Berrien County Sportsman's Club, Inc.

2985 Linco Road, Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Telephone: (269) 429-3792
https://bcsportsmansclub.com

FIREARM AND ARCHERY SAFETY RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR INDOOR & OUTDOOR RANGES

PURPOSE

The "Firearm and Archery Safety Rules and Procedures" have been established to ensure the health and safety of those individuals who use or frequent this facility and the community at large, thereby ensuring the safety and continuity of this facility in the future.

It is required that all members and users adhere to these "Firearm and Archery Safety Rules and Guidelines".

The Three Fundamentals of Gun Safety:

ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION!

ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL READY TO SHOOT!

ALWAYS KEEP-THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO USE IT!

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1.0 TERMINOLOGY

1.1 **Blackwater Target System**: American Electric Power Company's automated target system located on the west berm of the tactical range. Not for Club member use.

1.2 **Backstop**: A device constructed to stop or redirect bullets fired on a range.

1.3 **Berms**:· Safety Berms and Side Berms are embankments used for restricting bullets to a given area or as a dividing wall between ranges.

1.4 **Bullet trap**: A device designed to trap or capture the entire bullet and fragments as opposed to redirecting the projectile into water or sand.

1.5 **Impact Area**: The area of a backstop or bullet trap directly behind a target where bullets are expected to impact.

1.6 **Trajectory**: The path a projectile travels from the muzzle to the point of impact.

1.7 **Cease Fire:** A command used **BY ANYONE** on the firing line. **Stop Firing IMMEDIATELY.** Remove Finger from Trigger, keep firearm pointed in safe direction, remain in place, and wait for further instruction from the instructor or RSO.

1.8 **Chief RSO:** The Club appointed Chief Range Safety Officer has overall responsibility for the safe handling and shooting of firearms anywhere on the range property. They are responsible for overseeing the development of the range SOP's and ensures they are implemented. The Chief Range Safety Officer is responsible for authorizing individuals to shoot pistols at a distance of greater than 50 yards, authorizing individuals to *drive* on ranges for health reasons and for issuing handicap passes for Club members or their guests. This appointed individual is also responsible for the overall safety of the ranges.

1.9 **RSO:** The Range Safety Officer supervises shooting activities as prescribed by the range SOPs.

1.10 **Rules and Regulations**: Standards used in the operation of a shooting range. Rules and regulations are set up to govern the method of range operation to include health and safety. See specific range rules.

1.11 **Discipline:** A means of enforcing rules, including procedure, penalties, and administrative processes.

1.12 **Empty Chamber Indicator**: A device placed within the chamber to indicate the chamber is empty and not loaded with a cartridge.

1.13 **Firing Line:** A line parallel to the targets from where all firearms are discharged.

1.14 **Target Line**: A line parallel to the firing line along which targets are placed.

1.15 **Firing Position**: An area directly behind the firing line having a specified width and depth that is occupied by a shooter, shooter's equipment, and if appropriate, an instructor or coach.

1.16 **Firing Range:** A facility designed for the purpose of providing a place on which to discharge firearms. (See attached map)

1 .17 **Hang Fire:** A perceptible delay in the ignition of a cartridge after the primer has been struck by the firing pin. Keep the firearm pointed toward the target and wait a minimum of 30 seconds for metallic or shot shells, and 2 minutes for black powder firearms before opening the action. You cannot tell the difference between a misfire or hang fire when it occurs.

1 .18 **Misfire:** Failure of a cartridge to discharge after the firearm's firing pin has struck the primer. Wait a minimum of 30 seconds for metallic or shot shells, and 2 minutes for black powder firearms before opening the action. You cannot tell the difference between a misfire or hang fire when it occurs. ·

1 .19 **Squib load:** A development of less than normal pressure or velocity after ignition of the cartridge.

1.20 **Incendiary**: A bullet which causes or is capable of causing a fire. An example is a tracer round.

1.21 **Tracer**: A bullet that leaves a luminous or smoky trail.

1.22 Metallic Targets: These are the pop-up targets located on the pistol ranges and are available to be used by the Club members. These targets are to **only** be used on the pistol ranges unless a Club sponsored shoot requires them to be used somewhere else.

Note: **metallic targets are to be shot with HANDGUNS ONLY. *Note:* these metallic targets are *NOT to* be confused with the Black Water "Bear" Target System which is located on the west berm of the tactical range.**

1 .23 **Range:** The distance traveled by a projectile from the firearm to the final impact point.

1 .24 **Range Commands**: Instructions given by the Range Officer to shooters on the firing line. See sections 9.0 through 13.0.

