

IZAAK WALTON RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB RANGE RULES

Revised August 8, 2007, supersedes previously published Rifle and Pistol Range Rules.

All Range Members are responsible for enforcing the rules. Any violations should be promptly reported to the Park Caretaker or a member of the Range Safety Committee. Any unsafe action is considered a rule violation and subjects the offender to immediate removal from the Range and subsequent discipline by the Range Committee.

Section I. CONDITIONS FOR ACCESS TO RANGES

- A. Each person entering the range premises is obligated to act in a safe and responsible manner.
- B. All Range Qualified members (as defined herein) are authorized to bring guests to the ranges. No guest shall be allowed on any range unless *accompanied and supervised* by a Range Qualified member. Each Range Qualified member may supervise a maximum of 4 guests at a time. Club members are responsible for the actions and behavior of guests.
- C. Club members who are not Range Qualified, regardless of when they became members, are permitted to use the ranges only as guests of Range Qualified members.
- D. Range Qualified members have access to the rifle and pistol ranges during daylight hours (as defined by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries), except when scheduled events are in progress. No firing on any range before noon on Sundays, without I WLL Board approval.
- E. Range Qualified members **WILL WEAR** the Club Range Qualification badge or card on outer clothing whenever they are in the range area. The Range Qualification badges or cards will be issued with the Range cards. The Range Badge (or card) must be presented upon request – failure to present valid Range ID is cause for immediate removal from the Ranges (the person may stay as a guest, under the same restrictions applying to all other guests). Lost badges/cards will be replaced at Izaak Walton Rifle & Pistol Club meetings or from the Caretaker or other designated Park official at a cost of \$5.00 each.
- F. Designated Range Safety Officers/Match Directors shall be appointed by the Range Committee for matches and special events as the need arises. Decisions of the Range Safety Officers/Match Directors must be complied with promptly, but subsequent appeal may be made to the Range Safety Committee by request to the Club President. Range Safety Officers/Match Directors will not have any other duties or participate in shooting while acting as Range Safety Officer/Match Directors.
- G. **EACH SHOOTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING HIS FIRING POINT, PLACING USED TARGETS IN TRASH CONTAINERS, AND (WHERE APPLICABLE) RETURNING TARGET FRAMES OR OTHER EQUIPMENT TO PROPER STORAGE LOCATIONS.**
- H. All personnel in the immediate vicinity of the firing line are required to wear protective eyewear and ear protection except at such times the line is CLEAR.
- I. **Violations of range rules or of basic firearms safety procedures constitutes grounds for immediate suspension of range privileges.** Length of suspension will be determined solely by the Range Safety Committee. Range fees are forfeited in the event of suspension.
- J. Unauthorized persons found using the Ranges will be treated as trespassers and prosecuted as such. Range Members whose range privileges are suspended are considered unauthorized persons for the duration of their suspension.

Section II: RANGE SAFETY

GENERAL

- A. During Special Club Events or other activities such as designated practice sessions held with the presence of Range Safety Officers, these rules may be modified as necessary by the Range Safety Officer to permit conduct of special events ; provided that the effect of the basic range rules and firearm safety rules are not weakened.
- B. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on all ranges; persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol are barred from the ranges.
- C. The discharge of firearms is restricted to the firing range facility designated for such.
- D. Tracer or incendiary ammunition will not be fired at any time.
- E. Shotgun slugs may be fired on the Rifle range. Patterning of shotguns with birdshot may be done on the Rifle or Pistol range but is **NOT** allowed on the club's target stands. Shooters must provide their own suitable target stand for this purpose (such as large cardboard boxes).
- F. The use of handguns and rimfire rifles is restricted to the Pistol range for distances less than 50 yards but are not to be fired at targets closer than 7 yards.
- G. Any centerfire firearm shooting pistol ammunition, but equipped with a shoulder stock and defined as a rifle by BATF rules, will be considered a rifle and only fired under rules and conditions applicable to rifles.
- H. Regular meetings are held in the Park Clubhouse at 7:30 PM on dates listed in the posted Match Schedule. Members are encouraged to attend and share in the planning and operation of Range activities.
- I. Members are responsible for closing and locking the gate upon entering and leaving the ranges to prevent unauthorized access to the Ranges, except during organized events open to the public.

TARGETS

- J. The use of targets designed to explode when hit, or pressurized cans of any kind, are strictly forbidden.
- K. Paper targets in club frames are the only targets to be used except as stated above in II (E). Target height must be set so that all rounds impact a berm.
- L. PAPER TARGETS WILL BE CENTERED ON FRAMES to minimize impacts on the wooden standards supporting the target frames. Under no circumstances will target frames, trees, or range equipment be used as targets.

