

# Northwestern Connecticut Sportsmen's Association Range Rules

## Pistol Range Rules

### Safety Rules:

1. Keep the muzzle of firearms pointed downrange at all times while at the firing line.
2. If uncased, firearms must have the action open and be clear.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger or the safety until ready to fire.
4. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded, at all times.
5. The "cease fire" command must be obeyed immediately and without question at all times. All firearms must be unloaded with actions open when a cease-fire is called.
6. Firearms may not be handled while anyone is down range.
7. Be sure of your target and the area beyond it.
8. Defective or damaged firearms must be cleared at the line, then cased and removed from the range.

**Note: Any person on the firing line may call a "Cease Fire" if a potentially dangerous situation is observed.**

### General Rules:

1. The Range Officer's commands must be obeyed at all times. When a Range Officer is not on duty, all shooters present must co-operate with each other to ensure range safety. If a potentially unsafe condition is noticed by any shooter or spectator, an emergency cease fire must be called and all shooters present must obey immediately.
2. Shooting hours are from 9am to sunset every day.
3. Proper ear, eye and footwear protection is required for all shooters and spectators while in the range building. No open-toed shoes or flipflops.
4. All firearms must be pointed down range at all times whenever they are uncased or removed from storage containers. This precaution applies to loaded or unloaded firearms.
5. All firearms must be cased and uncased in the firing ports, not on the rear shelf or on the tables in the range building.
6. Dry firing or discharging muzzleloader caps will be conducted as if it were live fire.
7. Shooters may not move forward of the firing line until a cease-fire ("cold range") has been **agreed to** and established, all firearms are open and unloaded, and shooters have moved back from their shooting positions.
  - a. Anyone shooting at, working on, or walking down-range on the pistol range must use the Yellow Revolving Caution Light system. The switch to activate the Yellow Revolving Caution Light System is above the fan and range light timer-controls on the right as you enter the range building.
  - b. When all shooters have agreed upon a cease-fire, the Yellow Revolving Caution Lights and Warning Bell are to be turned on. There are buttons at every shooting bench on the posts ("START").
  - c. After all shooters are back behind the firing line and have agreed on a live fire condition ("hot range"), only then can the Yellow Revolving Caution Lights be turned off, using the one reset button ("STOP") located in the middle of the back wall of the pistol range building.
  - d. Note there is a RED-STOP/ GREEN-GO light outside of the entrance to the pistol range.
    - When the light is **red** this means the range is hot. Everyone must wear eye, ear and foot protection **before** entering range building.
    - When light is **green** this means the range is in a safe or cold condition and it is safe to enter without eye and ear protection.
    - When the first shooter gets to the range, they must turn on the power to the range safety lights. The last shooter to leave must shut off power to range safety lights.

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8. Members are responsible for their guest's safe use of the range and adherence to all range rules. Guests must read range rules **before** using the range. Host members must remain with their guests and supervise their actions.
9. Authorized targets at the pistol range are:
  - a. Standard paper targets attached to club target holders or target holders that the shooter may bring.
    1. Target holders must be approved by the Pistol Chairman.
  - b. Action pistol targets during Action Pistol matches.
  - c. All other types of targets must be approved for use by the Pistol Range Chairman prior to their use.
10. Individuals may move down range to set targets only after a cease-fire has been announced, agreed to and all shooters on the line are aware of the cease-fire. All firearms are to be unloaded with the actions open. All shooters must step back from the line. There is to be absolutely no handling of firearms while people are down range.
11. Nobody may move forward of the firing line during live fire.
12. Any single shot, semi-automatic pistol or revolver may be used on the pistol range. No rifle calibers over .30 cal. are allowed when shooting single shot pistols such as Thompson Center Contender or Encore. Center fire rifles, muzzle loading rifles, center fire rifle-caliber handguns and shotguns may not normally be used at the pistol range. Shotguns may be used during supervised Turkey and Ham Shoots.
13. Remove all paper targets from target holders after use. Pick up all brass and dispose of in brass pails, especially .22 rimfire.
14. Store all target frames inside pistol range storage shed and stack target frame bases on platform near shooting shed after use.

### **Prohibited Practices:**

1. Handling of firearms for any reason when someone is down range.
2. Use of a fully automatic firearm or use of a device that simulates fully automatic fire.
3. Use of unauthorized targets such as glass, cans, rocks, wood or any target that can cause a ricochet.
4. Use of armor piercing ammunition (steel or tungsten core, penetrator, or military black tip), tracer ammunition or incendiary ammunition.
5. Deliberate shooting at target stands, frames or range markers.
6. Shooting above black rubber sheet backstop.
7. Cross-fire onto another target or to any area of the range not directly in front of the shooter.

**Note: Any member who violates these rules will be subject to suspension of membership or expulsion from the club.**