



RANGE RULES

Revised July 14, 2021

(Revision In GREEN)

Sections: General, Pistol Bays, Rifle Line, Operational

General Range Safety Rules

1. ALWAYS handle EVERY firearm as if it were loaded
2. NEVER point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot
3. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until you are pointed at the target.
4. ALWAYS clearly identify your target and what is in front and beyond
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Alcoholic beverages and intoxicating drugs are prohibited on the ranges at any time.
8. Appropriate eye and ear protection is required always at the range when in proximity of firing lines. Normally this will be safety rated glasses and ear plugs or noise reducing earmuffs.
9. 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.
10. Any member that has an accident or encounters any problem at the range must report it to a club officer by letter or email within 48 hours of the incident. Any incident involving emergency services shall be reported to an Executive Committee member immediately by phone, then followed up by a formal report by letter or email.
11. Match Directors and course instructors have control 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 generally kept available for member use during matches. Match Director permission is not required for use of these bays.)
Follow the Match Director's or instructor's requirements, range orders, etc. (See Operational Rule 12 at the end)
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Motorized Range Equipment (MRE) may only be operated by authorized PGC members. 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.

Pistol Bay Safety Rules

1. Each bay is independently controlled by the user occupying the bay.
2. 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).
3. 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 rule” applies in all bays.
4. All firearms (except concealed carry by CWP holders and LEOs) are cold behind the “safe line” in the bay. No “hot” concealed weapons at matches.
5. NO shooting into the bay from across the road!
6. Firearms may be loaded ONLY when inside the bay (inside the “safe line”) and when the person having control gives the order to go hot.
7. Magazines may be loaded at the safe line but may not be placed in the magazine well until the shooter is at a hot firing line.
8. **No one handles or touches a firearm anywhere in the bay when people are down range!**
9. Pistol bay targets:
 - a. Paper targets, cardboard targets, and clay pigeons (placed on the berms), must be placed on provided plywood target backers or on user provided target stands so that bullets pass through them and strike the berm. 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, or wood support posts!
 - b. Steel targets provided on the plate racks, torso steel, and steel targets set up for matches are permitted. Range users may bring their own steel targets provided that the targets are commercially made for the intended purpose, the targets deflect bullets downward to the ground and the targets are placed where bullets will strike a berm if the target is missed. Steel must be at least 15 yards from the entrance to the bay.
 - c. Pistol bay steel targets may only be shot with normal pistol caliber cartridges with a velocity less than 1500 foot per second and 22 caliber rim-fire ammo. Rifles and pistols shooting rifle cartridges and shotguns shooting slugs on steel in the pistol bays are prohibited! No steel core, armor piercing, tracer or incendiary ammunition may be used!
 - d. Shooters must be at least 10 yards 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!
10. Rifles may be fired in the pistol bays so long as the bullets strike the end impact berm. In fact, initial sighting in of rifles is encouraged in one of the pistol bays before shooting at the rifle range.
11. Shotguns may be fired in the pistol bays, but all shot must impact a berm! No “skeet shooting” with thrown targets is allowed.
12. 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.
13. 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.

Rifle Line Safety Rules

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) Standard caliber rifles only!! No magnums allowed. (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. If gate will not let you out, walk around the fence to the "in" sensor and swipe your card.
 - c. Lost card replacement will cost \$25.00
 - d. If you forget your card, you will not get into the gate. See item 6 above.
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. 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.