

Fairfield County Fish & Game Protective Association, Inc.

Rifle / Pistol and Falling Plate Range Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

The Range Safety Officer (“RSO”) officiating is the sole authority on the range(s). The RSO(s) are in charge of all programs, activities and open shooting, if present. All members and guests must adhere to their range commands at all times. In the absence of an RSO, shooting is permitted in accordance with these SOP, provided those utilizing the range are certified independent shooters.

Failure to adhere to these Rules and Regulations, failing to comply with the Range Safety Officer’s directions, or acting in an unsafe manner, will result in indefinite suspension from the range and may result in expulsion from the club or other disciplinary action as dictated by the Board of Governors. All State and Federal Laws and Statutes concerning the carrying, firing, handling and transporting of firearms are to be adhered to at this facility.

A. Conduct with Firearms:

1. When the Red Strobe lights are lit there will be “NO GUN HANDLING”
2. Bagging and unbagging of handguns must be done at the firing line ONLY.
3. ALWAYS keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction.
4. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
5. ALWAYS keep the firearm unloaded until ready to use.
6. Firearms must be clear with actions open and displaying a chamber indicator safety flag (empty chamber flag) when un-bagged or uncased, except when in active use.
7. Loading or unloading of any firearm is only permitted on the firing line.
8. When moving a firearm behind the firing line, the muzzle of handguns behind the firing line must be pointed directly down at the floor; the muzzle of rifles must be pointed directly up.
9. Line of sight firing only; no ‘from the hip’ or un-aimed shooting is permitted.
10. Dry firing is only permitted on the firing line.
11. Drawing a loaded firearm from a holster and firing is not permitted.
12. No firearm is to be aimed or held in such a manner that a discharged round can stray from the range or otherwise cause damage to the range structure.
13. Any firearm shot off the bench at a distance of 50 feet or less must be supported using a club provided or approved rest.

B. Range Operations:

1. Shooting Hours:
 - a. Sunday: 10:00 am until 1/2 hour after sunset
 - b. Monday through Saturday: sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset
2. The Range will be closed when there are special events such as Trap, Skeet, or Sporting Clays shoots, and on Stocking Days during hunting season. The range may also be closed from time to time for other events. Check the club calendar.

3. There will be no firing on the range unless a RSO is on duty. Exception: a member may use the range without a RSO if the member has qualified as an Independent Shooter (see below).
4. A valid membership card or button is to be clearly displayed at all times.
5. All persons using the range must sign in upon arrival, and sign out upon departure.
6. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the range. Shooting is not permitted after or during use of controlled substances or alcohol.
7. No smoking in the range building. Smoking is permitted outside range building.
8. Eye and Ear protection is required while in the range.
9. There will be no cross-range firing.
10. Rapid fire will be permitted only with the express permission of the RSO on duty.
11. There will be no automatic firing on the range.
12. No shotshells are permitted.
 - a. Exception: Sighting in of turkey guns will be permitted in the following manner:
 - i. Specific notation will be made in the range log that you are sighting in a turkey gun.
 - ii. All target frames in the down range area will be laid down to protect them from shot and will be replaced at the conclusion of exercise.
 - iii. A plywood-faced frame will be used to hold targets.
 - iv. Shooting will be done only from the established firing line.
13. No handgun is to be fired at targets set more than 50 yards from the firing line without the express permission of the RSO.
14. All scoped firearms not previously sighted in must be bore sighted.
15. The range utilizes a safety lighting system to provide a visual indication of when it is safe to fire and/or handle firearms and when it isn't. The operation of the system is as follows:
 - a. Flashing red lights indicate a stop or warning message. No firing and no firearm handling is allowed. Firearms are to remain down on a bench, in a case, or in a rack.
 - b. Steady green lights indicate a go or normal message. Firing and firearm handling are permitted in accordance with the rules.
 - c. Control of the different lights can be done from any of three panels located near the entry/exit doors. The main power for the system is a single switch by the middle entry/exit door.
 - d. When an RSO is on duty, he or she will control switching the lights as part of their command of the range. When independent shooters are using the range they will coordinate with one another the switching of the safety lights.
16. The RSO will, at the RSO's discretion, set time limits on the firing points to assure that all will have ample opportunity to shoot. Members have priority at all times.
17. The RSO will periodically call a cease fire to change targets. The Red strobe lights will be illuminated. Shooters may proceed down range to change targets only on the RSO's direction to do so.
18. In the event of a call of cease fire:
 - a. All firearms immediately must be unloaded, made completely safe, and placed down on the bench and a chamber flag installed.
 - b. NO FIREARMS ARE TO BE HANDLED IN ANY WAY DURING A CEASE-FIRE.
 - c. Shooters will step away from benches during a cease fire.

