

# **ABA Adopts P&Y Rules of Fair Chase**

(Mar 26 2016)

We have had many inquiries as to what “rules” the ABA uses in defining Fair Chase. After much debate as an executive, the ABA Game Awards Committee and with the membership at the 2010 AGM in Edmonton, the ABA has officially adopted “Pope & Young’s Rules of Fair Chase” (updated at ABA AGM Mar 26 2016). We have updated the Game Awards Synopsis and Application form to reflect these changes and to add some examples for clarification.

## ***The Rules of Fair Chase***

The term “Fair Chase” shall not include the taking of animals under the following conditions:

- Helpless in a trap, deep snow or water, or on ice.
- From any power vehicle or power boat.
- By “jacklighting” or shining at night.
- By the use of any tranquilizers or poisons.
- While inside escape-proof fenced enclosures.
- By the use of any power vehicle or power boats for herding or driving animals, including use of aircraft to land alongside or to communicate with or direct a hunter on the ground.
- By the use of electronic devices for attracting, locating or pursuing game or guiding the hunter to such game, or by the use of a bow or arrow to which any electronic device is attached. Lighted nocks and bow mounted cameras are now approved.
- Any other condition considered by the Board of Directors as unacceptable.

The fair chase concept does, however, extend beyond the hunt itself; it is an attitude and a way of life based in a deep-seated respect for wildlife, for the environment, and for other individuals who share the bounty of this vast continent’s natural resources.

We want to stress to everyone the above new rules – pay close attention to the one on “use of electronic devices”. These include cellular game/trail cameras, lighted sights and rangefinders mounted on bows. We know some members use these and they are perfectly LEGAL in Alberta but not in the “ABA/P&Y Rules of Fair Chase”. Animals taken with these devices will not be eligible for any ABA Game Awards.

## **ABA Definition of Archery Equipment**

Again, the ABA has had numerous inquiries on what we consider archery equipment and with debate as an executive and at the 2010 AGM in Edmonton we have adopted the following:

*Drawn, held, and released by muscular power, and be a full and continuous draw cycle. Draw-lock devices shall not be considered as Archery equipment. A Draw-lock is a device which holds a Bow in a loaded condition for an indefinite period of time.*

(Animals taken will not be eligible for any ABA Game Awards).

ABA now allows youth to use a bow with a shorter minimum length of 30" limb tip to limb tip than the Pope & Young rules.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Brent - [brent@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:brent@albertabowhunters.com) and you can go to P&Y's website [www.pope-young.org](http://www.pope-young.org) for more information.