

Blue Water Sportsman's Association

Range Safety Rules

General

1. Firearm shooting hours are 9:30 am to 9:30 pm or dusk unless the range has lighting or a special event is occurring.
2. The Association's east rear range main access gate is to be **kept closed at all times** except when "opened" for Association sanctioned events or other Association authorized activities. If the gate is locked and closed due to 600 yard range events, then members may access the rear pistol and archery range via the west road. Note: from time to time the entire range may be closed for special events. Always check the club calendar prior to range use.
3. Vehicles: **SPEED LIMIT IS 15 MPH ON THE PROPERTY**. Private vehicles are confined to the roads or designated parking lots. Driving on or across the ranges is prohibited; except when needed during a work party or when so directed by a Range Officer or Association official during an Association sanctioned event.
4. Absolutely NO alcohol or judgment impairing drugs shall be consumed prior to any shooting activity. Judgment impairing drugs can include prescription medication and over the counter medicines.
5. Member are directly responsible for the conduct of their guests. **ADDITIONALLY**, minor must be under the immediate supervision of a parent or guardian at all times.
6. The current year membership card must be carried whenever on the association grounds. The presentation of the electronic gate key is NOT proof of membership. Gate key activity is electronically recorded. Violation of any of these rules shall be grounds for removal from the range and other disciplinary action up to and including discharge from the Association.
7. **ORDERLY, CIVIL, AND SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT** is expected on the Association grounds at all times. WE are sportsmen's and sportswomen and we shall conduct ourselves in a civilized and cordial manner. Be courteous and respectful to each other. Be respectful of other shooters. If you have an issue that cannot be civilly and orderly resolved do not become confrontational. Take your issue to the BWSA Board of Directors. Do not distract other shooters while they are shooting. **USE COMMON SENSE!! IF IT ISN'T SAFE-DON'T DO IT; AND DON'T LET ANYONE ELSE DO IT**. Remember, **WHEN SHOOTING EVERYONE IS A SAFETY OFFICER**.

General Rules for Archery

1. DO NOT nock arrows when person are down range.
2. Nock arrows ONLY when on the shooting line and with the bow pointed downrange.
3. DO NOT elevate or draw the bow pointing above the target butt.
4. No person shall go forward of the shooting line until the line is clear and safe.
5. Be considerate of fellow archers; distracting behavior or horseplay is prohibited.
6. The use of broadhead arrows in any target butt is prohibited.
7. A Range Officer will be present during all Association sanctioned events. The Range Officer's decisions will be honored without dispute or contention during the event; appeals will be first directed to the Archer Director for resolution, and if necessary, thereafter to the BWSA Board of Directors.

Archery Practice Range Rules

1. Target or Field points only
2. Broadheads are confined to the broadhead practice range 3D range and field hunter range rules
3. Shoot only at the target and only shoot from the designated shooting station or point.
4. No person shall go forward to retrieve arrows until shooting is complete and all bows are off the line.
5. When retrieving arrows or searching for lost arrows, have one of your party stand in the front of the target, or place bow in front of the target to show shooters following behind you that the target is NOT clear.
6. Make certain that the target is properly placed for following shooters.
7. Archers leaving the target must use designated exit paths. Do not retrace trails toward previous targets and do not cut across trails.
8. Member are responsible to ensure that all guest fees have been paid. Fill out the envelope (member and guest), place the range fees in envelope and deposit in the licked mail box at the Association clubhouse main entrance.

