

CLUB RULES

Formally known as Range Rules



The following pages contain rules that were established by the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club, Inc.'s "Range Safety Committee". Its purpose is to enhance the safety and health of NRA Range Safety Officers (RSO), Range Officer(s), those individuals using our ranges, the general public, and our environment.

These rules have been reviewed, and approved, by the Board of Directors (BOD) and failure to adhere to these rules could result in jeopardizing your membership privileges here at the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club, Inc. The HRG Safety Committee and BOD to ensure they remain current with local, state,

and federal guidelines will review these rules each January of each year.

Always Comply with all Local, State and Federal Firearms Laws.

Shooting is inherently dangerous. As such, Club members and their guests engaging in normal shooting activities on Club ranges agree to hold Hamilton Rod & Gun Club harmless for any injury or death resulting from the inherent risks of the shooting activity.

The uses of these Club Ranges are a privilege of membership, and are extended to those members in good standing. Any activity detrimental to the club or club membership could cause your membership to be revoked.

General Safety Rules

1. Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction.
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shot.
3. Always keep the firearm unloaded until ready to use.
4. Be sure the firearm is safe to operate.
5. Know how to use the firearm safely.
6. Use only the correct ammunition for the firearm.
7. Know your target and what is beyond.
8. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
9. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.

10. Store firearms so that they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
11. Be aware that certain types of firearms and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.
12. NEVER mix alcohol and shooting.

General Club Rules

1. Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs may not use the range.
2. No alcohol is permitted on the range, or in a range house. This includes members, guests, and/or companions. The Club Pavilion is considered a RANGE during indoors archery events including practice shooting; therefore, alcohol must be locked and secured and NOT consumed until all shooting is ended.
3. When posted "The Range is Closed", it is closed - No Exceptions. Every effort will be made to announce dates the range will be closed as early as possible.
4. No vehicles of any kind are allowed on the ranges.
5. No person or vehicle is allowed on the berms or backstop, as this will create unnecessary maintenance problems.
6. All range users must sign in and out using the "Range Log" sheet.
7. Guest are always welcome on our ranges providing they adhere to the rules of HRG and fall within the following:
 - For the purpose of competing in a club sponsored event where the public is invited.
 - Accompanied by a member for the purpose of observing.
 - Accompanied by a member for the purpose of shooting when considering membership. This will be allowed only twice per year for any Life, Family or Adult membership.
 - Family members and relatives visiting from out of state when accompanied by a member.
8. All members and guest using our ranges must have valid FID cards, LTC Class A or B, or be directly supervised by a member holding valid credentials recognized by the Safety Committee and BOD. An exception is use of black powder fire arm.
9. Fully automatic firearms, firearms equipped with tri-burst capability, and/or the use of cranldre-bound (crank or BMF Activator in style) spring type trigger attachments or similar, ARE NOT ALLOWED - NO EXCEPTIONS.
10. Only conventional calibers are allowed, (i.e., No .50 caliber military BMG or similar). All black powder calibers are allowed.
11. No steel core, armor piercing, tracer, or ammunition considered to be incendiary or explosive are allowed on any range.
12. Firearms may be discharged on the range only, and only at targets in front of designated backstops, (not in front of posts or rails that are located on the range, and whose purpose is to support targets above the ground). In the case of Trap these targets may be either in the air or on the ground, but only in designated areas or fields.

13. All shooters must be directly visible from the firing line.
14. No shooting may commence until:
 - A. The shooter announces his/her intent to shoot by asking if the firing line is ready.
 - B. The shooter visually verifies that all persons on or at the range are wearing hearing and eye protection; this includes spectators.
 - C. The shooter determines that no one is down range or in harm's way.
15. No one may go down range until:
 - A. Announce "Cease Fire" - make your firearms safe and clear.
 - B. All actions open and magazines removed.
 - C. Rifles shall have either: "open bolt indicators", their bolts removed, or others means to assure they are unloaded and safe.
16. No handling of firearms while anyone is down range and/or forward of the firing line.
17. No barrels or propane tanks are to be used as targets. Cans and plastic bottles may be used during club events or by permission of the appropriate Committee Chairman.
18. Aimed/Sighted fire ONLY. No "Hip" shooting, "Bump" firing, or other similar reckless firing activity.
19. Target debris must be removed by the shooter.
20. Shooters are responsible for picking up their spent brass and shotgun hulls and/or defective rounds.
21. Keys made available to members for the purpose of gaining entry to range(s) are not to be copied.
22. NO Firearms (handguns) are to be exposed in any area (BAR) where liquor is sold or consumed on Hamilton Rod & Gun Club property. If you are carrying a hand gun keep it concealed. The Club/Bartender will not take your firearm under any circumstance; you will be asked to leave and to secure it elsewhere. All other long guns are NOT allowed in any BAR area unless you have prior approval from the bar chairman/manager. As always it will be unloaded and secured and cased.
23. Campground area - campground is to close and all campers' equipment will be removed by the first (1st) weekend after Labor Day. This is for safety reasons, since the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club (UBC) season starts September 15th of each year.
24. Questions and comments will be directed to the Activity Chairman, Range Safety Committee and/or the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc. Board of Directors (BOD) in person or by mail, c/o the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Inc., P.O. Box 954, Sturbridge, MA 01566.

