

Smiths Falls Fish & Game Club
Range Rules Booklet
Feb 2 2015



P.O. Box 42

Smiths Falls, ON

K7A 4S9

1 Introduction

This booklet summarizes the Range Rules that all members (and their guests) will follow when using the various ranges of the Smiths Falls Fish and Game Club (SFFGC). These rules have been revised in 2015 and approved by the club Board of Directors (BoD). Any questions regarding clarification of any of these rules may be directed to a BoD member. These questions will be dealt with at the next monthly meeting of the board or at a special meeting if the concern is of an emergency nature.

These rules have been put in place so as to create a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for all members of the club. It must be understood that these rules have been enacted primarily to ensure safety of club members and visitors using the club and also to protect the public who live nearby or are visiting the area. We have therefore carefully thought out the following rules so that we can minimize the chances of any mishap while using the SFFGC facilities and to reflect the directives of the CFO (Chief Firearms Officer of Ontario).

All users of the club ranges must follow the rules contained in this booklet. If some user is observed to not be following the rules, then it is the duty of any member who is present to challenge the rule infraction. It is the responsibility of all members to correct immediately their behavior in those circumstances where both parties understand the rules infraction. In those cases where there is a disagreement about the interpretation of the rules, the requested action should be undertaken without argument and the question referred to a BoD member if present or to the next BoD meeting. Certified SO/ROs have the authority on the ranges during all matches, and sanctioned practices and their instructions must be followed to the letter. Disputes will be decided by the Match Director. Failure to follow their directions will have very serious consequences. (Certified SO/ROs can be identified by their red badges.)

If a rules infraction is of a serious nature (with potential safety issues), then this infraction must be reported to the club Safety Officer or BoD as soon as possible. The Club President will decide if a special meeting is required to deal with the incident or if it may be postponed until the next scheduled BoD meeting. The BoD will decide on how to deal with the rules infraction. In serious cases of misbehavior, a member or guest may have their membership or range privileges suspended or revoked. In these circumstances, the individual has the right to represent himself or herself before a BoD meeting to explain or defend their actions.

All new club members must take and pass the club orientation course before they can shoot on any of the ranges by themselves. In the case of a family membership all members that intent to shoot at our club must take and pass the orientation course before they are allowed to use the ranges.

A list of contacts can be found in the clubhouse and in the sign-in shed.

2 General Range Rules

- (2.1) Members must wear their club badge visible to anyone when on the ranges.
- (2.2) Guests must be signed in , guest fee paid and wear a guest badge visible to others on the range.
- (2.3) A maximum of 2 guests is allowed per member at any one time.
The same “guest” is only allowed two visits to the range per year.
- (2.4) Each guest must be individually supervised while handling firearms. This means the member does not shoot, but supervises the guest when he/she is shooting.
- (2.5) Range in Use signs must be displayed at the main gate when ranges are in use.
- (2.6) Members and guests must sign-in and sign-out when using the ranges.
- (2.7) All persons on a range must wear eye protection during shooting.
- (2.8) All persons on a range must wear ear protection during shooting.
- (2.9) A Range Officer (RO) must be designated when 2 shooters or more are present on a range.
- (2.10) The RO shall enforce safe shooting behavior by all shooters on the line.
- (2.11) The RO shall enforce polite social behavior by all shooters on the line.
- (2.12) All shooters must follow the Range Officer’s instructions as laid out in the specific range section.
- (2.13) The Safety Officer and/or BoD must be notified ASAP when an injury occurs (a list of contacts is posted in the sign-in shed).
- (2.14) All range users present when an incident occurs must write a report ASAP.
- (2.15) Incident report writers are not to compare notes with other authors.
- (2.16) Firearms may only be used on the ranges for which they are approved e.g. no rifles or shotguns on pistol ranges. **Carbines up to 7.62 x 39 can be used on the pistol ranges under the direct supervision of a certified IDPA/IPSC SO/RO during a match or when practicing for a match. These SOs can be identified by their red badges, and they have complete authority in these situations, and their instructions must be followed to the letter. Failure to do so can result in your range privileges being suspended and possibly revoked. At no time when rifles or carbines are being used on the pistol ranges can you shoot at the steel plate targets with them.**

Air rifles under 500 FPS may be used on the Archery range when no archers are present, but you must give preference to any archers that wish to use the range.

Air Rifles over 500 FPS may be used on the 25 yd. pistol range when no hand gunners are present. You however must make way for any hand gunners wishing to use the range.