FIREARMS HANDLING

- M. Firearms must be unloaded when brought onto and taken from club premises and will be loaded only when ready to fire on the firing line of a specific range. (Exception is made in the case of law enforcement officers). Concealed Carry permit holders will load and unload carry guns on the firing line, not in the parking area.
- N. Actions of uncased firearms will be open at all times except when on the firing line, ready to fire.
- O. When loading fixed cartridges, capping or priming muzzle loaders, sighting, firing, or resting between shots, the shooter must point his firearm down range toward the target or backstop.
- P. Whenever a firearm is loaded, it WILL NOT be left unattended.
- Q. Aiming or dry firing is permitted only on the firing line, only toward the target or backstop, and only when it would be safe to fire. Match Directors may provide a “SAFE” table adjacent to the firing lines for unloaded firearms to be examined or displayed. Handling rules for the match competitors apply; NO HANDLING and actions open when anyone is downrange and always maintain proper muzzle control.
- R. Before any person moves forward of the firing line, all firearms on the firing line must be fully unloaded (magazines out, safety on, actions open, bolts back). A primed or capped muzzleloader is considered to be loaded.
- S. Someone must take the initiative to insure that the firing line is, in fact, CLEAR. The following commands (or equivalent) will be called out loudly so that all shooters on the line can hear:

CEASE FIRE – CLEAR ALL FIREARMS – IS THE LINE CLEAR? Once it is ascertained that the line is CLEAR, that person will continue:

THE LINE IS CLEAR – GO FORWARD AND REPAIR TARGETS

Firearms **WILL NOT BE HANDLED** again until it is verified that all persons are again behind the firing line. Before resuming fire, the person exercising authority will inquire:

IS THE DOWN RANGE AREA CLEAR?

If the reply is affirmative and when that person has verified that the down range area is CLEAR he will continue: *EYE AND EAR PROTECTION ON? - COMMENCE FIRING*

A “person down range” indicator (Large RED disc or RED flashing light) will be displayed on the rifle range whenever a shooter goes down range past the 100 yard berm.

- T. When more than one shooter is on the line, a *CEASE FIRE* will be observed at least every half hour to permit the mounting and repair of targets. A *CEASE FIRE* command may be called by any person on or near the firing line if any unsafe condition is perceived. This command must be obeyed by all shooters and firearms made safe until the cause of the *CEASE FIRE* has been addressed.
- U. When there is more than one shooter on the firing line, no more than one round will be loaded in a rifle or shotgun, except as permitted in individual range rules or when all other shooters explicitly

consent. In **no case** will a semi-automatic centerfire rifle be fired from the standing position with more than one round loaded.

- V. **MUZZLE LOADERS** - On any range where muzzle loading black powder arms are being fired there will be **NO SMOKING** on the firing line. No open powder containers will be allowed except as necessary to load a powder measure.
- W. When firing from the benchrest tables provided on the Pistol range, the portable benchrest tables must be positioned with the front of the portable benches almost touching the attached (Bullseye) benches. After events held requiring the tables to be moved back, the tables should be replaced as a courtesy to the general membership.
- X. **KEEP THE MUZZLE OF ALL FIREARMS POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION AT ALL TIMES**. A “safe” direction is defined as a direction where nothing would be harmed if the firearm was fired accidentally. In Virginia it is a Class I misdemeanor to recklessly handle a firearm in a way that endangers any person or property (Virginia Code 18.2-56.1).

Section III: OFFICERS

- A. Officers of the Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Nominations from Club members in good standing will be accepted from the floor at the October meeting, voting will occur during the December meeting, and the elected parties will assume their offices on January 1 of the following year.
- B. The duties of the Officers are as follows:
 - President - Chair meetings, call emergency or suspension meetings as needed, name additional Range Safety Officers to the Range Safety Committee.
 - Vice President - Will act in place and stead of the President in the absence or disability of the President.
 - Treasurer - Collect, deposit, and report on funds in the Club’s petty cash account.
 - Secretary - Keep the minutes of meetings and roll of members.

Definitions:

Range Qualified: Club members who meet the following requirements:

- 1) Izaak Walton League member with dues paid to date
- 2) Provide proof of NRA membership (for insurance purposes)
- 3) Paid annual range fee
- 4) Pass the current applicable Range Qualification or Re-certification test
- 5) Are a minimum of 18 years old

Range Safety Committee: Consists of the Club President, Park Caretaker, Match Directors, and other additional Range Qualified members named as Range Safety Officers and appointed on an annual basis by the Club President. Range Safety Committee members/contact numbers will be posted on the Ranges. A minimum of 3 Range Safety Committee members will meet after regularly scheduled meetings (or special meeting called by the Club President) for any required suspension hearings. As Range Safety Officers, all members of the Range Safety Committee will have access (key or combination) to the target lockers, range storage buildings and equipment.

Section IV: RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL RANGES

A. PISTOL RANGE

<u>FIREARMS PERMITTED</u>	<u>TARGETS PERMITTED</u>	<u>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
Any pistol or revolver, rimfire, centerfire (d) or black powder. Rimfire rifles and air or gas guns of any description.	Paper targets only. See (b) below	Special care should be taken so that no shots impact on target frames. Targets must be aligned for impacts to be in berms.
Shotguns firing birdshot(No. 6 or smaller)	Paper targets only	Club target stands may not be used for this purpose.

B. RIFLE RANGE

<u>FIREARMS PERMITTED</u>	<u>TARGETS PERMITTED</u>	<u>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
Any centerfire rifle, any muzzle loading rifle, any shotgun firing slugs only.	Paper targets only. See (b) below	Special care should be taken so that no shots impact on target frames. Targets must be aligned for impacts to be in berms.
Shotguns firing shotshells	Paper targets only.	Club target stands may not be used for this purpose.
Any centerfire pistol or revolver, or black powder. Rimfire rifles and air or gas guns of any description.	Paper targets only. See (b) below	ONLY at distances 50 yards and greater. (c)

- (a) Items not explicitly permitted are forbidden.
- (b) Bullseye of target **must not** be placed in front of the target stand uprights.
- (c) Exceptions permitted only by a Range Safety Officer.
- (d) Not to include special purpose centerfire handguns, i.e. "Contender" types.