PLEASE KEEP OUR RANGES CLEAN. PICK UP YOUR BRASS AND TRASH. REMEMBER YOU ARE THE "UNOFFICIAL" SAFETY OFFICER WHILE ON THE RANGE.

ANY MEMBER IS EMPOWERED TO REQUEST ANOTHER PERSON ON GROUNDS TO PRODUCE THEIR MEMBERSHIP CARD.

REPORT ANY RECKLESS OR UNSAFE ISSUES TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON OR CLUB OFFICER. PROVIDE NAME, DATE, TIME AND VEHICLE PLATE NUMBER.

Archery

(Range Specifics)

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW AND BE FAMILIAR WITH AND HAVE A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE HRG CLUB GENERAL SAFETY RULES AND GENERAL RANGE RULES AS POSTED ON THIS RANGE.

1. Someone will be designated as the Archery Safety Officer during shooting.
2. Bows and arrows must not be drawn unless they are pointed toward the target butt.
3. An individual should stand in front of the target butts whenever another archer is behind the butts for any purpose.
4. Children and any spectators, regardless of age, must remain behind the farthest shooting line from the target butts.
5. Safety is Everyone's Business: Shooters with unsafe equipment, unsafe shooting practices, or who have been drinking will not be allowed to shoot.

Rifle

(Range Specifics)

All individuals using the rifle range, even as a guest, must enter their name(s) and any other information being recorded on the rifle sign in log.

1. Open Bolt indicators (OBI's) or others means to assure all firearms are safe are required for all firearms whenever anyone is down range.
 - A. The rifle shooting area is marked with a red safety line. All shooters must ensure that firearms out of cases, or placed on any shooting bench, or in a gun rack, must have the OBI inserted and visible.
 - B. All shooters, scorers, observers or other persons on the concrete shooting platform **must remain back** and away from the firearms placed on shooting benches whenever anyone is down range and/or forward of the shooting line.
 - C. Shooters will **remain back** until the firing lines is announced 'HOT'.
 - D. Please help to ensure a safe range at all times.
2. Target holder frames provided by the club or duplicates provided by members are the only authorized target frames allowed. These target frames must be inserted in the target frame holder located behind each steel rail in the front of each impact berm.
3. Approved targets:
 - A. HRG provided targets.
 - B. Paper/Cardboard Targets.
 - C. Common free standing steel targets for pistols and/or rifles - Steel targets to be placed in front of the berm(s) and a minimum of 50 yards from the intended firing line.

- D. Cans and/or plastic targets (shapes, bottles, etc.) can be used on a case-by-case basis per approval of the Rifle Chairman.
4. The firing line positions to the left are for shooting at 25 through 100-meter distance only. This ensures all firing is parallel to the range for safety reasons.
 5. No targets are to be placed to the right or left of the safety berms such that a fired round does not safely impact a subsequent berm behind the target.
 6. The steel rails installed at various distances on the range are for silhouette shooters using lower velocity, non-jacketed cast bullets and .22 caliber ammunition.
 7. Shooting down range from the firing line is allowed. Any shooter shooting from a downrange position must surrender their position when requested to do so by anyone wishing to shoot from the firing line. NO TACTICAL style shooting is allowed at any time unless it is a sanctioned event by HRG.

