

HAMILTON AND WENHAM ROD AND GUN CLUB INC.

HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

RANGE SAFETY RULES"

1. ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE IN A SAFE DIRECTION. When handling a firearm the muzzle should be UP towards the sky and pointing DOWN range.
2. KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, and outside the trigger guard, until ready to fire or until the command "Commence Firing" has been given.
3. KEEP THE ACTION OPEN AND FIREARM UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO SHOOT. On a firing range this means the shooters are in a position on the firing line and the range has been cleared HOT for live firing.
4. KNOW HOW THE FIREARM OPERATES.
5. BE SURE THE FIREARM AND AMMUNITION ARE COMPATIBLE.
6. CARRY ONLY ONE GAUGE/CALIBER OF AMMUNITION WHEN SHOOTING. When at a shooting range with more than one firearm, use one at a time and when complete, store that firearm and its ammunition before using the next one. Tracer ammunition is discouraged at the range.
7. BE SURE OF THE TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND. When on shooting ranges, be mindful also of adjacent areas and act accordingly.
8. WEARING EAR AND EYE PROTECTION and utilization of all appropriate safety devices, is required by members and guests while engaged in shooting activities. Members are responsible for usage of said protective devices by their guest and for guest's compliance with all safety rules.
9. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED WHEN FIREARMS ARE PRESENT ON THE FIRING RANGE.

- Firearms are prohibited when alcoholic beverages are present.
10. HUNTING OR FIRING AT WILDLIFE ON THE RANGES IS PROHIBITED.
 11. All firearms on the firing range, when not in use, must be cased, be stored SAFE on a rack, or have the action open on the Firing Line.
 12. Fully automatic firing shall NOT be permitted on the firing range except by specific permission of the Association Executive Committee. (The Executive Committee shall notify the Hamilton Police Department.)
 13. All firing must be done on the ranges so designated for that type of firing, e.g., rifles ranges, pistol ranges, shotgun ranges, etc. Special permission of the Association Executive Committee is required, in advance, for any deviation from this provision.
 14. Firing at any glass or breakable object or any container used for compressed gases of any kind including aerosol cans and or propane cylinders is prohibited.
 15. Adults must attend children at the firing range at all times. Pets are prohibited unless leashed or chained and at least one hundred (100) feet away from any firing activity.
 16. No person under the age of eighteen and one half (18½) years is permitted to shoot unless he or she is under the direct supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.
 17. Quick-draw shooting with any type of firearm is prohibited. Drawing of a firearm from a holstered or other concealed carry position and firing, in a continuous motion, is strictly prohibited.
 18. Intentional discharging of a firearm, rifle, shotgun or bow other than in a direction of the back-stop, berm, or other approved firing direction, or firing from outside specifically designated firing areas is prohibited.
 19. All injuries occurring at the Association's range shall be reported to a Executive Committee member within twenty four (24) hours of the occurrence. Any firearm related injury that requires hospitalization or other medical attention must be reported to the Town of Hamilton Police and the Association Executive Committee.

NOTE: The Range Safety Rules shown above are designed for the protection of life and limb. Compliance is mandatory. Any willful violation of these rules shall result in the immediate suspension of all Association privileges from the parties involved. Upon investigation by the Association Executive Committee and subsequent verification of the infraction, and offending parties will be subject to disciplinary action which may include permanent removal from the Association's rolls. Any recommendation of removal or disciplinary action is at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee as governed by the Association by-laws.

Archery Range Procedures

1. Shoot only at designated targets.
2. Be careful while climbing into and out of the tree-stand.
3. Except for one designated target, broad head type arrowheads are prohibited on any of the targets and or decoys owned by the Association.
4. Do not fire any arrows at targets beyond 50 yards.
5. Use proper gear, including armguards to prevent string burns to the forearm and finger tabs to save fingertips.

Black Powder Range Procedures

1. KEEP THE FIREARM UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO SHOOT.
2. Smoking is prohibited, except in areas at least 50 feet away from the firing line.
3. Never discharge muzzle loading firearms over or near a loading bench.
4. Load muzzle loading firearm only with black powder or Pyrodex®.
5. Do not prime or cap any muzzle loading firearm until in position on the firing line and until after the command "Commence Firing."
6. In the event of a hang fire, keep the firearm pointed down range for at least a minute and then notify a range officer.
7. The barrel should be swabbed with a damp patch between shots in an attempt to kill any live sparks that may remain in the bore.
8. The command, "Snap a cap," followed by all shooters snapping a cap, is required to demonstrate that all firearms are unloaded.

9. Black powder is sensitive to static electricity; avoid wearing synthetic clothing to minimize the risk of setting off a spark.

Pistol and Rifle Range Procedures

1. KEEP THE ACTION OPEN AND FIREARM UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO SHOOT. In some types of firearms it may be necessary to insert a wooden dowel to ensure the action remains open for inspection.
2. Call a "Cease Fire" on BOTH ranges before proceeding to setup or change targets.
3. From the Pistol Range, verify that there is no one down range on the 100 yard Rifle Range before going HOT.
4. On the Pistol Range, metal targets such as bowling pins are authorized only at the 25 yard berm.
5. On the Pistol Range, only "ball" type or solid lead ammunition is authorized during competitive shoots.
6. No targets of any kind (shot shells, clay targets, soda cans, water bottles, etc.) shall be placed on the back-stop. The back-stop must remain free of target debris to facilitate lead reclamation.
7. Discharging any type of "paintball gun" is prohibited.
8. Place all spent brass into the designated recycling containers. Help to keep the range clean and safe.

