

Requirements to accompanying someone under a Youth Hunting Licence and/or an Initiation Hunting Licence:

Questions and Answers

Prepared for Angling, Hunting and Trapping Engagement Website

April 11, 2012

CHANGES RELATED TO ACCOMPANYING SOMEONE HUNTING UNDER A YOUTH HUNTING LICENCE

Q1. *What changes have been made a youth hunting licence?*

Government has approved amendments to the *Wildlife Act* that will expand the age range for a youth hunting licence to make it available for youth ages 10 to 17 years, inclusive. Previously, the age range of the youth ('junior') hunting licence was 10 to 13 years.

Q2. *Why was the age range of the youth licence expanded?*

Hunting is a popular recreational activity for many rural families in the province. Expanding the age range of the youth hunting licence ensures that hunting remains affordable for youth and their families. It also makes it easier for youth ages 14 to 17 (inclusive) to give hunting a try and to have more mentorship opportunities as they are no longer required to first complete the **Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE)**¹ course.

Q3. *Can a youth purchase the youth hunting licence?*

No, a parent or guardian must purchase, as well as hold, the youth hunting licence on behalf of the youth.

To purchase the youth hunting licence, the parent or the guardian must sign an "Acknowledgement of Responsibility" form, confirming that the parent or guardian will be fully responsible for the actions of his or her child or ward while the child or ward is hunting or carrying a firearm.

¹ The Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) course is designed for individuals wishing to obtain their first B.C. resident hunting licence. It is offered through a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the British Columbia Wildlife Federation (BCWF).

CORE is required for youth (ages 10 to 17 years, inclusive) seeking an individual bag limit and who want to enter the Limited Entry Hunting draw.

A non-resident of B.C. or a resident who resides in a remote area of the province may apply for a youth hunting licence by mail. This person must submit all appropriate documentation with the application.

Q4. *Can a youth hunt alone when a youth hunting licence has been issued to a parent or guardian for the youth?*

No, youth (ages 10 to 17, inclusive) who participate in hunting in B.C. must be accompanied* by, and under the close personal supervision² of, an adult who holds a valid hunting licence. An adult is someone who is 18 years of age or older.

* **accompany** means to remain in the company of the other person, able to see the other person without the aid of any device other than ordinary corrective lenses and able to communicate by unamplified voice with that person.

Q5. *Does an expanded youth hunting licence provide a bag limit?*

No, a youth hunting under an expanded youth hunting licence will not have an individual bag limit for game. However, any game killed by a youth must be accounted for. The accompanying hunter must have the appropriate licence for any big game species being hunted and is required to cancel the species licence when an animal is taken.

Q6. *Can a youth who holds a valid expanded hunting licence participate in Limited Entry Hunting?*

Yes, a B.C. resident youth who holds a valid expanded youth hunting licence may hunt in a Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) if accompanied by and under the close supervision of an adult who holds a valid species licence and a valid LEH authorization. Any game killed by a youth must be accounted for, and the accompanying hunter must cancel the species licence when an animal is taken.

² The intention is to ensure that there is someone present in a hunting party who is responsible for accompanying and closely supervising the young person. Any person hunting in the company of a young person will be responsible for ensuring that the young person is adequately accompanied and supervised.

Q7. *Can a youth (ages 10 to 17, inclusive) purchase an adult hunting licence?*

Yes, a youth who is a B.C. resident³ may purchase an adult hunting licence; however, a Hunter Number Card is first required. A Hunter Number Card may be issued free of charge to a resident of British Columbia who has successfully completed the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) safety training examination.

To purchase an adult (full) hunting licence, a youth must apply for a licence in person in the presence of a parent or guardian, who must sign an “Acknowledgement of Responsibility” form. By signing this form, the parent or guardian agrees to be fully responsible for the actions of his or her child or ward while the child or ward is hunting or carrying a firearm.

Q8. *What are the proposed requirements to accompany a youth hunter?*

1. The accompanying hunter must be 18 years of age or older.
2. The accompanying hunter may accompany no more than two youths at one time⁴.
3. The accompanying hunter must have:
 - a. held a British Columbia resident hunting licence and a big game species licence for three of the previous five licence years immediately preceding the licence year in which the person accompanies an youth hunter, or
 - b. successfully completed CORE, and held a British Columbia resident hunting licence and a big game species licence for two of the five previous licence years immediately preceding the licence year in which the person accompanies a youth hunter.
4. If the accompanying hunter has been convicted within the previous five years of an offence under the *Wildlife Act* or regulations made under the Act, or the *Firearm Act*, they may be ineligible to accompany a youth licensed hunter.

Q9. *Does this mean an 18 year old may supervise a 17 year old?*

Yes, as long as the 18 year old satisfies the other requirements of an accompanying hunter.

³ **B.C. resident** means a person who is a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, and whose only or primary residence is in B.C., and who has been physically present in B. C. for the greater portion of each of 6 calendar months out of the 12 calendar months immediately before doing a thing under the *Wildlife Act*, or if not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, but whose only or primary residence is in B.C. and has been physically present in B.C. for the greater portion of each of the 12 calendar months immediately before doing a thing under the *Wildlife Act*.

⁴ It is proposed that the accompanying hunter may accompany no more than two youths and/or initiation licence holders at one time (i.e. two youth or two initiation licence holders or one youth and one initiation licence holder).

Q10. *Can a young person safely hunt?*

In the past eight years, there have only been 15 deaths related to hunting in B.C. (source: B.C. Coroners Service). Of these, eight were due to natural disease, such as a hunter dying from a heart attack. Two deaths were due to a gunshot wound; both were adults.

