

Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

This booklet contains rules that were established by the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc. "Range Safety Committee". Its purpose is to enhance the safety and health of NRA Range Safety Officers (RSO), Range Officer(s), those individuals using our ranges, the general public and our environment.

This document has been reviewed, and approved, by the Board of Directors (BOD) and failure to adhere to these rules could result in jeopardizing your membership privileges here at Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc. The HR&GC Safety Committee and BOD to ensure they remain current with local, state and federal guidelines will review these rules in January of each year.

Always Comply with all Local, State and Federal Firearms Laws.

General Safety Rules¹

1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shot.
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
4. Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
5. Know how to use the gun safely.
6. Use only the correct ammunition for the gun.
7. Know your target and what is beyond.
8. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
9. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting
10. Store guns so that they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
11. Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Hours of Operation for all Unlighted Ranges²

WEEKDAYS & SATURDAY: 8:00 AM TO SUNSET. SUNDAYS:
9:30 AM TO 4:00 PM OR SUNSET, WHICHEVER IS EARLIEST.

Hours of Operation for All Lighted Ranges

WEEKDAYS & SATURDAY: 8:00 AM TO 10:00 PM SUNDAYS:
9:30 AM TO 4:00 PM OR SUNSET, WHICHEVER IS EARLIEST.

1 - From the NRA Handbook. 2 - Except scheduled events

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General Range Rules

1. Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs may not use the range(s); this includes prescription drugs that warn of operating machinery and equipment.
2. No alcohol is permitted on the range, or in a range house, by anyone including member(s), guest and/or their companions. Secondly, the Club Pavilion is considered a RANGE during any archery event; including practice shooting; therefore, alcohol must be locked and secured and NOT consumed until all shooting is ended.
3. When posted "**The Range is Closed**", it is closed - **No Exceptions**. Every effort will be made to announce dates the range will be closed as early as possible.
4. No vehicles of any kind are allowed on the pistol or rifle range or trap field area without the permission of the activity chairman. *Please see each specific section for additional information.*
5. No person or vehicle is allowed on the berms or backstop, as this will create unnecessary maintenance problems.
6. All members and guest must sign in and out when using any range. "Range Log" sign in sheets are available at each range.
7. Guest are always welcome on our range(s) providing they adhere to the rules of HR&GC, Inc. and fall within the following:
 - a. The range is scheduled to be open to the public.
 - b. Accompanied by a member for the purpose of observing.
 - c. Accompanied by a member for the purpose of shooting when considering membership. This will be allowed only twice per year for any Life, Family or Adult membership.
 - d. Family members and relatives visiting from out of state when accompanied by a member.
8. All members and guest using our ranges must have valid FID cards, LTC Class A or B, or be directly supervised by a member holding valid credentials recognized by the Safety Committee and BOD. An exception is use of black powder fire arm.
9. Fully automatic firearms, firearms and guns equipped with tri-burst capability are not allowed - **No Exceptions**.
10. Only conventional calibers are allowed, (i.e., No .50 caliber military BMG or similar type are to be used.) However all black powder calibers are okay.
11. No steel core, armor piercing, tracer, or ammunition considered to be incendiary or explosive is allowed on any range.
12. Firearms (handguns), Rifles, Shotguns, etc. may be discharged on the range only, and only at targets in front of designated backstops, (not in front of posts or rails that are located on the range, and whose purpose is to support targets above the ground). In the case of Trap and/or Sporting Clay these targets may be either in the air or on the ground, but only in designated areas or fields.
13. All shooters must be directly visible from the firing line.
14. No shooting may commence until:
 - a. The shooter announces his/her intent to shoot by asking if the firing line is ready.
 - b. The shooter visually verifies that all persons on or at the range are wearing hearing and eye protection, even if that individual is a spectator.
 - c. The shooter determines that no one is down range or in harms way.

