

Thurmont Conservation and Sportsman's Club (TCSC) - RANGE RULES

Section H: Hours of Operation

H-1: Trap Ranges: 9:00am to 10:00pm.

H-2: Rifle and Action (Pistol Bays) Ranges: 9:00am to 15 minutes after sunset.

H-3: The TCSC Board of Directors (The Board) may approve use of ranges outside of normal operating hours.

Section F: Fees

F-1: No fee for members for non-event shooting.

F-2: Guest fee is \$10.00 per day. Minor (under 18 years old) guests are free.

Section G: General Range Rules

G-1: TCSC is a cold range. A cold range is defined as one where members and their guests move about the facility with firearm(s) that are clear, empty, with no ammunition in the firearm(s), until such time as firearm(s) are made hot (loaded) in order to utilize a specific range for live fire.

G-2: Range use is limited to TCSC members and their guest(s).

G-2.1: Members and guest(s) shall sign in to each range they use prior to each use.

G-2.2: Members shall have membership badges with them, and must display their badge upon request.

G-2.3: Members and guest(s) must have a current liability waiver on file, that waiver shall be updated annually.

G-3: Guests

G-3.1: Members are responsible for the supervision of their guest(s) in order to maintain a safe environment. Failure to manage guests, maintain a safe environment and abide by all of the appropriate safety rules will subject the member to disciplinary action, suspension and/or potentially expulsion.

G-3.2: Guests are restricted to using the same range or bay as the member that is sponsoring them.

G-3.3: Members may not supervise more than three (3) guests at any firing line.

G-3.3.1: Guests not on the firing line shall not handle any firearms (see **P-1**).

G-3.3.2: All other guests not on the firing line must have their firearms unloaded with actions open, magazine or loading device removed and placed on a table or other suitable location with the muzzle pointing in a safe direction or be racked or cased. Pistols may be holstered, unloaded, magazine or loading device removed, with actions closed, hammer down/striker forward (see **P-2**).

G-4: It is the responsibility of each member, to understand and follow the TCSC safety and individual range rules. Failure to do so may result in a temporary suspension from the TCSC until such time that all parties involved can meet

with The Board or designee. The member will be present and the violation will be discussed. If temporary suspension is enacted, the Member shall then leave the facility immediately until they meet with The Board or designee.

G-5: Temporary suspensions can be enforced by the Sergeant-At-Arms, Board Members, Committee Chairs and Match Directors. Removal from the range may be enacted by any of the following: Sergeant-At-Arms, Board Members, Committee Chairs or their Committee Members, Match Directors, and Range Safety Officers. Any member that is witness to a safety violation must stop the unsafe condition and shall report the violation to The Board or to the Committee Chair as soon as possible.

G-6: TCSC follows Colonel Jeff Cooper's Four Basic Rules:

G-6.1: All guns are always loaded. Treat every firearm as if it is loaded, never assume it is not loaded.

G-6.2: Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.

G-6.3: Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.

G-6.4: Identify your target and what is beyond it.

G-7: Emergency Cease Fire: In the event there of an emergency, ALL ranges shall immediately Cease Fire, shooters shall remove finger from trigger and await further instruction. This provision shall apply even during Scheduled Events. Notification of an Emergency Cease Fire may be made by horn or siren or in person. The Emergency Cease Fire shall remain in place until the emergency situation is resolved. Members and Events shall not resume shooting until notified.

G-8: Anyone may call a Cease Fire for safety reasons.

G-9: Eye and ear protection are required while on any active firearms ranges.

G-10: All persons must remain behind the Firing Line during live fire.

G-11: Any member that willingly damages club property will be held liable for those damages. Further actions will be addressed by The Board.

G-12: Operating a firearm while under the influence of alcohol, performance altering prescription drugs or any controlled substance, is strictly prohibited.

G-12.1: No open alcoholic containers within 20 yards of an active firing line.

G-13: Fully automatic fire and mechanisms that simulate full automatic fire are prohibited from use at any range.

G-14: Armor piercing, tracer, incendiary rounds (including explosives), are strictly prohibited.

G-15: Explosive devices and targets, including fireworks and binary compounds (e.g. Tannerite) are strictly prohibited.

G-16: The above prohibitions are not an exhaustive list of prohibitions. Other ammunition and equipment may be prohibited at the discretion of The Board. It is the responsibility of the member to seek definitive clarification prior to utilizing such equipment. If in doubt, ask before engaging in such activity.

G-17: All persons under the age of 18 anywhere on TCSC ranges must be supervised by an adult at all times.

G-18: As stated in the By-Laws, no member is permitted to profit or receive compensation from activities that occur at TCSC Facilities, unless specifically approved by The Board or their designee.

G-19: All events must be approved by The Board.

Section R: Rifle Range Rules

R-1: Firing across the shooting lanes on the Rifle Range is prohibited. All targets at any distance must be positioned so the firearm muzzle is pointing between orange markers at the 300 yard berm.

R-2: Eye and ear protection must be worn by all who are within the shooting area during a hot range.

R-3: Targets which can be engaged from shooting benches, are referenced above the shooting positions. Failure to do so may result in an unsafe condition.