1 .25 **Rifle**: A modern firearm designed to be fired from the shoulder. Its main character is a grooved barrel that imparts a spin to the single projectile as it travels through the bore.

1 .26 **Safety:** A mechanical device designed to reduce the chance of an accidental discharge. **A SAFETY IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED TO PREVENT A DISCHARGE.**

2.0 GENERAL RANGE RULES

2.1 No one under the age of 18 is allowed on any range without adult supervision.

2.2 No firing before 8:00 AM or after sundown or **9 PM (whatever comes first)** unless at organized Club events.

2.3 Fully automatic firearms are prohibited on Club ranges. **This includes any firearms which have modifications to simulate automatic operation.**

2.4 No 50 caliber center fire rifles are allowed on Club ranges.

2.5 All **firearms and ammunition** must be legal for use in the State of Michigan.

2.6 Register at the Clubhouse **before going to any range and after you leave the range**. You are required to provide the following information:

Upon Arrival

Name, date, time of arrival. (Name of all members and guests, 1 per line)

Caliber of firearm being used i.e. 45, 38sp, 30-06, etc.

Upon Departure

time of departure

Weight of bullet, grains, i.e., 150grs, 180grs, etc.

Number of shots fired.

Weight of shot, (ounces), if shotgun used.

2.7 Bottles, cans, clay birds or other objects are strictly forbidden for use as targets on ranges. Clay birds can **ONLY** be used on the Shotgun range.

2.8 **ALL** firing of firearms **MUST** be into the **North Backstop.** Exceptions can be made for sanctioned Club events.

2.9 Practice the maximum range safety at all times and insist others on the firing line do the same.

2.1 0 Always check to make sure the range is clear of any persons or animals.

2.11 Firearms are only to be loaded when you are on the firing line and ready to shoot. Refer to 3.5 for concealed carry firearms.

2.12 Eye and ear protection is mandatory for all shooters and by standers on all firing ranges during live firing.

2.13 Always keep the muzzle pointed down range.

2.14 Unload a firearm before leaving the firing line and firing range.

2.15 Know where others are at all times.

2.16 Shoot only at authorized targets.

2.17 Designate a firing range officer when none is present or assigned.

2.18 During cease fire stop firing immediately, take finger off trigger, keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction, remain in place and await further instructions from the instructor or RSO.

2.19 **Do Not** go down range until all shooters at the firing line have acknowledged that the **"RANGE IS SAFE".**

2.20 Ground or bench a firearm in such a manner that the empty chamber is visible to the casual observer without handling the firearm. Grounded and/or benched firearms on the firing line should have their muzzles pointed directly down range. Step back away from the shooting bench. Always keep the muzzle pointed at the bunker/backstop while loading, unloading, or adjusting a firearm.

2.21 Do not handle any firearms or bows or stand at the firing line where firearms or bows are present while someone is down range.

2.22 Always police the range, any range, and clean up brass and any mess after you're finished. This includes archery, rifle, pistols, and shotgun ranges. Members will be penalized for any mess that they, or their guests, create on club property and do not clean.

2.23 Always put misfire cartridges in the safety tubes.

2.24 The Chair of an organized Club event or their designee will function as the Range Master (Official Referee.) Event rules such as NRA or IDPA rules will apply during these events and the Range Master or Referee will have the final say in any disagreement.

2.25 Remember range courtesy.

2.26 Alcohol and Illegal Drugs are forbidden. Use of alcohol or drugs prior to or during shooting activities is forbidden.

2.27 Prescription Drugs should be used with discretion when shooting. If you are not to use them while driving or operating machinery, then you should not use them when shooting.

2.28 Smoking of any kind is prohibited when a container of Black Powder or Pyrodex is on the range.

2.29 Use of tracers, incendiaries, or armor piercing ammo is strictly forbidden.

2.30 BB, Pellet, Air Gun, CO2 pistols and Rifles are to be used **ONLY on the north side of the tactical range.** DO NOT shoot at hard or metallic targets. **Only paper targets can be used.**

2.31 Paint Ball Guns are strictly forbidden anywhere on Club property.

2.32 **RED FLAG** flying on the flagpole near the rifle range house indicates that the rifle range is in use for a Club sanctioned event and **Not** available for general membership use.

2.33 **Red Flag** flying at the gate to the pistol ranges indicates the pistol ranges are in use for a Club sanctioned event and **Not** available for general membership use.

2.34 **RED FLAG** flying on the flagpole at the tactical range building indicates that the tactical range is in use for a Club sanctioned event and **Not** available for general membership use.

2.35 **Red Flag** flying between the skeet and trap fields indicates that both the skeet and trap fields are in use for a Club sanctioned event and **Not** available for general membership use.

