

Prairie Central
Sportsmen's Club
2015



Range
&
Safety Rules

Administrative Rules

General Conduct and Safety Regulations

The following are rules for safe and orderly operations of the shooting range that must be adhered to by all shooters. Any changes, exceptions, or additions will be made at the discretion of the Prairie Central Sportsmen's Club (PCSC), the Trap-shooting Committee, the Pistol/Rifle Committee, or the Chief Range Officer.

Any changes to any rules are immediate and will be posted in the sign-in area at the PCSC building.

The Range is operated exclusively for the benefit of its members and others if authorized by the Board of Directors. This includes:

- The members of the Club.
- Guests of members of the Club; each guest is allowed at the range only one time a calendar year.
- The public, if approved by the Board of Directors for the purpose of education, training, public safety and formal competitions.
- The armed forces of the United States, subject to the rules and limits of the range.
- The police of various jurisdictions, subject to the rules and limits of the range.
- Special groups and other programs.

Identification

Each time the range is used, any club member bringing in guests must sign them in and out at the building north of the trap range.

- All guests must be signed in individually.
- All guests must fill out and sign a waiver.
- All members must carry their club membership card while at the range.
- Members may be required to produce photo identification by an Officer or Board of Director of the PCSC Board of Directors, Trap-shooting Committee Member, Pistol/Rifle Committee Member, or a Range Safety Officer (RSO) to verify that the person is a bona fide club member.

General Rules

- **Note: Other individual ranges may occasionally have special events scheduled at the PCSC range; these will take precedence.**
- Each club member will receive a Range schedule as well as a schedule of matches and leagues with their membership renewal. The Range schedule will also be emailed to each club member who provides an email address with his or her membership.

- **The trap range may be used from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. until sunset on the pistol/rifle ranges year round.** The official sunset is as published by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Region III).
- All club members must have their orientation before shooting at the range.
- Only paper targets may be used on pistol/rifle ranges: unless the Board of Directors, Pistol/Rifle Committee Member, or a Range Safety Officer grants prior approval. All members must bring their own targets with them, unless otherwise provided for by PCSC competition teams.
- Certain shooting activities are not allowed. See General Range Rules and Specific Range Rules.
- The range may be scheduled for certain activities with approval of the Chief Range Safety Officer, Trap-Shooting Committee or Pistol/Rifle Committee, and Board of Directors. All activities must comply with the Administrative Rules.
- Pets must be on a leash and controlled at all times. The pet's owner will remove pet waste.
- Transportation of firearms to and from the facility must comply with state law.
- It is the duty of everyone to keep the buildings and grounds as clean as possible.
- There is no food service on the grounds except for when there are specific events.
- There is no eating or drinking on or beyond the firing line.
- Always wash your hands with cold water before eating and after your shooting activities are completed. This is to reduce the possibility of lead, oils or solvents from being absorbed through the skin.
- Parking is available in designated areas. Special events may allow for added parking areas with Board of Director or Chief Range Officer approval.
- The Range Safety Officer may shut down any range at any time for safety concerns (including weather) or for maintenance.
- **Anyone may be asked to leave the range for whatever reason the Range Safety Officer deems is improper conduct.**
- Children under age seven, pregnant women and others who have concerns about possible hazards on the range should consult a physician before visiting shooting ranges.

Gate

The gate is to remain closed at all times, unless the PCSC Board of Directors, Trap-Shooting Committee, Pistol/Rifle Committee, or a Range Safety Officer has given prior permission.

All non-member shooters must leave at the conclusion of an organized event or may camp as a guest of a club member on the range for a multi-day event. While on the range property, the non-member guest must be accompanied by the member at all times. The guest may only use the range scheduled for the registered event and during that event only.

Membership

Annual Club Membership

All Club members must be current members of the PCSC. No refunds will be issued.

Each club member is required to work two days at the range per membership year.

A fee of \$___ will be assessed for each day not worked.

All Annual and Life Members over age 60 are exempt from work days, but are still encouraged to work. Your experience would be greatly appreciated.

