

RANGE RULES

of the

Dormont – Mt. Lebanon Sportsmen's Club

(Revised 2009)

- I. **Purpose** The purpose of these rules is to ensure the safety of all persons using the facilities of the Club, to safeguard these facilities, and to facilitate the safe functioning of the Club within our community.
- II. **Administration** Every member is responsible for promoting strict adherence to the letter and spirit of these rules. The Executive Range Officer is the officer with overall responsibility for the safe operation of the Club. However, every member is equally charged with knowing, understanding, following, and enforcing these rules.
- III. **Execution** These rules are to be considered in force at all times and during all events, whether organized Club events, informal group activities, or shooting by a single individual. Every member shall strictly adhere to these rules, and shall insist on similar adherence by all others while they are on Club property or attending a Club-sponsored function.
- IV. **Procedure** A Club member, observing conduct contrary to these rules, shall bring to the attention of the person responsible for such conduct, the nature and possible danger of such an action. This shall be done in a manner reflecting the member's concern for mutual safety. Belligerent or dictatorial expressions shall be avoided. The member's responsibility is to educate, not chastise. In the event this effort does not produce the desired results, the member shall next bring the matter to the attention of the executive range officer. During an organized Club event, this will be the Range Officer. At other times, this person will be the Executive Range Officer. Since this official is not always present, the reporting member shall use whatever means of communication available, but will take care to provide specific and exact details. The better the information available to the Executive Range Officer, the better the chances that corrective action will be possible.
- V. **General Rules Think!** The consequences of misdirected firearm discharge can be so horrific that they place upon the shooter an additional mantle of responsibility. It would be nice to be able to rely on every shooter's common sense when it comes to safety. Unfortunately, common sense can be an uncommon reaction. However rare it may be, we must rely on common sense to some extent, since it is not possible to write rules to cover absolutely every circumstance. We can state some rules to be followed at all times:
 - A. Shoot only on designated ranges, and shoot only the targets for which those ranges are intended.
 - B. Eye and ear protection is mandatory for all shooters and guests.
 - C. Full automatic fire is prohibited on any range. Firearms with selectable fire control may be used in semi-automatic mode.
 - D. Do not shoot unless there is safe light and sufficient visibility to assure your ability to deal with the unexpected. – *Note: Safe Shooting Hours are posted on the Club House.*
 - E. Load firearms only immediately before intending to fire.
 - F. Use only the appropriate firearm and ammunition for the range.
 - G. Always point firearms, loaded or otherwise, in a direction that, should it discharge, no catastrophe would result.
 - H. Never handle firearms if anyone is forward of the firing line.
 - I. During organized Club events, the Range Officer's word is law. Obey all his commands, whether or not convenient, and "step back from the line" means exactly that.
 - J. In all circumstances, all shooters on a particular range shall cease fire and clear their firearms before another shooter starts forward.
 - K. In the case of the 200 yard targets, shooters on all upper ranges shall be notified before anyone goes to the 200 yard target area.

- L. The safety and behavior of all children and guests is the responsibility of the member bringing them to the Club grounds. When going forward of the line to hang or repair targets you cannot leave children at the line with live arms. Children must accompany you to the targets or all firearms must be disabled. Pets shall be on leash and restrained at all times. Under no circumstance shall pets be allowed to run free.
- M. Shooting at or into streams or waterways is prohibited, as is throwing foreign matter into the water, removing plant life, shooting, killing, or capturing frogs, toads or newts, damming or otherwise blocking the flow of water, or swimming.
- N. While engaged in shooting activity, firearms shall be left open and unloaded, at the firing line, except when firing is actually in progress. Firearms shall not be carried to the target area.
- O. The only place where informal, non-paper targets (metal cans, plastic jugs, etc.) are permitted is the Plinking Range. Targets appropriate to all other ranges are posted on those ranges.
- P. At the conclusion of your shooting activity, police the range. Remove everything you brought.

Everything!

- Q. Only standard target or hunting ammunition may be used at any location on Club grounds. All types of incendiary or exploding ammunition are prohibited.
- R. Alcoholic beverages of any type are absolutely forbidden on any range.
- S. The trash barrels located on the ranges are not 'burning bins'
- T. Please do not interfere with the wild critters that live on the club property.
- U. There is no hunting or trapping allowed on the Club grounds.
- V. Please drive slowly on the club grounds and keep to the gravel roadways.
- W. The wooden bunker frames, those built of ties and poles on the upper ranges, are not to be used as target backers or otherwise be shot up.

VI. Specific Range Rules Within the bounds of reason, the Upper Pistol, Rifle, Bench Rest, Plinking, and Lower Pistol ranges are available to all members and their supervised guests during periods of safe light 7 days a week. For purposes of these rules, "safe light" shall be defined as those times described by the Pennsylvania Game Commission as safe hunting times, and as posted at the club House.

A. Upper Pistol Range

1. Standard equipment and ammunition, as defined in the NRA Pistol Rule book, may be used on this range. Additionally, equipment and ammunition common to pistol Silhouette shooting may be used for competition or practice.
2. Paper targets or silhouette targets are allowed, but nothing else is. You may use the target frames provided or you may bring your own frame, in which case you are required to mount it in such a manner that Club equipment will not be damaged. Targets shall not be attached to any of the wood or metal features of the range.
3. Firing shall be done from behind the existing firing points. Firearms shall not be carried forward of the firing line for any reason. All types of holster play are prohibited. Holsters may be used to transport firearms to the firing point, but shall be left there, empty, during all firing sessions.
4. Haphazard firing at anything except accepted paper targets or approved silhouette targets shall not be done. Cross-firing is prohibited.
5. Shooting at less than 25 yards is limited to the Lower Pistol Range and Plinking range, were safe back-stops are provided.

