



Revised and Approved 05-20-2010

## RANGE SAFETY RULES

Upon receipt of your copy of these rules, you as a  
Member, are accountable for the knowledge  
of, and adherence to, these rules at all times.

### Table of Contents

Archery Ranges Rules.....	2
General Firearm Safety Rules.....	5
Black Powder Ranges Rules.....	6
Pistol Ranges Rules.....	7
Rifle Ranges Rules.....	10
Skeet and Trap Ranges Rules.....	15



## MEDICAL OR FIRE EMERGENCY

**CALL 911. Club Address is: 5095 ELLIS ROAD, YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP**

**Send someone to meet and direct the emergency vehicle at the gate.**

**RANGE SAFETY RULES** are intended to provide a safe environment for the use of firearms and archery equipment. Adherence to these Rules is mandated by the Board of Directors of Washtenaw Sportsman's Club and failure to conform to the practices defined herein may jeopardize the membership of violators.

### GENERAL

- **Firearm shooting hours are 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. OR when the amber lights On the Rifle, Black Powder, and Skeet & Trap Ranges come on. The Clubhouse parking-lot light will indicate for the Pistol Range.**
- The gate is to be kept closed and locked at all times; except when tagged and locked open to the post for Club-sanctioned events. **In any case, the combination lock must be set on ALL ZEROS WHENEVER LOCKED.**
- **VEHICLES: SPEED LIMIT IS 15 MPH ON THE CLUBGROUNDS.** Private vehicles are confined to the roads or designated parking lots. Driving on or across the ranges is prohibited; except when needed during a work party or when so directed by a Range Officer during a Club-sanctioned event.
- **SOBER SHOOTERS ONLY.** Drinking alcoholic beverages before or during use of firearms or archery equipment is prohibited.
- Members are directly responsible for the conduct of their guests; children must be under the immediate supervision of a parent or guardian.
- The MEMBERSHIP CARD must be carried whenever on the Club grounds.
- **ORDERLY, CIVIL, and SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT** is expected on the Club grounds.

### USE COMMON SENSE!!

**IF IT ISN'T SAFE - DON'T DO IT; AND DON'T LET ANYONE ELSE DO IT.**

## ARCHERY RANGES RULES

### Facilities Description

The WSC Archery Barns are the first buildings encountered on entry to the Club grounds and are central to all outdoor archery activities. The WSC Archery facility consists of six active ranges:

1. The Archery Practice Range immediately adjacent to the Archery Barn with targets posted from 20 to 65 yards.
2. The Broadhead Practice Range at the east end of the small Archery Barn, shooting into the sand pit only, not into any targets.
3. The 3-D Range; an approximately two-mile trail, occasionally reconfigured; may extend across the road. Begins and ends at the Archery Barn.
4. The Field/Hunter Range; an approximately two-mile trail with 28 stations, occasionally reconfigured; may extend across the road. Begins and ends behind the WSC Clubhouse.
5. The Broadhead Silhouette Range which spans both sides of the road near the Archery Barn.
6. The Indoor Archery Range which occupies the east half of the WSC Clubhouse.

### General Rules For ALL Archery Ranges

- DO **NOT** nock arrows when persons are down range.
- Nock arrows **ONLY** when on the shooting line and with the bow pointed downrange.
- DO **NOT** elevate or draw the bow pointing above the target butt.
- No person shall go forward of the shooting line until the line is clear and safe.
- Be considerate of fellow archers; distracting behavior or horseplay is prohibited.
- The use of broadhead arrows in any target butt is prohibited.

- At all leagues or shoots where there are more shooters than places; the following prioritization will apply: Returning Members / Members / Returning Non-Members / Non-Members.

**Range Officers** (who must be Club members) are appointed by the Archery Committee. A Range Officer(s) will be present during all Club sanctioned events. The Range Officer's decisions will be honored without dispute or contention during the event; appeals will be first directed to the Archery Committee for resolution, and if necessary, thereafter to the WSC Board of Directors.