General Firearm Safety Rules

1. At all times ALWAYS ASSUME A FIREARM IS LOADED!
2. Be certain the firearm is safe to operate; and that proper usage and handling is understood before coming to the range.
3. Open Bolt Indicators (OBI) or Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI) are required for all uncased firearms on all rifle and pistol ranges. **When cease fire is called unload the firearm, if so equipped, engage the trigger safety, remove any magazines and insert the OBI or EIC**, bench or ground the firearm. Step back off the firing line until the range is called clear or the line is safe.
4. Do not handle firearms while the line is called clear or safe and there are personnel downrange.
5. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
6. Make certain that appropriate and safe ammunition is used.
7. Do not load until ready to fire.
8. **KEEP THE FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL READY TO SHOOT**
9. Always know your target and what is beyond it.
10. Eye and ear protection is required on all ranges.
11. Firing the .50 caliber Browning Machine Gun (BMG) cartridge on any Association rifle or pistol range is allowed. However, be aware of fellow shooters and avoid shooting next to them. Additionally, BWSA permits the use of all NFA firearms as long as they are used in accordance with these rules.
12. MEMBERS MUST INSIST ON THE COURTEOUS BUT FIRM ENFORCEMENT OF THESE RANGE SAFETY RULES FOR BOTH THEIR GUESTS AND FELLOW MEMBERS.
13. The following types of ammo are prohibited at BWSA: (a) Tracer; (b) Incendiary; (c) Explosive; (d) Armor piercing on steel targets.
14. No targets may be used that are fragile or breakable i.e. glass or ceramic
15. Shooter are responsible for picking up used targets and putting them in the garbage before they leave.
16. Unless a sanctioned event is being held, all targets must be placed at the base of an impact berm. An impact berm is the tall berm at the end of each range, this does NOT include the safety berms along the sides of the range. Placing targets on the top of any berm is prohibited. All rounds must impact the lower ½ of the impact berm. Paper targets must be affixed in between the supporting structure of all target stands, members are not allowed to shoot the uprights or horizontal supports.
17. When using steel targets rated for centerfire rifle and pistol rounds, place the target as close to the impact berm as possible.
18. Only organized events and competitions may be fired at ranges greater than 200 yards. The 300-600 yard range is not for general member use.
19. 200 yard use. Prior to using the 200 yard range, members must: (a) check to see if the red sign is posted at the covered shooting position and (b) check pits to ensure no members are downrange performing maintenance.
20. The use of the indoor clubhouse basement range is open during special or scheduled events only. No magnum pistol calibers, any centerfire rifle caliber, or shotgun ammunition is allowed on this range. The steel and matting cannot take it! When shooting on this range all shots must only impact the bullet trap located on the east wall. **Skipping rounds off any wall, floor, or ceiling is prohibited!** These surfaces are not designed to handle bullet impacts and severe damage to these surfaces will result. All targets must be placed on the provided target holders or on stands so all shots fired will impact and be collected by the bullet trap. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Organized Events

A Range Officer will be present during all Association sanctioned competitions and events. Be aware that event procedures will have significant differences to rules governing use of the facilities than during normal informal shooting.

Skeet, Trap, and 5-Stand Rules

All ranges may be active at the same time. The skeet range has a “high” house on the left and a “low” house on the right. Between is a semicircle with seven stations, plus one station between the houses, which the shooter progresses along as clay targets are projected from the “high and/or low” houses, firing single or double-loadings dependent on the particular station. The trap range has a single trap house slightly raised above ground level. On the west end of the skeet ranges is a 5-stand range. Personal Protection Eye and Ear is required for all persons whether firing, scoring, or coaching on the shotgun ranges.

Permitted Firearms

1. Shotguns are the ONLY firearms permitted to be shot on the skeet, trap, and 5-stand ranges at the clay targets.
2. Shotguns must be open and empty when off the firing station.
3. Load only when on firing station.
4. Do NOT change stations with a round in the chamber.
5. Use only target velocity or 3-Dram equivalent (or less) shells.
6. Shot size is restricted to 7 ½ or smaller. NO magnum loads allowed.
7. Skeet Ranges: Load only one shell on station 8, either “high” or “low” (unless an additional load is authorized by the Range Officer).
8. Trap Range: Load only one shell at all stations (unless an additional load is authorized by the Range Officer). When both ranges are active and it is necessary to go forward to the trap house all shooting on the adjacent ranges must cease.
9. Hand traps are not to be used on the skeet range.

Muzzleloading Skeet and Trap

Muzzleloading shotgun shooter must conform to all the foregoing rules and the following requirements:

1. Tobacco smoking in the vicinity of the loading or firing stations is ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED
2. Use ONLY black powder, Pyrodex, or black powder substitute. Smokeless powder or duplex loads are prohibited.
3. When loading the caplock, the hammer must be on half cock, when loading the flintlock, the cock must be down and the frizzen must be up.
4. Loading directly from a powder flask, can, or horn is prohibited. A separate measure is required.
5. Prime or cap ONLY when on the firing station.
6. Powder containers must be kept closed at all times when not in immediate use.
7. Shot size is restricted to 7 ½ or smaller.