R-4: 50 BMG and any cartridge based on the 50 BMG case are prohibited. This includes larger cartridges and any cartridge with more than 5,000 ft. lbs. muzzle energy, without prior Board approval.

R-5: Shooting in such a way as for the rounds to impact in front of or on top of berms, is prohibited. (e.g. targets positioned too high or too low.)

R-6: Shooting at targets thrown into the air or shooting into the air, is prohibited.

R-7: Shooting into target holder posts, numbers or markers, could result in disciplinary action as this could be interpreted as destruction of club property. Please set targets so that you are not shooting the supports between the posts.

R-8: Prohibited Targets (non-inclusive list)

R-8.1: Glass, bricks, cinder blocks, rocks, eggs, cans, bouncing or rolling targets, etc.

R-8.2: Clay pigeons and other frangible targets.

R-8.3: Steel targets without prior approval of The Board. Also see **R-11**.

R-8.4: Indigenous wildlife.

R-9: Firearm Condition; during a Cold Range or Cease Fire Command: Stop all actions. Place firearms down. Then await further commands. When a cease fire or cold range has been declared, move firearms away from the line, muzzle pointed in a safe area. All firearms must be removed from numbered benches and secured in the rifle racks or rear benches with all loading devices (i.e. magazine, clips, etc.) must be removed, bolts open/removed, empty chamber indicator (ECI) placed if available or sealed in a case.

R-10: Flag usage: A "Cold Range" flag (commonly red in color) shall be placed in front of the firing line when the firing line is declared cold.

R-10.1: Prior to placing the Cold Range flag out, all firearms must be rendered safe as **R-9** above.

R-10.2: Handling of firearms while the Cold Range flag is out is strictly prohibited.

R-10.3: Prior to removing the Cold Range flag and making the range Hot, Members shall verify that no one is down range.

R-10.4: Upon finishing the shooting session, the Cold Range flag shall not be placed out (this implies that no one is down range).

R-10.5: If the range flag is out, it is the responsibility of the member to verify that no one is downrange and that all other safety items are considered.

R-11: TCSC Rifle Range Steel target rules

R-11.1: The TCSC rifle range has club-provided steel targets for members at 300 yards. The club provided targets are the only steel targets allowed on the rifle range. Member-owned steel is strictly prohibited for use on the rifle range. All activity on the rifle range 300 yard steel must initiate from shooting position number 2 ONLY. Off-hand, prone, kneeling while engaging these targets is prohibited.

R-11.2: Prior to use, members must be certified to use the steel targets. Please contact a Board member to schedule a certification session.

R-11.2.1: Once a member is certified, access to the steel targets will be granted.

R-11.3: Time Limits. The use of the steel is limited to 30 minutes, if others are waiting. Incoming members, waiting for steel must indicate in the log book their time of arrival and notify the current shooter their intention to use the steel.

R-11.4: Etiquette. The range is designed and intended to be used by multiple members. Periodic ceasefires are necessary for incoming shooters to go down range and place targets. This must be taken into consideration with the 30 minute rule.

R-11.5: Prohibited ammunition (non-inclusive list)

R-11.5.1: Tracer and incendiary.

R-11.5.2: Armor piercing, steel/tungsten core projectiles. This includes but is not limited to M855/SS109, M855A1, and 7N6 cartridges. **Note:** Magnetic ammunition is not prohibited for use on paper targets.

R-11.5.3: Rifle cartridge with muzzle velocities over 3,150 feet per second (fps), and/or more than 3,500 foot pounds of energy, e.g. 50 BMG, 338 Lapua.

R-11.5.4: Magnetic ammunition - A magnet will be available at position 2. If the ammunition you plan to shoot is magnetic, it cannot be used on steel targets.

R-11.6: Any RSO shall have the authority to inspect any ammunition used on the club steel.

R-11.6.1: In the event of a dispute, the burden of proof shall lie with the individual.

R-11.6.2: Unresolved disputes shall be directed towards The Board for final resolution.

Section P: Action Shooting Range (a.k.a. Pistol Bays) Rules

P-1: Firearms may only be handled, loaded and fired on the Firing Line under the supervision of a certified TCSC Range Safety Officer (RSO). Touching an un-holstered firearm or a firearm in its case, rack or resting place is defined as handling a firearm.

P-2: While not shooting, firearms on the Firing Line shall be unloaded with actions open, magazine or loading device removed and placed on a table or other suitable location with the muzzle pointing in a safe direction or be racked or cased. Pistols may be holstered, unloaded, magazine or loading device removed, with actions closed, hammer down/striker forward.

P-3: Safety Areas: Are defined by signs in each bay. In the Safety Area firearms may be handled, cased, uncased, holstered, un-holstered, inspected, cleaned, maintained and/or repaired with the muzzle kept in a safe direction. The following **MUST NOT** be handled in the Safety Area: dummy ammunition, live ammunition, loaded magazines, clips, speed loaders or any other loading devices. Placing ammunition in any loading device may occur anywhere **EXCEPT** in the Safety Area. Other match rules, if more strict, may supersede this rule.

