the above and understand and ascertain the contents and requirements of the Dedicated Status Manual, edition no: J006.002.002A

Signed at _____ on this _____ day of _____ 20 _____ .

Signature of applicant

Witness:

Banking details of the SAHGCA appears on page 10 - fill in particulars here.

For official use only:

Received on: (Date) _____

By (Branch committee member): _____

National Office staff member: _____

1. Proof of payment (with membership number as reference).
2. Payment attached (cash or cheque)
(Delete which is not applicable)

1	2
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For National Office use only:

Approved Disapproved

Reason for Disapproval: _____

Dedicated Hunter Certificate number: _____

Expiry date of membership: _____

Issued by: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Method of dispatch: By post: _____

Via the branch: _____