

St. John's Rod and Gun Club

Trap and Sporting Clays Range Operating Procedures



1. Before shooting begins, the Shoot Coordinator and or Range Safety Officer (RSO) must verify that all shooters are aware of and understand the Range Operating Instructions and Range Safety Instructions.
2. The Shoot Coordinator and or RSO may ask for shooting to cease if he/she identifies a safety concern.
3. The Shoot Coordinator and or RSO has the right to not permit an individual to participate if it is felt that the individual in question is not safe or has violated any of the range safety rules.
4. Shotguns for use on Ranges D, E, and G must have a barrel length greater than 21 inches (measured from head of the block to the end of the barrel). Exceptions to this rule are firearms being used for training purposes when shooters are under the direct supervision of an instructor or licensed club member.
5. RSOs, squad leaders and Shoot Coordinators have the right to restrict the use of firearms that they deem to be in an unsafe condition for use on Ranges D, E, and G.

Clay Target Range General Safety Rules

1. Before any live firing may be done on any range, the RANGE IN USE / NOT IN USE sign on the entrance road must be in the IN USE position.
2. The Red Range Active flag located adjacent to the clubhouse must be flown while the Trap and or Sporting Clays ranges are in use.
3. While not in use, shotguns must be cased or stored in gun racks unloaded and actions open (if possible) with muzzles pointing skywards.
4. Shotguns must be pointed downrange at all times while on the firing line. Downrange shall be considered to be the same direction as the flight of the target.
5. When walking with a firearm during a shoot all shotguns must be unloaded, actions open and pointed in a safe direction. A safe direction shall be considered either pointed up (skyward) or down at the ground – At NO time shall the muzzle of a firearm be allowed to point at any person.
6. Firearms can be cased and uncased in the clubhouse or on the club grounds as long as the firearm is unloaded and action is open. Firearms once uncased and assembled must be placed unloaded in a gun rack.
7. The Squad Leader will serve as Range Safety Officer (RSO) for the duration of the round.
8. The Scorer and Referee shall also serve as the secondary RSOs and ensure that all shooters and spectators observe all range safety rules.

9. The RSO must verify that all shooters, scorers and the target setter are ready to begin.
10. Maximum gauge permitted: 10 gauge.
11. Maximum size shot: 7 1/2.
12. Hearing and eye protection are mandatory for all shooters, target setters, range staff and spectators close to an active range.
13. Range users are to pick up all spent hulls and place all garbage in the appropriate containers. If containers are full then replace garbage bags and place full bags in the metal container beside Range B.

Trap Range Rules (only applies to Range D)

1. When more than one trap field is active, each field shall have their own RSO or shoot coordinator.
2. Each trap house must be equipped with an orange no shooting flag.
3. Do not approach the trap field's firing line with a firearm while the orange no shooting flag is visible above the trap.
4. It is the responsibility of the RSO or squad leader to ensure firearms are unloaded and the trap field is under CEASEFIRE before allowing anyone to go forward of the firing line for purposes of adjusting electronic launchers and/or loading clay targets. At no time is it permissible to go beyond the traphouse while an adjacent trap field is active.
5. When changing stations, firearms must be unloaded and pointed in a safe direction. Shooters are required to walk behind the active firing line when doing so. A safe direction shall be considered either pointed up (skyward) or down at the ground – At NO time shall the muzzle of a firearm be allowed to point at any person.

Sporting Clays Range Rules (applies to Ranges E and G)

1. When the Sporting Clay stations located on the Sporting Clays Trail-Range E are in use, the smaller Red Range Active flag adjacent to the entrance of the trail must also be flown.
2. When the Sporting Clay stations located on the Sporting Clays Trail-Range G are in use, the smaller Red Range Active flag at G3 opposite Range C must also be flown.
3. When shooting Sporting Clays each group shooting at a particular station shall have a separate RSO who is typically the squad leader.

4. It is the responsibility of the RSO to set the course of fire and verify that all target flights comply with the range operation instructions.
5. The RSO or Shoot Coordinator must ensure that all target setters understand the proper use of the clay target throwers.
6. The electronic throwers are only to be adjusted, maintained and loaded with targets by members trained in their use.
7. The firing line is to be considered to be a line that crosses directly in front of the shooter from the two vertical posts of the Shooting Stall. All shooting must take place with the barrel of the firearm projecting out beyond the upright posts of the shooting stall. Firearms that will not project out between the upright posts are not allowed except under special circumstances (see #4 at beginning of these regulations).
8. Under most circumstances, shots must not be fired from any other position other than the Shooting Stall. The only exception to this is when the course of fire is a "Walking Shoot and Reload" station where the shooter walks downrange while targets are released. This type of station is only to be fired from one of the trap fields operated with an automatic target thrower.
9. When changing stations, firearms must be unloaded and pointed in a safe direction. A safe direction shall be considered either pointed up (skyward) or down at the ground – At NO time shall the muzzle of a firearm be allowed to point at any person. Shooters are required to walk behind the active firing line when changing stations.
10. It is the responsibility of the RSO or squad leader to ensure firearms are unloaded and adjacent stations are under CEASEFIRE before allowing anyone to go forward of the firing line for purposes of adjusting electronic launchers and/or loading clay targets.