BIRCH HILLS SPORTSMAN'S CLUB
Club Rules (as approved by membership)

Operational: May 1994, May 1995
Any action taken by the Board on behalf of the club must be approved by the membership in advance. All checks written against the club treasury requires the signature of two club officers.

Badges: Sept. 1975,Sept. 1980, Sept 1984, May 1994, Sept 1996
Membership badges must accompany all members and guests while on the interior. Officers are to coordinate and sell the badges. A maximum of two badges can be issued per each lot owned. New badges are to be created each year of a different color and showing the new year.

Target Shooting: May 1995
Target shooting is not allowed anywhere on club property. This includes the sand pit, the open fields, and the personally owned property. This is a safety issue because of hikers, berry/mushroom hunters and motorized vehicles who may be unknowingly present anywhere on the property.

Parking: Sept. 1996
During regular Deer Firearm Season, and any late firearm deer season, motor vehicles are not permitted to park on interior property except as posted on the three entrance gate signs during limited hours around midday. However, for small game hunting, for muzzleloaders, and for deer bow seasons, parking is allowed at the designated interior sites accessible through each of the three gates. All during bow season, vehicles must be parked before daylight and leave after dark (except as posted on the gate signs) so as not to disturb others who are hunting. These rules pertain to motor cycles, ATVs, golf carts as well as cars and trucks. If any member or guest wishes to cross or park on another member's property, please ask permission in advance.

Speed Limit:
All motor vehicles are restricted to a maximum speed of 10 MPH anywhere on club property.

Tree Cutting: May 1982, Sept. 1991, May 1992
The club accepted the "Management Plan for Birch Hills" prepared by Mike Castle of Weyerhaeuser on May 1, 1991 with additional restriction that cutting be limited to aspen only and the cut lines must be at least 300 feet from any owner's back lot line. Only fallen dead trees may be cut or used for personal purposes. Any standing timber whether alive or dead must be left untouched. The club can demand restitution for any violations.

Beavers: Sept 1992
Any club member can obtain a DNR permit to remove beaver from the property.

Trails: Sept 1992
The Vice President is to be responsible for keeping the interior main trails cleared, and maintained with approvals of the membership.

Smoking: Sept. 1991
No smoking during the club meetings.

Hunting Blinds and Tree Stands: May 1981, Sept. 1982, Sept. 1986, June 1988, Sept. 1988, May 1989, Sept. 1989, May 2024, May 2026

Club members generally wanted a compilation to update and clarify our rules covering ground blinds and tree stands. They are as follows:

1. Each lot can have two ground blinds and two tree stands.
2. All stands and blinds must be clearly marked with a lot number and current year.
3. Portable ground blinds can be used between Sept. 15 and Jan. 2, and then they must be removed. Any portables left on the interior can be considered abandoned and can be removed or destroyed by any member.
4. Ground blinds are to be constructed using only natural local dead materials. The use of lumber or other man made fabricated materials are not permitted anywhere in the interior property for ground blinds. This does not apply to any permitted and approved permanent ground blinds. Permanent Ground blinds must follow the requirements listed specifically in the application.
5. Traditional ground blinds are to be made from all dead natural materials and may be left year round. Any ground blinds not identified after two years can be claimed by any other member. Any member can use anyone's ground blind if the owner is not present. This does not apply to any permitted and approved permanent ground blinds. Permanent Ground blinds must follow the requirements listed specifically in the application.
6. Elevated platforms must be portable. Elevated platforms cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws or bolts. However, a "T" bolt or similar device supplied by a tree stand manufacturer can be used. Screw-in tree steps and/or items that penetrate through the bark of a tree in the construction or affixing of any device to assist in climbing a tree are not to be used.
7. All elevated platforms must be properly tagged including the current year and one additional year.
8. Elevated hunting platforms are considered privately owned for personal use and are not to be used by others without permission from the lot owner that has properly tagged it.
9. Any elevated platform not properly tagged may be removed and retagged by anyone. It is expected that the locations of all elevated platforms will be maintained and clean of debris and trash.
10. Unidentified ground blinds and tree stands beyond 2 years are considered abandoned and can be removed or be destroyed by any member.

Location of Hunting Blinds: May 1998

All hunting blinds (including tree stands) must be located at least 50 yards from the edge of any feedlots.

No Fawn Kill: Sept 1999

Club members and guests are to avoid shooting deer fawns, both does and button bucks which have lost their spots but are only about 6 months old. These fawns are too vulnerable and many baby bucks are eliminated. Often it is inadvertent but it has nevertheless negatively affected our hunting opportunities for adult deer.

6 Point Buck Rule: Sept. 2022

During all seasons, all hunters (adults and youth hunters) will have to follow the 6 point buck rule. Any buck harvested on the club property will need to have a minimum of 6 points.

Building Setbacks: Sept. 2000

On vacant lots, the setback for the new pole barn type structures (including garages) is behind the centerline between the roadside property line and the rear property line. For new pole barns built on vacant lots, the height is limited to 15 feet as measured from the floor to the topside of the highest roof ridge line.

For new pole barns built on a lot with an existing house, the pole barn must not exceed the height of the house.

Manufactured Housing: May 2004

All manufactured housing must be 10 years or younger when placed on any lot.

Compiled by: Todd Rachel, Secretary (Sept. 24, 2001)
Updated by: Barbara Grignon, Secretary (May 1, 2004)
Updated by: Kristi Teall, Secretary (July 12, 2025)
Updated by: Kristi Teall, Secretary (January 13, 2026)
Updated by: Kristi Teall, Secretary (May 16, 2026)