P-3.1: Tables without the Safety Area signage ARE NOT safety areas. Handling of firearms in these areas is prohibited.

P-4: The instructions of the RSO shall be obeyed at all times.

P-5: Shooters are responsible for ensuring that firearms are in correct working order, are safe to use and that the ammunition in use is the correct type and chambering for the firearm in use. Holsters which allow the muzzle of a firearm to point more than 30 degrees up from the vertical straight down are prohibited (e.g. shoulder holsters).

P-6: Inspect backstops before use to ensure they are clear of people, pets or wildlife.

P-7: Members, guests, event participants must leave the shooting area in the same or better condition than it was found. Any equipment, targets, target stands, etc. must be returned to the appropriate storage areas. Everyone is responsible for policing their targets, stands, trash, cases, hulls, and live/unfired rounds before they leave the range. CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!

P-8: During a Scheduled Event, special Event Rules may apply (if stricter, they supersede). See the Event Match Director (MD) for special procedures.

P-9: During a scheduled Event, the range(s) in use and all of the associated ranges of the same type are under the management of the Event MD. Unused areas of the associated ranges may only be used for non-event activities with the explicit permission of the Event MD. Rules and procedures specific to the Event shall be in force for all of the associated range bays whether or not the Event is actively using those bays. Ask before use as common courtesy prevails.

P-10: Target Procedures

P-10.1: Targets shall be arranged to ensure that the rear earthen berms are the sole impact areas and to prevent rounds or shotgun spatter from impacting spectators or participants, block walls, target holder posts/framing or skipping of the floor and leaving an Action Bay. It is the member's responsibility to make sure that rounds do not impact side berms or bay floors without prior approval of The Board. Failure to do so may subject the member to disciplinary action.

P-10.2: Steel targets fabricated for SASS, USPSC/IPSC, IDPA or Multi-Gun must be engaged from a minimum of 10 yards with a maximum power factor* of 200 and/or a maximum muzzle velocity of 1350 fps for all pistol cartridges, whichever is less.

P-10.2.1: *Power Factor (PF) = (muzzle velocity [fps] x bullet weight [grains]) / 1000

P-10.2.2: Use of magnetic (steel) pistol ammunition on steel targets is prohibited.

P-10.3: Centerfire rifle calibers may engage paper targets with wood frames. Heavy bore/magnum caliber rifle cartridges (defined as in **R-11.5.3**) are not allowed on the Action Shooting Bays on any target type.

P-10.4: Personally owned steel targets are permitted to be engaged with centerfire rifle calibers in Action Shooting Bays 1, 2, 3 ONLY with the below criteria. Members are responsible for bringing their own target stands.

P-10.4.1: Prohibited ammunition: Section **R-11.5** applies.

P-10.4.2: Target distance must be 50 yards or greater. Action Shooting Bays 1, 2, 3 are the only bays that will accommodate this distance.

P-10.4.3: It is strongly recommended that personally owned rifle steel targets be of AR500 or AR550 steel, be $\frac{3}{8}$ inch or thicker, and be hung statically (non-swinging) at an angle of 15 degrees or greater from vertical.

P-10.4.4: Please confirm with the proper personnel that your rifle and steel targets meet the requirements for the range.

P-10.4.5: Engaging TCSC owned steel targets with centerfire rifle rounds in the Action Shooting Bays without prior approval or failing to follow the above criteria is grounds for review by the Board and possible disciplinary action.

P-10.5: Steel targets engaged with shotgun ammunition must use 7 1/2 or smaller lead shot. Use of slugs, buckshot, steel shot, magnum or high velocity shotgun ammunition on steel is prohibited.

P-10.6: Intentionally shooting target stands, holders, frames is prohibited.

P-10.7: Do not remove practice targets from their assigned bays. Also see **P-7**.

P-10.8: Shooting at targets thrown into the air or shooting into the air is prohibited.

P-10.9: Prohibited Targets (non-inclusive list): Indigenous wildlife, glass, bricks, cinder blocks, rocks, etc.

P-10.10: If you don't know if a certain activity, target, ammunition combination is allowed, please ask. Ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.

Section T: Trap Range Rules

T-1: Eye and ear protection must be worn during a hot range. The range is defined by the rear sidewalk, firing line and downrange to the trap houses.

T-2: Allowable ammunition, lead shot size 7 1/2 or smaller.

T-3: TCSC is a cold range. All shotguns are to remain "with open breach" & "unloaded" and only loaded when on the firing line or in a position ready to shoot.

T-4: All ATA Rules apply.

Section A: Archery Range Rules

A-1: Eye protection must be worn during an active range.

A-2: Allowable targets, paper targets on target bales or 3-D targets with a suitable backstop.

A-3: Target points are the only approved tip type for arrows and bolts

A-4: Prohibited targets (non-inclusive list)

A-4.1: Glass, bricks, cinder blocks, rocks, eggs, cans, bouncing or rolling targets, etc.

A-4.2: Clay pigeons and other frangible targets.

A-4.3: Steel targets.

A-4.4: Indigenous wildlife.

A-5: Do not shoot from a distance that is beyond your ability. If you are missing the intended target, move closer and work on your skill set.