

BGBTO — Member Code of Conduct

By joining the BGBTO and participating in training and field tracking volunteering, I agree to uphold the following standards to protect the public, landowners, the hunting community, and the welfare of the animal and tracking dog.

1) Legal and Ethical Compliance

- I will know and follow all applicable laws and regulations (including hunting/tracking rules, access permissions, firearm and transportation laws, and any local bylaws).
- I understand that **blood tracking is recovery work, not hunting**. I will not use a callout as an opportunity to scout, hunt, or gain advantage.
- I will not trespass. I will obtain clear permission before entering private property and will respect posted and restricted areas.

2) Animal Welfare and Humane Recovery

- I will prioritize humane recovery and respectful handling of the animal at all times.
- I will advocate for ethical decisions (including appropriate wait times before pushing a track) and will avoid actions likely to increase suffering or reduce recovery odds.

3) Safety First (People, Dogs, and Property)

- I will treat every callout as a safety-critical activity: visibility, terrain hazards, roadways, water, weather, and other hunters in the area.
- I will use appropriate equipment (e.g., leash/long line, harness, GPS/phone, headlamp, first aid, high-visibility/orange where appropriate).

- I will keep my dog under control at all times and will not allow unsafe interactions with the public, wildlife, livestock, or other dogs.
- I will not track if I am impaired, unfit, or if conditions make the track unacceptably unsafe.

4) Professional Conduct and Communication

- I will be respectful and calm with hunters, landowners, conservation officers, and the public.
- I will give honest, realistic expectations and will not misrepresent my experience, certifications, or success rates.
- I will follow the group's callout process, chain of communication, and any on-scene leadership decisions.

5) Integrity, Documentation, and Transparency

- I will accurately document callout details (pre-track interview notes, time of shot, hit sign, last known location, route taken, outcomes).
- I will report outcomes truthfully, including "no recovery," and will contribute to learning and continuous improvement.

6) Confidentiality and Privacy

- I will protect member and client privacy. I will not share names, addresses, phone numbers, property locations, trail-cam images, GPS tracks, or sensitive details outside the group.
- I will not post photos/videos or location details on social media without explicit permission from the hunter/landowner and any required group approval.

7) Respect for Landowners and the Resource

- I will minimize damage to crops, fences, gates, and property, and I will leave no trash behind.
- I will close gates, respect livestock, and follow any landowner instructions.

8) Training Standards and Responsibility

- I will maintain my skills through training and will seek mentorship when needed.
- I will not accept callouts beyond my capability without support and will request backup when appropriate.

9) Group Representation and Discipline

- I understand I represent the organization in public. Harassment, discrimination, reckless behavior, dishonesty, trespass, unsafe handling, or illegal activity may result in suspension or removal.

Member Name (print): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Emergency Contact (optional): _____ **Phone:**