Work days shall be one Saturday of each month, but not on the same day each month. Special work days may be scheduled at any time if needed.

Life Membership

A Life Membership shall accord the member the same rights, privileges, and obligations as an annual member.

Family Membership

A Family Membership shall accord the member the same rights, privileges, and obligations as an annual member.

While at the range, all children must be under direct supervision of the parent or legal guardian at all times. This includes following all safety rules and proper, courteous conduct.

Failure to follow safety rules or to properly supervise children will result in the expulsion from the range for the remainder of the day or permanent expulsion from the range. No refunds will be given.

Gun Handling Rules

- All persons must always point the muzzle of a firearm in a safe direction.
- All persons must always keep the firearm action open until ready to fire.
- All persons must always keep their finger off the trigger until ready to fire.
- No person under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be allowed to handle firearms.
- A firearm must not be handled while picking up dropped ammunition.
- All persons are strongly urged to wear eye and ear protection on the range property. However, all persons on or near the firing line (parallel line) where there is or are active shooter(s), must wear eye and ear protection. Additional protective clothing or equipment may be required in accordance with Firearms Instructor or Range Officer.
- No person shall handle a firearm or ammunition while people are down range – all firearms must be unloaded, benched, racked, or grounded with the action open, the magazine removed (unless it has a fixed magazine), and safety in the on position, if the firearm is so equipped. It is also suggested all shooters have an NRA yellow “Open Bolt Indicator (OBI)” or “Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI)” inserted in the firearms chamber whenever the firearm is not loaded and ready to fire.
- Know your target and what is beyond it.
- Know how to use your gun safely.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
- Be aware certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.
- A common firing line will be maintained on all ranges, as described in the following individual range policy statements.
- If you have brought more than one firearm, use only one at a time and when finished, case and unload the firearm and its ammunition before uncasing the next one.

- **All persons are required to know and obey all range rules.**

General Range Rules

- Fire only when all persons are behind the firing line and safe conditions exist.
- In the case of severe sickness or injury on the PCSC Range it is everyone's responsibility to help secure the Range and assist the Range Safety Officer.
- Be aware of what is going on around you. If you observe an unsafe condition, report it to a range officer immediately.
- UNLOAD all firearms before leaving range.
- Respect others and their equipment.
- Use only official targets properly placed on target carrier.
- No shooting of unauthorized targets (ie; cans, bottles, boxes, etc.). The Pistol/Rifle Committee or the Chief Range Officer must approve use of targets, other than those made of paper/cardboard.
- Maintain the proper target height to ensure the fired projectile, after passing through the target, hits the desired portion of the backstop/berm. The desired portion is the lower 1/3 of the berm. This will reduce the possibility of ricochets.
- Designate a range officer when none are present or assigned.
- **All persons present on the range are responsible for the safety of everyone present. Anyone perceiving an unsafe situation has the duty and authority to immediately call a "Cease Fire." Everyone present must obey such a Cease Fire command the same as if it came from an RSO.**
- All firearms must remain unloaded with actions open, except when on the firing line and authorized to be loaded.
- When firearms are benched or grounded, keep the actions open and ejection ports facing upward so chambers are visible. If racked muzzles must be pointed up, then the actions must be open. The use of an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) is encouraged.

- No one shall handle any firearm or stand at the firing line where firearms are present while others are down range. Individuals must step behind the ready line while others are down range.
- Dry firing is only permitted at the firing line and only when authorized.
- All shooting is to be into backstops only. Always keep the muzzle pointed at the backstop. Never allow the muzzle to point in any direction other than the impact area of the backstop.
- Deposit all trash in containers.
- Alcohol is prohibited on all ranges.

Hygiene guidelines:

- Exposure to Lead – particulate lead is released from primer detonation, the power combustion and the lead portion of the bullet.
- Person shall wash their hands, arms, faces with soap and water following any range shooting activity.
- Personnel are encouraged to change their clothes following range shooting activity.
- No eating or drinking while shooting on the range
- Spent brass contains lead, properly wash hands after picking up from the range.
- Exposure to lead occurs by: inhalation, injection, absorption and ingestion.

