



RANGE RULES

Revised April 10, 2018

General Range Safety Rules

1. ALWAYS handle EVERY firearm as if it were loaded
2. NEVER point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot
3. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until you have acquired the target in the sights
4. ALWAYS clearly identify your target and what is beyond
5. The range property is a cold range – no loaded firearms until at a hot firing line; exception – concealed carry and carry by Law Enforcement Officers are allowed, outside of matches, in accordance with SC Laws.
6. Ammunition and Targets: Tracers and incendiary rounds are prohibited everywhere. Armor piercing and steel core rounds are prohibited on steel. Exploding targets such as Tannerite are prohibited everywhere.
7. Alcoholic beverages and intoxicating drugs are prohibited on the ranges at any time.
8. Appropriate eye and ear protection is required always at the range when in proximity of firing lines. Normally this will be safety glasses and ear plug or noise reducing ear muffs. Match Directors shall determine the appropriate levels of eye and ear protection for their matches based on the firearms, ammunition and targets used in the match.
9. Open fires are prohibited except on workdays when approved by the responsible fire authority in Dorchester County, when monitored by work crews and when completely extinguished before departure.
10. Any member that has an accident or encounters any problem at the range must report it to a club officer by letter or email within 48 hours of the incident. Any incident involving emergency services shall be reported to an Executive Committee member immediately by phone, then followed up by a formal report by letter or email.
11. Match Directors and course instructors have control of the range during matches and courses- See the match director or instructor for access and use of part of the range during matches. Follow the Match Director's or instructor's requirements, range orders, etc. **(See General Rule 11 at the end)**
12. Smoking, eating, and drinking are discouraged on the firing lines and in bays due to the potential for lead ingestion and exposure.
13. Do not permit children to "forage" for spent bullets in the floor of the pistol bays and anywhere in the backstop berms. Spent bullets often have sharp edges and the dirt is full of lead dust.
14. Motorized Range Equipment (MRE) may only be operated by authorized PGC members. Operating any MRE near people, equipment, and personal property when the range is active requires a spotter who can assist with directions to prevent the potential for injury, collisions, and damage.

Pistol Bay Safety Rules

1. Each bay is independently controlled by the user occupying the bay.
2. The “safe line” in each bay is established as the line behind all shooters (towards the road), but in no case shall the “safe line” be further towards the road than 10 feet into the bay (inside the berms).
3. Muzzles may not be pointed back towards the road or outside of the bay under any circumstances. All occupants of the bays must be behind the muzzle of any firearm being handled. The “180 rule” applies in all bays.
4. All firearms (except concealed carry by CWP holders) are cold behind the “safe line” in the bay. No “hot” concealed weapons at matches.
5. NO shooting into the bay from across the road!
6. Firearms may be loaded ONLY when inside the bay (inside the “safe line”) and when the person having control give the order to go hot.
7. Magazines may be loaded at the safe line but cannot be placed in the magazine well until the shooter is at a hot firing line.
8. **No one handles a firearm anywhere in the bay when people are downrange!**
9. Pistol bay targets:
 - a. Paper targets, cardboard targets, and clay pigeons (placed on the berms), must be placed on provided plywood target backers or on user provided target stands so that bullets pass through them and strike the berm. Do not place targets where the bullet can skip off the ground or go over the berm and do not hang targets on steel plate racks, trees, props, or wood support posts!
 - b. Steel targets provided on the plate racks and steel targets set up for matches are permitted. Range users may bring their own steel targets provided that the targets are commercially made for the intended purpose, the targets deflect bullets downward to the ground and the targets are placed where bullets will strike a berm if the target is missed. Steel must be placed no closer than 15 yards from the entrance to the bay.
 - c. Pistol bay steel plate targets may only be shot with normal pistol caliber cartridges with a velocity less than 1500 foot per second and 22 caliber rim-fire ammo. Rifles and pistols shooting rifle cartridges and shotguns shooting slugs on steel in the pistol bays are prohibited! No steel core, armor piercing, tracer or incendiary ammunition may be used!
 - d. Shooters must be at least 10 yards from steel plate targets. Further is better! Injury can occur if you are closer.
 - e. Bricks, concrete blocks, glass bottles, plastic bottles, bowling pins, or like targets that fragment or are rounded to increase the possibility of ricochets, are strictly prohibited!
10. Rifles may be fired in the pistol bays so long as the bullets strike the end impact berm. In fact, initial sighting in of rifles is encouraged in one of the pistol bays (preferably the 50-yard bay at the end of the road) before shooting at the rifle range.
11. Shotguns may be fired in the pistol bays, but all shot must impact a berm! No “skeet shooting” with thrown targets is allowed.
12. Fully automatic weapons and simulated fully automatic firing using mechanical devices or methods may be fired only in the pistol bays, provided that all bullets strike the end impact berm and the owner is present with all required documentation.

