



SAFETY HANDBOOK

18 April 2013 edition

HRGAC BOARD PREFACE:

Introduction:

The Hudson Rod, Gun and Archery Club is committed to continuing to improve and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all members, visitors, neighbors and employees. In order to do so, safety will be considered the number one responsibility of every member, visitor, employee and/or supervisor. This handbook's intent is to provide for a minimum standard for operating practices to foster such a safe environment.

It shall be understood that the policies in this handbook may be modified as necessary with or without advance notice of the club. If a policy in the handbook conflicts with a more recent policy not yet published in the manual, the most recent policy will take priority. In addition, some matters may arise that require policy interpretation, discretionary decisions or a departure from the guidelines contained in this handbook. In such cases, policy interpretation and decisions rest solely with the Club's Board of Directors. The Clubs Board of Directors at its sole discretion may also assign the same discretions to event supervisors, Range Safety Officers (RSOs) or other's assigned or entrusted managers. Should a club member or any visiting persons performance, personal safety habits, overall attitude, general conduct or demeanor become unsatisfactory in the judgment of a board member or entrusted activity supervisor, based on violations of the manual or of any other club policies, rules, regulations, expectations or standards of behavior, (either written or unwritten) that member or visiting person will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination of membership and/or immediate removal from club grounds. All decisions by the Club's elected Board of Directors will be final and without challenge.

Shooting Hours:

Summer shooting hours are:

- Saturdays & Sundays - 10am to 4pm
- Tuesdays & Thursdays - 4pm to 8pm with summer dates specified by the Board of Directors, typically running from mid-April until Labor Day Weekend.

Winter shooting hours are:

- Winter hours are restricted to Saturday and Sunday only, with hours the same as for summer. The Board of Directors must approve shooting hours for special events.

End / HRGAC Board of Directors Preface 2013

SAFETY COMMITTEE

2013 edition (Approved 3-08-13)

I. PURPOSE:

The following Range Rules and Regulations are established to insure safety and discipline for members and guests on Club Ranges and on Club Property as well as safety for our neighbors and the surrounding community.

II. ENFORCEMENT:

All members are required to enforce these rules. All members are expected to politely point out to any shooter in violation of these rules, the nature of the violation, request that they stop and if the violation continues, report the incident along with the violators name to a range safety officer or board member for further action.

PENALTY:

The board of directors will review all reports of range violations and after meeting with the member or members in question, take one of the following actions:

1. No Action.
2. Written Reprimand.
3. Temporary Suspension of membership.
4. Expulsion from the Club.

III. PROCEDURE:

1. Facilities for Use:

Range availability is at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

2. Range Limitations and Safety Requirements:

All persons on firing line shall:

- a. Fire only on scheduled ranges with the appropriate firearms.
- b. Use eye and ear protection
- c. Fire only when ranges have been opened by the RSO during public shooting hours or at club sponsored matches and classes.
- d. Fire approved courses of fire.

3. Authorized and Prohibited Firearms:

Live fire shooting is normally limited to the following ranges and equipment:

- a. Rifle – rifles, shotguns, and pistols of any caliber (see exception below). No tracer ammunition. No armor-piercing ammunition on the 25-yd steel bullet catcher. Currently 50 BMG and fully automatic firearms are not authorized.
- b. Pistol Range – pistols of any caliber, rimfire rifle, and air rifle. No tracer ammunition. Fully automatic firearms are not authorized.
- c. Shotgun Ranges – Shotguns with shot shells only using shot not larger than 7 ½ and not smaller than No. 9.
- d. Slugs will be shot on the rifle range only.

4. Authorized Personnel:

The following persons are allowed to shoot at the Hudson Rod, Gun & Archery Club.

- a. Current members of the Hudson Rod, Gun & Archery Club
- b. Day-members may shoot, but are required to pay Day-member fees.
- c. Sponsored matches and Class participants.

5. Range Personnel Responsibilities:

- a. Range Safety Officers (RSO) will have absolute authority concerning range safety while they are on duty. Range Safety Officers must be board approved. Range Safety Officers shall ensure safe range conduct through enforcement of range Safety Rules & SOP's.
- b. Pullers on the Trap and Skeet ranges will notify the RSO of any safety violations.

General Range Rules:

