

## **MARYLAND SHOOTER QUALIFICATION CARD PROGRAM**

DNR facilitates the Shooter Qualification Program. Through this program local sportsman's clubs, shooting clubs, and other groups avail their facilities and expertise to certify hunters. Those hunters, who meet certain shooting qualification standards, become certified and receive a Maryland State Shooter Qualification Card valid for the current year. This card serves as "proof of proficiency" and enables a qualified hunter to be eligible to apply for many of the managed deer hunts held across Maryland.

Shooter Qualification events are held at different times and locations throughout the year. Many of the organizations that host these events charge a fee. MD DNR will issue a press release in the summer announcing the dates for the various qualifications. The DNR website will list the website addresses of participating sportsmen's clubs and other locations where Shooter Qualifications will be held. The DNR website address for this information is [www.dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/shoot\\_qual\\_cal.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/shoot_qual_cal.asp)

## **MARYLAND SHOOTER QUALIFICATION CARD SHOOTING STANDARDS**

Shooting proficiency is an annual requirement that hunters must meet in order to be eligible to hunt deer on certain county, state and federal lands during managed hunts. Many managed deer hunts require an applicant to possess a current MD Shooter Qualification Card, in order to apply for their respective hunts.

To qualify for a MD Shooter Qualification Card, each shooter must demonstrate his/her shooting ability at a Shooter Qualification Card event sponsored by one of the cooperating facilities. Successful shooters are issued a Maryland State Shooter Qualification Card for the current year, which certifies their shooting proficiency.

Many shooting organizations cooperate with the Department and offer their services, and the use of their facilities to the public for the qualification events. These cooperators agree to adhere to the requirements set forth by the Shooter Qualification Committee. Any cooperator who does not comply with the committee's standards will forfeit the privilege to host future qualification events, and will be denied the privilege to issue Shooter Qualification cards.

Shooters who meet the minimum proficiency requirements (Maryland Shooter Qualification Card Program Standards listed below) will be issued a qualification card that is valid for the 2008-2009 seasons.

Below are the minimum required shooting proficiency standards that a candidate must demonstrate in order to receive a Maryland Shooting Qualification Card. (These conditions were agreed upon by the Shooting Qualifications Committee, and accepted on 8/28/02.)

**Safety is paramount** - Safe firearms and archery equipment handling should be a consideration of every facility cooperating in this program. (Instructors and range officers should screen each shooter for the safe handling of firearms while conducting shooting at their range, for safety's sake.)

**ARCHERY – (includes crossbow, longbow, recurve bow, compound bow)**  
- 9” circle, 3 out of 5 shots at varying distances, 30 yards and less. Deer silhouette or full-bodied targets are preferred but not required. If 9” circles are used, a deer silhouette or full-body target will be displayed with the kill zone identified. Shooters will qualify from the ground and/or elevated stands using broadheads only.

**CROSSBOW** – same requirements as ARCHERY; see above.

**SHOTGUN** – 9” circle, 3 out of 5 shots at 40 yards.

**MUZZLELOADER** – 9” circle, 2 out of 3 shots at 40 yards.

**NOTE: At the suggestions of several committee members and managed hunt cooperators, we have removed “rifle” and “handgun” categories from the Shooter Qualification Cards as they are not tools used in managed hunts in Maryland.**

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**Note: Shooters must qualify with the weapon they intend to use during the actual hunt, and under conditions that mimic actual field conditions. Therefore no soft or padded rests such as sandbags, jackets, pillows, etc., will be allowed during these qualifications, as this was considered not similar to field conditions.**

**Hard (non-padded) rests such as shooting sticks, and wooden rests would be acceptable.**

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The committee agreed that it will not make exceptions to these standards. Facilities wanting to join the program must agree to these standards before they can become MD Shooting Qualification Cooperators and qualify shooters.

**MARYLAND SHOOTER QUALIFICATION LOCATION IDENTIFICATION CODES:**

Below are the shooting qualification location identification codes that are to be used when issuing a qualifying shooter his/her Maryland State Shooter Qualification Card for 2008-2009. The respective codes are to be written in the “ID#” column on the qualifying shooter’s card.

For example, in *APG-0001*: – the letters “APG” represent the abbreviation for the shooting qualification location, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, and 0001 is the successive number given to the first card issued to a respective qualifying shooter, *APG-0002* would

be the number issued to the second qualifying shooter, APG-003 for the third qualifying shooter, etc., etc., etc.

The codes for the respective qualification locations are listed below:

*Aberdeen Proving Grounds.....APG-\*\*\*\**  
*Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.....BAR-\*\*\*\**  
*Blossom Point Research Facility.....BP-\*\*\*\**  
*Elk Neck State Park / Susquehanna State Park.....EN-\*\*\*\**  
*Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area and Gunpowder Falls State Park:  
..... Notchcliff Army National Guard ...NC- \*\*\*\**  
*Indian Head Naval Station .....IH-\*\*\*\**  
*Meade Natural Heritage Association.....MN-\*\*\*\**  
*Patuxent River Naval Air Station.....PX-\*\*\*\**  
*Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.....SM-\*\*\*\**  
*Southern Maryland Managed Hunts.....S-\*\*\*\**  
*Stoney Creek Fish & Hunt Club Cooperative .....WG-\*\*\*\**  
*N.W.T.F., Southern Maryland Chapter Cooperative (Meyer Station)...MS-\*\*\*\**  
*Baltimore Associated Gun Clubs Cooperative.....AC-\*\*\*\**  
*Izaak Walton League – Wildlife Achievement Chapter...IA-\*\*\*\**  
*McClellan Gun Club .....MGC-\*\*\*\**  
*Dayton Rod & Gun Club.....DR-\*\*\*\**  
*A.A Fish & Game Cons. Assoc. ....AA-\*\*\*\**  
*Izaak Walton League – Southern MD Chapter.....IS-\*\*\*\**  
*Fort Frederick State Park .....FF-\*\*\*\**  
*Glenbrook Rifle Association.....GR-\*\*\*\**  
*Funkstown Rod & Gun Club .....FRG-\*\*\*\**  
*Woodduck Alley Sportman’s Educational Center ... .. WDA-\*\*\*\**

***Note: Fair Hill, and Gunpowder State Park qualifications will be conducted at Notchcliff Army National Guard range on December 14, 2008; Fort Frederick qualifications will be conducted at the Fort Frederick range on November 9, 2008, see 2008-2009 Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland, for details.***

***DNR Managed Hunt Permit - if a hunter is selected to participate in a managed deer hunt on DNR public lands, he/she must have a Managed Hunt Permit to participate in these hunts - The DNR Managed Hunt Permit provides statewide access to DNR properties that charge a fee for managed deer hunts. This \$35 annual permit replace the fees charged on a tract-by-tract basis in the past. See the 2008-2009 Guide to Hunting and Trapping in Maryland, for more information.***