

# PALMETTO GUN CLUB RANGE RULES

Revised: April 4, 2025

*Addition in This Color*





# ***RANGE RULES***

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## Introduction

The Palmetto Gun Club is a private club for authorized members, providing them access to a safe place where they can shoot privately owned firearms, train, and increase their proficiency in the Shooting Sports. Club Rules allow members to bring family members and friends to the club to shoot. The member is responsible for the actions and behaviors of their invited family and guests.

Authorized members recognize, as a member-owned and operated range, there are no PGC Club employees or Range Safety Officers (RSO's) providing oversight during their use of the club. As such, each member is his/her own Range Safety Officer and has the associated concomitant responsibilities. Besides their shooting skills, they have the responsibility to stay knowledgeable on the PGC Range Rules, and the specific rules for Pistol Bay and/or Rifle Line. These responsibilities are great, considering the potential for serious injury or death if safety is not foremost. The member is assuming this risk for himself/herself and for any visitors they invite to the club. Good care, safety, and adherence to all the rules is a must.

Prior to using range facilities members should consider the following items:

1. Be familiar with and current on all PGC Range Rules
2. Be familiar with and current on Rules for Pistol Bay or Rifle Line they plan to shoot.
3. Check Cell Phone coverage to insure coverage. There is a cell phone repeater in the large classroom. If you have trouble getting a signal move to the large classroom.
4. Check that safety (medical and emergency) equipment is available. Note: there are small trauma kits in each bay and on the rifle line as well as a trauma kit and AED in the small classroom.
5. Check Bay or line for shooting hazards ie: steel targets misplaced or turned over, no inappropriate materials (bricks, concrete blocks, glass, plastic or other items that might cause a ricochet or other unsafe shooting situation, etc.).
6. If you have guests, give them required safety briefings and specifics on use of PGC facilities.
7. If non-shooters, (observers, children, etc.) are present, ensure they have appropriate safety instructions, and they have a safe area from which to observe.
8. Guest Shooters and observers all require appropriate eye and ear protection.
9. Remember, you are responsible for **ALL** guests, shooting or non-shooting. Make sure you can maintain supervision and control of them.
10. After shooting, member should police all brass, trash, used targets, etc. are cleared so that bay or line is ready for the next shooter. (If the trash can is full, be a sport and empty it in the dumpster).

## **General Range Safety Rules**

### 1. PGC Firearm Safety Rules:

- a. **ALWAYS** handle EVERY firearm as if it were loaded
- b. **NEVER** point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot
- c. **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until you are pointed at the target and are ready to fire.
- d. **ALWAYS** clearly identify your target and what is in front and beyond

### 2. The range property is a cold range – no loaded firearms until at a hot firing line; exceptions –

civilian concealed carry and open carry as permitted by South Carolina law outside of matches and carry by Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) is allowed. LEOs not in uniform who open carry will display their credentials/badge. The **Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act** (LEOSA) is a [United States federal law](#), enacted in 2004, that allows two classes of persons—the “qualified [law enforcement officer](#)” and the “qualified retired or separated law enforcement officer”—to carry a [concealed firearm](#) in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of state or local laws, with certain exceptions.

3. Ammunition and Targets: Tracers and incendiary rounds are prohibited everywhere. Armor piercing and steel core rounds are prohibited on steel. Exploding targets such as Tannerite are prohibited everywhere. Authorized targets in addition to paper/cardboard or approved steel. Ballistics gelatin is allowed to be used as a target only in regular pistol bays and with the following restrictions. Ballistic gelatin is prohibited from the rifle line and 50 yard bay. It must be bare ballistics gelatin. No container or added items such as internal items to simulate bone, organs etc... or external items such as ballistic barriers like denim, Kevlar, metal, ceramic, etc... The gelatin block must be within six feet of the impact berm and between two to four feet from the ground. It must be placed on a wooden table/stand that the member is responsible for providing. The member is responsible for cleanup, removal and disposal of the ballistics gelatin. Ballistic gelatin will create a deflection in the flight path of the bullet. These restrictions will keep that deflection within acceptable limits to ensure the bullet will impact the berm. Any variation from these restrictions will create an unacceptable safety situation which will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of membership.

