



RESOLUTION 2024-01-10

USE OF THE HUNTER EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM AND CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR REGULATED HUNTING IN NORTH AMERICA

WHEREAS, the sustainable use of fish and wildlife is a foundational element of natural resource conservation and management in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, regulated hunting in North America is consistent with the wildlife conservation and management models of all 50 State fish and wildlife agencies as well as the provinces and territories of Canada (hereinafter “jurisdictions”); and

WHEREAS, hunting as licensed and regulated by the State, provincial, and territorial wildlife management agencies is a necessary and beneficial conservation activity and is used to effectively manage sustainable wildlife populations and reduce human-wildlife conflicts; and

WHEREAS, hunting and utilization of harvested game provide tangible benefits to people and communities; and

WHEREAS, hunters have directly and indirectly funded the majority of core State and Federal programs in wildlife conservation, benefitting both game and non-game species; and

WHEREAS, the training of new hunters to maintain excellence in hunting safety and keep hunting-related injuries low; to promote responsible hunter behavior, including compliance with hunting laws and regulations; and to instill an ethic of fair chase, will help sustain and support regulated hunting; and

WHEREAS, successful completion of hunter education is used by all jurisdictions as a qualification for licensing and/or hunting; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions have established a system of reciprocity, including the recognition of each other’s certificates, and sustaining this system is mutually beneficial and critical to the continued success of regulated hunting in North America; and

WHEREAS, the International Hunter Education Association USA (IHEA-USA) Standards Committee, composed primarily of State agency experts appointed on a regional basis, is charged with developing and maintaining universal core standards for hunter education that 1) are substantive, defensible, and effective, 2) can be embraced by all jurisdictions and measured in a consistent manner across jurisdictions, and 3) are usable as a template to assist jurisdictions in refining their own hunter education programs; and

WHEREAS, IHEA-USA has developed comprehensive hunter education standards outlining the core curriculum to meet the goal of training safe, responsible, and law-abiding hunters, and developed measurable student-learning objectives to promote hunter safety and fair chase ethics; and

WHEREAS, student learning objectives are essential to focusing and directing instructional choices in the development of a course curriculum, including the materials used to teach and evaluate a student’s learning comprehension; and

WHEREAS, these objectives were written to offer individual jurisdictions the flexibility to determine course

delivery, student performance expectations, and means of assessment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies advocates for the use of the hunter education core curriculum standards by all jurisdictions, including student learning objectives as developed by the IHEA-USA Standards Committee or equivalent standards developed by IHEA Committees in other jurisdictions, to meet hunter education certification requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association encourages the continued reciprocal acceptance of any certificate demonstrating completion of courses that meet the standards of IHEA-USA.

Submitted by the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee.

Adopted by the Association on September 25, 2024 in Madison, Wisconsin.