Tactical shooting is defined as:

- Precision shooting under improvised field positions.
 - Precision shooting at unknown distances.
 - Precision shooting under induced stress conditions, such as mild exertion, timed events (especially those requiring movement into position), fire on command and similar techniques.
 - Shooting steep departure angles from buildings, towers and rugged terrain.
 - Engaging moving targets.
 - Rifle manipulation drills, to include rapid reloading and /or magazine changes.
8. SHOTGUNS WITH SLUGS/SABOT AMMUNITION are allowed. Shooters are required to provide their own target frames and paper targets when using these weapons.
 9. You may use a shotgun with pellets for sighting or practice for any reason as long as you follow Rule 8 above.
 10. No walking over, climbing on or digging in the berms.
 11. No placing of targets on top of or directly on the berms.
 12. Homemade targets are to be kept low and in front of the berms.
 - A. Exploding targets are prohibited unless authorized for specific events and approved by the chairman and committee.
 13. No shooter may park their vehicle on the range grass area; without prior approval of Chairperson. Non-street-legal vehicles are prohibited at the range.
 14. The range may be closed because of soil and weather conditions.

Trap

(Range Specifics)

1. All firearms must remain unloaded until the "scorer" or Range Officer determines the squad is ready. "Loaded" is considered as putting a live round in the chamber or magazine.
2. Shooters while not on a shooting station will carry the firearm with the breech open and unloaded. Pumps and semi-automatics will have the bolt open and unloaded.
3. Test shots will not be permitted without the permission of the "scorer" or Range Officer.
4. Shooters must stand with both feet within the boundaries of the designated shooting station.
5. All non-shooters and spectators must remain behind the firing line during the course of fire.
6. Instructors must notify the "scorer" or Range Officer if they will be assisting and/or instructing during the course of fire.
7. All shooters on a squad must have their own shotgun - no sharing or passing around of shotguns is allowed.
8. Only one shell at a time will be loaded, two shells may be loaded when shooting a doubles course.
9. A shooter must not interfere with preceding or following shooters by raising their shotgun or otherwise creating a distraction.
10. Only shotguns of 12 gauge or less is allowed.
11. High brass and magnum loads are prohibited and only trap loads up to 3 drams equivalent may be used.
12. Only #7 ½, #8, or #9 shot are allowed.
13. Any discrepancy in scoring of a lost bird will be decided by the squad as a whole.
14. In the event of a malfunctioning firearm the remaining squad members shall make their firearms safe while the shooter clears the malfunction.
15. No shooters are allowed on the firing line during re-supply of the trap equipment. A "Red" cone atop the trap house will be displayed.
16. Each shooter is responsible to ensure his hulls do not remain at the shooting station at the end of each round.
17. The straw covered targets at the north end of the trap range are not to be used for any firearms shooting. This is for ARCHERY ONLY.

Pistol

(Range Specifics)

1. Entry into the range house is through the locked front door leading into the "Quiet Room". Keys for this door may be purchased from the Welcoming Committee Chairman at the monthly New Member Orientation Meeting, with proof of membership and a valid license to carry (LTC) in the State of residence, NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. The Pistol Range is open to all ELIGIBLE members for practice and the sighting in of firearms except when the following is in effect;

- A. Club sanctioned shooting event is scheduled.
 - B. The Club pistol team shoots or a practice has been scheduled.
 - C. A Club Sanctioned Firearms training class.
 - D. Any Club planned activity listed on the Club web site or posted in the range window by the Pistol Chairman that affects the range.
3. Shooting down range from the firing line is allowed. Anyone shooting from a down range position must surrender their position when requested to do so by anyone wishing to shoot from the firing line.
- Tactical style shooting is allowed when shooting from a downrange position only. Targets must be located forward of the 50-foot target stands.
 - When shooting from a down range position the range access door MUST be left open/ajar to illuminate the RED shooting lights and alert newcomers that someone is down range.
4. When shooting from inside at the firing line, the access door leading to the outside range MUST be closed.
- A. When going down range to change targets, etc. this door WILL remain open. This illuminates the RED lights over the shooting positions to indicate the range is NOT safe.
 - B. ALL firearms must be open and unloaded. No one should cross the RED Shooting Line or handle firearms for any reason until the door is closed and the lights turned off.
 - C. Before the door is closed and live firing resumes, a final check of the range should be done to ensure no one is outside.
5. Please place "Dud" cartridges (rounds that fail to fire/load) in the RED Dud Box located inside the Pistol House. Please sort your empty cases into the appropriate containers in the pistol house.
6. The following firearms are allowed on the pistol range for general shooting and practice.
- A. All legal handguns.
 - B. All black powder hand guns.
 - C. All air rifles and air pistols.
 - D. Small Bore rim fire rifles .22 caliber only.
 - E. Pistol-caliber carbines/rifles in 9x19, .38Spl/ .357 Mag, .40 S&W, 44 Mag, .45 ACP, and .45 Colt.
7. Deliberate discharge of firearm inside the Range House is PROHIBITED, unless pointed down range at approved target.
8. Approved Targets: PLEASE CLEAN UP YOUR TARGET DEBRIS BEFORE LEAVING.
- HRGC provided targets.
 - Paper/Cardboard targets.
 - Common free standing steel targets for pistols and/or rifles, steel targets are to be placed a minimum of 50 feet from the intended firing line.
 - Clay targets, Cans and/or plastic targets (shapes, bottles, etc.) can be used on a case-by-case basis per approval of the Pistol Chairman.

