

## 2025 WEST POINT CROSSBOW HUNTING NOTICE

In 2025, New York State (NYS) made changes to its crossbow hunting regulations, broadly allowing crossbows to be used in the same seasons, areas, and manner as vertical bows (i.e. compound, recurve and long bows) for the purpose of hunting deer and bear. Those changes, now in effect, include:

- NYS crossbows hunters must have a NYS hunting license and the bow hunting privilege (available to those with bowhunter education certificate). According to NYS, big game crossbow hunters must complete the NYS Bowhunter Education course regardless of past crossbow certification.
- Across **most (but not all)** of NYS, crossbows may now be used where and when vertical bows can be in accordance with a 250 foot setback distance from homes, schools/playgrounds, public structures or farm structures in use or occupied facilities in **most (but not all)** areas.
- Crossbow legal physical specifications have changed. According to NYS, crossbows now require a working trigger safety and minimum peak draw weight of 100 pounds with no minimum limb width, no minimum length and no maximum draw weight.

For more on crossbow hunting regulations, safety and specification requirements and more, see the NYSDEC crossbow hunting website at: <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/regulations/crossbow> and for additional answers to FAQ: <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/crossbowqanda.pdf>

### What does this mean for crossbow hunting at USAG - West Point?

All hunting, trapping and fishing regulations at USAG – West Point comply with and follow New York State regulations, except where stricter for the sake of safety, mission and management. As such, West Point crossbow hunters should be advised of the following for crossbow hunting moving forward:

- **Licensing/Permitting:** West Point crossbow hunters need a NYS hunting license, bowhunting privilege, and West Point (WP) hunting permit (available to those /w MWR eligibility). Guests need a NYS license and privilege and an eligible sponsor with a NYS license, WP permit, and guest pass.
- **When:** Beginning in 2025, in alignment with other areas in NYS Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 3P, crossbows can be used in the newly updated full bow/crossbow season, firearm, and late seasons – a roughly one-month increase in the total overall hunting year for crossbow hunters.
- **Where:** To support safety, management and opportunity, **crossbows remain allowed in all-implement (green/white) and disabled areas (blue), and prohibited in vertical bow areas (red/white): A3, Buckner, CS 2, G2, J1, J2, J3, J4, J5, K, RP, and V/W.**

All other regulations pertaining to crossbows and hunting remain in accordance with all NYS and local West Point regulations. For any questions regarding crossbow use, see the West Point Fish & Game website or email [christopher.w.killough3.civ@army.mil](mailto:christopher.w.killough3.civ@army.mil) with the subject header “Crossbow Hunting” .

– West Point Natural Resources Section