

Range rules

Saturday, September 26, 2009

8:30 PM

PHILMONT ROD AND GUN CLUB, INC RIFLE/PISTOL, TRAP AND ARCHERY RANGE RULES

1. SAFETY RULES

The Safety Rules of the Philmont Rod and Gun Club, Inc. were approved by membership at the November, 1988 meeting.

1.1 STATEMENT OF CLUB POLICY TOWARDS FIREARMS & ARCHERY

The Philmont Rod & Gun Club, Inc and its members, supports firearms safety; both to insure the safety of members, guest, and the public, and to promote the shooting sports through example. Club members know and obey the Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety

1. We treat every firearm with respect due a loaded firearm.
2. We watch and control the muzzle. We carry our guns safely and keep the safety on until ready to shoot.
3. We are sure of our targets and beyond before we pull the trigger; we know the identifying features of the game we hunt.
4. We are sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and use only ammunition of the proper size of the gun we are carrying.
5. We unload all guns not in use. We take the guns down or have the actions open.
6. We never point a gun at anything we do not want to shoot; we avoid all horseplay with a firearm.
7. We never climb a fence or tree or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm; we never pull a gun by the muzzle toward our bodies
8. We never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water; at target practice we are sure that the backstop is adequate.
9. We store firearms and ammunition separately beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
10. We avoid alcoholic beverages before or during shooting.

The key to safe hunting and target practice is a person's ability to handle a firearm or bow and arrow in the right way. A tragedy involving firearms is deeply personal experience for the person who caused an accident involving injury or death, and will certainly involve costly litigation by the injured party or his/her heirs and could result in criminal prosecution if criminal negligence or depraved disregard for human life is proven.

The development of a formal rifle and pistol range requires that all members and their guest who may use the range, know, understand and comply with the following range safety and courtesy rules that follow the three basic rules:

- *TREAT EVERY GUN (OR BOW) AS IF IT WERE LOADED
- *ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE (OR BOW) IN A SAFE DIRECTION
- *BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BEYOND

1. RANGE SAFETY RULES

1. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OF ANY TYPE ARE PROHIBITED FROM ANY PART OF THE RANGE. MEMBERS AND GUEST MUST REFRAIN FROM THE CONSUMPTION OF ANY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BEFORE BEGINNING TO USE THE RANGE. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED ON CLUB GROUNDS DURING ANY ORGANIZED SHOOT.

2. Rifles and pistols will be unload BEFORE entering the range area or shooting platform.

3. When carrying rifles on or to the range, the action will be open, and if possible, the safety on (safe condition).

4. When carrying pistols on the range, they will be securely fastened in a holster or if not holstered, carried with the action open, and the safety on if possible (safe condition). Unload facing a safe direction before entering the range.

5. Firearms on the range will only be loaded when shooting will immediately follow loading. If the range is under the control of a Range Officer, firearms will only be loaded upon his/her command. No person will move forward of the firing line unless all firearms are in a safe condition.

6. The muzzle of all firearms will be aimed in a safe direction at all times. When loaded, the muzzle of the firearm will never be pointed above the range impact area.

7. The range will be used by a maximum of six (6) shooters at any one time. Only the shooter and one coach and/or spotter is permitted on the range. All other bystanders must remain behind the shooting platform or outside the shooting area up to the 50 yard line.

8. Firing will cease immediately if any person is observed anywhere down range of the 50 yard line, including the pond area. Such persons will be politely asked to leave if use of range began before use of the pond or archery course.

9. All members and guest of members using the range will sign in on the log provided before using the range.

10. Any member or guest observed not following these rules may be asked to leave range area. If severe rules being broken their membership may be revoked.

2.1 INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIFLE/PISTOL TARGETS

The new range has been designed so that all types of paper targets are attached to backer boards only. Please follow these instructions when setting up your targets:

1. Backer boards will be provided by the club for your use .
2. A staple gun, also provided by the club, is located in the mailbox on the side of the range shed located at the at the target area.
3. Affix your target(s) to the backer board using staple gun.
4. Do not place targets on top of back stop, no glass and no targets on cable.

2.2 RIFLE/PISTOL TARGET AND IMPACT AREA RULES

Target and impact area rules are required to promote safety, insure the range impact area is neat and clean, and to prolong the life of the impact area. The following rules apply specifically to the target and impact area:

1. Under no circumstance will glass bottles, china, clay pigeons, or any other breakable object be used for targets.
2. Tin cans, plastic bottles, or other non breakable targets may be set on the backstop. All used non breakable targets must be properly disposed of away from the impact area. Do not throw these objects in the burn barrels or fire pit. Use garbage pail or dumpster.
3. Accidental shooting of any object other than target should be avoided by careful aiming and shooting techniques. Intentional shooting of anything other than your target is strictly prohibited. Shooting cross range is prohibited also.
4. The impact area behind the backer board is designed with soft fill to prevent ricochet. Keep bullet placement in this area. Back boards should be hung so as to prevent continuous impact into the same area.
5. Dispose of used paper targets, non breakable targets, tacks, clothes pins, etc in garbage pail or dumpster. Keep range neat and clean at all times. Leave it better than you found it.
6. Report any intentional damage to the range to any Club Officer or any member of the Board of Directors as soon as possible. The Board of Directors will investigate any intentional destruction of Club property and report the damage to local police agency or Club membership as appropriated.

2.3 RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE COURTESY RULES

The most important rule is to respect the rights of all club members to use the club facilities, and that members must, whenever possible, work out conflicts in a courteous, friendly and cooperative manner. The following rules should help avoid some basic conflicts:

1. The range is available on a first come, first serve basis except for planned club activities.
2. Members are permitted to have guest use the range, but the member **MUST** be present with the guest.
3. Members have preference over guests whenever more than six shooters want to use the range.
4. The range is a multi use facility; that is Rifle Range, Pistol Range, and Silhouette Range. Only one activity is permitted at one time. If the range is being used for one activity and a member or group of members indicates a desire to use the range for another activity, the shooters using the range must relinquish the range to the other activity after 1/2 hour of informal use.
5. Informal shooting has no fixed time limits as long as conflicts described in (3) do not arise. Shooters engaged in the same activity should agree on shooting periods, checking of targets, etc.
6. Members should resolve all conflicts among themselves in a courteous, no argumentative manner, recognizing that the range is a shared facility. Non members have no voice in resolving conflicts.
7. All departures of range safety rules must be brought to the attention of a club officer or member of the board of directors as soon as possible after the safety violation occurred. Problems encountered with courtesy rules may be placed on the floor for discussion at any regularly scheduled monthly meeting.
8. Respect other shooters at all times.