- d. Firing will recommence only upon the RSO's express permission to do so.
19. All shooters must remove their targets and clean their position upon departure. Waste brass is to be picked up and placed in the receptacle provided.
20. All firearms must be unloaded at the firing line before leaving the range.
21. Any time damage to the range, range equipment or club facilities occurs or is discovered, the Rifle/Pistol Chairperson must be notified.
22. Any minor on the Range must be under direct supervision of an adult senior member.
23. In the event any supplies from the First Aid Kit are used, the Rifle/Pistol Chairperson must be notified so the kit can be kept fully stocked.

C. Guest Policy

1. Guests are permitted only when a RSO is on duty.
2. Members are fully responsible for their guests and must accompany and supervise their guests at all times.
3. A guest fee of \$10.00 should be placed in the Range Mailbox each visit.
4. Each guest must complete a 'Waiver'. Member spouse and children guests must also complete a 'Waiver' annually but guest fees are not required.
5. Host Member and guest will share one firing position when the range is crowded.
6. A maximum of two guests per member are permitted at one time.

D. Independent Shooter:

1. An Independent Shooter is an individual who has demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to use the range safely and has satisfactorily completed an independent shooter class.
2. After completion of the independent shooter class, the member's name, membership number, and date will be entered in the list of Independent Shooters.
3. Independent Shooters are required to recertify on an annual basis. Independent Shooter status will be retained through the remainder of the calendar year.
4. Independent Shooters must follow all range rules and regulations to prevent possible property damage and personal injury.
5. Independent Shooters must cooperate with other Independent Shooters who may also be using the Range. Special attention must be given to "cease-fires" such that all on the range know when it is safe to go down range and when it is safe to shoot.
6. Basic Inspection Procedures: after signing in, the Independent Shooter will inspect the range to determine: that the range is clear of personnel (check behind the berms); the impact area of the intended firing point is functional (e.g., it is clear of large stones or other objects); the target holders are properly aligned with the intended firing point; the phone is in working order; and the range is, in all respects, safe.
7. Independent Shooters may only bring the senior, associate, sub-senior, or junior members included under membership. No other guests are allowed.
8. Any unsafe handling of firearms or failure to observe range rules may result in revocation of certification at the Rifle/Pistol chairperson's discretion. Said individual will be notified by any available means (phone, email, mail, etc) and will be removed from the list of Independent Shooters

RANGE SAFETY OFFICERS (RSO)

All appointments to the position of RSO are to be made by the Rifle/Pistol Chairman.

A. Criteria for appointment:

1. Must be a senior or associate member.
2. Must be familiar with firearms and their safe handling and operation.
3. Must be trustworthy and responsible.
4. Must be familiar with the range operations and rules, and be capable of enforcing the rules.
5. Must exhibit good judgment and common sense to run the range responsibly.
6. Must successfully complete the NRA Basic Range Safety Officer course
 - a. While it is not required that the individual maintain valid NRA RSO credentials, they must have proof of having successfully completed the course itself.

B. Procedure for appointment:

1. The Rifle/Pistol Chairman must verify that the prospective candidate is qualified and approve the appointment.
2. The newly appointed RSO will be assigned training duty dates working as an assistant to an experienced RSO for two duty periods.
3. The name and telephone number of the candidate will then be added to the master list of RSO's

C. Criteria to maintain RSO status

1. A RSO must sign up and perform range duty for three duty periods (15 hours) annually.
2. A RSO must attend a "RSO's meeting" at least once per year.

D. Revocation of RSO appointment

1. A RSO appointment may be revoked by the Rifle/Pistol Chairman for failure to comply with the above criteria. Such revocation shall be preceded by one verbal or written warning.
2. A RSO's appointment may be revoked by the Rifle/Pistol Chairman for failure to perform RSO's duty or for other reasons considered sufficient by the Rifle/Pistol Chairman. Such revocation shall be preceded by one verbal or written notice.
3. A RSO's appointment may be immediately revoked by the Rifle/Pistol Chairman for failure to exhibit good judgment in running or using the range responsibly.
4. The RSO will be notified of Revocation by a certified letter. In addition, an appropriate notation will be made in the Range Log.
5. If a RSO's appointment has been revoked in accordance with the above, it may be reinstated at the discretion of the Rifle/Pistol Chairman after a suitable period of time.