B. Rifle Range

1. Standard equipment and ammunition, as defined in the NRA Rifle Rule book, may be used on this range. Additionally, equipment and ammunition common to Silhouette shooting and Black Powder rifle shooting, as well as shotguns with rifled slugs, may be used for competition or practice.
2. Paper targets or silhouette targets are allowed, but nothing else is. You may use the target frames provided or you may bring your own frame, in which case you are required to mount it in such a manner that Club equipment will not be damaged. Targets shall not be attached to any of the wood or metal features of the range.
3. Firing shall be done from behind the existing firing points. Firearms shall not be carried forward of the firing line for any reason.
4. Haphazard firing at anything except accepted paper targets or approved silhouette targets shall not be done. Cross-firing is prohibited.
5. Shooting shall be at 50 yards, 50 meters, 100 yards, 100 meters, 150 meters and 200 yards only.
6. The shooter using the 200 yard targets is responsible for notifying all shooters on other upper ranges when going to the 200 yard target area. Other shooters shall cease fire, clear their firearms, make them safe, and step back from the line while the 200 yard target area is occupied. The 200 yard shooter is again responsible for notifying other shooters when the 200 yard target area is clear. This is not an easy rule to observe, but it is absolutely necessary. A shooter at the 200 yard targets is in the line of fire from any other upper range.

C. Bench Rest Range

1. The intended use of this range involves the benches and the greater stability they afford. Other forms or positions of shooting **MUST** be done elsewhere. **ALL SHOOTING MUST BE DONE FROM A SEATED POSITION ONLY WITH ALL FIREARMS BENCHED.**
2. Center fire rifles, rim fire rifles, shotguns with rifled slugs, and black powder rifles are the only acceptable types of weapons used on this range.
3. Paper targets only shall be fastened to the supplied bunkers at 50, 100, and 200 yards. They shall be fastened in such a manner and in such a location that the bullet, passing through the target, shall then pass through the Homasote backer, not the wooden frame. Frames brought from home or from other ranges shall not be used.
4. The shooter using the 200 yard targets is responsible for notifying all shooters on other upper ranges when going to the 200 yard target area. Other shooters shall cease fire, clear their firearms, make them safe, and step back from the line while the 200 yard target area is occupied. The 200 yard shooter is again responsible for notifying other shooters when the 200 yard target area is clear. This is not an easy rule to observe, but it is absolutely necessary. A shooter at the 200 yard targets is in the line of fire from any other upper range.

D. Trap range and Sporting Clays facilities

1. These areas are in use only during organized Club functions. No other activities, especially those involving hand-launched targets, are permitted.
2. The sporting clays shooting positions, wooden pallets with attached lattice framework, should not be touched and are certainly not to be used as target frames or targets.
3. A permanent trap stand with two target launchers is being constructed near the Trap Range which will be open to the use of the General Membership. Only #7-1/2 and smaller pellets with 3 dram loads maximum may be used on this range as larger shot and heavier loads will carry off of our property. #6 and larger shot is NOT Permitted on this range. Also be aware that the range is constructed to limit the available swing of the shotguns to assure the safety of those on the Pistol Range and the Archery Range. Assure that you are not firing in the direction of these ranges. **HAND TRAPS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THIS RANGE.**

E. Plinking range

1. This range was created for the simple fun of simply shooting. It is intended for the completely un-organized enjoyment of the members. The only restrictions concern safety.
2. Pistols, shotguns, and Rim-fire rifles may be used on this range. No center-fire rifles.
3. Informal targets, such as metal cans and plastic jugs, are encouraged. Remember to consider ricochet when positioning targets. Remember, also, that firing above the target bunker places shooters on the Bench Rest range in jeopardy. Control your elevation – the trees are not a backstop!!
4. Any object containing any amount of glass is prohibited, as are such items as paints and glues, volatile liquids, oils or greases, putrid cheeses, furniture, or discarded refrigerant bearing equipment.
5. **Clean up after yourself!!!** We don't have a "grounds crew". Any trash you leave behind must be removed by an already-overloaded caretaker or one of the other members. Efforts are made to empty the trash container placed near the firing line, but these frequently are not sufficient.. **If you brought it in, you take it out!** You are encouraged to use the dumpster near the security gate for trash generated during your use of the club. Please, keep it neat.
6. Once again, it is tempting to invoke common sense, even realizing the rarity of that thought mode, but it is obvious that emptying a 10-shot magazine in 10 seconds can not produce aimed shots. There are a few individuals capable of controlling that energy burst. Even under control, it is still an unsafe practice. If what you want is the satisfaction of placing a bullet where you told it to go, go ahead. If what you want is pyrotechnics, go to a fire-works display.
7. Please remember that there is no shooting from the holster allowed at this club.

F. Lower Pistol Range

1. This range has been closed to the general use of the Membership due to safety reasons. The range is only to be used for firearms under the direct supervision of a designated program under the direct supervision of the Executive Range Officer.
2. The Lower Pistol Range may be used by the General Membership for Archery and other purposes where the discharge of firearms is not involved.

G. INDOOR RANGES

1. The indoor range is not available for individual use. It is for scheduled club activities and always under the control of an on-site range officer.
2. Firearms for use on the indoor range are limited to rimfire or centerfire pistols and rimfire rifles. No centerfire rifle cartridge is allowed .
3. No jacketed ammunition is acceptable on this indoor range.

H. ARCHERY RANGES

1. No broadheads, only practice points.
2. Only approach ranges from the rear.