

West Branch Rifle & Pistol Club

Rules and Regulations (Revised **09/25/2024** by Executive Board.
Exception for Club Match use of rifle rounds on the pistol range(s)
approved by member vote at 2024 annual meeting. New/Changed
rules are in large print, bold face type)

RULE NUMBER ONE! Safety first! Always! Any equipment, ammunition, or practice which is not safe for our fellow members and our neighbors, is not permitted! Violation of this rule can result in termination of your membership.

RULE NUMBER TWO! Hostile, belligerent, aggressive, or threatening behavior is a violation of Rule Number One! Members will behave in a courteous and respectful manner toward their fellow members and their guests at all times. Violation of this rule can result in termination of your membership. (See also Rule 3 below.)

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

1. THESE NRA SAFETY STANDARDS ARE IN FORCE AT ALL TIMES: A responsible shooter will follow these standards not only at our range, but anywhere firearms are handled.

- a. Never point a firearm at anyone or anything you do not intend to shoot! Always point your firearm in a safe direction. On the West Branch ranges, any elevation above the target line is NOT a safe direction!
- b. Place your finger inside the trigger guard only when you have acquired a target and are ready to fire.
- c. Keep your firearm unloaded when it is not in use. At West Branch, a firearm will be loaded only at the firing line.
- d. Wear eye and ear protection during live fire.
- e. Be sure of your target and what is beyond your target.

f. Never pass your firearm to another person unless the cylinder or action is open, magazine/clip (if applicable) is removed and you can visually check that it is unloaded. When receiving a firearm from another person, always visually check to make sure it is unloaded.

g. Before handling any firearm, understand its operation.

h. Handle every firearm as if it were loaded!

i. NRA membership is a requirement for West Branch membership. You must verify your current NRA membership with each annual payment of dues.

j. Eye and ear protection are required at all times on any of the West Branch ranges.

2. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, MATCH DIRECTORS, AND RANGE SAFETY OFFICERS WILL BE OBEYED ON ALL SAFETY AND CLUB CONCERNS, INCLUDING INTERPRETATION OF THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

All Executive Board members, Match Directors, and Range Safety Officers may participate in a decision on any issue that arises. A Match Director's decision on any issue relating to the scheduled match he or she is directing is final at that match, but may be appealed to the full Executive Board for discussion and review. A decision by an Executive Board member takes precedence over the decision of a Range Safety Officer, or a Match Director if no scheduled match is in progress, and may also be appealed to the full Executive Board.

3. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY CLUB MEMBER TO KNOW AND ENFORCE THE CLUB RULES.

If you observe anyone on the range not complying with the rules or acting in an unsafe manner, politely express your concerns to them. If they refuse to abide by the rules, attempt to get their name. (If they are not wearing a Member ID card, they are in violation of RANGE

PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS, Rule 1, on Page 2.) If they refuse to identify themselves, get a license plate number, or even their picture, if possible, and then contact a West Branch Officer to report the incident. The names and phone numbers of our Officers are published in the newsletters, or you can contact us through our website at: www.wbrpc.org. If a fellow member points out to you that you are committing an unsafe or disallowed practice, the only proper response is, "Thank you. It won't happen again."

4. FIREARMS WILL NOT BE HANDLED, FOR ANY REASON, WHEN THE FIRING LINE IS MADE SAFE OR A CEASE FIRE IS CALLED.

You may not step in front of any part of the firing line for your range while anyone on the line is handling a firearm! You may not handle a firearm, loaded or unloaded, when someone is downrange, which means anywhere in front of the entire firing line on your range! The firing line extends across the entire width of each range, Rifle and each separate pistol ranges. Anyone may call a Cease Fire at any time if they have spotted an unsafe condition. An unsafe condition especially includes anyone being downrange (in front of the firing line) during live fire for any reason. To ensure that firearms on the line are in a safe condition when the line is cleared for downrange access, an empty chamber indicator should be inserted. A supply of empty chamber flags will be provided in the sign-in shed, or you may supply your own.