Ammunition malfunctions; Missfires, Hangfires, and Squib Loads

A misfire is when a cartridge doesn't fire after the primer has been struck by the firing pin. A hangfire is a perceptible delay in the ignition of a cartridge after the primer has been struck by the firing pin. The normal procedure for handling both misfires and/or hangfires is to:

1. Keep the gun pointed downrange (in a safe direction).
2. Wait at least 30 seconds in case it is a hangfire. With muzzleloaders, wait at least two minutes.
3. If the cap or the frizzen pan ignites, it is safest to assume it is a hangfire.

A squib load is when there is less than normal pressure or bullet velocity after ignition of the cartridge. The bullet may or may not exit the barrel. Squib loads are identified by difference in recoil or noise. The normal procedure for handling squib loads is:

1. Stop firing immediately.
2. Keep the gun pointed downrange.
3. Unload the gun – make sure the chamber is empty.

4. Insert a cleaning rod down the barrel from the chamber end (if possible) to make sure the bullet is not lodged in the barrel.
5. Notify the RSO when there is a firearm stoppage malfunction.

Basic/General Range Commands

- The Purpose of Range Commands is to provide concise, clear and standard methods of range operation. This provides our members with easy to understand commands and will enhance safety. All members and guest are to read and comply with these commands.“
1. “Cease Fire”
 - a. Purpose: To stop all shooting immediately.
 - b. Action: Shooters immediately stop firing, continue to keep muzzle pointed down range, remove fingers from within trigger guard, unload and clear your weapon. Remain on the line to await further commands from RSO.
 2. “Range is Clear”
 - a. Purpose: To tell shooters it is permissible to go down range to change targets, pick up brass, remove target frames, etc. (Note) This command shall not be given until RSO has determined all weapons are clear an actions open.
 - b. Action: Shooters may proceed down range to change, remove targets, pickup brass. (NO ONE) is to remain on firing line and no firearm is to be handled in any manner.
 3. “Is the line ready”
 - a. Purpose: To make sure all shooters are ready.
 - b. Action: All shooters should look around and make sure everyone is back to or behind firing line.
 4. “Commence Firing”
 - a. Purpose: To declare the range open to live fire.
 - b. Action: Shooters may begin firing, following all rules and regulations of the club.

Prohibited:

1. Shoot prior to 8:00 a.m.
2. Shoot after 10:00 p.m.
3. Use full automatic or burst control firearms (this includes Hellfire-type devices, slidefire-type devices and other devices that act in a similar manner). Exceptions may be approved by the Board of Directors and Pistol/Rifle Committee for **official** law enforcement or military training with prior approval.
4. Use armor-piercing, explosive, incendiary or tracer ammunition.
5. Handle firearms while any person is down range.

6. Hunt on PCSC Range property without Board of Directors, Trapshooting Committee and Pistol/Rifle Committee prior approval. Permission must be in writing, signed by officer of PCSC.
7. Perform un-aimed firing, snap shooting, or quick draw shooting. Competition shooting consisting of SASS, IDPA, USPSA, NRA Action Pistol type shooting will be allowed so long as all shots, muzzle direction and safety rules of these sports is strictly adhered to and supervised by RSO.
8. Shoot under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medications that impair judgment.
9. Use rifles chambered for the .50 caliber Browning machine gun cartridge – any time, on any range.
- 10. Shooting at target carriers, frames and stands, as well as anything other than a designed target towards the berm will be considered as willful destruction of range property and will be dealt with accordingly and grounds for dismissal from club membership and range access.**

Specific Range Rules

Ranges shall be known by the following numbers:

- #1 Trap House
- #2 25 Yard Pistol Range
- #3 50 Yard Pistol/Rifle Range
- #4 100 Yard Rifle Range
- #5 20 Yard Sport Shooting Range
- #6 Splatter Board – for Game Day and Turkey Shoots

