

Westford Sportsmen's Club Use of the Outdoor Ranges

To shoot on the outdoor ranges, all members must do one of the following:

Attend a range safety orientation conducted by the Chief Range Officer or the Outdoor Range Chairperson, **OR**

Be an NRA Range Safety Officer trained by the Westford Sportsmen's Club, **OR**

Shoot under the supervision of an NRA Range Safety Officer trained by the Westford Sportsmen's Club.

Safety Rules

- ⤴ **All Guns are loaded** and must be treated as such at all times
- ⤴ **Never** allow the gun muzzle to point at anything that you do not intend to shoot. This includes parts of your body
- ⤴ **Keep** your trigger finger off the trigger and positioned alongside the frame until your sights are on the target and you decide to shoot.
- ⤴ **Always** be sure of your target and the target's background and immediate surroundings

This means firearms may only be loaded or unloaded on the firing line. Muzzle loaders must be capped or primed only at the firing line. Firearms may only leave the firing line unloaded or holstered.

Bullet Impact and Ricochet Prevention Rules

- ⤴ All targets, paper or otherwise, **MUST** be positioned to ensure all bullets impact only the berm between the base of the backstop and the shoot line. No bullets should ever be allowed to impact the floor of the range.
- ⤴ **DO NOT** shoot at hard objects, such as glass, rocks, bowling pins, propane tanks, or any other object that can cause a ricochet.
- ⤴ Shooting at non-paper targets ("plinking" at soda cans, milk jugs, etc.) is allowed only if these objects are not on the range floor. Shooter supplied elevated platforms may be needed to keep bullet impact on the backstop. Such platforms are to be made of soft wood or other soft materials so as not to pose a ricochet hazard. Shooters must remove their plinking targets when they are done shooting. **Shooting at explosive targets such as Tannerite is prohibited.**
- ⤴ Self-purchased "Spinner" or knock-down type targets in good condition are allowed on the Outdoor Ranges. They shall be used with .22 rimfire ammunition only. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using these types of targets and ensure that bullet impact stays on the backstop and below the

shoot line. Self-made reactive target systems and/or larger caliber reactive targets require approval from the Chief Range Safety Officer or the Chairperson of the Outdoor Ranges Committee.

- ⤴ WSC target frames may be placed at any distance from the firing line as required by the shooter. All bullet impact rules **MUST** be strictly observed.
- ⤴ Club-furnished Pistol Range target stands and target backers are not to be used on the rifle range.
- ⤴ No one is allowed to shoot from the firing line at ranges less than 25 yards on the rifle range to avoid bullets impacting the floor of the range. The 12-inch high target backers must be used when shooting at the 25 yard line and the targets must be less than 12-inch high and fit on the backer. Larger target backers and targets may be used when the target stands are placed at either of the berms.
- ⤴ Failure to follow these Range Rules or the willful destruction of target frames, target supports or any WSC property will result in disciplinary measures as determined by the Executive Committee, including suspension or expulsion from the WSC.

Range Commands

Hot Range: Shooting is allowed. Before the range is declared to be HOT the Orange “Hot Range” flag must be inserted into the holder

Cold Range: This is a request for all shooting to be stopped for such routine tasks as going down range to change targets. Upon hearing the words “Cold Range,” Shooters shall put their firearms down, unloaded with the actions open and step back and say “Clear.” When the range is declared to be Cold the Orange “Hot Range” flag must be removed from the holder

DO NOT HANDLE a firearm for ANY REASON while any person is down range. This includes firearms on the tables behind the firing line. Removable magazines may be loaded while people are down range. After all shooters have finished their downrange tasks, and have returned to the firing line, all shooters present may agree to declare the range Hot.

Cease Fire: This denotes an immediate dangerous situation. Anyone seeing an unsafe situation on the range should yell “Cease Fire.” Anyone hearing the words “Cease Fire” should immediately stop what they were doing, take their finger off their trigger, and not move. Once the problem is under control, the range may return to normal operation. The “Cease Fire” command is for serious situations. It is not to be taken lightly.

Eyes and Ears: When a range goes HOT, “Eyes and Ears” must be announced to all persons present on both ranges before shooting.

Further Safety and Range Use Issues

- ⤴ Uncased or unholstered firearms shall not be brought to any range unless the range is HOT.

- ⤴ A shooter may move closer toward the backstop (shooting from the “field” of the range) only if all other shooters present are shooting at the same distance from the backstop.
- ⤴ Shooters at the outdoor Rifle Range should shoot at the berm directly in front of them. Shooters at the Rifle Range must avoid extreme “cross lane” shooting to ensure all bullet impacts are on the backstops.
- ⤴ When finished shooting, shooters shall remove all targets, paper or non-paper that they have placed on the range. Return all WSC cardboard backers and target stands to the storage area when done shooting.

Administrative Rules

- ⤴ No shooting before 8:00 AM. on weekdays and Saturday on any outdoor shooting range. No shooting before 1:00 PM on Sunday on the outdoor ranges. No shooting after Sunset.
- ⤴ Members and guests must sign-in and sign-out of the log book located at the Outdoor Pistol or Rifle Range.
- ⤴ Orange Range Safety Cards are to be displayed at all times.
- ⤴ WSC Members are allowed two guests at a time. Guests may visit the range areas twice, after which they should apply to join the WSC. All non-members and all children **MUST** be under the direct supervision of a club member when at the Outdoor Ranges. Immediate family members are not restricted in the number of visits, but must still be under the direct supervision of a club member at all times.
- ⤴ Buck shot, #4 or larger, and slugs are the only shot shell types to be used on WSC cardboard target backers. Target or Bird shot loads may be used on member -supplied target frames and backing.
- ⤴ Clean up all spent shell casings and discard in the trash barrels or brass buckets provided. A broom and dust pan are supplied on both the Pistol and Rifle range for your convenience. Remove your targets from the WSC supplied target backers, when you are done shooting..
- ⤴ **DO NOT** leave any live rounds on the ground at any range, place any “squibs” or malfunctioning ammo in the oil filled Squib Jugs located at each Range.
- ⤴ Handguns are allowed on the Rifle Range, only when firing at ranges of 25 yards or greater and Rifles are allowed on the Pistol Range.

These range rules may be modified as needed, for scheduled events such as training classes and competitions, which are under the direction of an NRA Range Safety Officer or Certified Instructor.

ALCOHOL IS NOT ALLOWED ON ANY RANGE BEFORE OR DURING SHOOTING. THE ODOR OF ACOHOL IS GROUNDS TO REQUEST THAT THE INDIVIDUAL LEAVE THE RANGE IMMEDIATELY.

Approved by Chief Range officer - 02/13/12