

## **LTA DEER “ARCHERY” HUNTING RULES**

### **Eligibility and Qualifications** (effective 03/21/2026)

LTA Members wishing to participate in the LTA Deer Management Program (DMP) must be a member by June 1st. Any child who wishes to hunt must provide proof they live in the same residence as the lot owner and are 26 years of age or younger.

2. LTA Members interested in participating in the DMP may pick up a 2026-27 DMP informational packet on or after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at the Clubhouse. Completed registrations are to be mailed to: Rick Steele, LTA DMP, 5548 S. Blackstone Ave, Chicago, IL 60637. The office will not accept walk-in registrations, provide envelopes, or make copies of ID cards, insurance information, etc. Registration must include the information below and be postmarked by **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

- Proof of liability insurance of \$500,000.00 minimum
- Valid hunting or Sportsman License and Habitat Stamp
- Copy of current Driver’s License or state ID
- Information sheet showing current address, phone number(s), email, and lot #
- A completed Hold Harmless agreement
- Registration fee of \$15.00 per hunter (CHECKS are to be made payable to LTA DMP)
- NOTE: Potential hunters must be at least 16 years of age prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> of the applying season and have a Hunter’s Safety Card
- The only form of payment accepted will be check or money order.
- **NO CASH PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

3. In addition to providing the above-mentioned information, New DMP Members and previous DMP members who received violations during the prior season must attend a mandatory registration meeting and sign an LTA liability waiver and a copy of the rules prior to being allowed the opportunity to participate in an archery proficiency test.

4. Applications will be reviewed the week of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Any application that does not contain all required information, or is filled out incorrectly, will not be accepted, and the applicant will be ineligible for the 2026-27 season. Upon completion of required registration information, potential hunters who did not participate in the 2025-26 DMP, are required to successfully complete an archery proficiency test. Proficiency test dates are included in the DMP packet. The proficiency test will consist of a standard 9” paper plate at 20 yards. Potential hunters will be allowed to fire four (4) arrows/bolts; three (3) of which must be scored as “hits” on a standard 9” plate. DMP Commission members will judge the proficiency tests and determine the final eligibility list. Potential hunters will have (1) chance to qualify. During the required DMP registration meeting, potential hunters shall receive a copy of the LTA Deer “Archery Only” Hunting Rules and a Hold Harmless Waiver. Potential hunters must agree to abide by all rules and regulations. Potential hunter signatures are required on the rules acknowledgement and Hold Harmless Waiver. If a hunter is wishing to bring a non-hunting spouse or child with them to experience the hunt, you must fill out a waiver for each family member.

5. Upon successful completion of the proficiency test, new members shall be assessed a \$135.00 fee prior to receiving an LTA DMP Parking Pass. Members who participated in the 2025-26 program do not have to qualify and will be assessed a \$73.00 fee. Payment is required immediately following the qualification session.

6. After the final eligibility list is determined, LTA hunters shall be divided into two (2) groups:

- Group 1 shall consist of LTA Hunters who harvested an antlerless deer in the previous season or are 62 years of age or older.
- Group 2 shall consist of all other qualifying LTA Hunters.

### STAND SELECTION FOR 2026-27 SEASON

For the 2026-27 season, there will be no assigned stands. All stands will be open on a first come first serve basis. Hunters in Group 1 will be allowed to sign into a stand (90) minutes prior to sunrise. Hunters in Group 2 will be allowed to sign in into a stand (75) minutes prior to sunrise. After sunrise, all stands will be open for the remainder of the day.

### LTA Deer Management Program

*Participating hunters are reminded that the current purpose of this program is to manage the deer herd in the Lake Thunderbird Community.*

