

Izaak Walton League of America Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun Range Rules April 1, 2010

These rules supersede all prior Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun Range Rules.

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of these rules is as follows:
 - A. To provide for a range safety program
 - B. To provide guidance in the form of rules for the use and maintenance of the Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun Ranges
 - C. To provide for safety when pursuing the shooting sports on the IWLA ranges
 - D. To provide for the enforcement of these rules and penalties for the violation thereof
2. **RESPONSIBILITIES:** It is the responsibility of each IWLA member using these facilities to read, become familiar with, and to follow these rules. Each member shall be responsible for the actions of their guests and insure that these rules are obeyed. Every IWLA member is responsible for reporting to the Chapter President, a member of the Board of Directors or a member of the Range Committee any person observed in violation of these rules.
3. **PROCEDURES:** The Range Committee shall oversee and enforce these rules, as well as maintain and repair the ranges. The Chapter President, any member of the Board of Directors, and/or any member of the Range Committee has the authority to immediately suspend the range privileges of any IWLA member or any other person for the violation of any of these rules.
 - A. The decision of the Range Committee or any member thereof may be brought before the Chapter President and the Board of Directors prior to the next monthly meeting of the Board in order to appeal the decision of the Range Committee or member.
 - B. The names of the Range Committee members shall be appended to these rules as well as posted on the clubhouse bulletin boards, both inside and outside the clubhouse. All IWLA members have the authority to ask anyone using the ranges for identification as well as to ask that person or persons to immediately cease any activity in violation of these rules.

During scheduled matches one person shall be appointed as the Chief Range Officer in order to control movement and firing on that range or ranges, and to ensure compliance with these rules as well as any specific match rules. Assistant Range Officers shall also be appointed to assist the Chief Range Officer as necessary. When IWLA members or their guests are participating in Cowboy Action practice or matches, a designated Single Action Shooting Society Range Officer shall accompany and supervise each shooter while they are firing.

RANGE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Range #1 (the Bobby Cox Pavilion): 2 handgun firing points at a distance of 25 yds. and 2 handgun firing points at a distance of 50 yds. (this is the range located closest to the clubhouse)

Range #2: 4 handgun firing points total at a distance of 25 yds. (this is the range located across from the pond and dam)

Range # 3: 4 long gun firing points total at distances of 50 yds. and 100 yds. (this is the range located past the dam on the right)

Range #4: 2 shotgun firing points primarily for skeet and trap shooting (this is the range located past the dam and between Ranges 3 and 5)

Range #5: Proposed - not yet constructed (this proposed range is located between Range 4 [Shotgun] and Range 6 [Archery])

Range #6: a multi-point archery range which is restricted to members of the Manahoc Bowman (an IWLA subgroup) and their guests (this is the range located across the Waltonian Pond). The portion of the archery ranges located between the Manahoc Bowman Clubhouse and proposed Range #5 is open to all IWLA members and guests.

RANGE USE LIMITATIONS

Range #1 (the Bobby Cox Pavilion): 25 yds. - limited to handguns firing common handgun ammunition up to and including .45 Colt. In addition, .17 HMR, .22 LR, and .22 WMR rifles are permitted. Large caliber handguns in .44 Magnum or more powerful calibers are not permitted due to the limited capabilities of the 25 yd. backstop. All black powder handguns are also permitted on this range.

50 yds. - limited to handguns and carbines firing common handgun ammunition up to and including .454 Casull, .460 S&W, and .500 S&W Magnum. In addition, .17 HMR, .22 LR, and .22 WMR rifles are permitted, as well as handguns firing rifle caliber ammunition. All black powder handguns are also permitted on this range.

Range #2: 25 yds. - limited to handguns firing common handgun ammunition up to and including .454 Casull, .460 S&W, and .500 S&W Magnum, as well as handguns firing rifle caliber ammunition. In addition, .17 HMR, .22 LR, and .22 WMR rifles are permitted. All black powder handguns are also permitted on this range.

Range # 3: All long guns and handguns up to and including .416 Rigby, .458 Winchester Magnum, or .460 Weatherby Magnum may be fired on this range. In addition, all black powder rifles, rifle caliber single shot pistols, and shotgun buckshot (for patterning purposes) and slug loads may be fired on this range. No centerfire rifles in excess of .49 caliber are allowed on this range, including .50 BMG.