#### **Archery Practice Range Rules**

- Target or Field points only
- Broadheads are confined to the Broadhead Practice Range

#### **3-D Range and Field/Hunter Range Rules**

- Target or field points only
- Shoot *only* at the target and only shoot from the designated shooting station.
- No person shall go forward to retrieve arrows until shooting is complete.
- When retrieving arrows, or searching for lost arrows, have one of your party stand in front of the target, or place bow in front of the target to show shooters following behind you that the target is not clear.
- Make certain that the target is properly placed for following shooters.
- If you are holding up faster-paced shooters, allow them to pass through.
- Archers leaving the target must use designated exit paths. Do not retrace trails toward previous targets and do not cut across the trails.
- Always sign in and out on the sign-in sheet.
- According to the listed rates, place range fees in envelope and deposit in the locked tube.
- Broadhead and 3-D ranges will be closed at 4:00 PM on Broadhead Shoot Days..

#### **Broadhead Silhouette Range**

- During a shoot or practice, access to the range is limited to participating archers.
- Young archers under age 12 must be under the immediate supervision of an adult 18 years or older. Children not involved in the shooting activities must be under the immediate supervision of a parent or guardian.
- Silhouettes are to be shot only from the designated shooting station; in numerical sequence and shoot only at the target.
- When retrieving or searching for lost arrows, have one of your party stand in front of the target, or place bow in front of target to show shooters following behind you that the target is not clear.
- Archers leaving the silhouette range must use the designated exit path. Do not retrace trails toward previous target or lower number silhouette and do not cut across the trails.

#### **Indoor Archery Range**

- Turn on only lights needed.
- Remember to turn OFF the lights when you leave.
- Always sign in and out on the sign-in sheet. This means everyone.
- Properly dispose of any trash that you have.
- Place range fees in envelope, and deposit in tube according to the listed rates.
- If there are persons waiting to shoot from various distances, the following schedule will prevail: From the hour to the half-hour, everyone shoots at 20-yards ...from the half-hour to the hour, everyone shoots at a mutually agreed-upon distance that may vary.

## **BLACK POWDER RANGES RULES**

### **GENERAL FIREARM SAFETY RULES**

1. **Be certain the firearm is safe to operate; and that proper usage and handling is understood before coming to the range.**
2. **Open Bolt Indicators (OBI) are required for all uncased firearms on the Rifle Ranges; Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI) are required for uncased firearms on the Pistol Range.**
3. **Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.**
4. **Make certain that appropriate and safe ammunition is used.**
5. **Do not load until ready to fire.**
6. **Keep the finger OFF the trigger until ready to shoot.**
7. **Avoid leaving the firearm unattended; keep it in sight or cased.**
8. **Eye and ear protection is required on all ranges.**
9. **Firing the .50 caliber Browning Machine Gun (BMG) cartridge on any Club range is prohibited.**
10. **MEMBERS MUST INSIST ON THE COURTEOUS BUT FIRM ENFORCEMENT OF THESE RANGE SAFETY RULES FOR BOTH THEIR GUESTS AND FELLOW MEMBERS.**

### **Range Description**

The WSC Black Powder Range has an enclosed firing line with an office area on the right side of the building. Safe handling rules governing both individual practice and match condition firing are posted on the outer office wall, facing the firing line. Known Distance (KD) target frames and impact berms are located at 25, 50, 100, and 200 yards. Angled to the left of the KD range, is a reduced-course metallic silhouette range in containment berms. Beyond the 200 yard line lies a Woodswalk Range with multiple firing stations and novelty targets; the Woodswalk Range is not accessible except during scheduled events with a Range Officer(s) present.

### **Personal Protection**

Eye and ear protection is required for all persons on the Black Powder Ranges.

### **Permitted Firearms**

- **Black powder firearms ONLY** are to be used on the Black Powder Ranges.

### **Informal/practice firing**

#### **A. Loading**

- **Tobacco smoking is prohibited in the enclosed firing line and office area.**
- **Powder containers MUST BE CLOSED when not measuring powder.**
- **Loading firearms directly from a powder horn or can is prohibited. A separate measure must be used**
- Loading is to be done only when the range is clear and no person is forward of the firing line.
- When loading a caplock, the hammer must be on half-cock; When loading a flint-lock, the cock must be down and the frizzen must be up.
- Muzzles must remain UP until on the firing line.
- **LOADING FIREARMS OR SNAPPING CAPS IN THE OFFICE AREA IS PROHIBITED.**
- **BLACK POWDER OR BLACK POWDER SUBSTITUTES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE OFFICE. Leave horns, flasks or any other powder containers in the enclosed firing line area.**

## B. Firing Line

- Shooters must be on the firing line to cap or prime.
- Clearing caplock nipples or "snapping caps" is to be done only when the range is clear and no person is forward of the firing line.
- Flintlock shooters should stand next to a shield or warn persons on their "vent side".