5. DO NOT RAISE THE MUZZLE OF A LOADED FIREARM ABOVE THE TARGET LINE!

This also applies when you are loading or unloading the firearm. One bullet over a backstop can bring about the end of our club, or worse, a human life!

When bringing any firearm to the firing line, the firearm will be unloaded. If the firearm is not contained, the action will be open, and the

muzzle will be pointed vertically upward. Muzzle- loading shooters will not cap the nipple or charge the pan unless on the firing line, and the muzzle will be pointed at the target when capping or charging. When using the clay bird throwers, shooters will direct their shots safely downrange from the line of clay throwers.

6. FIREARMS WHOSE ZERO IS NOT KNOWN:

All rifles whose zero is not known will first be zeroed in and function tested on the rifle range from the 75 yard line, at a target placed on one of the 100 yard line target stands.

All pistols whose zero is not known will first be zeroed in and function tested on the short pistol range, using the closest bullet trap. This includes firearms newly purchased, borrowed, repaired, dropped or that have had new sights installed; in short, any firearm of which you are not positively sure of the zero. This zeroing procedure must be conducted before the firearm is used at a greater distance.

RANGE PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

1. YOU MUST DISPLAY, VISIBLY ON YOUR PERSON, A CURRENT MEMBER ID CARD WHEN ON WEST BRANCH PROPERTY. You may not at any time loan or give your Member ID or our lock combinations to anyone! Misuse of your Member ID card or our lock combinations will result in immediate termination of membership! Anyone who asks you for the lock combination is probably not a member in good standing. Do not give the combination to anyone! Do not let anyone follow you through the gate unless you know they are properly identified. Officers and Program Directors will display a valid Member ID and/or an official West Branch Badge.

2. LOGIN IS REQUIRED OF EVERY MEMBER AND GUEST IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL.

To log in, enter your last name and first initial, and date and time of arrival and departure, in the log book in the sign-in shed at the range. List guests by name and relationship. Each guest must

sign a Release From Liability. In the case of a minor, the minor's name must be entered in the space provided, and the parent or guardian will fill out and sign the form.

We will provide a supply of Release forms in the sign-in shed. The member escorting the guest must deposit any signed Release From Liability in the box provided in the sign-in shed. Any unusual occurrences may also be noted in the log books. However, trespasses, violations of range rules as described in Item 3 under "General Safety Rules" above, or under "Strictly Prohibited Behaviors" below, should also be reported immediately to the Executive Board.

3. GUESTS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOST MEMBER.

a. Guests must be accompanied at all times by the host member. Juniors (family members and guests under 18) must be accompanied and supervised by adult members while on range property. When you bring a guest, you assume financial liability for their actions, as well as responsibility for their conduct at West Branch. It is your duty to inform them of the club Rules and Regulations. If the guest is an inexperienced shooter, you are required to closely supervise them on the firing line.

b. First year members may not bring guests other than immediate family, defined as: spouse, children or grandchildren, parents, and siblings. There is no restriction on number of visits by immediate family. Each family member needs to sign only one Release From Liability per year.

c. Members are expected not to bring guests other than family so frequently that it becomes freeloading. Two or three visits a year are a

reasonable number. Guests other than family will sign a Release From Liability for each visit.

d. Former members who were expelled for violation of range rules or by other decision of the Executive Board may not be brought in as guests.

4. THE RANGE OPENS AT 9:00 AM AND CLOSSES AT 7:00 PM (OR SUNSET), WHICHEVER COMES FIRST, ALL DAYS EXCEPT SUNDAYS (WHEN NO SHOOTING MAY OCCUR BEFORE NOON), WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS.

a. Easter and Christmas. (Both ranges are closed, all day.)

b. Work Parties. (All ranges are closed for the duration of the Work Party.)

c. Range Maintenance. (This includes grass cutting or other necessary improvements or repairs. Only one of the two ranges will be closed at a time.)

d. Scheduled matches or other events. Event and Match Directors, and participants, may arrive before 9:00 AM for setup and preparation, but may not shoot before 9:00 AM (or 12:00 Noon on Sundays). The Rifle or one or both Pistol ranges, or all three, will be closed for the duration of the event. (Please keep the calendar handy, so you know when these are scheduled!)

e. Annual Spring Orientation. (ALL ranges are closed for the duration of the Orientation.) f. Anyone shooting up until a specified closing time is expected to begin packing up and

preparing to leave immediately at closing time, and to leave the range as soon as possible.

