

WALKED UP GROUSE SHOOTING **HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

All guns must be in possession of the following:

1. A valid UK Game Licence
2. A valid Shotgun Certificate OR a valid UK visitor's permit
3. A valid certificate of Third Party or Public Liability Insurance (BASC or Countryside Alliance membership is satisfactory)

A comprehensive risk assessment of walked up grouse shooting has been undertaken by Dalesport Sporting Agency and the following key points are drawn to your attention.

Shooting Competence

It is expected that you are a competent shot with a full understanding of the Grouse Shooting safety protocol – the BASC Code of Safe Shooting Practice can help. Novice guns should notify the Estate well in advance of the day to enable supervision arrangements to be made.

Shooting Procedure

- All guns must remain in their 'position' in the walked up line at all times. If any game needs to be picked a signal should be made to the rest of the party to inform them to stop. No one should stray out of line whilst other guns are still being fired.
- At the start of every new walk you should familiarise yourself with the position of the other guns and any companions.
IF IN ANY DOUBT DO NOT SHOOT
- Whilst walking guns should be pointing forwards either at the ground or straight up in the air.
- Guns should have the safety catch on at all times unless when taking a shot.
- Shots should only be fired that are within your zone – in front or directly behind, and particular care should be taken when taking a second shot at falling wounded birds.
- Care should be taken when shooting ground game as there is a risk of ricochet.
- Always check your barrels are free of obstructions before loading. In the event of misfire unload your gun with the barrels pointing away from others
- Ensure that cartridges of the correct calibre are used
- All birds must be accounted for before proceeding to the next drive.
- Guns must be unloaded and carried in a secure gun slip in between drives / walks
- **Please note that the shoot captain/shoot manager/ head keeper has full authority to require anyone deemed by him to be shooting unsafely to cease shooting at any time during a drive and/or for the remainder of the day, and if appropriate to leave the moor immediately. His authority in this matter shall not be questioned, and any consequences of such a requirement may not be discussed until after the day is completed.**

Environment

- The whole moor is designated as Open Access land. Please be aware that members of the public could wander into the drive. If this happens, all shooting must cease until they have moved to a safe location. If you become aware of any walkers please immediately warn your neighbours and ensure that they do likewise.
- Moorland terrain is very uneven and appropriate sturdy footwear should be worn. Walking sticks are a useful aid.
- The moorland environment can be subject to extreme weather conditions and appropriate clothing should be worn / available in your vehicle.
- Mine shafts and bogs are present on all three estates and care should be taken when walking across the moor
- Dogs should be kept under close control at all times. Any dogs that are running wild and could cause a dangerous situation or are spoiling the day for others will be asked to be put back in a vehicle.
- All non shooting companions should stand slightly behind and to the side of the gun at all times. If a shot needs to be taken behind the companion must reposition themselves immediately. A practice move is advisable before the drive starts.

Transport

- Moorland roads can be steep and uneven and care should be taken when driving along them. Sufficient distance should be allowed between vehicles and an appropriate gear selected. If in any doubt stop the vehicle and ask an experienced driver to take over.
- When being transported off road, the ride may be uneven and uncomfortable. All passengers must be seated and dogs held or secured.
- The vehicle's doors or hatches may have sharp edges; and all passengers must ensure that no clothing / possessions are trailing that could become entangled in the moving parts of the vehicle or in fixed points over or past which the vehicle travels.

Personal Health

- Ear protection should be worn by all persons. Electronic ear are advised so that instructions from other guns can still be heard. Safety glasses are also recommended.
- During a drive the barrels of a gun may get hot and it is therefore advisable to wear leather gloves or use a barrel guard.
- Midges and other biting insects may be present and repellent spray / cream should therefore be taken in case.
- Heather moorland and heath are home to the Adder – Britain's only venomous snake. They are quite commonly seen on warm days. They rarely bite unless they feel threatened, but it is possible for you or your dog to threaten them without intending to do so. For this reason, appropriate footwear including ankle protection is advisable to reduce the risk of being bitten.

It should be noted that Adders are protected under the Wildlife and Country-side Act 1981.

- Tick may be present on the moor. If they bite, they are capable on rare occasions of transmitting to humans serious viral diseases, including Lyme's disease. If a tick becomes attached to your skin, do not simply pull it off, as the head and/or some legs may be left behind, resulting in local infection. Seek assistance from the shoot manager or a keeper as to the best method of removal.
- Please ensure that any necessary medication is kept with you at all times including antihistamine if allergic to wasp / bee stings.
- Please advise the shoot organiser of any food allergies / intolerances before the day
- Alcoholic drinks may be available at certain points during the day. **ALL GUNS MUST BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF IMMODERATE DRINKING** during the shooting day, and must exercise restraint until the day is completed. **The shoot captain/shoot manager/ head keeper has full authority on the ground of possible impairment of judgment at any time to require any gun to desist from drinking further alcohol during the day, and/or to cease shooting. His judgment in such a matter shall not be questioned.**
- Water or other non alcoholic drinks should be taken regularly on hot days.

Disruption

- If a shoot day is disrupted by saboteurs unload your gun immediately and return it to its slip.
- Do not confront the saboteurs but return to your vehicle until the situation is resolved.

Health and Safety is your responsibility and any concerns should be raised immediately with the Head Keeper / Shoot Manager/ Shoot Captain.