1. The Range Safety Officer has absolute authority on the range.
2. Always follow the Basic Safety Rules
 - a. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
 - b. Always keep your finger off of the trigger until ready to shoot.
 - c. Be aware of your target and beyond.
3. Be thoroughly knowledgeable of the operational and safety features of all of your firearms.
4. Before firing your firearm, be sure it is in good working order and that the bore is free of obstructions.
5. Only use ammo recommended by the manufacturer of the firearm.
6. Be certain the ammo matches the caliber of the firearm.
7. Be cautious of reloaded ammo.
8. Do not handle firearms during a "Cease Fire". When "Cease firing" is announced, stop firing immediately, remain in position, and await further instructions. If instructed, unload all firearms; clear and open all actions and insert chamber flag. (Pistol & Rifle Only)
9. Have only 1 uncased firearm on the line at a time.
10. Have only 1 caliber of ammunition on the shooting bench at a time and be sure the ammunition is specific to the gun you are firing.
11. Be aware of your actions and the actions of your fellow shooters.
12. Use eye and ear protection while at or near a firing line where shooting is occurring.
13. Report safety violations and unsafe conditions to the Range Safety Officer.
14. Clean up your firing point including brass & shotgun shells, place targets in trash containers, and return target frames to the proper storage site. Place the brass, aluminum and steel, including 22-rimfire in the "Spent Shell" containers. Shotgun shooters are allowed to pick up their empties after the round is over providing it is safe and does not delay the next group. Shooters can keep their personal cases, all other become the property of the gun club.
15. Misfired rounds will be placed in the DUD bucket.
16. Never use firearms while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; this may include some prescription drugs.
17. Sign a Hold Harmless Agreement.
 - a. Sign annually when membership is paid.
 - b. Day-Members and Class Participants must read and sign at time of payment for daily range fee.
18. Be responsible for your guns, ammunition and equipment.
19. Adult Supervision Required: Persons under age 18 may not possess firearms for non-hunting purposes unless accompanied by an adult, except that person's age 14-17 who have completed Hunter Education can possess legal shotguns and rifles without being accompanied by an adult. (Adopted from 2012 DNR Hunting Regulations.)
20. Dogs shall not run free and shall be tethered or on a leash.
21. No uncontrolled fire.
22. All firearms, except those being carried for personal protection (Open or Concealed Carry), shall be unloaded until the shooter is on the firing line. Personal protection firearms shall remain holstered and the safety on (if applicable to your model of handgun). Holstered single action revolvers must have the hammers resting on an empty chamber unless equipped with a transfer bar type integral safety mechanism. Holstered handguns may not be handled in any manner unless the shooter is on the firing line, in a specific area designated for loading and unloading, following operational procedures, or when used for self-defense.

Range-Specific Rules (Pistol & Rifle)

1. All Shooting will be from the designated Firing Line only. Do not shoot from any position forward of the Firing Line. Do not allow the firing line to become staggered.
2. Set targets during Cease Fires only.
3. Fire at paper targets authorized by the club. (i.e., no bottles, glass, etc.)
4. Ensure all projectiles impact within the established range safety limits.
5. During a cease fire or situation you consider unsafe, before anyone moves forward of firing line: Put your firearm on safe if it is so equipped, Insert chamber flag, Put firearm on bench and leave it there, and Move back from firing line,
6. Do not shoot at the Target holders, target supports or framework.
7. Fire only on targets directly in front of your shooting position however cross fire will be allowed as long as bullet strikes remain safely on the respective backstop.

Rifle Range Specific:

- The gong at the 180 yard distance is for non-jacketed lead bullets only.
- All cleaning will be conducted on the benches at the firing line.
- No tracer ammunition is allowed. No armor-piercing ammunition allowed on the 25-yd bullet catcher.

Black Powder Muzzle Loader Safety Rules

1. Load powder and projectile behind the firing line at a table.
2. Do not "prime" until you are on the firing line and your muzzle is down range.
3. In case of misfire, keep muzzle down range and allow 2 minutes for "cook off", call a "Cease Fire", and notify the RSO.

Range-Specific Rules (Shotgun Courses)

1. No gun shall be loaded until the shooter is on the shooting station. The shooting station is defined by the concrete pads. A shooter is considered on-station when booth feet are on the pad. For skeet, the station 8 station is that half of the shooting pad that is most distant from the respective house being shot. For sporting clays and 5-stand, the gun shall be unloaded, except when the shooter is in the shooting cage.
2. No shot size smaller than No. 9 or larger than 7 ½ shall be permitted.
3. Test shots will not be permitted without permission of the puller.
4. It is the responsibility of the shooter to see that his/her safety is off and the gun is properly loaded with unfired shells before calling for a target.
5. Shooters shall not advance to the next station until the puller calls for a station change.
6. Only one shell shall be loaded at a time, except for two shells for doubles or Skeet. More than two shells cannot be loaded at any time.
7. The loaded gun shall be kept pointed in a direction that will not endanger the safety of shooters, field personnel, spectators or personnel on adjacent fields.
8. Actions shall remain open until it is your turn to shoot.
9. When the shooter is on the shooting station and ready to shoot and a delay occurs, such as equipment problems or safety concerns, the gun shall be opened and all shells extracted.
10. Shells ejected onto the ground will not be picked up until after the squad has completed the round. Shooters may pick up their empties after the round is over, provided it is safe to do so and they are not delaying the next group from starting to shoot. Empties that are left on the range and then picked up by club staff become the property of the club. Extreme care must be exercised to prevent the creation of an unsafe situation.
11. No spectator shall be allowed on the skeet or trap fields forward of the 27 yard line.
12. A shooter will not be permitted to use a gun with a release trigger unless the other members of the squad are notified. Guns with release typed triggers must be clearly marked.
13. When not on the shooting station, the gun shall be carried with the breech open and empty. Pumps and semi-automatic guns will have the bolt open. Fixed breech (single barrel and double barrel (side by side and over/under) guns will be broken open. The shooter must control the muzzle at all times so as not to create an unsafe or perceived unsafe condition.
14. Participants in shotgun events shall abide by the rules established by the sanctioning body for that discipline. The club range safety officer or the sanctioning body representative for a sanctioned event shall resolve all questions and/or problems which arise during the course of an event.

End / HRGAC Safety Committee 2013