

Message From the Chief Range Officer

Over the past several years we have made a number of range improvements based on suggestions from you, the membership . We have also, over the past few years, been experiencing rapid growth in membership. Because of all of these changes, we recently decided it was time to update range and ground rules to better fit the new range layouts and the changing experience level of the membership.

On the website, you will find those new rules posted and updated from time to time. I urge each of you to read them and become familiar with them. You will be held accountable for knowing them. They will also be posted at each range. If you are not sure if what you want to do is permitted, contact a Board member for clarification.

Some highlights...

Outdoor 50 yd Range:

All targets must be put on the backers provided. Permitted targets are paper or cardboard only. We do still allow the use of clay birds to be hung on the backers, provided they are not placed in front of the wood target frames or you can put them on the dirt berm behind the 50 yd line. Bottles, cans, bowling pins, ground swingers and the like are all prohibited targets.

Slug guns are ok, but shotshells or buckshot is never permitted on the 50 yd range. A couple of shotshells fired into a backer and the backers are all but destroyed. Sorry.

Since we require all shooting to be done from the concrete pad, we can no longer permit drawing and firing from a holster due to risks of accidental discharges sending a round into the concrete resulting in a ricochet.

Also , the 10yd backer must be shot at from the standing position only. If you sit and shoot at the 10 yd backer, bullets impact too high on the backstop.

Indoor Pistol Range:

Other than the makeover in the range layout, the only big difference in the rules is BB and pellet rifles are no longer permitted. We have had a number of issues with BB's left on the floor causing near falls. Also, our backstop is not made for such low power projectiles and causes bounce backs which is another safety issue.

Indoor Archery:

Not much new here except crossbows, of any draw weight, are not permitted. The shorter bolts bury themselves inside the targets and are near impossible to retrieve.

Outdoor 100 & 200 yd Rifle:

As the name implies, this is a RIFLE range. All shooting is to be done at the common firing line

(benches). If you need to shoot at shorter distances, this should be at the 50 yd outdoor range instead.

All targets , made of paper or cardboard, are to be placed on the backers provided. Portable backers and ground targets (bottles, cans, swingers made of any material) are not permitted.

Be sure to check for people downrange at both distances before you shoot and be sure to use the warning flag system.

Outdoor Trap Range:

The trap rules have stayed pretty much the same except the power limit is now 3 Dram due to safety issues with the shot fall zone.

General Issues:

I remind everyone to be sure to sign in and out of the range as required by the laws. For outdoor ranges, be sure to shut the gate behind you but leave the lock hanging locked to the chain. This is so emergency personal can reach you should an accident happen.

In general, our ranges do not have dedicated range officers. All members using the ranges are the range officers. Therefore it falls upon each member to follow the rules themselves and to police the other members and guests using the ranges. Don't be afraid to ask to see a membership card. After all it is one of the rules that if asked, you must show your membership card as proof of membership. It's also a good way to meet other members and I have found that if you know the other shooters names, you will be less likely to have issues with people following the rules. We will never ask you to put yourself in harms way trying to enforce rules. Instead, if there is a problem, point out the rule violation politely and if the other shooter continues to violate the rules, I suggest you leave and inform a Board member of what happened. Try to get some info as to name, car or license plate, date and time etc. We will take it from there.

One issue we have with some shooters, especially the new to shooting ranges shooters, is the simple rule that when other shooters are downrange, all guns on the firing line are to be unloaded, actions open with magazines out and cylinders open and are left on the table and benches. NO guns are to be handled on the firing line while people are downrange. PERIOD! Also, no uncased guns are to be taken to or from the firing line while people are downrange.

I guess those are the high points. Check back here from time to time for new info. If you have questions, you can contact me at my number shown on the newsletter. Good, safe shooting to all!

Ed Cooksey

LCCL VP and Chief Range Officer