### 4. Alcoholic beverages and intoxicating drugs are always prohibited on the ranges.

5. Appropriate eye and ear protection are always required at the range when in proximity of firing lines. Normally this will be safety rated glasses and ear plugs or noise reducing earmuffs.

6. Open fires are prohibited except on workdays when approved by the responsible fire authority in Dorchester County, when monitored by work crews and when completely extinguished before departure.

7. Any member that has an accident or encounters any problem at the range must report it to an Executive Committee member within 48 hours of the incident. Any incident involving emergency services shall be reported to an Executive Committee member immediately by phone.

8. Match Directors and course instructors have control of the portion of the range under their command during matches and courses. See the match director or instructor for access and use of those parts of the range during matches. (Note: Pistol Bays 1 and 2 are kept available for member use during matches. Match Director permission is not required for use of these bays.)

a. Follow the Match Director's or instructor's requirements, range orders, etc.  
***(See Operational Rule 12 at the end) Match Directors and Instructors have control over bays as designated on the calendar for matches and courses. Bays one and two are kept available for members as are any bay not designated for matches or instruction on the calendar. These bays do not require match director or instructor notification or permission.***

9. Smoking, eating, and drinking are discouraged on the firing lines and in bays due to the potential for lead ingestion and exposure. *However, members are encouraged to ensure they remain hydrated while on the range.*

10. Do not permit children to "forage" for spent bullets in the floor of the pistol bays and anywhere in the backstop berms. Spent bullets often have sharp edges and the dirt is full of lead dust.

11. Motorized Range Equipment (MRE) may only be operated by authorized PGC members with a valid driver's license. Operating any MRE near people, equipment, and personal property when the range is active requires a spotter who can assist with directions to prevent the potential for injury, collisions, and damage.

12. All nonmembers shooting at PGC must complete and sign the club's liability waiver form prior to shooting. This applies to all guests, students, and match participants.

13. Match Directors and Instructors must ensure that the safety rules for their event comply with these rules or have obtained written concurrence for any deviations from the Executive Committee.

**14. Dogs are allowed on the range, but the owner must have the dog on the leash and it must be with the owner at all times.**

## ***Pistol Bay Safety Rules***

**The Range Rules and Safety Rules of the Palmetto Gun Club (PGC) apply to all persons entering and using the facilities of the club. Those non-members coming onto the property to participate in formal match shooting or those entering as guests of a member are bound by the same rules as they apply to members and the rules of the Palmetto Gun Club supersede any rules of any discipline that conflict with the written rules of the club. Entering the club premises to participate in any function is an agreement that that person has read, understands and agrees to abide by those rules.**

1. Each bay is independently controlled by the member occupying the bay and that member is responsible for the conduct of their guests and that they have been briefed on the safety rules of the club. Each bay is video monitored for user safety and that video may be used in the investigation should a safety violation be reported.
2. Members **are** allowed to shoot on bays that have been previously set for a match the following day providing that no other appropriate bay is available, no pre-set targets or props are shot and that any prop moved to facilitate the member shooting is replaced in its exact position prior to leaving.
3. The "safe line" in each bay is established as the line behind all shooters (towards the road), but in no case shall the "safe line" be further towards the road than 10 feet into the bay (inside the berms).
4. Muzzles may not be pointed back towards the road or outside of the bay under any circumstances. All occupants of the bays must be behind the muzzle of any firearm being handled. The 180-degree line is an imaginary line separating up range from downrange. This line is perpendicular to the centerline of the shooting bay, goes through the shooter, and moves with the shooter throughout the course of fire. This line extends down to the ground and upwards to infinity. The "180 rule" applies in all bays.
5. All firearms (except concealed carry by CWP holders and Active and Retired LEOs) are cold behind the "safe line" in the bay. No "hot" concealed weapons at matches except for Law Enforcement Officers displaying their credentials as described in General Range Safety Rule 2.
6. NO shooting into the bay from across the road!
7. Firearms may be loaded ONLY when inside the bay (inside the "safe line") and when the person having control has determined that is safe to load weapons.
8. Magazines may be loaded at the safe line but may not be placed in the firearm until the shooter is at a hot firing line. A properly holstered weapon is considered safe.