Shotgun Range Procedures

1. KEEP THE ACTION OPEN AND FIREARM UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO SHOOT. Break action shotguns may be closed for storage in a gun case or rack, but must be opened immediately upon removal from the rack or case.
2. Keep the shotguns in the gun rack until ready to use. If changing choke tubes do so only at designated shotgun stand.
3. LOADING is permitted only when it is the shooter's turn to shoot. Only one shell is loaded at a time, unless doubles are thrown.
4. While shooting from the designated stations use the window stands to prevent muzzle overswing.

5. While walking from station to station ensure that all shotguns are SAFE and UNLOADED before proceeding.
6. Shooting lead shot into or over water is prohibited. Shooting directly into the ground such as at a "rabbit run" is prohibited.
7. Only biodegradable clay targets will be used.
8. Clay targets will be thrown from designated positions and in directions or elevations required for safety.
9. Shotguns 12 gauge and under are permitted. Shot sizes are limited to No. 7 ½, 8 and 9.
10. Extreme care will be followed while operating the clay target throwers. The electrically operated thrower must be DISARMED the power source disconnected prior to moving. The thrower is heavy and cumbersome so a minimum of two (2) adults must be available to move it from storage into the field and back.
11. Pick up all spent shot shells and place them into the designated containers for disposal or take them home for reloading. Place all cardboard packaging material in the designated waste containers for disposal.
12. An experienced shooter must accompany novice shooters at all times.

General Range Commands

1. **Command: CEASE FIRE!**
Action: STOP shooting immediately, continue to keep the muzzle pointed down range, unload and clear the firearm, and make the firearm SAFE.

ANYONE CAN CALL A CEASE FIRE IF THEY WITNESS AN UNSAFE ACT!
2. **Command: THE RANGE IS HOT!**
Action: The shooters are ready to engage their targets and the range is ready in all respects. Live rounds may be fired down range at any moment.
3. **Command: LOCK AND LOAD!**
Action: LOCK magazine and LOAD a round in the chamber of the firearm. The firearm remains on

SAFE. The command LOAD is not for muzzle loading shooters.

4. **Command: READY ON THE FIRING LINE!**
Action: A final check to make sure every shooter and range is ready. Shooters simply await the next command.
5. **Command: COMMENCE FIRING!**
Action: Begin shooting at designated target and or course of fire. Muzzleloaders may snap caps prior to loading. No muzzleloader may be loaded before the command to fire has been given.
6. **Command: MAKE YOUR FIREARMS SAFE!**
Action: Remove the magazine, unload the firearm, open the action for inspection, and place the firearm on SAFE if so equipped. After inspection the firearms are placed on the bench or in the rack.
7. **Command: SNAP CAPS! (Muzzle-loading only)**
Action: All shooters using percussion type muzzleloaders shall step up to the firing line, affix a primer cap, point the firearm down range and "snap the cap". The detonation of the cap should have sufficient force to disturb the earth and demonstrate that the barrel is clear and unloaded.
8. **Command: THE RANGE IS CLEAR!**
Action: Shooters may move down range as directed or desired to change, remove targets or to clean up. The next relay shall not take up positions on the firing line until told to do so. Shooters not going down range are to stand back from the firing line and away from firearms. **NO** firearm will be handled while others are down range.

Reference: THE RANGE MANUAL, A

Guide to Planning & Construction, The

National Rifle Association, 1988

PROCEDURAL:

- Hours during which firing will be permitted on the Firing Range will be as follows:

<i>Monday through Saturday</i>	9:00 a.m. to dusk or 7:00 p.m. whichever occurs first.
Sundays:	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except in the event of an Association sponsored competition at which hours can be extended to 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Members must carry proof of their membership while on the firing range and must show such proof upon request to other Association members, Town of Hamilton Selectmen or Town of Hamilton police officers patrolling the range area.
- In the absence of Executive Committee members or other appointed officials, the senior member at the firing range is automatically Chief Range Officer and will be responsible for the safe and courteous operation of the firing range.
- Any member may bring one (1) guest per month to the firing range. The practice of bringing several guests to the firing range to shoot is prohibited.
- The gate to the Association grounds should always be closed and locked behind members entering and leaving the grounds. If waiting is required before a guest’s arrival, please wait at the gate.
- Vehicles should be parked in the designated parking lot at the firing range. Persons using the firing range must not park on the road. No vehicle, except that of an Association official carrying supplies, is permitted at the firing point during official shooting periods.
- Unless authorized by the Executive Committee, no member shall gain entrance to the former Town of Hamilton landfill area for any purpose other than Association activities.
- These rules shall be posted on the Associations bulletin board at the firing range.
- Firearms will be transported to and from the firing range in compliance with current Massachusetts laws.
- Members will clean up after themselves and either remove used targets and cartridge cases from the range or dispose of them in the receptacles provided
- No firearms, gunpowder or ammunition shall be stored at the firing range or left unattended.
- Range boundaries will be clearly posted and, where permitted by the Town of Hamilton, will be fenced to prevent access by unauthorized persons.
- Emergency telephone service is available at the Association firing range. Members are strongly encouraged to use the installed phone to contact the Hamilton/Wenham response center in the event of any firearm related injury requiring medical assistance.

NOTE: The procedural rules shown above are designed for the safe and efficient operation of the firing range. Parties found in violation of these rules will be subject to disciplinary action which may include, but is not limited to fines, retraining, or other disciplinary action as recommended by the Association Executive Committee in accordance with the Association’s by-laws.