### Cease-Fires

Regardless of the number of persons firing, whether one shooter or multiple shooters, the RED SAFETY FLAG must be placed in the socket at the 25-yard line whenever persons go forward of the firing line. Long guns should be racked with muzzles UP and other firearms made safe. NO LOADING or handling of firearms while persons are downrange.

### Targets

- **Paper targets ONLY during informal/practice shooting.** Frangible (breakable) targets are reserved to Club sanctioned competitions or events.
- Targets must be stapled to cardboard backers and placed in the KD target frames provided.
- **Attaching targets directly to the vertical posts or wooden cross bars is prohibited.**
- **Placing targets at ground level; or on top of the target frames; or on top of the impact berms is prohibited.**
- **Cross-range firing is prohibited.** Targets must be in perpendicular line to the firing point.

### CLUB SANCTIONED EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

A Range Officer (who must be a Club member) will be present during Club sanctioned events and competitions. Be aware that event procedures will have significant differences to rules governing use of the facilities during informal shooting.

**A RANGE OFFICER WILL NOT TYPICALLY BE PRESENT DURING INFORMAL FIRING and MEMBERS MUST INSIST ON THE COURTEOUS BUT FIRM ENFORCEMENT OF THESE RANGE RULES FOR BOTH THEIR GUESTS AND FELLOW MEMBERS.**

## PISTOL RANGES RULES

### Range Description

The Pistol Range Building extends along a succession of ranges defined by containment berms perpendicular to the firing line. An office/storage area divides the firing line into two activity zones, which may operate simultaneously and independently. The west firing line is a 25-yard range with separate cease fire alarm system. The east firing line has firing points for 25, 50, 75, and 100 yards; also with a separate cease fire alarm system. A waist-height platform, or bench, facing the targets, extends over the length of the Pistol Range Building: this defines the **Firing line. Loading of firearms shall only occur at the Firing Line and muzzles of all firearms must extend over the Firing Line when shooting.**

### INFORMAL/PRACTICE FIRING

**A CEASE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM** and flashing red light governs activities at all firing points and is to be employed whether only one shooter or multiple shooters are present.

#### Whenever activated:

- All firearms must be unloaded
- Detachable magazines or clips removed
- Muzzles pointed downrange and an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) inserted in the chamber.
- Persons remaining on the Firing Line must step behind the yellow line and **NO PERSON SHALL HANDLE, CLEAN, OR MANIPULATE ANY UNCASSED FIREARM DURING A CEASE FIRE.**

The person who activates the Cease Fire Alarm must ascertain that all persons have returned from the target areas, and are behind the Firing Line, before turning the Cease Fire Alarm OFF.

**Hangfires or: loaded and jammed firearms: KEEP THE FIREARM POINTED DOWNRANGE. A CEASE FIRE MUST BE CALLED AND ALL PERSONS WARNED TO REMAIN BEHIND THE FIRING LINE UNTIL THE FIREARM IS CLEARED.**

### Personal Protection

Eye and ear protection required for all persons on the Pistol Range

## Permitted Firearms

Handguns, Rim Fire Rifles, and: Air Rifles and Pistols.

## Club Restrictions

1. Centerfire Rifles, Carbines, and Shotguns are prohibited.
2. Tracer, armor piercing, incendiary or explosive projectiles are prohibited.
3. Frangible (breakable) targets are prohibited.
4. Placing targets at ground-level or on top of the impact berms is prohibited
5. Placing targets on the side of the range-dividing/containment berms, or on the ends of those berms is prohibited
6. Shooting from the hip is prohibited

## Targets

**PAPER TARGETS ONLY** are to be used on the Pistol Range. Bullets must strike the earthen impact berms that are parallel to the Firing Line; and preferably impact in the lower half of the berm. To that end, targets are to be stapled to the center of cardboard backers and the cardboard backer then stapled to hang from the wooden cross bar. **Attaching targets directly to the vertical posts or wooden cross bars is prohibited.** When using the portable target stands for shorter range firing, the target height must be adjusted equal to the height of the firearm (sitting bench rest or standing) to assure bullet strike below the center of the impact berm.