1. Illinois Department of Natural Resources (ILDNR) state hunting digest rules and regulations apply to all member hunters at Lake Thunderbird. ILDNR Officers may patrol LTA areas unannounced and have the full support of the Lake Thunderbird Association (LTA). Archery hunting dates shall correspond to ILDNR state digest dates unless otherwise specified or posted at designated LTA hunt sign-in station located outside the LTA Clubhouse (2 Lake Thunderbird Drive).
2. Lake Thunderbird Association (LTA) Security may patrol the LTA hunting areas and have the authority to enforce and ensure that all LTA general rules and specific hunting rules are followed.
3. All hunters shall receive an LTA Hunter Parking Pass. A valid LTA Hunter Parking Pass MUST be displayed for each hunter. Any vehicle used by a DMP hunter must be registered with the clubhouse and have a valid LTA sticker affixed to the windshield. Windshield should face the road, so LTA DMP Parking Pass is visible, back in if necessary. Hunters must also have an "Official" LTA issued wristband on them while participating in the DMP. Vehicles may only be parked in designated hunter parking areas. Vehicles are to be backed in when possible.
4. Hunters are required to sign-in prior to hunting and sign-out upon completion of their daily hunts.
5. Stands 29, 30, 31, 32, and GB4 will be **CLOSED TO ALL HUNTERS** during the First and Second Firearm Season. This is due to the proximity of neighboring properties that allow firearm hunting. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 10-point violation. From the Rules and Regulations, page 17: "Nature Areas and Trails are open from 8:00 AM to sunset. The Popular and Catalina Nature Trails are closed during the Deer Management Season, October 1<sup>st</sup>. thru January 17<sup>th</sup>. and during extremely wet weather. Only the North and West End Trails is open during the Deer Management Season from 9:00 AM till sunset from October 1<sup>st</sup>. thru January 17." (Effective 01/17/2026)
6. For 2026-27 there will be a limited number of (2) two-man ground blinds placed in the DMP. The second person in the blind may be a non-hunter. These blinds are open to all DMP hunters and may be used to introduce a hunter's spouse, child or grandchild (10 years or older) to hunting. Blind locations will be marked with the letters GB on the general DMP map located at the sign in area. Non-hunters must sign a Hold Harmless agreement and be included in the hunter's liability insurance. If the two-man blind is not filled, a solo hunter may hunt it. In addition, for the 2026-27 season, there will be designated blind for disabled hunters only. The blind will be marked with a HCGB on the map and, in addition, will have a designated parking spot. Disabled hunters will need to provide proof of disability (State Issued Disability Card) at the DMP meeting they attend. In the case a hunter becomes disabled during the season, they must contact the DMP chair and provide proof of disability. Disabled hunters will be allowed to utilize an all-electric vehicle to drive to and from these special blinds. Vehicles must be approved by the DMP Commission. ATV's and UTV's will not be allowed.

7. All hunters will hunt from designated LTA archery stands in designated hunting/common areas which will be closed to non-hunting members during the hunting season. As noted in the Rules & Regulations, page 18, “Only the West End Trail is open from 9:00 AM till sunset from October 1<sup>st</sup>. thru January 17. (Effective 01/01/2023)”

Hunters are mandated to use a personal safety harness. Safety harnesses shall always be attached to the LTA supplied safety rope while climbing and secured to a tree at each stand location while hunting. LTA DMP Hunters who are legally disabled or have reached their 62nd birthday may set up and hunt from a portable ground blind. Portable ground blinds must be located within 10 yards of an unoccupied, designated LTA archery stand. Ground blinds must be removed at the end of every hunt.

8. For 2026-27, LTA Hunters who participated in the 2025-26 program will be allowed to harvest (4) deer. The hunter may choose to harvest (4) does or (3) does and (1) buck. To harvest a buck, a hunter must complete 8 hours of work—4 on DMP functions and 4 on Conservation Commission or Lake-sponsored activities—and have harvested a doe in the 2025-26 season. Qualified hunters shall be allowed to harvest one (1) buck every other season. Hunters who participated in the previous year’s DMP, but who are not buck qualified, will be required to provide 5 work hours. Hunters who are new to the program in 2026-27 may harvest (4) does and no bucks. Verification of hours worked can be approved through the lake manager, maintenance supervisor or any DMP Commission chairperson. Work hours must be completed prior to September 15<sup>th</sup>. For the 2026-27 season, if after the conclusion of the second portion of the Firearm Deer Season, we are under our projected goal of deer harvest, hunters who have met their harvest limit will be allowed to take additional deer. Hunters will be notified via email if this occurs.
9. For the 2026-27 season, in lieu of performing work hours, there will be a \$250 buyout available. Partial hours of at least 4 will be a \$125 buyout.
10. Hunters who are 62 years of age will automatically be buck eligible if they have participated in the previous year’s DMP. Work hours will still apply. Only (1) one buck is allowed every (2) two years.
11. For the 2026-27 DMP season, hunters will be allowed to take (1) Turkey. All IDNR rules and regulations will apply. You must obtain an Archery Only Turkey Permit from IDNR. All turkeys must be checked in via email within 72 hours of harvest to the DMP Chairperson. The required information will be IDNR harvest number, date of harvest, and stand Location.

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12. For 2026-27, Lake Thunderbird Private Lot Hunting, all ILDNR and DMP rules apply. Private lots may be signed in prior to group A and B. Permission must be obtained from any property owner whose dwelling is less than 300 feet from the proposed stand site. Considered lots will be approved by the DMP Chairperson and Lake Manager. This includes the number of lots and location of lots. Lots considered for 2026-27 must be owned by the current DMP members(s) who successfully harvested a doe in the 2025-26 DMP and are the legal owner(s) on the deed or had an approved participating lot in the 2025-26 season. Approved stands may only be hunted by the lot owner (s), spouse, parent or child (living in same residence) participating in the 2026-27 DMP. Proposed tree stand location must be approved by the Lake Manager or DMP Chairperson. Stands must be a minimum of 30 yards off any roadway and must face away from the road. Once a stand is approved, the location may only be altered with the Lake Manager’s or DMP Chairperson’s approval. A maximum of (1) stand site per lot. Property owner(s) must provide stand.
13. Due to the population of coyotes at Lake Thunderbird, LTA hunters are allowed to harvest coyotes. Hunters will be only allowed to harvest coyotes while archery hunting in the Deer Management Program during prescribed archery hunting hours and dates. Any coyote harvested must be removed by the hunter.

