

Northwestern Connecticut Sportsmen's Association Range Rules

Rifle 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 immediately be unloaded with actions open when a cease-fire is called.
6. Firearms may not be touched, handled or adjusted 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 9 am 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 on the firing line must be pointed down range at all times. Firearms behind the firing line must be unloaded, cased or racked with actions open. This precaution applies to loaded or unloaded firearms.
5. Dry firing or discharging muzzleloader caps will be conducted as if it were live fire.
6. 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, walking or driving down-range on the rifle range must use the Yellow Revolving Caution Light system. The switch to activate the Yellow Revolving Caution Light System is next to the overhead range light switch on the right as you enter the range building through the double doors.
 - b. When all shooters have agreed upon a cease-fire, the Yellow Revolving Caution Lights are to be turned on. There are buttons at every other 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 behind the shooting benches near the building entrance.

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- d. Note there is a RED-STOP/ GREEN-GO light on the range building.
 - When the light is **red**, this means the range is hot. Everyone must wear eye, ear and footwear protection **before** entering range building. Do not proceed down-range on the range road, right side of 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. It is safe to walk or drive down-range.
 - 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.
7. Members are responsible for their guests' 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.
8. Handguns may be used on the rifle range only for long range shooting (over 50 yards). Any other shooting of handguns should take place at the Pistol Range.
9. Authorized targets at the rifle range are:
 - a. Standard paper targets attached to club target holders or target holders that the shooter may bring.
 - b. Metal swinger targets supplied at the range. White painted swinger targets are for cast lead bullets only. Fluorescent orange painted swinger targets are for cast lead or jacketed bullets.
 - c. All other types of targets must be approved for use by the Rifle Range Chairman prior to their use.
10. Individuals may move down range to set targets only after a cease-fire has been announced and all shooters on the line have agreed to and 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 rifle, shotgun (shooting slugs only), pistol or revolver may be used on the rifle range. Pistol or revolver use should be limited to 25 yards or longer range; pistol or revolver shooting at less than 25 yards should be conducted at the Pistol Range.
13. No rapid-fire is to be conducted on the rifle range, unless expressly allowed during events with Range Safety Officer present. Aimed fire with minimum 2 second interval between shots is allowed. "Controlled pair" shooting consisting of two shots in rapid succession, with at least a 2 second interval between, is allowed for tactical and defensive rifle or carbine training drills.
14. Remove all paper targets from target frames after use.
15. Remove any debris left after shooting from the range to keep it neat and clean. Pick up brass and put in brass pails, especially .22 rimfire.
16. Store all target holders in the rack after use.
17. Sound-reducing muffler tubes located on rifle range should be utilized when firing 50 BMG or any other loud, large caliber rifles equipped with muzzle brakes.

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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 (steel or tungsten core, penetrator, military black or green tip) ammunition, tracer ammunition or incendiary ammunition.
5. Deliberate shooting at target stands, supports or range markers.
6. Cross-fire onto another target or to any area of the range not directly in front of the shooter.
7. Shooting or patterning a shotgun with any type of shot or birdshot. Shotgun shooting is limited to slugs on the rifle range.
8. Absolutely no shooting beyond 265 yards unless directed otherwise by the Rifle Range Chairman.

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