2.36 It is your responsibility to know and obey all firing range commands.

2.37 Steel Target Usage is only allowed when the target has been "pre-authorized" by a range safety officer. In general, the following will need to be met in order for these steel targets to be approved.

- The target is of the proper material, with a steel rating of **AR500** or **AR550.**
- The target has totally flat surfaces for proper bullet deflection and consistent splatter.
- The angle of the flat surface has a slight angle between 15-45 degrees for a safe splatter zone.
- The targets are in good condition and are of approved make for a shooting Range.

2.38 Steel Target shooting distance. When pre-approved targets are used on our range, they must be placed at a **minimum shooting distance** from the shooter and any other person on the range. In general, this minimum distance will be.

- Centerfire or Rimfire Pistol = **10 Yards**
- Rimfire Rifle or Shotgun with Shot = **10 Yards**
- Centerfire Rifle or Shotgun Slug = **100 Yards**

2.39 Steel Target Condition – With your pre-approved targets: Always inspect your target for damage before and after shooting. Shooting usually only chips paint off the shooting surface, which, upon close inspection, causes no damage to the steel. Simply repaint the target with any commercially available paint and your target is as good as new. If your target has minor cratering, the target can still be used, but needs to be shot at distances 100 yards or greater. In the case of large craters, holes, or cracking, discontinue use of the target.

3.0 GUN HANDLING RULES

3.1 Know how the firearm operates.

3.2 The **ONLY** SAFE GUN IS AN OPEN GUN.

3.3 Be sure the firearm and ammunition are compatible.

3.4 Be sure of the target and what is beyond. When on the firing range be mindful of adjacent areas and act accordingly.

3.5 DO NOT unload or handle a concealed pistol until you have informed the RSO on duty and you are at the firing line or designated area. You may unload and show clear. To reload and return to a concealed state, you must be at the firing line or designated area with RSO permission. Reload and holster firearm. A loaded firearm is not to be unholstered at any time, except at ·a designated area with RSO permission.

3.6 Keep the action open and firearm unloaded until the shooters are in position on the firing line and the range has been cleared for live firing.

3.7 Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until ready to fire or until the command "COMMENCE FIRE" has been given.

3.8 When at the range with more than one firearm, use only one at a· time. Store that firearm and ammunition before using the next one.

4.0 SPECIFIC RANGE RULES - TRAP AND SKEET

4.1 All shot larger than 7 ½ is forbidden on the skeet and trap fields.

4.2 Black powder shotguns may be used on the trap and skeet fields. (See section 8.0 for black powder rules)

4.3 Be aware of all traffic on the road to the rifle ranges and campground. No hand traps on trap house closest to the road.

4.4 Actions **MUST ALWAYS** be open unless on the firing line ready to shoot. They must be open going to and from your vehicles.

4.5 Patterning of shotguns is to be done on the rifle range. Refer to 5.4.

5.0 SPECIFIC RANGE RULES - RIFLE

5.1 Common sense and courtesy must be used when using the rifle range.

5.2 The 200-yard range may only be used during an organized Club sanctioned event. Note: when the 200-yard range is in use ALL other ranges, including trap and skeet, are closed.

5.3 Targets must be set at the base of the north berm. If you wish to shoot shorter distances than 100 yards you must move your firing line closer to the target. If shooting less than 100 yards use the east bay. If more people would like to shoot 100 yards, then users MUST yield to the 100-yard shooters for safety reasons.

5.4 Patterning of shotguns MUST be done from the 50 yard-line of the rifle range or closer. Greater than 50-yard patterning requires Chief Range Safety Officer approval.

5.5 Rifles, pistols and shotguns may be used on the rifle range.

5.6 Only paper targets may be used on the rifle range. Note: Metallic targets are only used during Club sanctioned events.

5.7 All paper targets must be fastened to a wooden target frame and cardboard. Targets are **NOT** to be fastened onto the shooting lane divider barriers or other materials that are not a wooden frame and cardboard.

5.8 Club shooting benches may be moved up closer to shoot shorter yardages. **Benches must be returned to the 100-yard firing line when finished.**

5.9 Actions **Must Always** be kept open unless on the line ready to fire.

6.0 SPECIFIC RANGE RULES - PISTOL

6.1 Handguns may be used on the pistol, tactical, or rifle ranges. If used on the rifle range, you MUST be 50 yards or closer to the target line. Note: shooting longer distances requires written approval from the Club appointed Chief Range Safety Officer and you must have written approval with you while on the range.