5. SHARING IS EXPECTED.

If facilities are crowded, give the other members a chance; for example, by using only one firing point and taking turns with your guests, rather

than occupying more than one point, and making efficient use of your time on the line.

6. TRASH REMOVAL IS REQUIRED.

a. Only burnable items should be placed in the burn barrels. Spent shot shells, other plastic or Styrofoam items, aluminum cans, and food or food-related items such as banana peels, are examples of non-burnable materials.

b. If ignited, the fire must be supervised while burning.

c. Spent cartridge cases or shot shells which the shooter does not want may be left in the provided buckets in the sign-in shed or on the firing lines for other members to reuse or to be recycled. This includes spent .22 cartridges, which should be picked up and placed in these buckets. The spent cartridge buckets are not for the purpose of trash disposal, burnable or otherwise!

d. All other non-burnable trash must be taken with you. We have no facilities to dispose of any non-burnable trash!

e. Smoking is permitted, though cigarette butts must be placed in containers provided for that purpose, not left to litter the grounds.

7. USE THE ROADS AND DRIVE SLOWLY (10 MPH).

Parking on the grass is allowed in designated areas. Use common sense, especially when grounds are wet, to avoid creating ruts or holes.

8. ABSOLUTELY NO CAMPING, HUNTING OR FISHING IS ALLOWED! Animals of any kind are not targets!

STRICTLY PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR – VIOLATION

CAN RESULT IN TERMINATION OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

1. USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IS PROHIBITED ON THE ENTIRE RANGE AT ALL TIMES. This also includes ANY MEDICATION that would impair your judgment or physical coordination.

2. FIREARMS IN ANY WAY CAPABLE OF FULLY AUTOMATIC OPERATION ARE PROHIBITED. THIS INCLUDES BUMP FIRING OR THE USE OF FORCED RESET, BINARY, OR ECHO TRIGGERS.

3. THE .50 BMG AND LARGER CALIBER CENTERFIRE RIFLE CARTRIDGES ARE PROHIBITED.

4. CARELESS SHOOTING IS PROHIBITED.

Safe, proficient, and accurate firing must be practiced at all times. A positive sight picture of the target must be maintained. When function firing, or when specifically practicing for, or participating in, the rapid fire stage of a match, no more than ten rounds may be fired at one time unless specified and monitored by the Match Director. Careless shooting may be further defined at the discretion of Board Members, Match Directors, and Range Safety Officers at all times.

5. PERMITTED FIREARMS, AMMO, AND TARGETS:

Our first priority is to ensure that all firearms, ammunition, and targets are safe for use on our range. If you are not sure whether a firearm, round or target is safe, as defined by the guidelines in this Section, do not use it!

Request that a Club Officer or Director make an objective determination regarding its use. Match Directors have final discretion over types of firearms and ammunition allowed during a match.

a. RIFLE RANGE: The Rifle Range consists of currently the 100 yard range.

i. Rifle Range: All otherwise permitted firearm types are allowed.

Targets may be placed ONLY at the 100 yard target line so that bullets which miss or pass through the targets do not bounce off the ground in such a way that they could pass over the berm. NOTE: special targets such as hanging steel plates may be used during Club Matches, but these targets MUST be placed as close to the berm as practicable, to prevent misses or pass-throughs from bouncing off the ground and over the berm.

All live fire must take place from the 100-yard firing line, except during scheduled Club Matches, or when all shooters present agree to shoot from a closer common firing line or to allow a shooter to zero from the 75 yard line. No substitute target supports, spinners, or silhouettes of any kind may be used.

You may use your own paper targets and backers on the provided target frames, if hung so as to cause no incidental damage to the frames.