14. In the event a hunter successfully harvests a deer while participating in the LTA DMP, field dressing

shall be allowed in the field but not closer than 200 feet to any residence, known property line, or road. Violation of the 200-foot rule shall result in a ten-point violation. It shall be the responsibility of the hunter to remove the remainder of the deer from LTA for further processing. LTA garbage cans and dumpsters are not to be used for the disposal of any deer remains.

15. Hunters who have successfully harvested a deer shall be required to email the DMP Chairperson within 72 hours. Sex of deer, stand number and ILDNR confirmation.
16. Hunters are to make every effort possible to recover game, but entering private LTA lots or adjoining private property is frowned upon. Any violation reported will be reviewed by the DMP Commission.
17. When retrieving game from the field the following rules will apply:
  - No motorized vehicles (ATVs, jeeps, etc.).
  - A non-hunter may be allowed in the field to assist in retrieving game but may not have an archery device and must be accompanied by a hunting member.

19. Hunters shall abide by a Point Violation System established by the DMP Commission. The DMP Commission reserves the right to issue 5- and 10-point violations. In the event an LTA hunter receives a 10 or more-point violation, that LTA hunter may be suspended from the hunting program for 30 days. Upon issuing a 10-point violation, the DMP Commission has 48 hours to review the violation, notify the violating hunter, and administer the suspension.

Any hunter who receives a violation after receiving a 10-point violation will be suspended for an additional 30 days per 5 points in violations. Point violations will be carried into the following season in the case a season ends during the hunter's suspension. The member alleged to be in violation shall be allowed to address the DMP Commission regarding the violation/suspension at the following DMP Commission meeting. At that meeting, any further suspension and/or

disciplinary action may be addressed. Names of suspended hunters shall be forwarded to LTA Security and the LTA Board. Appeals to suspension may be made to the LTA Board. Hunters who accumulate 10 or more violation points in a year lose buck eligibility for the next two years. Any suspended member found hunting on LTA property during their suspension will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and will be ineligible to hunt the following season. In addition, a \$100.00 fine will be administered to the suspended member.

20. Hunters that receive 10 points of violations in consecutive years will be immediately suspended from the program and, in addition, will be suspended for the following two seasons.

### Violations

All alleged violations shall be reported to a member of the LTA Conservation Commission, Security or Clubhouse Office Staff. The LTA Conservation Commission shall be responsible for the investigation, recording and notification of all rule violations.

Deception on any portion of LTA application	10 points
Destruction, damage, or theft of LTA property	10 points
Failure to provide hunter ID/wristband to LTA Security	10 points
Fighting with other LTA members	10 points
Allowing non-members to hunt	10 points
Allowing non-member access to ID/Parking Permit/Wristband	10 points
Unauthorized stand movement	10 points
Alteration of stand	10 points
Theft	10 points
Hunting from unauthorized site	10 points
Baiting	10 points

Littering	10 points
Failure to have affixed LTA vehicle sticker on common property	10 points
Failure to have personal safety harness	10 points
Alcohol while hunting	10 points
Harvesting an antlered deer contrary to established parameters	10 points
Field dressing deer <u>in violation of Rule 9</u>	10 points
Unauthorized use of LTA garbage cans or dumpsters	10 points
Utilizing unauthorized motorized vehicle	10 points
Hunting off limit stands during a posted firearm season	10 points
Failure to provide DMP Chair with an ILDNR harvest number	5 points
Excessive clearing of foliage	5 points
Hunting in stand other than sign-in log	5 points
Stand accessory modification	5 points
Violation and citation of ILDNR Rules	5 points
Failure to fill out hold harmless waiver for non-hunter	5 points
Early sign in	5 points
Failure to sign-in/out	5 points
Failure to properly use the Peg Board	5 points
Failure to display parking passes in common area	5 points
Trespassing on private property	5 points
Incorrectly filling out/altering sign in sheet	5 points
Failure To back into parking areas when possible	5 points

In the event of any disagreement between hunters, all conflict resolutions will be directly handled by the DMP Commission. In the event an LTA DMP Hunter observes a non-hunter in an area posted as an LTA DMP Hunting Area, LTA Security is to be called immediately. Non-hunters found in posted LTA DMP Hunting Areas may be subject to fines of up to \$100.00 upon their first offense. Subsequent violations shall be addressed by the LTA Board, which may levy additional fines.

The DMP Commission reserves the right to change or modify the DMP rules at any time. If a rule is changed, all members will be notified via email.