Range #4: All shotguns up to and including 10 ga. when loaded with shot loads for skeet, trap, or patterning purposes. In addition, when accompanied by a designated Single Action Shooting Society Range Officer, those members and guests practicing for Cowboy Action matches or instructing new Cowboy Action shooters may use this range for revolver caliber rifles as well as for shotguns, **PROVIDED**, that all revolver caliber rifle loads be restricted to those low-power loads using cast lead or swaged lead projectiles as specified by the rules of the Single Action Shooting Society.

Range 5: This range has not yet been constructed. When it is completed the applicable rules shall be determined.

Range 6: Restricted to archery. **NO FIREARMS MAY BE DISCHARGED ON ANY PART OF THIS RANGE.** There is no restriction on bow size or type or pull weight except as may be decreed by the Manahoc Bowman.

RANGE OPERATIONS

Ranges shall be CLOSED as follows:

1. During the hours of darkness, i.e., from ½ hour after sunset until sunrise, however, please be mindful that we do have neighbors and let that guide your early morning shooting.
2. Prior to 12:00 Noon on Sundays
3. On IWLA workdays (usually the Saturday following the monthly meeting) from sunrise until after the work for that day has been completed. However, should you arrive at the range to shoot while work is being performed by IWLA volunteers, please feel free to join in and help them. Should you be unable to think of anything to do to help, there is always a need for picking up the spent brass on all of the firing ranges.
4. At other times as directed by the Chapter President or the Board of Directors for safety reasons when there are designated activities which would make it unsafe to use the ranges or they are being used for other purposes. However, this does not preclude the use of the ranges when there are Cub Scout, Boy Scout, family, or other gatherings unless it has been specifically designated as a “Range Closed Day.”

The use of the ranges shall be on a first-come, first-served basis. However, please remember that we are all IWLA members, and if someone arrives after you intending to shoot and it is feasible and safe, please consider inviting the newly arrived member(s) to join you.

The area around the shooting benches and backstops shall be cleaned up by the shooter(s) before leaving the range. All trash shall be removed from the range or deposited in the cans provided, and unwanted expended brass shall be placed in the provided plastic buckets, if available, for the use of those who reload, or in the trash cans.

All IWLA members shall have their IWLA membership cards on their persons while on the firing ranges or while on IWLA property.

Guests are permitted; however, their actions are the responsibility of the member bringing them into the IWLA Park. Please limit the number of guests to a reasonable, manageable, and safe number. Also, if they live within the “service” area of this chapter, their attendance as guests should be limited, and they should be encouraged to join rather than be frequent guests.

All members shall report any continuing unsafe or prohibited actions or the refusal by any member or guest to correct any unsafe or prohibited action when advised as such by any [IWLA] member to the Chapter President, a member of the Board of Directors, or a member of the Range Committee as soon as practically possible.

All new members must complete an IWLA Range Safety Course prior to firing on any of the IWLA archery, pistol, rifle, or shotgun ranges. In addition, all members and guests must execute an “ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS, RELEASE, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT” (Waiver of Liability) prior to firing on any of the IWLA archery, pistol, rifle, or shotgun ranges. The Waiver forms will be available on the porch of the clubhouse, and at the meetings.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

In keeping with the teaching of the legendary Col. Jeff Cooper, always adhere to his four primary Rules of Gun Safety (as amended):

1. **All guns are always loaded (and shall be treated accordingly).**
2. **Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.**
3. **Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.**
4. **Identify your target and what is behind it.**

In addition, every IWLA member and guest shall follow these additional general safety rules:

All shooters and any other persons in the immediate vicinity of any range shall wear eye and ear protection when firearms are being fired.

All firearm barrels should be checked for obstructions prior to firing, especially if the firearm has been dropped onto the ground.

The muzzles of all firearms shall be kept under control and pointed downrange at all times (see #2). At no time shall the muzzle of any firearm be pointed over the backstop when firing or preparing to fire (see #4).

Dry firing is only permitted on the firing line.

The actions of all uncased firearms shall be open except when the shooter is on the firing line and is firing or preparing to fire.

All firearms shall be unloaded with the action open and the safety engaged and placed on the shooting bench before going downrange to check your targets. Firearms shall not be handled for any reason when another shooter is downrange.

No shooter shall continue to use any firearm when it is malfunctioning, in need of repair, or has any other condition which makes it unsafe to use.

All inexperienced shooters shall be supervised by an experienced shooter at all times when on the range.