Rifle Line Safety Rules

1. The rifle line is ONE firing line
 - a. Shooters must all follow the operational commands for HOT and COLD range.
 - b. Shooters on the line – please be courteous and coordinate range hot and cold with others. Don't just turn the light on or off without verbally checking with others.
 - c. Be especially careful to check with long range shooters as they might be downrange and out of sight.
2. Red light on the firing line means the range is COLD!
 - a. Firearms must be unloaded, magazines out, bolts back
 - b. Unless approved otherwise for a specific match by the Match Director, no one handles a firearm on a cold range! No looking through scopes, no unpacking firearms, no cleaning firearms, just don't touch it!
 - c. Cased firearms may be taken to or brought from a vehicle when the range is cold but must remain in the CLOSED case until the range goes hot.
 - d. There is an audible buzzer when the red lights are turned on and every 5 minutes thereafter until the lights are turned off.
3. When the red light is off the range is hot; however, you must ALWAYS visually confirm that no one is downrange before loading a firearm or firing.
4. Normally, the red light is left off when the range is not occupied. When you first arrive at the range, if the light is off, visually verify that no one is downrange anywhere, including all the way to the 800-yard backstop berm, before loading or firing.
5. Firing pistols with pistol caliber cartridges on the rifle line is prohibited – bullets will hit the ground before impacting the berm and perhaps skip over the berm. Rifles shooting pistol cartridges are allowed at 100 yards and 200 yards provided that the cartridge has sufficient velocity to pass through the target and strike an impact berm. Pistols shooting center-fire rifle cartridges are also allowed on the rifle line.
6. Targets must be placed at the proper height so that the bullet passes through the target frame and into the backstop berm. Target frames are available for members use and are located behind the wall at the end of the rifle line near the bathrooms.
 - a. 200-yard target line – staple targets on cardboard or plywood placed into the 200-yard target frames or shoot 25, 50 or 100 yards with temporary target frames placed in PVC pipes. Target frames at 25, 50 and 100 yards should be placed so that there is a reasonable expectation that the bullet will impact the 200-yard backstop berm.
 - b. Steel targets on the 200-yard line are provided for use by the membership. There are three rules for using the plates: (1) Expanding bullets only!! No armor piercing, penetrator or steel core ammo allowed. (2) Standard caliber rifles only!! No magnums allowed. (3) Be sure to choose a plate that is directly in line with your shooting position. Angled shots may result in ricochets.
 - c. Do not place targets on any skip berms.
7. You MUST be long range certified to shoot beyond 200 yards.
8. Long Range Certified members may bring non-Long Range Certified shooters (members or guests) to shoot on the long-range section of the range at distances greater than 200 yards ONLY under ALL the following conditions:
 - a. The Long Range Certified member accepts full responsibility for every shot fired by the shooter.
 - b. Only the Long Range Certified member's rifle and scope are used to shoot beyond 200 yards. The non-Long Range Certified shooter's rifle and scope may not be used.

- c. The Long Range Certified member has verified zero on the rifle and scope at 100 or 200 yards prior to shooting beyond 200 yards.
 - d. The Long Range Certified member dials the proper elevation for the target distance.
 - e. The Long Range Certified member shoots the target at long range first to verify impact on target.
 - f. The Long Range Certified member discusses proper sight alignment, sight picture, wind correction, breathing, trigger control, and follow through with the shooter prior to the shooter's first shot.
 - g. The Long Range Certified member allows the shooter to become accustomed to the rifle, trigger, and scope by dry firing several times prior to the shooter's first shot.
 - h. The Long Range Certified member directly supervises EVERY shot and corrects any potential errors that could cause the shot to miss the impact berm.
9. Long range shooters place targets in the frames provided at 300, 600 and 785 yards or on the berms at 300 or 785. No other target locations are authorized.
 10. Very large caliber, high velocity magnums, over 338 calibers, such as the 50 BMG, 416 Barrett, 408 CheyTac, 375 CheyTac, are allowed only by mutual consent of all on the firing line and can only be fired at 200-yard targets.
 11. Rifle line steel targets are for use only with expanding bullets. Steel core "penetrator" and armor piercing ammo is prohibited. If your bullet sticks to a magnet, it is steel core and cannot be shot at steel targets.
 12. Fully automatic fire, or firing using devices or methods that simulate fully automatic fire (such as "Slide Fire", external trigger springs, etc.) is strictly prohibited on the rifle line! Fully automatic rifles may be fired on the line provided that the rifle is set to semi-automatic fire and all legally required documents are physically present with the owner.
 13. Rifle Line Etiquette:
 - a. Check in with other shooters already on the Range. Let them know what you'll be doing.
 - b. Set up your equipment while the line is hot.
 - c. Be prepared to hang targets as soon as the line is called safe.
 - d. Make the line safe about every 20 min so others can hang targets.
 - e. Make sure everyone has time to put on hearing protection before you start shooting.
 14. **When going from a HOT firing line to a COLD (safe) firing line:** The member who intends to operate the light switch has the personal responsibility to absolutely verify that all other shooters on the line are ready and willing to go cold (make the line safe). This often means visually and verbally verifying that all on the line are ready to unload their firearms and either pull their bolts out or back, or in the case of semi-autos, remove the bolt or pull the bolt back and install a chamber flag. After switching the lights on, the member operating the light switch must also verify that everyone has made their weapons safe and no one is touching a weapon prior to declaring verbally that the line is safe. All members are reminded that they may not proceed downrange until the range safety lights are on and the range has been declared cold or safe. Violations of this protocol will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.
 15. **When going from a COLD (safe) firing line to a HOT firing line:** Normally, the member who made the range cold (safe) should also be the member who makes it hot or has relinquished control to another member. Similarly, to going cold, the member who intends to operate the light switch to go hot has the personal responsibility to absolutely verify that all personnel are back from downrange and are ready to go hot, including ready with eye and ear protection. This often means visually and verbally verifying that everyone who went downrange has returned to the firing line, including those at the long-range end of the line. The member operating the lights to

