

HUNTING SAFETY & LIABILITY



Overview

Sportsmen and women provide the majority of funding for wildlife conservation in the United States. Access has been repeatedly identified as a major issue facing the retention of hunters. Landowners often cite perceived safety and liability issues as concern for allowing recreational hunting on their property. This fact sheet is intended to provide public and private landowners information to reference when considering allowing increased recreational opportunity.

Hunting Safety Comparison

A person is 27 times more likely to be injured playing baseball than hunting.

A person is 29 times more likely to be injured cheerleading than hunting.

A person is 43 times more likely to be injured playing soccer than hunting.

A person is 135 times more likely to be injured playing tackle football than hunting.

National Shooting Sports Foundation 2017

Injury Rate Comparison

Activity	Injury per 100 participants
Football (tackle)	5.13%
Basketball	1.99%
Soccer	1.62%
Bicycle riding	1.36%
Cheerleading	1.10%
Baseball	1.02%
Running	0.67%
Volleyball	0.53%
Golf	0.20%
Tennis	0.18%
Hunting with firearms	0.04%

National Shooting Sports Foundation 2017

Legal Liability

Legal liability has been identified as a major concern among landowners when considering whether or not to grant access to hunters. Legal liability has also been offered as a reason some landowners have stopped allowing hunter access to their property. This is an important issue of concern with the increasing need of sound wildlife management and recreational access.

To encourage Georgia landowners to make their lands available to the public for recreational purposes, including hunting, several laws are in place:

Georgia law (OCGA 51-3-20 through 51-3-26) protects from liability landowners who allow, without charging a fee, their property to be used for recreational purposes.

Georgia law (OCGA 27-3-1) further extends this same protection to landowners, lessees of land, or lessees of hunting or fishing rights who give permission to another to hunt or fish on their property with or without charge.