9. Do not fire at any targets positioned directly over the steel target frames as this damages the frames and can cause ricochets.
10. If you have any questions or concerns about the Pistol Range, contact the Pistol Chairman directly.

NOTE: ANYONE who does not have a license to carry (LTC) must be under the direct supervision of a person with a valid LTC. This supervisor will NOT be engaged in any shooting activity during that period. (NO EXCEPTIONS)

CAMPING & PICNIC AREA

1. Campground is to close and all campers' equipment will be removed by September 30.
2. Campsites being reserved for the entire season must be reserved and paid for by February 1st.
3. All non-reserved sites are rented on a first come - first served basis.
4. If all sites are full a 14 day in/14 day out limit will apply, first to the rented sites and then the reserved sites if necessary.
5. Seldom used sites should be surrendered to allow a more frequent camper the use of the site.
6. All sites must be kept clean, including keeping the grass on the site and surrounding area trimmed. Be careful not to store unnecessary items on your site.
7. One vehicle per site is allowed. All other vehicles should park in the lot near the Fish Shack.
8. For your convenience, portable toilets may be available in the Camping & Picnic area and your Fish Gate key will unlock the door of the Clubhouse to access the restrooms. There are no facilities for dumping camper waste.
9. Guests are not permitted to bring a camper or tent into the Camping & Picnic area; a guest is anyone who is not a member of the Club.
10. Guests should leave the Club grounds by 'quiet time' which is 10:00 PM.
11. Guests are welcome to one overnight stay; frequent guests may be required to join the Club.
12. The rules for boats and fishing are outlined in the Fishing section of this document.
13. Swimming is allowed in the beach area only: No swimming after dusk.
14. Children under the age of 15 must be supervised at all times.
15. Garbage and trash may be dumped in the dumpster(s)
16. located in the Main parking lot. Do not bring trash from home; the dumpsters are for Club use only.
17. Trees & brush may not be cut without permission of Campground & Picnic Chairmen.
18. Trees may not be damaged or defaced with nails or any other objects. There is plenty of dead wood around the grounds that is appropriate for fireplaces.
19. Wood, picnic tables, fireplace materials, and other items on other campsites are not yours for the taking.

20. All dogs must be leashed within the Camping & Picnic area. They may be off leash at the Fish Shack and beyond.
21. Riding off road motorcycles, tractors, go-carts, or ATV's are not permitted in the Camping & Picnic area.
22. Bicycles may be ridden in the Camping & Picnic area. Be careful not to intrude onto or between other persons' campsites.
23. The discharge of any type of firearm, air rifle, bow, etc. is not permitted in the Camping & Picnic area during the camping season.
24. All campfires must be kept within a fireplace and under control at all times. Fireplaces must be located toward the front of the campsite away from trees and the woods. Campfires cannot be left unattended; you must douse them before leaving the campsite.
25. Bonfires are not permitted within the Camping & Picnic area.
26. The speed limit for the road to the Fish Shack is 10 mph and 5 mph in the Camping & Picnic area. You must stop at the stop sign before entering the camping area.
27. Generators are not allowed in the Camping & Picnic area. Any use is to be cleared by the Camping & Picnic Chairman only. Excessive and unnecessary noise will not be tolerated.
28. The Camping & Picnic Chairman and Camping Committee are responsible for settling day to day disputes. Violation of Camping Rules, other Range rules or Club Bylaws may lead to immediate expulsion from premises as determined by the Camping Chairman. This may lead to the membership forfeiture as determined by Board of Directors. Copies of all written violations will be provided the Board of Directors.
29. Hamilton Rod and Gun Club is not responsible for any missing or lost items.