E. RSO'S Duties

1. It is the responsibility of the RSO to recruit a replacement if the RSO is unable to attend on a date on which the RSO has volunteered for range duty.
2. A RSO may shoot while at the range for duty only if another RSO is present and supervising shooting activities.
3. BEFORE RANGE OPENS:
 - a. Perform Range inspection and confirm that:
 - i. The impact area is functional.
 - ii. The range area is clear of personnel.
 - iii. The target holders are properly aligned.
 - iv. The Emergency procedures have been reviewed and checked.
 - v. The Range phone is in working order or a cell phone with adequate signal is available
4. WHILE RANGE IS OPEN:
 - a. Assure that everyone using the range signs in upon arrival and out upon departure. Confirm that membership card or badge is displayed by member. Collect guest fees.
 - b. Supervise all activity at the range to maintain safety and good order. It is the RSO's responsibility to make sure all rules are complied with. Any member or guest who continues to disregard the rules, after a verbal warning, or exhibits unsafe behavior must be ejected. Each such occurrence will be noted in the Range Log in detail.
 - c. Provide eye/ear protection (if available) to shooters not having their own. Sell targets, if available, to those without them. Collect appropriate fees.
 - d. Set time limits (as necessary) at each firing point on days when the range is exceptionally crowded.
 - e. Keep accurate records of all money collected.
5. AFTER RANGE CLOSES:
 - a. Sweep the firing line.
 - b. Empty trash cans
 - c. Report any required repairs/discrepancies, etc, in the Range Log.
 - d. Secure equipment and cash box in RSO Office.
 - e. Complete financial and maintenance report form on reverse of Range Log.
 - f. Secure Range Log in desk in RSO Office.
 - g. Post "time card" in Time Card Rack in alphabetical order.

STEEL PLATE SHOOTING

Because of the safeguards necessary when shooting at steel targets, the following additional requirements shall be effective for all steel plate shooting and for all shooting on the Falling Plate Range.

1. Only club owned steel targets and associated mounting systems may be utilized.
2. Steel plate shooting on the rifle/pistol range is permitted only during club-sanctioned events as approved by the rifle/pistol chairperson.
3. All steel targets shall be placed so projectiles are deflected toward the ground. A permanent or temporary overhang must be used in situations where this is not possible.

4. All steel targets and associated mounting systems must be positioned at least 10 yards (30 feet) from the firing line.
5. Eye and ear protection are mandatory for all shooters and spectators while shooting at steel targets or on the falling plate range. This shall extend to those in the immediate parking lot area.
6. Lead, copper-washed, frangible, synthetic coated, or commercially produced copper-jacketed bullets are permitted.
7. Steel jacketed, steel core, green tip, armor piercing, incendiary, solid copper, or bullets that can damage steel targets are prohibited.
8. Ammunition that discharges more than one projectile from a single round is prohibited.
9. Shotgun shells - including slugs and buckshot - and centerfire rifle cartridges are prohibited.
10. Pistol caliber carbine style rifles are permitted provided that the ammunition used does not exceed 1400 ft/s and complies with all other rules.
11. Rimfire plates may only be shot with .22 long rifle rimfire ammunition that complies with all other rules.
12. Falling Plate Range Operations:
 - a. The use of the falling plate range is limited to Falling Plate Range Independent Shooters and Falling Plate Range Officers.
 - b. No person shall use the falling plate range alone; there must be a second individual present at the range who is capable of calling 911 in case of an emergency.
 - c. The range may be open for members and guests under the direction of a Falling Plate RSO who must be present when shooters are utilizing the falling plate range.
 - d. Falling Plate Range Independent Shooters may bring their spouse and children without a Falling Plate RSO on duty.
 - e. Criteria for appointment as a Falling Plate Range Officer:
 - i. Appointment to be made by the Rifle/Pistol chairperson
 - ii. Certification as an FCF&GPA rifle/pistol RSO for one full year.
 - iii. Senior membership in FCF&GPA for one full year.
 - iv. Thorough familiarity with the operation and mechanics of the FPR, as evidenced by having served a minimum of 20 hours under the supervision of a Falling Plate RSO.
 - v. Any unsafe handling of firearms or failure to follow or enforce range rules will result in revocation of certification.
 - f. Criteria for appointment as a Falling Plate Range Independent Shooter.
 - i. Appointment to be made by the Rifle/Pistol Chairperson
 - ii. Shooter who has worked or shot on the FPR on five separate occasions and is familiar with the operating procedures and additional safety considerations
 - iii. Any unsafe handling of firearms or failure to follow range rules will result in the revocation of certification.