Under special circumstances, and **on certain pre-arranged days**, 22 cal. rim fire rifles can be used on the 25 yd. covered range for training purposes (such as introducing juvenile shooters to the sport, and they can only shoot from the benches under the direct supervision of an approved adult). Again please note the steel plate targets can never be shot at with any type of rifle including rim fire rifles or the pistol to rifle conversions now on the market.

- (2.17) No smoking is permitted near shooting line.
- (2.18) Members shall not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while using the ranges.
- (2.19) All shots fired must be aimed so as to guarantee that shots impact on the berm at or below the midpoint. Target stand positions are fixed by the club and must not be altered. That means they must be as close to the base of the backstop as possible except during competitions when Certified IPSC/IDPA Safety Officers are on the ranges supervising a match.
- (2.20) Only club approved targets should be used. (Paper/Cardboard)
- (2.21) Loaded firearm muzzles must always be aimed well below the top of the berm.

- (2.22) **There must be no handling of firearms while people are down range. You must stand behind the Red Line on ranges that have them, and not within arms-reach of any firearm on all other ranges except the pistol ranges, by members who have taken and passed the club holster course. All firearms must be unloaded and have the bolts open at this time.**
- (2.23) Anyone can call “Cease Fire” at any time if unsafe conditions are observed
- (2.24) Never leave a firearm unattended. If you are going down range to change your target and there is no one staying at the firing line with the firearms, you must box and lock them in your vehicle or take them down range with you.
- (2.25) You must never set down a loaded firearm and leave it unattended.

3 Archery Range Rules

- (3.1) Range in Use sign must be displayed on Archery Range.
- (3.2) Only bows and arrows are to be used on this range when archers are present. When no archers are present, air guns will be permitted on this range.
- (3.3) Only Target and Field point arrows are permitted.
- (3.4) A Range Officer (RO) will be chosen when two (2) shooters or more are present.
- (3.5) The Range Officer will have complete authority over the range, archers and spectators. You cannot challenge a certified range officer on the ranges (they have the red badges). The range officer has final say including closing the range if necessary or ordering a shooter to leave the range. Disagreements or complaints can be handed off to the BoD.
- (3.6) Bows and arrows will be handled only on the range officer’s command.
- (3.7) Arrows will be notched only on the range officer’s command.
- (3.8) All archers shoot from or straddle a common shooting line.
- (3.9) Spectators will remain behind the safe line when archers are shooting.
- (3.10) Archers will shoot no more than six (6) arrows each per end.
- (3.11) After they are finished shooting archers will step back behind the safe line.
- (3.12) Archers will advance to retrieve arrows only after the range officer has called the line “Safe”.
- (3.13) Only one person will withdraw arrows from each target.
- (3.14) No more than two archers should shoot at each target.
- (3.15) Arrows are to be shot only at designated targets.
- (3.16) Target stand positions are fixed and must not be moved.
- (3.17) After shooting is finished archers must police the range and leave it in a clean and orderly state.
- (3.18) Dry firing is not permitted.
- (3.19) Alcohol is not permitted on the range.
- (3.20) Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs are not permitted on the range.
- (3.21) Arrows must not be shot up into the air at such an angle that they might fall onto archers or spectators.
- (3.22) Any unsafe conditions or actions or any violations of these rules must be reported to the range officer or any member of the BoD.
- (3.23) Air guns may be used on the archery ranges when there are no archers present.