Fishing

1. Canoes and rowboats are allowed (at appropriate times) on all ponds. MOTORS are NEVER allowed.
2. Canoes and rowboats must be launched from the Fish Shack Road onto the first pond, or carried from the parking area. Motor vehicles are not allowed on the grass behind the pavilion.
3. Canoes and rowboats may not be docked overnight on the first pond.
4. Canoes, boats, and floatation devices are not allowed on any pond for a period of two weeks after a stocking of said pond. The First Pond is under rules of FLY-FISHING from ice-out to the KIDS' FISHING DERBY (in June).
5. No fishing is allowed between signs near the dam of the Third (Marcy) Pond.
6. Only one rod is allowed from ice-out until the first of June. Massachusetts fishing laws apply the balance of the year.
7. Restrictions on the use of any pond may be implemented as deemed necessary by the Fish Committee. No Ice Fishing on First Pond in January and February due to potential Ice Races.
8. LIMITS:
 - Trout - 3 per day, 12 per week.

- Bass - All largemouth bass caught must be released. Exception: Trophy size bass (5lbs. and up) may be kept at the cost of \$6 per pound. NOTE: The purpose of this exception is to allow a person to keep and have mounted a trophy fish while reimbursing the club for its replacement cost.
9. Fishing is for MEMBERS ONLY, except during derbies which are open to the public. Guests and visitors may fish according to the following rules:
- GUEST PASSES may be purchased to fish all ponds (subject to the above rules and regulations). The guest must be sponsored and accompanied by a member. The cost is \$10 per day or \$15 for a two-day pass.
 - VISITOR'S PASSES may be purchased (except from ice-out to the KIDS' FISHING DERBY) to fish the First (Clubhouse) Pond only. All club rules must be observed. The cost is \$10 per day.

First Pond Fishing

1. Barbless hooks must be used at all times
2. Trout are catch & release only year-round, except during fishing derby where all trout must be kept.
3. For all other ponds and bag limits, the Fishing rules apply.

Fly Fishing Club

1. The Fly Fishing Club rules apply to the First Pond Only.
2. You must be a member of the Fly Fishing Club to fish the First Pond during the Fly Fishing Season, from ice-out until Father's Day.
3. You must have a current Fly Fishing Club Membership Card with you when fishing during the Fly Fishing Season.
4. You do not need to be a member of Hamilton Rod & Gun Club to join the Fly Fishing Club. If you are not a member of Hamilton Rod & Gun you are not allowed to fish any other pond or fish outside of the Fly Fishing Season.

Upland Bird Club (UBC)

The Upland Bird Club (UBC) is a committee of the Hamilton Rod and Gun and operates a Class B Commercial Shooting Preserve under Chapter 131 of the CMR/ Divisions of Fisheries and Wildlife and as such is governed by MA state laws. The following rules have also been adopted by the UBC Committee:

General Range Rules as outlined in the HRG Club rules of operation always apply. Please consult the UBC rules for more detailed description of regulations and costs for all UBC activities.

1. Membership to UBC is limited to 40 members. Membership is open only to HRG Members in good standing. All UBC membership dues must be paid in full prior to participating in UBC activities.
2. All hunters and guests must wear an approved Hunter Orange Hat or Cap while hunting.

3. The Hunting Preserve season runs from September 15th to through March 31st. Hours of Operation are 7 AM until 4 PM (or Sunset if earlier), Monday through Saturday. Sunday hunting is allowed from 9 AM until 4 PM (or sunset if earlier).
4. No hunting during the MA shotgun (only) deer season as outlined in the Abstracts provided by the MA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.
5. All birds taken on the hunting preserve must be tagged with tags provided by Mass Fish & Wildlife.
6. At the sole discretion judgment of the UBC Committee, the Hunting Preserve may be closed from time to time to accommodate other HRG events.
 - A. All UBC members and guests must hold both a valid MA Hunting license and either a F.I.D. card or L.T.C. and must be able / willing to produce such licenses whenever in the field hunting.
 - B. Minors, 12 to 14 years of age: No FID or LTC is needed as long as accompanied by a duly licensed adult and provided that only one firearm is possessed by the two. Only one minor is provided per adult.
 - C. Minors, 15 to 17 years of age: AN FID and a valid MA hunting license is required All must comply with a "Consent Letter" as described in the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Abstracts. Each must have either a Basic Hunter Education Certificate or an "Adult Accompaniment Letter" which is carried while hunting with a firearm.
7. Shotguns are to be no larger than 12 gauge and shot size restricted to #6 or smaller. Black powder shotguns and Bows and Arrows are allowed in pursuit of UBC Birds,
8. Guests must be accompanied by a UBC member at all times and a guest fee shall apply.
9. Please utilize safe gun handling, courtesy, and good sportsmanship at all times. Violations will be reviewed by the UBC Committee and subsequently presented to the HRG Board of Directors for possible action including potentially losing your membership to UBC and/or HRG.



10. Bird prices are subject to change and will be set monthly by the UBC Committee and posted on the UBC Website.