6.2 NO rifles or shotguns may be used on the pistol range. An exception is for Club sanctioned events. AR pistols in pistol calibers are allowed.

6.3 Paper Targets can be used on the East side of the Pistol Range. 2 Target Stands will be provided for target frames. Do not move them anywhere else.

6.4 This is a “Cold” range. Drawing from a holster is Prohibited. All shots will be taken from Low ready or Retention ready.

6.5 Actions Must always be open unless on the firing line and ready to fire.

6.6 All firing will take place directly behind the Shooting Benches and Inside the Range Boundary Rope, Minimum of 10yds for club-maintained steel and 25ft for Bowling pins AND you must be perpendicular to the target to prevent ricochets.

6.7 When going downrange to check, change or paste targets all firearms on the range are to be unloaded and either benched or holstered

6.8 Only Handgun ammunition is allowed on the pistol range. Largest caliber allowed is 45 Long Colt. No slugs or buckshot allowed, No steel core rounds (AP) or Magnum ammunition when shooting at Club Maintained Steel Targets

7.0 SPECIFIC RANGE RULES - TACTICAL RANGE

All firearms are allowed on the tactical range, except those excluded in these range rules.

7.1 Only paper targets and wooden frames are to be used on the tactical range.

7.2 All firing must be done into the north berm.

7.3 No firing from beyond the east wooden division wall when someone is on the pistol range.

7.4 All other range rules apply.

7.5 Blackwater, "Bear", target system on the west berm of the tactical range is NOT to be used other than for Club sanctioned events.

8.0 SPECIFIC RANGE RULES - BLACK POWDER

8.1 Black powder firearms may be fired on the Rifle, Pistol, and Trap and Skeet ranges.

8.2 Black powder firearm shooters are obligated to follow all rules appropriate to the specific firing range in ·use.

8.3 Black powder rifles and shotguns must rest pointing up after charging.

8.4 Black powder pistols must rest pointing up in the pistol stand.

8.5 There will be no smoking of any type (cigarette, cigar, or pipe) if a container of black powder is on the firing range.

8.6 No loading from can or horn directly to gun. Loading from powder measure only.

8.7 **NEVER** mix any two powders regardless of type, brand or source.

8.8 **NEVER** substitute any smokeless powder for black powder or Pyrodex

9.0 SPECIFIC RANGE RULES -ADMINISTRATIVE

9.1 Club members are not permitted to use any range unsupervised unless they have completed the Club's "FIREARM SAFETY RULES AND GUIDELINES COURSE".

9.2 Register at the Clubhouse **before going to any range and after you leave the range**. You are required to provide the following information:

Upon Arrival

Name, date, time of arrival. (Name of all members and guests, 1 per line)

Caliber of firearm being used; i.e. 45, 38sp, 30-06, etc.

Upon Departure

time of departure

Weight of bullet, grains, i.e. 150grs, 180grs, etc.

Number of shots fired.

Weight of shot, (ounces), if shotgun used.

9.3 Ensure the gate closes behind you after entering or leaving the ranges. If the gate fails to close or lock contact the Caretaker immediately. (269-429-3792)

9.4 If your FOB is lost or stolen contact the Club Caretaker. Cost of Replacement FOB is $20.00. New Member FOBs are $15.00 for initial purchase.

9.5 Target frames are available in the target shed. Return the frames before you leave the range.

9.6 A Club member may invite multiple guests to the firing range at any time. **Only one (1) guest** may be on the firing line at any one time and the Club member will assume full responsibility for that guest's compliance with the Firearm Safety Rules and Procedures. Club members must be on the same range as their guests at all times.

9.7 Guests are not permitted on any Club facility, including all firing ranges, unless accompanied by a Club member.

9.8 Driving on the Pistol or Tactical Ranges is prohibited. Range Officers or event coordinators may drive on the ranges during shooting events. Note: If you or a member of your party is disabled you may drive on the ranges if written approval from the appointed Chief Range Safety Officer. You must have written approval with you while on the range.

9.9 Serious infractions of "FIREARM SAFETY RULES AND PROCEDURES" such as being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, the careless use of a firearm that endangers people or property, on or off the Club grounds, or violation of the SOPs will be dealt with by the Board of Directors. The Club constitution calls for revoking the membership of any individual(s) guilty of these types of infraction.

9.10 Clean up the firing range area before leaving. Deposit all trash, including used targets in the trash barrels. Pick up all spent cartridges, including 22 rim-fire and place in designated containers (White Buckets).

Note: Specific range commands are for information only. They will be covered during shooter briefings prior to events.