4 Handgun Range Rules

- (4.1) Range in Use sign must be displayed when using the Handgun Range.
- (4.2) Shooters must sign in before approaching the firing line.
- (4.3) Firearms will be locked and/or encased when carrying to or from the firing line and the parking lot.
- (4.4) Uncased or un-holstered firearms will point down range only with the action open.
- (4.5) A Range Officer (RO) will be chosen when two (2) shooters or more are present.
- (4.6) The RO authorizes un-casing and un-locking firearms when on the line.
- (4.7) The RO instructs all shooters to engage eye and ear protection before loading.
- (4.8) The RO authorizes loading after verifying eye & ear protection is in place.
- (4.9) The RO calls “Ready on the Shooting Line”, before authorizing shooting.
- (4.10) A shooter informs the RO if he/she is not ready to shoot.
- (4.11) The RO oversees the shooter fixing a firearm problem.
- (4.12) The RO calls “Commence Firing”, if all shooters are ready on the line.
- (4.13) The RO calls “Cease Firing”, after allotted time or if an infraction/problem occurs.
- (4.14) Any shooter may call “Cease Firing”, if he/she observes an infraction or problem.
- (4.15) All firearms must be unloaded after the “Cease Firing” command.
- (4.16) The RO instructs shooters to step back from the shooting line.
- (4.17) The RO verifies all firearms are unloaded and have action open.
- (4.18) The RO instructs shooters to stay behind red safety line when targets are serviced.
- (4.19) The RO remains on firing line while targets are serviced.
- (4.20) A firearm must be locked down or taken down range when a shooter is alone.
- (4.21) Firearms will be un-loaded when carrying to or from the firing line.
- (4.22) If a firearm fails to discharge the muzzle must be kept pointed down range before the problem of a misfire can be addressed.
- (4.23) Firearms with problems are to be unloaded and moved to Safe Area for repairs.
- (4.24) Ammunition is NOT allowed in Safe Area.
- (4.25) The RO gives the command to lock and box firearms and ammunition.
- (4.26) Boxed and locked firearms may then be returned to locked vehicle for transport.
- (4.27) All spent brass must be picked up before leaving range.
- (4.28) The Certified RO/SO (identified with a red SO badge) is in charge of the range when present and has the final authority on the range up to and including shutting down the range or sending a shooter home if it comes to that. Concerns or complaints can be taken to the board if necessary, but on the range the SO/RO has final say. (During a match the match director has final say.)
- (4.29) After shooting is finished shooters must police the range and leave it in a clean and orderly state (this includes the removal of used targets).
- (4.30) Range Not in Use sign will be displayed when the last user leaves the range
- (4.31) Shooters must sign out before leaving the club property.

5 Rifle Range Rules

- (5.1) Range in Use sign must be displayed when using the Rifle Range.
- (5.2) Shooters must sign in before approaching the firing line.
- (5.3) Firearms will be locked and/or encased when carrying to or from the firing line and the parking lot.
- (5.4) Uncased firearms will point down range on bench only or be placed vertically in rifle racks with action open.
- (5.5) A Range Officer (RO) will be chosen when two (2) shooters or more are present.
- (5.6) The RO authorizes un-casing and un-locking firearms when on the line.
- (5.7) The RO instructs all shooters to engage eye and ear protection before loading.
- (5.8) The RO authorizes loading rifles after verifying eye & ear protection is in place.
- (5.9) The RO calls “Ready on the Shooting Line”, before authorizing shooting.
- (5.10) A shooter informs the RO if he/she is not ready to shoot.
- (5.11) The RO oversees the shooter fixing a firearm problem.
- (5.12) The RO calls “Commence Firing”, if all shooters are ready on the line.
- (5.13) The RO calls “Cease Firing”, after allotted time or if an infraction/problem occurs
- (5.14) Any shooter may call “Cease Firing”, if he/she observes an infraction or problem.
- (5.15) All firearms must be unloaded after the “Cease Firing” command.
- (5.16) The RO verifies all firearms are unloaded and have action open.
- (5.17) The RO instructs shooters to place rifles in rifle rack when servicing targets.
- (5.18) The RO remains on firing line while targets are serviced.
- (5.19) A firearm must be locked down or taken down range unloaded when a shooter is alone.
- (5.20) If a firearm fails to discharge the muzzle must be kept pointed down range for a minimum of sixty (60) seconds before the problem of a misfire can be addressed.
- (5.21) Firearms with problems are to be unloaded and moved to safe area for repairs.
- (5.22) Ammunition is NOT allowed in safe area.
- (5.23) The RO gives the command to lock and/or box firearms and ammunition.
- (5.24) Boxed and locked firearms may then be returned to locked vehicle for transport.
- (5.25) All spent brass must be picked up before leaving range.
- (5.26) After shooting is finished shooters must police the range and leave it in a clean and orderly state (this includes the removal of used targets).
- (5.27) Range Not In Use sign will be displayed when the last user leaves the range.
- (5.28) Shooters must sign out before leaving the club property
- (5.29) The Certified RO/SO (identified with a red SO badge) is in charge of the range when present and has the final authority on the range up to and including shutting down a range or sending a shooter home, if it comes to that. Concerns or complaints can be handed off to the BoD.