Shoot only at targets directly in front of you — do NOT shoot diagonally across the range!

ii. Shotgun Range: Only a shotgun loaded with shot shells may be fired, and only down range from the club clay pigeon throwers, at clay pigeons launched from a proper launching device.

iii. Field Target Lanes (to be installed at a future date): Only precharged pneumatic, piston/ spring, CO2, and multi/single stroke pneumatic air guns with a muzzle energy no greater than 20 ft-lbs, may be used on the Field Target Lanes. Ammunition is restricted to lead pellets only (no BB"s) of .177, .20 or .22 caliber. Your own Field Targets specifically designed for use by allowed air guns, or spinners, may be used.

b. PISTOL RANGE(S): The current pistol range will be divided with HESCO barriers into a Short and a Long pistol range at a future date. The following rules apply to BOTH pistol ranges.

i. Pistols and revolvers, including black powder firearms, .22 rimfire rifles (including rifles fitted with .22 caliber conversion kits), shotguns, pistol caliber carbines, and Cowboy Action pistol caliber firearms are allowed, subject to further restrictions and definitions **in subsection b.iii below.**

ii. All ammunition fired on the Pistol Ranges must be a pistol caliber round, meaning that there must exist a handgun specifically chambered

for its use **except that rifle rounds may be used in Club Matches under the direct supervision of the Match Officials. Other than in Club Match use, the following restrictions apply:**

1. Ammunition must have a muzzle velocity no greater than 2,400 fps.
2. Any ammunition, regardless of caliber or velocity, which is capable of damaging the steel backstops and frames or any other equipment on either of the Ranges is prohibited.
3. The following cartridges are specifically prohibited on the Pistol Ranges in any type of firearm: .17 HMR, .30-30, .223, 5.56x45, .300 Blackout.

iii. Pistol caliber carbines, cowboy action firearms, shotguns using lead slug loads – not copper - or shot shells, may be fired at targets set as provided below in subsection b.v.

iv. Only otherwise allowed firearms, and .22 rimfire rifles may be fired at bowling pins on the Bowling Pin table, and the Bowling Pin silhouettes. To avoid possible ricochet hazard, only lead ammo, not jacketed or semi-jacketed ammo, may be fired at the Bowling Pin falling plate silhouettes. Be especially careful to use full eye protection at all times during live fire in this area. **NOTE: Use of the Bowling Pin falling plate silhouettes and the Dueling Tree is prohibited until further notice.**

v. You may use your own targets and backers on the Pistol Ranges, if hung so as to cause no incidental damage to the frames.

Targets on the Pistol Ranges may be placed ONLY in the following locations:

- a. On the bowling pin table;**
- b. On one of the bullet traps; and**
- c. As close to the berm as practicable, to prevent misses or pass-throughs from bouncing off the ground and over the berm.**

c. ALL RANGES

- i. Bouncing targets, meaning any moving targets not secured to the ground, are prohibited on all ranges.
- ii. Tracers, other types of incendiary rounds, and **steel core or** armor piercing rounds are forbidden on all ranges.

6. WEST BRANCH IS A "COLD RANGE". This means that concealed or open carry of loaded firearms, outside of a vehicle, is prohibited.

This prohibition includes law enforcement officers not on official business and those carrying under Constitutional Carry or CHL. This prohibition does not include anyone openly carrying a loaded firearm while participating in a Scheduled match, with Match Directors present. Anyone carrying a loaded firearm to the range for personal defense will leave the firearm locked in their vehicle.

7. RANGE EQUIPMENT WILL BE USED CORRECTLY AND JUDICIOUSLY. Restitution for damaged property will be sought for proven violation of this rule!

a. Incorrect usage includes deliberately firing at any part of a target frame or support itself, including wind flags. Targets must be hung inside the frames or supports, not on them in such a way that a round will impact the frame or support. Shooting at any structure or object not obviously designated as a target area is prohibited.

b. Bottles, cans, or any other objects which would create hazardous debris will not be used as targets. You may not at any time fire at aerial targets, with the exception of clay pigeons, as noted above under Section 5.a.ii.

c. Members may not independently alter, remove, or destroy any part of this property, including vegetation, wildlife, and club facilities and equipment. Suggestions for improvement may be made to the Board of Directors, and will be acted upon as deemed appropriate.

West Branch Range Rules & Regulations 2024/09/25