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15. No one may go down range until:
 - a. Announce "Cease Fire" - make your firearms safe and clear.
 - b. All actions open and magazines removed.
 - c. Rifles have a Mandatory requirement for "open bolt indicators" in place. These will be supplied by the rifle chairperson.
16. No cans, bottles, barrels, propane tanks are to be used as targets.
17. No "Hip" shooting, or other reckless firing activity, which could result in bullets being fired over "berms" or beyond the designated shot impact area.
18. Target debris that is not part of normal shooting activity must be removed and is the responsibility of the individual or individuals doing the shooting.
19. Shooters are responsible for picking up their spent or defective rounds.
20. Keys made available to members for the purpose of gaining entry to range(s) are not to be copied.
 - a. REMEMBER you are the "unofficial" Safety Officer while on the range. Report any reckless or unsafe issues to the Committee Chairperson or Club Officer. Get name, date, time and vehicle plate number.
21. NO Firearms (Handguns) are to be exposed in any area (**BAR**) where liquor is sold or consumed on Hamilton Rod & Gun Club property. If you are carrying a hand gun keep it concealed. The Club/Bartender will not take your firearm under any circumstance; you will be asked to leave and to secure it elsewhere. All other long guns are NOT allowed in any **BAR** area unless you have prior approval from the bar chairman/manager. As always it will be unloaded and secured and cased.
22. Campground area - campground is to close and all camper's equipment will be removed by the first (1st) weekend after Labor Day. This is for safety reasons, since the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club (UBC) season starts September 15th of each year.
23. Questions and comments will be directed to the Activity Chairman, Range Safety Committee and/or the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc. Board of Directors (BOD) in person or by mail, c/o the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc., P.O. Box 954, Sturbridge, MA 01566.

Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Archery (Range Specifics)

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW AND BE FAMILIAR WITH AND HAVE A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE HR&G CLUB GENERAL SAFETY RULES AND GENERAL RANGE RULES AS POSTED ON THIS RANGE.

1. Someone will be designated as the Archery Safety Officer during shooting.
2. Bows and arrows must not be drawn unless they are pointed toward the target butt.
3. An individual should stand in front of the target butts whenever another archer is behind the butts for any purpose.
4. Children and any spectators, regardless of age, must remain behind the farthest shooting line from the target butts.
5. Safety is Everyone's Business: Shooters with unsafe equipment, unsafe shooting practices, or who have been drinking will not be allowed to shoot.

Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Rifle (Range Specifics)

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW AND BE FAMILIAR WITH AND HAVE A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE HR&G CLUB GENERAL SAFETY RULES AND THE GENERAL RANGE RULES AS POSTED ON THIS RANGE.

1. You are allowed to use all firearms and feeding devices which are legal in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and you must comply with all local, MA State and Federal (US) firearms laws.
2. Open Bolt indicators (OBI's) are required for all firearms when supplied by and available from the Rifle Chairperson.
3. Target holder frames provided by the club or duplicates provided by members are the only authorized target frames allowed. These target frames must be inserted in the target frame holder located behind each steel rail in the front of each impact berm.
4. No shooter may park their vehicle on the range grass area; without prior approval of Chairperson.
5. The range may be closed because of soil and weather conditions. Also, NON - street legal vehicles are prohibited on the range.
6. Steel targets must be placed 40 yards and beyond.
7. The firing line positions to the left are for shooting at 25 through 100 meters distance only.
 - a. This is to ensure that all firing is in a direction parallel with the range for safety.
 - b. No targets are to be placed to the right or left of the safety berms.
8. The steel rails installed at various distances on the range are for silhouette shooters using lower velocity, non-jacketed cast bullets and .22 caliber L.R. Ammo.
9. Any shooter shooting from a downrange position must surrender their position when requested to do so by anyone wishing to shoot from the firing line.
10. (SHOTGUNS WITH SLUGS/SABOT AMMUNITION) are allowed. However, due to target frame damage by slugs, you must provide your own frames and paper targets and observe all other range rules.
11. You may use a shotgun with pellets for sighting or practice for any reason as long as you follow Rule 10 above.

Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Trap (Range Specifics)

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW AND BE FAMILIAR WITH AND HAVE A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE HR&G CLUB GENERAL SAFETY RULES AND THE GENERAL RANGE RULES AS POSTED ON THIS RANGE.

1. All guns must remain unloaded until the "scorer" or Range Officer determines the squad is ready. Loaded is considered as putting a live round in the chamber or magazine.
2. Shooters while not on a shooting station will carry the firearm with the breech open and unloaded. Pumps and semi-automatics will have the bolt open and unloaded.
3. Test shots will not be permitted without the permission of the "scorer" or range officer.
4. Shooters must stand with both feet within the boundaries of the designated shooting station.
5. All none shooters and spectators must remain behind the light poles during course of fire.
6. Instructors must notify the "scorer" or range officer if they will be assisting and/or instructing during the course of fire.
7. All shooters on a squad must have their own gun - NO sharing or passing around of guns is allowed.
8. Only one shell at a time will be loaded, two shells of shooting doubles course.
9. A shooter must not interfere with preceding or following shooters by raising their gun or otherwise creating a distraction.
10. Only shotguns of 12. gauge or less is allowed.
11. High brass and magnum loads are prohibited and only trap loads up to 3 % dram equivalent may be used.
12. Only #7, VA, 8, 8%, or 9 shot may be allowed.
13. Any discrepancy in scoring of a lost bird will be decided by the squad as a whole.
14. In the event of a malfunctioning firearm the remaining squad members shall make their firearms safe while the shooter clears the malfunction.
15. No shooters are allowed on the firing line during re-supply of the trap equipment. A "Red" cone atop the trap house will be displayed.
16. Each shooter is responsible to ensure his hulls do not remain at the shooting station at the end of each round.
17. The straw covered targets at the north end of the trap range are not to be used for any firearms shooting. This is for ARCHERY ONLY.

Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Pistol (Range Specifics)

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW AND BE FAMILIAR WITH AND HAVE A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE HR&G CLUB GENERAL SAFETY RULES AND THE GENERAL RANGE RULES AS POSTED ON THIS RANGE.

1. You are allowed to use all firearms (Handguns) and feeding devices which are legal in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and you must comply with all local, Massachusetts State and Federal (US) firearms laws.
2. Entry into the range house will be through the pad locked front door leading into the "Quiet Room". Keys for this door may be purchased from the Pistol Chairman, President or Vice President, with proof of membership and have a valid license to carry (LTC) in the State of residence, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
3. The Pistol Range is open to all **ELIGIBLE** members for practice and the sighting in of firearms except when the following is in effect;
 - a. A sanctioned shooting event is scheduled.
 - b. The Hamilton Rod and Gun Club pistol team shoots or a practice has been scheduled.
 - c. Firearms training.
 - d. Any activity listed in the Club's Newsletter, Web Site, Bulletin Board or posted in the range window by the Pistol Chairman.

NOTE: A sanctioned shoot is **ANY** shoot approved by the Pistol Chairman and the Board of Directors.

4. Any one shooting from a down range position must surrender their position when requested to do so by anyone wishing to shoot from the firing line.
5. When shooting from the inside and at the firing line, the access door leading to the outside range must be closed. When going down range to change targets, etc. this door **WILL** remain open. This allows the **RED** lights over the shooting positions to indicate the range is **NOT** safe. No one should cross the **RED** line on the floor for any reason until the door is closed and the lights turned off.
6. The following guns are allowed on the pistol range for general shooting and practice.
 - a. All handguns (legal).
 - b. All black powder hand guns.
 - c. All air rifles and air pistols.
 - d. Small Bore rimfire rifles .22 caliber only.

NOTE: **ANYONE** who does not have a license to carry (LTC) must be under the direct supervision of an **ELIGIBLE** person as defined in #2 above. This supervisor will **NOT** be engaged in any shooting activity during that period. **(NO EXCEPTIONS)**

7. **(PROHIBITED)** Deliberate discharge of firearm inside the Range House, unless pointed down range at approved target.
8. **(APPROVED TARGETS)** the Pistol Chairman will list the approved targets.