



Metro Bowhunter Resource Base

Unrecovered Deer Policy

As a participating hunter with the MBRB, completing your annual proficiency test, you are expected to transfer your success in qualifying as a “Standard” or a “Sharpshooter” to the field. Successful, ethical, shots in the field are made by knowing when to shoot and when not to shoot. This important decision-making process should include:

1. Shot angels (see shot angle below), and avoiding obstructions (Branches, leaves, tall grass)
2. Understanding Deer behavior (relaxed vs at full alert staring at a hunter)
3. Hunter experience, knowledge, shooting skills, and shot placement decisions
4. MBRB Shots shall be **no longer than 20 yards**, at a relaxed deer, **broadside or slightly quartering away.**

The MBRB strives for a Zero Percent Unrecovered Deer rate. Following and acknowledging these steps above will greatly help achieve this goal.

Mandatory Reporting:

All hunters **must report all shots taken during their hunt.** Hunters must contact the Hunt Coordinator after any, and every shot, regardless of outcome (hit or miss). Every shot will be accounted for. **Any unrecovered deer that is struck by an arrow (or bolt) requires an incident report to be completed by an MBRB Coordinator.**

Unrecovered Deer:

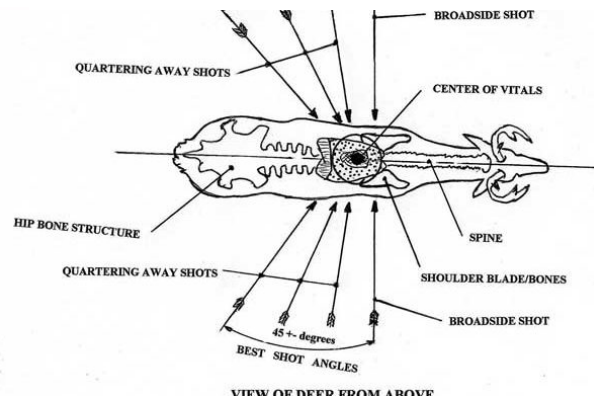
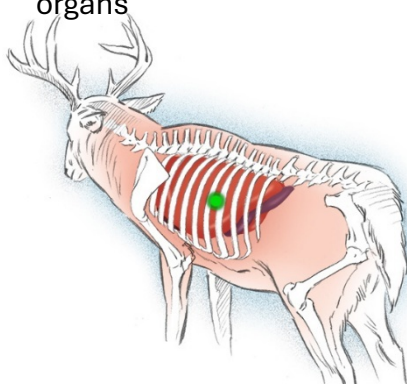
A hunter who has shot a deer without recovering the deer will be put on **PROBATION**. Once a deer is recovered, the hunter will be removed from probation. Extreme effort must be made to recover the deer. A painstaking, methodical, planned tracking/recovery effort must be made. This effort will be based on visual and evidence-based shot placement. For difficult tracking scenarios (gut/liver/1 lung) consider the use of a dog tracker (see dog tracker policy). If the deer remains unrecovered after an extensive search, (or a hit that does not warrant an extensive search) the hunter will remain on probation. A hunter on probation is restricted to shooting one deer and recovering that deer, before shooting any additional deer (one deer at a time).

If a hunter should have a second unrecovered deer incident, the hunter will be removed from the hunt. An additional incident report will be completed and sent to the MBRB Board members. Further disciplinary actions may be administered by the board.

If the hunter has any other MBRB hunts that same season, they could also be removed from those hunts, pending an investigation conducted by the MBRB Board of Director's Presidential review process (President, East and West Metro Vice Presidents).

Shot Angles:

- **Broadside** is the desired angle. It provides greater/quicker lethality and passthrough involving a double lung hit
- **Slightly quartering away** from the hunter. Provides large, forgiving access to vital organs



Prohibited shot angles:

- Frontal Shots
- Quartering towards
- Head/Neck shots
- Rear end shots
- Straight downward shots



Be advised that an MBRB Coordinator has the authority to put a hunter on probation despite whether the deer is recovered. This is based on poor decision making by the hunter resulting in a shot outside the traditional shot placement in the vitals of the deer.

You can't control what a deer ultimately does. At best, make predictions based on experience, accumulated knowledge, and good decision making. Always use tried and true shot placement as

described as broadside or slightly quartering away at 20 yards or less. These actions will assist the MBRB to work towards the goal of recovering every deer that is shot.

MBRB Hunt Coordinators will complete an MBRB Incident Report for all hunters who violate or do not follow the details of this policy. The MBRB Board of Directors will determine any disciplinary action(s) from a letter of counseling, or suspension, or may include permanent removal/banishment from the organization.