6 Shotgun Range Rules

- (6.1) Range in Use sign must be displayed when using the Shotgun Range.
- (6.2) Shooters must sign in before approaching the firing line.
- (6.3) Firearms will be un-loaded and action open when carrying to or from the firing line.
- (6.4) Firearms will be locked and/or encased when carrying to or from the firing line and the parking lot.
- (6.5) Uncased firearms will point down range with action open only or be placed vertically in racks.
- (6.6) A Range Officer (RO) will be chosen when two (2) shooters or more are present.
- (6.7) The RO authorizes un-casing and un-locking firearms when on the line.
- (6.8) The RO instructs all shooters to engage eye and ear protection before loading.
- (6.9) The RO over sees loading guns after verifying eye & ear protection is in place.
- (6.10) The RO calls "Ready on the Shooting Line", before authorizing shooting.
- (6.11) A shooter informs the RO if he/she is not ready to shoot.
- (6.12) The RO oversees the shooter fixing a firearm problem.
- (6.13) The RO calls "Commence Firing", if all shooters are ready on the line.
- (6.14) The RO calls "Cease Firing", after allotted time or if an infraction/problem occurs.
- (6.15) Any shooter may call "Cease Firing", if he/she observes an infraction or problem.
- (6.16) All firearms must be unloaded after the "Cease Firing" command.
- (6.17) The RO verifies all firearms are unloaded and have action open.
- (6.18) The RO instructs shooters to place shotguns in gun-rack when not shooting.
- (6.19) The RO remains on firing line while clays are picked up.
- (6.20) The RO remains on firing line while thrower bunker is accessed or cleared.
- (6.21) A firearm must be locked down or taken down range when a shooter is alone.
- (6.22) If a firearm fails to discharge, the muzzle must be kept pointed down range for a minimum of sixty (60) seconds before the problem of a misfire can be addressed.
- (6.23) Firearms with problems are to be unloaded and moved to a safe area for repairs.
- (6.24) Ammunition is NOT allowed in the safe area.
- (6.25) The RO gives the command to lock and/or box firearms and ammunition.
- (6.26) Boxed and locked firearms may then be returned to locked vehicle for transport.
- (6.27) All spent shells and intact clays must be picked up before leaving range.
- (6.28) After shooting is finished the shooters must police the range and leave it in a clean orderly state.
- (6.29) Only target loads are approved, shot sizes 7.5, 8 and 9.
- (6.30) Range Not in Use sign will be displayed when the last user leaves the range.
- (6.31) Shooters must sign out before leaving the Club property.
- (6.32) The Certified RO/SO (identified with a red SO badge) is in charge of the range when present and has the final authority on the range up to and including shutting down a range or sending a shooter home, if it comes to that. Concerns or complaints can be handed off to the BoD.

7 Muzzle-Loading Rules

- (7.1) A muzzle-loading firearm is considered loaded in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Hunting Regulations. A muzzle-loading gun is a gun that is loaded through the muzzle. A percussion muzzle-loading gun is considered to be loaded if there is a charge of powder and a projectile in the barrel and a percussion cap on the nipple. A flint-lock muzzle-loading gun is considered to be loaded if there is a charge of powder and a projectile in the barrel and the vent is unplugged. An electronic muzzle-loading gun is considered to be loaded if there is a projectile in the barrel. Note that under safe storage regulations only, muzzle-loading firearms are considered loaded when powder and/or ball are in the barrel.
- (7.2) Black powder/muzzle-loading firearms may be used on the appropriate ranges.
- (7.3) All range rules **for handguns, rifles and** shotguns must be followed.
- (7.4) Smoking or use of an open flame is not permitted with black powder.
- (7.5) Muzzle-loading firearms must always be loaded with a powder volumetric measure and not just a powder horn or flask. They can also be loaded from predetermined cartridge packets of paper or other container that contain the bullet and the properly measured amount of powder.
- (7.6) Muzzle-loaders can be charged (powder and ball inserted) while waiting at the bench or on the line, similar to loading pistol magazines. Muzzle loaders must not be capped or primed at the bench areas or on the firing line until the order to “Load” has been called by the range officer. At that time percussion caps can be installed, or frizzen and flash/priming pan readied.
- (7.7) Firearm bores must be cleared of smoldering residue before reloading.
- (7.8) If a firearm fails to discharge the muzzle must be pointed down range for a minimum of sixty (60) seconds before the problem of a hang-fire/misfire is addressed.
- (7.9) When addressing the problem of a misfire the muzzle of the firearm must be kept pointed in a safe direction.
- (7.10) Flints must be dressed (knapped) only when the firearm is unloaded.
- (7.11) When firing a flintlock firearm care must be taken to ensure that no one is in the path of the touch hole flash.
- (7.12) To be considered unloaded for making the line safe, the cock(hammer) shall be placed in the safe position with the percussion cap removed (a charge can still be in the barrel), or the frizzen in the up position and no priming powder in the flash/priming pan. In addition, the flint-lock firing hole (vent) can be plugged.