**9. No one handles or touches a firearm anywhere in the bay when people are downrange!**

**10. Pistol bay targets:**

- a. Clay pigeons may be placed on the berm. Paper targets and cardboard targets must be placed on provided target backers or on user provided target stands so that bullets pass through them and strike the berm.
- b. Do not place targets where the bullet can skip off the ground or go over the berm and do not hang targets on steel plate racks, trees, props, barrels, or wood support posts!
- c. Steel targets provided by the PGC, or the personal steel targets of the member must be placed a minimum of 15 yards into the bay as measured from the front of the covered area and as such must deflect the projectiles downward or into berm. Pistol bay steel targets are to be used only with what is normally considered to be pistol caliber rounds, of 1500 FPS or less or .22 rimfire. Rifle calibers or rounds that would reasonably be expected to penetrate the steel and shotgun slugs are expressly prohibited.
- d. Shooters must be at least 10 yards (30 feet) from steel plate targets. Further is better! Injury can occur if you are closer.
- e. Bricks, concrete blocks, glass bottles, plastic bottles, bowling pins, or like targets that fragment or are rounded to increase the possibility of ricochets, are strictly prohibited! If the item was not designed to a firearm target is prohibited except for paper products hung on target backers.

11. Rifles may be fired in the pistol bays so long as the bullets strike the end impact berm. Initial sighting in of rifles is encouraged in one of the pistol bays before shooting at the rifle range.

12. Shotguns may be fired in the pistol bays, but all shot must impact a berm! No thrown or aerial targets are allowed.

13. Fully automatic weapons and simulated fully automatic firing using mechanical devices or methods may be fired only in the pistol bays, provided that all bullets strike the end impact berm, and the owner is present with all required documentation.

14. When shooting is concluded in your bay, you are expected to police all centerfire brass and shotgun hulls and ensure that all barrels are laying against a side berm and the bay floor is clear.

15. The 50-yard pistol bay is multi-use bay and is governed as any other pistol bay and is used on a first come first use basis. Any other member wishing to utilize the bay may only do so with the consent of the initial person using the bay. The 50-yard bay should only be used when the member needs to be shooting at a distance greater that can be safely achieved in one of the other bays, such as sighting a rifle, practicing disciplines that require 50-yard targets (Precision Pistol, PPC, etc.) or sighting in a slug gun.

## ***Rifle Line Safety Rules***

***All safety rules posted and briefed to members must be adhered to. All members are responsible for their guest to follow the safety rules and keeping the range clean. This range is video monitored in order to keep the members and their guest safe.***

1. The rifle line is ONE firing line
  - a. Shooters must all follow the operational commands for HOT and COLD range.
  - b. Shooters on the line – please be courteous and coordinate range hot and cold with others. Don't just turn the light on or off without verbally checking with others.
  - c. Be especially careful to check with long range shooters as they might be down range and out of sight. The flashing yellow light near the long-range shooting positions indicates a long-range shooter is down range past the 200-yard line. DO NOT take the range hot while this light is on.
  - d. All firing will be from the sheltered concrete pad. In no case will any firing be done elsewhere on the rifle line unless specifically authorized by the Executive Committee for a match or other event. At those times there will be no other rifle line firing activity that is not a part of the match or event.
2. Red light on the firing line means the range is COLD!
  - a. Firearms must be unloaded, magazines removed, and either bolts pulled out or back, or in the case of semi-autos, bolt latched open. **Then a chamber flag must be installed.**
  - b. Unless approved otherwise for a specific match by the Match Director, no one handles or touches a firearm on a cold range! No looking through scopes, no unpacking firearms, no cleaning firearms, just don't touch it!
  - c. Cased firearms may be taken to or brought from a vehicle when the range is cold but must remain in the CLOSED case until the range goes hot.
  - d. There is an audible buzzer when the red lights are turned on and every 5 minutes thereafter until the lights are turned off.
3. When the red light is off the range is hot; however, you must ALWAYS visually confirm that no one is down range before loading a firearm or firing.
4. Normally, the red light is left off when the range is not occupied. When you first arrive at the range, if the light is off, visually verify that no one is down range anywhere, including all the way to the 835-yard backstop berm, before loading or firing.
5. Firing pistols with pistol caliber cartridges on the rifle line is prohibited – bullets will hit the ground before impacting the berm and perhaps skip over the berm. Rifles shooting pistol cartridges are allowed at 200 yards and less provided that the cartridge has sufficient velocity to pass through the target and strike an impact berm. Pistols shooting center-fire rifle cartridges are also allowed on the rifle line.