10.0 RANGE COMMANDS - INDOOR HANDGUN FIRING RANGE

10.1 SHOOTERS TO THE LINE - EYES AND EARS ON" - All shooters go to their booth.

10.2 "SHOOTERS PREPARE TO LOAD" - Shooters get your ammunition ready.

10.3 "SHOOTERS LOAD YOUR ARMS" – Shooter's load.

10.4 "FIRE WHEN READY" - Start firing.

10.5 "Cease Firing" - Stop firing **IMMEDIATELY,** remove finger from the trigger, keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction, stay in place, and wait for further instructions from the RSO or instructor.

10.6 "MAGAZINES OUT, SLIDES BACK, CYLINDERS OPEN, LOADING GATES OPEN, CHAMBER FLAGS ·IN." "STEP BACK FROM BOOTH."

10. 7 The indoor range is a cold range. Concealed pistols will not be carried loaded on the range. Firearms are to be unloaded at the blue barrel with RSO supervision,

(Never return to shooting booths when people are down range)

11.0 ARCHERY RANGE SAFETY RULES

11.1 Persons who have been consuming alcohol or under the influence of drugs are prohibited from shooting any of the ranges or novelties.

11.2 Alcohol and drugs are prohibited on all ranges.

11.3 Firearms and crossbows are prohibited on all ranges.

11.4 Field tips only, broadheads are prohibited on all practice, 3-D and novelty ranges except during Club sponsored broadhead shoots.

11.5 All range users and shooters are personally responsible for range safety and safe shooting.

11.6 If you observe any unsafe conditions, report them immediately to the Archery Range Safety Officer.

11.7 Check your bow, string and arrows frequently to make sure they are in a proper state of repair.

11.8 Do not nook an arrow until ready to shoot.

11.9 Do not shoot from behind the shooting stakes. Shoot from the stake to the target only.

11.10 Never shoot an arrow until you are positive that no one is in front of you or behind the target.

11.11 Never shoot an arrow up in the air.

11.12 Shooting is permitted when all persons are behind the shooter and safe shooting conditions exist.

11.13 All shooting to be into targets and backstops only.

11.14 No shooting at unauthorized targets. (cans, bottles, etc.)

11.15 All shooting to be in authorized areas only.

11.16 If you are looking for a lost arrow behind the target, always have one archer from your group stand in front of the target to prevent anyone from shooting.

11.17 Stay on marked trails.

11.18 Respect others and their equipment.

11.18 Deposit all trash and cigarette butts in containers.

11.19 Pets must be kept on a leash at all times.

11.20 Exceptions to these rules may only be done by the RSO during a Club sanctioned event.

Please follow these rules when using the ranges. Violations will be enforced, and you may be asked to leave the facility.

EMERGENCY OPERATING GUIDELINES

Steps and Sequence of performing Emergency Operating Guidelines:

1. Take Charge of the Situation
    a. Command "Cease Firing, unload and stay in place"
    b. Evaluate the situation
    c. Designate helpers as needed.
2. Render Aid
    a. Provide First Aid as best as you are capable.
3. Call for Help
    a. Direct a helper to use the checklist and call 911
    b. Direct a helper to go to Linco Rd. and direct medical help to location
4. Take Notes!!
    a. Time
    b. Date
    c. Location
    d. Type of injury
    e. Witness's names, etc.
    f. Brief explanation of incident and first aid provided

CHECKLIST FOR CALLING HELP

Phone Location: Clubhouse Entrance foyer next to sign-in book or use Cell phone.

1. Dial: 911
2. Your Name
3. Ambulance is needed
4. Location of Incident: **Berrien County Sportsman's Club, 2985 Linco Rd.**

Berrien Springs MI; Phone: 269-429-3792

5. Nature of Incident
6. How many are injured
7. Someone will meet the ambulance at entrance to Club grounds.
8. Latitude and Longitude if helicopter is needed.

   North 41 degrees 59.462'

   West 86 degrees 22.866'

Key Contact Information and Online Location of Material

1. Alan Douville, Chief Range Safety Officer. (269) 277-6167; AlanDouville@Gmail.Com
2. Jerry Hebner, Caretaker. (269) 429-3792

Website

Main Page = https://bcsportsmansclub.com/

Current Version of Club Safety Rules and Procedures as well as Map of Ranges

https://bcsportsmansclub.com/about-b-c-s-c/

Club Calendar of Events

https://bcsportsmansclub.com/activities/calendar/

Club Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/bcsportsmansclub/

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10.0	July 4, 2020	Formatted to Word Document	Alan Douville
11.0	June 16, 2021	Minor edits and corrections	Alan Douville
12.0	June 12, 2024	Pistol and Steel Updates	Alan Douville