The shooter shall advise all persons in the immediate vicinity whenever new loads are being test fired in a firearm, and that, consequently, there is the danger of a catastrophic malfunction, i.e., the exploding gun syndrome.

Shooters desiring to fire at their targets from a distance closer than that from the shooting bench to the backstop may go downrange to the preferred distance in lieu of the prohibited practice of placing the target in front of the backstop.

Any unsafe or prohibited action on the range shall be corrected immediately upon being advised of such by any IWLA member or guest.

PERMISSABLE TARGETS AND METHODS

Paper or cardboard targets

Clay pigeons, either thrown on the shotgun range for skeet shooting or stationary on or immediately in front of the backstop on one of the pistol or rifle ranges

“Pepper poppers” and other reactive steel targets designed to channel the projectile downward and minimize ricochets

Appropriate reactive steel targets designed specifically for Cowboy Action Shooting which channel the projectile downward and minimize ricochets

All targets shall be placed on or behind the established target line in front of each back stop or on the backstop. No midrange targets shall be used except during the aforementioned supervised Cowboy Action Shooting.

They shall be attached to cardboard, plywood, or other appropriate target holders which may be properly attached to ropes or cables or other appropriate target holders as available. No targets shall be placed directly on the surplus horizontal power poles in front of the berms.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

These shall be considered major violations of the IWLA range rules and shall make the offender liable to expulsion from the IWLA, either for a specified period or permanently:

Consumption of alcoholic beverages during or immediately prior to using the firing ranges.

Furnishing the gate code to any non-member, even to a family member in the absence of a Family Membership. However, disabled members shall be exempt from this requirement upon application to and the determination of the Board of Directors that this would unduly inconvenience them.

Placing targets between the shooting benches and the backstop, i.e., midrange, instead of at the backstop.

Firing any weapon in full automatic mode.

Shooting at or near the utility poles and/or electrical wires or insulators.

Shooting at glass containers or any other items not specifically designed as targets, i.e., bowling balls or pins, metal items, et cetera. Use your good judgment!

Shooting at targets on the ground in front of the backstop, on the surplus horizontal power poles placed to protect the backstop, or on the support posts or crosspieces (as opposed to placing targets on the dirt backstop, which is permissible).

The use of armor-piercing or tracer ammunition and/or .50 BMG ammunition.

The IWLA Park is a game refuge, and no hunting of any kind is permitted at any time.

Horseplay while on the firing line.

Deliberately shooting at the target support posts or cables.

Deliberately shooting over the backstop.

Using the range without having your IWLA membership card in your possession.

Shooting prior to all persons being behind the firing line.

Rapid, uncontrolled, fire from any type of weapon. However, rapid, controlled, fire is permissible.

Leaving your trash on the premises of the IWLA Park without placing it in an authorized trash receptacle. This includes spent brass, shotshell hulls, ammunition boxes, and/or targets left at the backstop. However, this does not preclude a shooter from leaving a target holder, i.e., cardboard or wood, or unused targets at the backstop for use by other shooters.

Shooting across the pond with any type of weapon.

Using the range for personal gain, i.e., making money.

Refusing to correct any unsafe or prohibited action when advised by any member that your actions are unsafe or prohibited.

All members shall report any continuing unsafe or prohibited actions or the refusal by any member or guest to correct any unsafe or prohibited action when advised as such by any member to the Chapter

President, a member of the Board of Directors, or a member of the Range Committee as soon as practically possible.

PENALTIES

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Minimum Penalty</u>
Minor Infractions -First or Subsequent	As determined by the Range Committee or the Board of Directors
First Major Uncorrected Infraction	Suspension for one week
Second Major Uncorrected Infraction	Suspension for one month
Third or Habitual Major Uncorrected Infraction	Permanent suspension and forfeiture of all dues paid

All violations involving safety shall be considered Major Uncorrected Infractions.

IMPLEMENTATION

These revised Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun Range Rules shall take effect immediately upon their approval by the Board of Directors of the Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America.

Submitted by the Range Committee on December 3, 2009, and ratified by the Board of Directors on March 29, 2010.

Submitted by: *J. Craig Peters* -- J. Craig Peters, Chairman, Range Committee

Roger Anderson -- Roger Anderson, Member, Range Committee

John Picariello -- John Picariello, Member, Range Committee

Thomas Quigley -- Thomas Quigley, Member, Range Committee

Michael St. John Michael St. John, Member, Range Committee

Adopted on: March 29, 2010

Signed: *Greg Raines* -- Greg Raines, Chapter President