## ORGANIZED EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

A Range Officer (who must be a Club member) will be present during Club sanctioned competitions and events such as Metallic Silhouette, Falling Plate and Bowling Pin and instructional shooting. Be aware that event procedures will have significant differences to rules governing use of the facilities during informal shooting.

**A RANGE OFFICER WILL NOT TYPICALLY BE PRESENT DURING INFORMAL FIRING and MEMBERS MUST INSIST ON THE COURTEOUS BUT FIRM ENFORCEMENT OF THESE RANGE RULES FOR BOTH THEIR GUESTS AND FELLOW MEMBERS.**

## RIFLE RANGES RULES

### Range Description

The WSC Rifle Range consists of three principal activity areas:

- **The Rifle House**, an enclosed building on the north end of the firing line with permanently mounted benches; primarily used for 50, 100, and 200-yard firing.
- Immediately to the right of, and attached to the Rifle House, is the **Bench Rest Structure**, a covered firing line with permanently mounted benches; also used for 50, 100, and 200-yard firing.
- To the right of the Bench Rest Structure are **the Known Distance (KD) Ranges** with grass berm firing points at 200, 300, 400, 500, and 600-yards; and incorporating the target pits and pit target storage shed.

The 200-yard KD firing points are on a line with the Rifle House and Bench Rest Structure firing points and concurrent use is permitted during informal shooting.

**NO OTHER SIMULTANEOUS USE OF THE KD RANGES AND THE BENCH REST AREAS IS PERMITTED..** Safe handling rules and range regulations are posted in the bench rest structure. Review them regularly for updates.

The Rifle Range is used for informal practice, sighting-in, load development, etc. by individual shooters. At other times, formal competitions and simulated competition practices are scheduled and conducted under rules sets approved by the Rifle Committee or as established by the National Rifle Association or the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Be aware that competition procedures will have significant differences to rules governing use of the facilities during informal shooting.

### Personal Safety

- Eye and hearing protection must be worn by all persons on the Rifle Range.
- Open bolt indicators (OBI) **MUST** be placed in the firearm chamber when a cease-fire is called and/or the shooter is moving from one yardage line to another.

### Permitted Firearms and Ammunition

Only legal firearms and ammunition as defined for civilian use and conforming to State and Federal laws may be used on the Rifle Range with the following **Club restrictions**:

- Firearms firing the .50 BMG cartridge are prohibited.
- Firearms capable of full automatic firing are prohibited.
- Tracer, armor-piercing, incendiary, or explosive projectiles are prohibited.

### Informal Firing From the Rifle House or Bench Rest Structure

- **Single shot loading only.** Only one cartridge at a time may be loaded into the firearm. Detachable magazines or clips must not contain additional cartridges and are to be used only as an aid to loading a single round.
- Shooters must be seated and the firearm fired from a rest or bipod. Firing from the standing or “offhand” position is prohibited within the Rifle House or Bench Rest Structure. During firing, muzzles of all firearms must project beyond the forward edge of the bench (or window, if inside the Rifle House), and must be aligned perpendicular to their respective target. “Cross firing” or shooting across the “lanes” at other targets is prohibited.
- Firing at 50-yard targets is restricted to benches 1 – 4 and targets must be posted to assure impact in the 100-yard backstop.
- Whenever two or more shooters are present, (NOTE THAT: this condition may include shooters on the 200-yard KD grass berm firing points), a cease-fire opportunity will be offered every 20 minutes for target change or repair.

### Informal Firing From the KD 200 and 300-yard Firing Points (grass-berms)

- The 300-yard firing points may be used when the Rifle House, Bench Rest Structure and 200-yard firing points are not occupied. The range gate must be closed and a vehicle parked in front of the gate whenever the 300-yard firing points are in use. Note that: Activities at the Rifle House, Bench Rest Structure and 200-yard grass-berm firing points have priority of use and 300-yard shooters must yield the range when requested.