go hot will often have to walk down to the long end of the line or at least most of the way to yell down to get verbal confirmation that the people are back from downrange. After switching the lights off, the member operating the light switch must also verbally declare that the line is hot. Violations of this protocol will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.

General Range Operational Rules

1. PGC is a private club for use by members, direct family & guests.
 - a. Direct family is defined as: Spouse, grandparents, parents, children, children's spouses, brothers, sisters, grandchildren.
 - b. The member must accompany direct family and guests.
 - c. A member can only bring up to two guests at a time to the range, but only one guest can shoot at a time, and must be supervised by the member always.
 - d. Each local area guest is limited to two visits. After his or her initial two visits, PGC expects him or her to become a member. Individuals on the wait list are exempt from the two visit limitation.
2. Range hours are from sunrise to sunset – no night shooting ever!!
3. Please drive only on the roads and park in the proper areas. Never drive over firing lines. Members are expected to walk down range (if able) to hang targets. Golf cart access will be provided for any member with a SC recognized disability that prevents walking downrange to the targets.
4. There is no hunting allowed on club properties at any time.
5. The gate access cards issued are electronic cards that open the gate and double as your membership card.
6. Members must have membership cards quickly accessible (on your person, in your range bag, or other location that can be quickly accessed).
7. Dorchester County Sheriff's Department has statutory jurisdiction on the range. If a member is approached by a deputy, the member is expected to clear his or her firearm and make it safe.
8. The gate access system is single pass system
 - a. You must swipe your gate access card on the card readers located near the gate to get in and out of the range, even if the gate is open!
 - b. If gate will not let you out, walk around gate to the "in" sensor and swipe your card.
 - c. Lost card replacement will cost \$25.00
 - d. If you forget your card, you will not get into the gate.
9. DO NOT shoot up the props (or hang targets on them!) that match directors have placed in the bays examples: Plastic barrels, building facades, fences, wagons, wells, etc.
10. Clean up your mess afterwards: Take down and dispose of all targets. Pick up center-fire brass, shotgun shells, targets, paper, cleaning wads, etc. Place all trash in a can or the dumpster.
11. The Club Calendar dictates the operation of the range. Use will fall in to one of three conditions.
 - a- **Condition Green** – Nothing noted on the calendar. Unlimited range use for PGC Members. No Match, Maintenance or Events Scheduled.
 - b- **Condition Yellow** – The PGC Calendar shows an event or match in progress and allows limited shooting during the event. You may shoot with the permission of the match or event director. In this case the range has a match or event but the range or parts of the range are open to general membership use. You **MUST** check in with the match or event director prior to shooting and must follow all match or event safety requirements.

- c- **Condition Red** – The PGC Calendar shows the range is closed due to an event / match/or maintenance. With Condition Red the PGC Board and members have directed the range closed to general membership use. This **cannot** be overruled by the event, match or maintenance director. The reasons surrounding this closure are range and or personnel safety. Do not go to the director and ask to shoot. They are not authorized to allow shooting until the event / match / maintenance is completed and the range is open to general shooting.

Note: An exception to Condition Red is during the regularly scheduled mowing and maintenance periods on Wednesdays - Members may request approval from the Work Crew to shoot in any area of range. No shooting anywhere without their explicit PRIOR approval.

Range Emergency Condition - if an emergency event occurs at the range, the Fire Department Incident Commander has full authority to shut down the range for helicopter **Landing Zone** access as required.