6. Targets must be placed at the proper height so that the bullet passes through the target frame and into the backstop berm. Target frames are available for members' use and are located behind the wall at the end of the rifle line near the bathrooms.

a. 200-yard target line – staple targets on cardboard, plywood, or other backer placed into the erectable 200-yard target frames or shoot 50, 100, or 200 yards with temporary target frames placed in PVC pipe sockets. All targets should be placed so that there is a reasonable expectation that the bullet will impact the 200-yard backstop berm. (Note: the erectable frames at positions 1-10 are reserved for match use.

b. Steel targets on the 200-yard line are provided for use by the membership. There are three rules for using the plates: (1) Expanding bullets only!! No armor piercing, penetrator or steel core ammo allowed. (2) The use of 50 BMG on 200-yard steel targets is prohibited. (3) Be sure to choose a plate that is directly in line with your shooting position. Angled shots may result in ricochets.

c. Do not place targets on any skip berms.

7. You MUST be long range certified to shoot beyond 200 yards, except as noted in item 8 below.

8. Long Range Certified members may bring non-Long Range Certified shooters (members or guests) to shoot on the long-range section of the range at distances greater than 200 yards ONLY under ALL the following conditions:

a. The Long-Range Certified member accepts full responsibility for every shot fired by the shooter.

b. The Long-Range Certified member has verified zero on the rifle and scope at 100 or 200 yards prior to shooting beyond 200 yards.

c. The Long-Range Certified member directly supervises EVERY shot and corrects any potential errors that could cause the shot to miss the impact berm.

9. Long range shooters place targets in the frames provided at 300, 400, 500, 600 and 825 yards. No other target locations are authorized.

10. All rifles with a muzzle brake are allowed only by mutual consent of all on the firing line.

11. Rifle line steel targets are for use only with expanding bullets. Steel core "penetrator" and armor piercing ammo is prohibited. If your bullet sticks to a magnet, it is steel core and may not be shot at steel targets.

12. Fully automatic fire, or firing using devices or methods that simulate fully automatic fire (such as "Slide Fire", external trigger springs, etc.) is strictly prohibited on the rifle line! Fully automatic rifles may be fired on the line provided that the rifle is set to semi-automatic fire and all legally required documents are physically present with the owner.

13. Rifle Line Etiquette:

- a. Check in with other shooters already on the Range. Let them know what you'll be doing.
- b. Set up your equipment while the line is hot.
- c. Be prepared to hang targets as soon as the line is called safe.
- d. Make the line safe about every 20 min so others can hang targets.
- e. Make sure everyone has time to put on hearing protection before you start shooting.
- f. Long Range and Handicapped shooters have priority on golf cart use.

14. **When going from a HOT firing line to a COLD (safe) firing line:** The member who intends to operate the red light switch has the personal responsibility to absolutely verify that all other shooters on the line are ready and willing to go cold (make the line safe). This often means visually and verbally verifying that all on the line are ready to unload their firearms, remove magazines, and either pull their bolts out or back, or in the case of semi-autos, latch the bolt back and install a chamber flag. **Long range shooters must activate the yellow flashing light when they plan to go beyond the 200-yard line – as a clear indication there is a person down range.** After switching the red lights on, the member operating the light switch must also verify that everyone has made their weapons safe, and no one is touching a weapon prior to declaring verbally that the line is safe. All members are reminded that they may not proceed down range until the range safety lights are on and the range has been declared cold or safe. Violations of this protocol will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.

15. **When going from a COLD (safe) firing line to a HOT firing line:** The member who made the range cold (safe) should also be the member who makes it hot or has relinquished control to another member. Similarly, to going cold, the member who intends to operate the red light switch to go hot has the personal responsibility to absolutely verify that all personnel are back from down range and are ready to go hot, including ready with eye and ear protection. This often means visually and verbally verifying that everyone who went down range has returned to the firing line, including those at the long-range end of the line. **The member operating the red lights to go hot must also ensure the yellow flashing light is out indicating confirmation that the people are back from down range.** After switching the red lights off, the member operating the red-light switch must also verbally declare that the line is hot. Violations of this protocol will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.