- Timed or “rapid fire” **WITH RIFLES** is permitted from firing points on the 200 and 300-yard grass berms, and multiple-round loading of **RIFLE MAGAZINES** is permitted.
- Firing at the 100-yard targets from the grass berm firing points is prohibited.

### Cease-Fires During Informal Shooting

- During cease-fires, actions of all uncased firearms must be open, detachable magazines or clips removed, safeties: on, muzzles pointed downrange, and an open bolt indicator (OBI) inserted in the chamber.
- Persons remaining at the firing line are to step **BEHIND THE YELLOW LINE** in the Rifle House and Bench Rest Structure. On the grass berms, persons are to step back a minimum of two feet from uncased firearms and all individuals remaining at the firing lines are prohibited from handling, cleaning, or manipulating any uncased firearm while persons are downrange.
- Persons going forward of the firing line for 100-yard target repair/change will place a red flag in the pipe provided for that purpose at the 50-yard line; persons going to the 200-yard pit area will place the “200-yard flag” in the pipe provided for that purpose at the right-hand end of the 100-yard impact berm. The last person returning from the 100-yard targets, and the last person returning from the 200-yard pit area will recover their respective flag and return to the firing line. The flags **MUST** be employed whether only one or multiple shooters are present.
- Only after it is ascertained that all persons have returned behind the firing line may firing resume.

**Malfunctions, misfires, or: loaded & jammed firearms: KEEP THE FIREARM POINTED DOWNRANGE, A CEASE-FIRE MUST BE CALLED AND ALL PERSONS WARNED TO REMAIN BEHIND THE YELLOW SAFETY LINE UNTIL THE FIREARM IS CLEARED AND MADE SAFE.**

### **Club Sanctioned Use of the KD Ranges**

- Only Club sanctioned events may be fired at ranges greater than 300-yards; a Range Officer must be present; the range gate must be closed; and a vehicle parked in front of the gate. A road guard (Club member only) must be posted to control access to the ranges. There must be 3-way communications between the firing line, road guard and target pits.
- During Daylight Saving Time, on the last calendar Wednesday of the month, the Rifle House, Bench Rest Structure and 200-yard grass berm firing points will close at 10:00 A.M. to permit long range firing practice. On all other Wednesdays during Daylight Saving Time, the Rifle House, Bench Rest Structure, and the 200-yard grass berm firing points will close at 1:00 P.M. for the same purpose.

### **Range Officers**

Range Officers (who must be Club members) are appointed by the Rifle Committee. A Range Officer(s) will be present during all Club sanctioned events. The Range Officer's decisions will be honored without dispute or contention during the event; appeals will first be directed to the Rifle Committee for resolution, and, if necessary, thereafter to the WSC Board of Directors. **A RANGE OFFICER WILL NOT TYPICALLY BE PRESENT DURING INFORMAL FIRING and MEMBERS MUST INSIST ON THE COURTEOUS BUT FIRM ENFORCEMENT OF THESE RANGE RULES FOR BOTH THEIR GUESTS AND FELLOW MEMBERS.**

### **Targets**

- Paper targets only are to be used on the Rifle Range. Human-form targets are not to be used on the Rifle Range. The prohibition of human-form targets is not construed to prohibit targets adopted by the Civilian Marksmanship Program for their intended use in competition.
- Shooters must provide their own targets when using the Rifle Range for informal practice and are expected to remove and appropriately discard used targets. Targets will be supplied only for Club sanctioned events.

- Targets placed closer than 100-yards must be posted at an adequate height to prevent ground-level ricochets and ensure direct impact in the 100-yard impact berm.
- Targets must be attached to the appropriate 100-yard backers or carriers on the KD range and must not be attached to the vertical posts, wooden cross bars or number boards.
- Frangible (breakable) targets may be used only during Club sanctioned events.

### **Rifle Range Orientation**

Members who have not previously fired on the Rifle Range, must attend an orientation session on the Rifle Range. The orientation will be conducted by a Range Officer or Rifle Committee Division head. On completion of the session, a **Rifle Range Orientation Card** will be issued; signed and dated by the session leader. The member must put their name on the card and carry it with their WSC membership card.