Range #1

- Only birdshot is allowed on the trap shooting range.
- No pistols or rifles are allowed on the trap shooting range.
- Club members may be permitted to use the trap shooting range at any time shooting is permitted at the range. Exception is when range closed for specialty shoot at Pistol/Rifle Ranges.
- The concrete shooting positions (16 – 27 yards) are not to be driven on by vehicles (except motorized wheel chairs or personal scooters) at any time.
- All shooters must police their empty hulls. Shooters who leave their hulls on the ground must pay a \$3.00 range maintenance fee per shoot.
- When maintenance (to include loading and unloading of the trap machine) is being conducted in the trap house, an orange safety cone shall be placed on top of the trap house to indicate to range attendee's it is unsafe to handle firearms on the trap range.
- Dry firing; Dry practice may be completed when the trap range is safe to shoot clay targets. It must be completed as not to distract other shooters during competition.

Range #2 and #3 (25 and 50 Yard Range)

- A common firing line will be used for all shooters.
 - #2 Range - If firing is to be done at ranges closer than 25 yards, the target will be placed as close as possible to the base of the impact berm and as close to 48 inches above ground level as possible.
 - #3 Range - If firing is to be done at ranges closer than 50 yards, the target will be placed as close as possible to the base of the impact berm and as close to 48 inches above ground level as possible.
- Suggested heights for all targets must be:
 - 55 inches above ground level, regardless of the distance from the berm for **standing**.
 - 26 inches above ground level, regardless of the distance from the berm for **kneeling**.
 - 14 inches above ground level, regardless of the distance from the berm for **prone**.
- Maximum of 55 inches to the center of a standard Bullseye target, and 70 inches to top of standard B-27 target.
- When benches are used they will be lined up on the firing line.
- NO CROSS RANGE SHOOTING! (Only fire at target on your lane.)
- No Shotgun shall be fired from Pistol/Rifle Range. (Exception: Shotguns may be used when firing slugs.)

Range #4

Important: If you do not know firearms proper elevation, do not use the 100 yard range to sight in. To sight in a firearm, start at the 25 yard range or the 50 yard range with a large (at least 30"x30") target. Once zeroed at 50 yards, you may then place the target at the 100 yard range.

- A common firing line will be used for all shooters.
- When benches are used they will be lined up on the firing line.
- Shooter may fire conventional pistols on this range but only if Ranges #2 & #3 are closed. Pistols chambered for center fire rifle cartridges may be fired on this range at any time.
- At no time will targets be placed closer than 50 yards from the firing line.
- Position shooting (standing, kneeling, sitting and prone) is allowed on this range.
- Suggested heights for all targets must be:
 - 55 inches above ground level, regardless of the distance from the berm for **standing**.
 - 26 inches above ground level, regardless of the distance from the berm for **kneeling and sitting**.
 - 14 inches above ground level, regardless of the distance from the berm for **prone**.
- Maximum of 55 inches to the center of a standard Bull's-eye target, and 70 inches to top of standard B-27 target.

Range #5

- This range is only used for specialty shoots and training.
- There must be a Certified Range Safety Officer at the Range #5 when in use.
- The course of fire must be approved by no less than 2 RSO's before conducting any live fire training or competition.
- Use of Range #1 (Trap Range) is not permitted during use of Range #5.
- Placement of steel targets must be such as to minimize splatter of bullets onto any Range.
- Minimum yardage to any steel target is 11 yards.

Spatter Board #6 – specialty shoot to be set up on Game Day's and Turkey Shoots only.

- Spatter Board shoot may consist of one single target or one spinning target or a set of targets (one for every shooters).
- Targets may be set on Range's #2, #3 or #4 during use of the Trap Shoot.
- Targets must be set at a minimum distance of 20 yards from designated firing line.
- No person may be forward of the designated firing line at any time when the command of "Commence Firing" is given for shooters to fire at their target(s).
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