Hunting is a popular recreational activity for many rural families and similar mentorship licences and initiatives exist elsewhere in Canada and the United States.

Q11. *What is the incidence of youth injuries due to firearms?*

Information directly related to children injured while hunting with firearms in B.C. is difficult to find. The following statistics⁵ on firearm related injuries were taken from ten children's hospitals and four general hospitals from across Canada; the statistics don't represent all injuries in Canada nor the percentage of youth injuries as a total of the whole population:

- The type of guns involved included BB guns, air guns and pellet guns (non-powder guns) and rifles, handguns and shotguns (powder guns).
- From 1998 to 2003, a total of 463 injuries were reported (all ages) associated with guns (not necessarily related to hunting):
 - 188 involved children under the age of 14;
 - 115 involved youth between the ages of 15 – 19;
 - 31 injuries were directly related to hunting.
- Also during the period, 21 fatalities related to guns were reported; one (4.8%) is related to hunting activity.

⁵ Health Surveillance and Epidemiology Division (Public Health Agency of Canada). Injuries associated with guns: Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP) database, 1998-2003, all ages.

CHANGES RELATED TO ACCOMPANYING SOMEONE HUNTING UNDER AN INITIATION HUNTING LICENCE

Q1. *What is an initiation hunting licence?*

The initiation hunting licence is a new type of mentoring licence that allows a person 18 years or older that has never previously held a hunting licence in B.C. to try hunting for a one-year period. It is a one-time-only licence.

Q2. *Can a person holding an initiation hunting licence hunt alone?*

No, this licence requires the holder to be accompanied* by, and under the close personal supervision of, an adult who holds a valid hunting licence and meets the other requirements to accompany (see question 10 below). An adult is someone who is 18 years or age or older.

* **accompany** means to remain in the company of the other person, able to see the other person without the aid of any device other than ordinary corrective lenses and able to communicate by unamplified voice with that person.

Q3. *What are the proposed qualifications to obtain an initiation hunting licence?*

To qualify for the initiation hunting licence, a person:

- must be a B.C. resident,
- must be 18 years or older,
- must not have held a B.C. hunting licence in the past, with the exception of a youth (junior) hunting licence, and
- must be under the close personal supervision of a licensed adult who satisfies the requirements to accompany.

The requirements to complete CORE and to hold a Hunter Number Card⁶ are waved for this one-time-only licence.

⁶ A Hunter Number Card is first required in order to purchase Hunting and Species licences in British Columbia. A Hunter Number Card may be issued free of charge to a resident of British Columbia who has successfully completed the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) safety training. examination. A document issued by a province of Canada, other than British Columbia, or a state of the United States of America evidencing successful completion of a hunter safety training course may be used to obtain a Hunter Number Card. A resident hunter number and resident hunter number card must not be issued to a person under the age of 10 years.

Q4. *Can a person who has completed the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education qualify for an initiation hunting licence?*

Yes, a person who has completed the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) safety training examination still qualifies for an initiation hunting licence, so long as he or she meets the requirements outlined above.

Q5. *Does an initiation hunting licence provide a bag limit?*

A person holding an initiation licence will not have an individual bag limit for game. However, any game killed by this person must be accounted for. The accompanying hunter must have a species licence for any big game species being hunted and is required to cancel the species licence when an animal is taken.

Q6. *Can an initiation hunting licence holder enter the Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) draw?*

Only a person who holds a Hunter Number may enter the LEH draw. An initiation hunting licence holder who has a Hunter Number could enter the draw but will be required to obtain a regular resident hunting licence prior to participating in any Limited Entry Hunt.

Q7. *Can an initiation hunting licence holder participate in Limited Entry Hunting?*

It is anticipated that a B.C. resident who holds a valid initiation hunting licence may hunt in a Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) if accompanied by and under the close supervision of an adult who holds a valid species licence and a valid LEH authorization. Any game killed by an initiation licence holder must be accounted for, and the accompanying hunter must cancel the species licence when an animal is taken.

Q8. *Can someone who has failed CORE obtain an initiation hunting licence?*

Yes. A person who has studied CORE, but failed the exam will be able to obtain an initiation hunting licence and hunt under the close personal supervision of an accompanying hunter who meets the qualifications. This person may still have more knowledge about hunting than the person that has not studied the CORE curriculum.

Q9. *Can a person who has held a hunting licence in another jurisdiction be issued an initiation hunting licence?*

Yes, as long as this person is now a B.C. resident and meets all other prescribed qualifications.

Q10. *What are the proposed requirements to accompany the holder of an initiation hunting licence?*

1. The accompanying hunter must be 18 years of age or older.
2. The accompanying hunter may accompany no more than two initiation licensed hunters at one time⁷.
3. The accompanying hunter must have
 - a. held a British Columbia resident hunting licence and a big game species licence for three of the previous five licence years immediately preceding the licence year in which the person accompanies an initiation licensed hunter, or
 - b. successfully completed CORE, and held a British Columbia resident hunting licence and a big game species licence for two of the five previous licence years immediately preceding the licence year in which the person accompanies an initiation licensed hunter.
4. If the accompanying hunter has been convicted within the previous five years of an offence under the *Wildlife Act* or regulations made under the Act, or the *Firearm Act*, they may be ineligible to accompany an initiation licensed hunter.

⁷ The accompanying hunter may accompany no more than two initiation licence holders and/or youths at one time (i.e. two initiation licence holders or two youth or one initiation licence holder and one youth).