### **“Long-Range Handguns” on the Rifle Range**

Permitted Firearms:

- Appropriate target model or hunting handguns. **Barrel length must be 6-inches or longer.**
- Single shot loading only. Only one cartridge at a time may be loaded into the handgun. Clips, detachable magazines, or cylinders must not contain additional cartridges.
- A rest or support must be used for all long-range handgun firing – whether at the benches or on the grass berm. Firing from the standing or “offhand” position is prohibited.
- Timed or “rapid” fire from the grass berm with long-range handguns is prohibited.
- Members must apply to the Rifle Committee for authorization / certification to use long-range handguns on the Rifle Range.

## SKEET AND TRAP RANGES RULES

### Range Description

The WSC Skeet and Trap Ranges face north from the range office/storage building, where the Range Rules are posted; review them regularly for updates. A fence divides the two ranges; Skeet Range on the left and Trap Range on the right. Both ranges may be active at the same time and range officers will always be present when the powered traps of either range are used.

**The Skeet Range** has a "high" house on the left and a "low" house on the right. Between is a semicircle with seven stations, plus one station between the houses, which the shooter progresses along as clay targets are projected from the "high and/or low" houses, firing single or double-loadings dependent on the particular station.

**The Trap Range** has a single trap house slightly raised above ground level. Behind is a five-station fan with distances from 16 to 27 yards.

### Personal Protection

Eye and ear protection is required for all persons whether firing, scoring or coaching on the Skeet and Trap Ranges.

### Permitted Firearms

- **Shotguns are the ONLY firearms permitted on the Skeet and Trap Ranges. Handguns (either pistol or revolver) are prohibited.**

### At ALL TIMES ON THE SKEET AND TRAP RANGES:

- **Shotguns must be open and empty when off the firing station.**
- **Load only when on firing station.**
- **Do NOT change stations with a round in the chamber.**
- **Use only target velocity or 3-Dram Equivalent (or less) shells.**
- **Shot size is restricted to 7-1/2 OR SMALLER.**

## SCHEDULED OR SANCTIONED EVENTS

- **Skeet Range: Load only one shell** on Station 8, either "high" or "low" (unless an additional load is authorized by the Range Officer).
- **Trap Range: Load only one shell at all Stations** (unless an additional load is authorized by the Range Officer)

**When both ranges are active** and it is necessary to go forward to the Trap House, the **Range Safety Flag** will be raised *and* the following conditions apply.

- **Skeet Range:** No firing on Stations 1, 2, or 8.
- **Trap Range:** Cease fire at all Stations, check that Skeet Stations 1,2, and 8 are clear before proceeding to the Trap House.

## INFORMAL/PRACTICE FIRING ON THE SKEET RANGE PATTERN BOARD

Informal /practice firing on the **Skeet Range is limited to use of the Pattern Board** under the following conditions:

- Hand traps are not to be used on the Skeet Range.
- No scheduled events on **either range.**
- The use of rifles or handguns is prohibited.
- Any shot size is permitted with the exception that: **buck shot and shotgun slugs are prohibited on the pattern board.**
- Pattern papers must be removed from the Pattern Board and appropriately discarded after use.

## INFORMAL/PRACTICE FIRING ON THE TRAP RANGE

Informal/practice firing on the **Trap Range** with hand traps may be conducted under the following conditions:

- No scheduled events on **either range.**
- **Set up in front of the trap house.**
- **Clay targets only.** Cans, bottles or any other impromptu targets are prohibited.
- Throw clay targets toward the brush line **directly in front of the trap house.**

**MUZZLE-LOADING SKEET AND TRAP**

Muzzle-loading shotguns must conform to all of the foregoing rules and the following requirements:

- Tobacco smoking in the vicinity of the loading or firing stations is **ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED.**
- **Use ONLY** black powder, Pyrodex, or black powder substitute. Smokeless powder or duplex loads are prohibited.
- When loading the caplock, the hammer must be on half cock, When loading the flintlock, the cock must be down and the frizzen must be up.
- Loading directly from a powder flask, can, or horn is prohibited. A separate measure is required
- Prime or cap **ONLY** when on the firing station.
- Powder containers must be kept closed at all times when not in immediate use.
- **Shot size is restricted to 7-1/2 OR SMALLER.**