## ***General Range Operational Rules***

1. PGC is a private club for use by members, direct family & guests.
  - a. Direct family is defined as: Spouse, grandparents, parents, children, children's spouses, brothers, sisters, grandchildren.
  - b. The member must accompany direct family and guests. The member is responsible for directly supervising all guests at all times.
  - c. A member may only bring up to two guests at a time to the range, but only one guest may shoot at a time, and must be supervised by the member always.
  - d. Each local area guest is limited to two visits. After his or her initial two visits, PGC expects him or her to become a member. Individuals on the wait list are exempt from the two-visit limitation.
2. Range hours are from sunrise to sunset – no night shooting ever!!
3. Please drive only on the roads and park in the proper areas. Never drive over firing lines or in pistol bays.
4. There is no hunting allowed on club properties at any time.
5. The gate access cards issued are electronic cards that open the gate and double as your membership card.
6. Members must have membership cards quickly accessible (on your person, in your range bag, or other location that can be quickly accessed).
7. The PGC is under the jurisdiction of the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office only for those matters that are statutorily stated for private property. The DCSO has no authority to and may not enforce PGC bylaws or rules and may not request to verify membership but may request ID in a criminal investigation.
8. The PGC is also a designated Landing Zone (LZ) for Medivac Helicopters and when being used as such, the club comes under the command of the senior fire official on the scene and all members must comply with his/her directives until the responders vacate the property.
9. The gate access system is single pass system
  - a. You must swipe your gate access card on the card readers located near the gate to get in and out of the range, even if the gate is open!
  - b. The gate is inoperable for general members from sunset to sunrise.
  - c. If gate will not let you out, contact an Executive Committee member for assistance.
  - d. If you forget your card, you will not get into the gate. See item 6 above.
  - e. Lost card replacement will cost \$25.00

f. Loaning your gate card to others or giving it to someone to allow access to the club is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action including expulsion from the club.

10. **DO NOT** shoot up the props (or hang targets on them!) that match directors have placed in the bays; examples: Plastic barrels, building facades, fences, wagons, wells, etc.

11. Clean up your mess afterwards: Take down and dispose of all targets. Pick up center-fire brass, shotgun hulls, targets, paper, wads, etc. Place all trash in a can or the dumpster and ensure all barrels are placed at the sides of a bay leaning on the side berm so the floor of the bay is clear.

12. The Club Calendar dictates the operation of the range. Match Directors and instructors have control over pistol bays, the 50-yard bay and the rifle lines as designated on the calendar for matches and courses. Pistol Bays 1 and 2 are kept available for members as are any bay or the rifle line not designated for matches or instruction on the club calendar. These undesignated bays or the undesignated rifle line do not require match director or instructor permission.

13. Use will fall in to one of three conditions.

**a. Condition Green** – Nothing noted on the calendar. Unlimited range use for PGC Members. No Match, Maintenance or Events scheduled.

**b. Condition Yellow** – The PGC Calendar shows an event or match in progress and allows limited shooting during the event. You may shoot with the permission of the match or event director. In this case the range has a match or event, but the range or parts of the range are open to general membership use. You **MUST** check in with the match or event director prior to shooting and must follow all match or event safety requirements.

**c. Condition Red** – The PGC Calendar shows the range is closed due to an event, match, or maintenance. With Condition Red the PGC Board and members have directed the range closed to general membership use. This **cannot** be overruled by the event, match or maintenance director. The reasons surrounding this closure are range and or personnel safety. Do not go to the director and ask to shoot. They are not authorized to allow shooting until the event, match, or maintenance is completed and the range is open to general shooting.

**Note:** An exception to Condition Red is during the regularly scheduled mowing and maintenance periods on Wednesdays - Members may request approval from the Work Crew to shoot in any area of range. No shooting anywhere without their explicit PRIOR approval.

Range Emergency Condition - if an emergency event occurs at the range, the Fire Department Incident Commander has full authority to shut down the range for helicopter **Landing Zone** access as required.