



Metro Bowhunters Resource Base

Crossbow Policy

The use of a crossbow in all MBRB special hunts is limited to those who are **60 years of age and older** or for those who have a **medically documented physical disability** (Documentation from MD) which precludes them from using traditional archery equipment or a compound bow.

Hunters who are within the above outlined guidelines and have been drawn as a primary or alternate for a hunt **must provide the following documentation at the orientation meeting:**

- 1. Provide proof of age 60 or >. State ID, Driver's License or Passport**
- 2. If less than 60 years - A medically documented disability, signed by a MD with *Contact info*.**

Requirements of Crossbow use in MBRB Hunts

- **Never walk in the woods with a loaded, or cocked crossbow.** Bolts must always be stored securely in a quiver covering over the broadheads. No hunting/shooting from the ground level is permitted with a crossbow or vertical bow.
- Climbing safety -due to the larger size and weight of a crossbow, you are not allowed to climb the tree with the crossbow in hand, strapped, or slung to your body. The use of a haul line is mandatory to get the crossbow into the elevated stand position. Crossbows that are hauled cocked, must be unloaded and make sure the safety mechanism is in the "On" position.
- Arming/cocking a crossbow
 - Crossbows that are manually cocked by hand or using a string cocker that require the hunter to stand and bend over the crossbow to cock it, shall do so on the ground at the site of the hunting location (base of the tree). To lessen the chance of a fall.
 - Crossbows with a mechanical/automated cocking system or a hand crank used to cock the crossbow can be done on the ground at the site of the hunting location (base of the tree). Or while sitting in the tree stand, with their fall restraint system properly attached to the hunter and the tree
- Arming/cocking a crossbow
 - A loaded crossbow must always have the **safety mechanism in the "On" position**, until moments before an ethical shot is attempted on a relaxed deer that is broadside or slightly quartering away, at 20 yds or less.
- *"Crossbows must deliver at least 42 pounds of energy at 10 feet and have a safety. Bolts (arrows) must be at least 10 inches long." - MNDNR Rule*

- A cocked, loaded, crossbow must always be in direct control of the hunter (held in both hands). The loaded crossbow shall never be unattended, and the safety mechanism shall remain in the 'On' position.
- **Keep your finger outside the trigger guard** until the moment of your ethical shot.
- Unloading/Decocking a crossbow safely: For crossbows that have a Mechanical means to unload/decock, strictly follow the manufacturer's directions. For crossbows that need to be fired to be unloaded, **a discharge target must be used to shoot a target tipped** bolt into. The target must be on the ground shooting downward no more than 6 feet away, always pointed in a safe downward direction.
- The MBRB recommends the use of a rest/support while aiming/shooting at deer. A crossbow with anti-dryfire technology is also recommended.
- **No "pistol style crossbows" are allowed.**