

THE PORTAGE LAKE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

April 30, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Portage Lake Sportsmen Club is a private club organized, maintained, and run by member volunteers. The club is located on 80 acres, has three ponds, a horseshoe-shaped 50-yard pistol range, a covered firing line with rifle and pistol target berms out to 400 yards, a 5-stand shotgun course, a stationary archery range, a pavilion, and clubhouse. Grills are provided at the pavilion and on the clubhouse deck. The club property is available year around from sunrise to sunset: exceptions to open range times for regular or special events are posted on the club website. Our walking archery course and trap field are currently unavailable as they wait patiently for rescue and renovation by interested members.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN MY MEMBERSHIP?

The membership year runs from May 1st through the following April 30th.

An annual or a lifetime membership includes full membership rights for one member. In addition, their spouse and minor children and/or grand-children are recognized as associate members. Full members are voting members and are encouraged to attend all regular meetings of the PLSC. **Members have the responsibility to know and follow all the club rules as published on the club website and are responsible for the actions of their Dependent Associate members.**

Each member must complete a range walk through with a qualified club representative every three years. The club secretary will issue membership credentials after payment of dues, receipt of the membership application, and completion of the range walk through.

After completing a range walk-through, full members will receive the combination to the front gate. This combination will also open the back door of the club house for access to the restroom. The gate lock will be disabled when the driveway is impassable. The clubhouse door lock will be disabled while the clubhouse is winterized.

The club facilities require constant upkeep. Every member is encouraged to lend a hand with work bees and club sponsored events. This might include grass mowing, repairing target boards, other maintenance, or helping at club-sponsored events. Members who volunteer are rewarded with reduced membership fees in the following year. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact a board member or show up at one of the scheduled work bees.

GUEST POLICY

Full members are permitted to host up to two guests at any time. You are encouraged to invite a guest with the hope that this guest would become our next new member. All guests must be accompanied by the full member at all times while on club property. ("Accompanied by" means that you must maintain visual and verbal contact.) Remember: You are responsible for your guest's actions.

Before any guest is allowed to use club facilities you must have your guest sign and submit a copy of our Waiver, Release, and Hold Harmless Agreement each time the guest visits. Copies will be available in the clubhouse near the restrooms.

Generally, after the second visit as a guest, the guest should apply for club membership.

PUBLIC EVENT POLICY

Various events are hosted by club members throughout the year. These are sometimes open to the public. Non-club members at these events may be asked to sign our Waiver, Release, and Hold Harmless Agreement based on the activity. This will be determined by the club board but, in general, will be a requirement for potentially dangerous activities such as anything firearm or archery related.

USE OF THE CLUB FACILITIES: General Property Rules

- Know and follow all club and range rules.
- Club hours are sunrise to sunset, year around. Temporary closures will be posted on the club website.
- You are responsible for yourself, your family, and your guests.
- **Abide by the new guest policy.**
- Shooters and spectators are required to wear ear and eye protection in the presence of a “hot” range.
- All shooting at the club property will take place *only on the provided shooting ranges in a manner defined by the PLSC rules.*
- Hunting and trapping on club property is prohibited except as authorized by PLSC Board approval.
- Leave the gate open while you or another member are at the range.
- The gate is to be locked when the last member leaves. Spin the dials on the lock and cover it with the bucket to protect it from the weather.
- The driveway speed limit is 15mph. Do not drive in damp or soft areas. Park only in the areas provided.
- No motor vehicles on the rifle range access road unless the ground is firm and dry.
- Pick up your trash and empty cartridge/ shell cases and deposit them in the containers provided.
 - Do not litter. Take your non-burnable trash with you. Paper, wood, and cardboard (no plastics) may be placed in the burning barrels provided. Returnable cans and bottles may be deposited in the barrel provided.
 - Pets are not allowed on active ranges. Pets must be kept under control. Pet owners should clean up after their animals.
- Close and lock the clubhouse door before you leave the property.
- **Only members and their supervised guests may use club facilities.** Exception: events open to the public.
- Refer to the PLSC Bylaws for a statement of club purpose, and specific rights, roles, and responsibilities of members.
- Any violation of PLSC rules can be considered by the Board of Directors as cause for dismissal from the Club. Legal action may also be pursued if deemed appropriate.

Portage Lake Sportsmen's Club Range Rules 2023-24 Year

ABOUT THE PLSC RANGE RULES

Our PLSC members use our archery, handgun, rifle, and shotgun ranges in a spirit of good sportsmanship and responsible stewardship.

Our range rules are provided:

- to protect your safety and the safety of others;
- to protect PLSC property;
- to protect the property rights of our neighbors;
- to limit the risk exposure to the club, its members, officers, employees, volunteers, and insurers;
- and, to preserve the club for future generations.

All members must read, understand, and agree to abide by PLSC rules. Completing the membership application and payment of dues implies your consent to the rules and your agreement to indemnify and hold harmless the Club, its Directors, volunteers, employees, and insurers for any and all injuries, damages, losses, or claims arising from participation in activities at the Club or at any Club-sponsored activity for yourself and/or immediate accompanied family.

Please know and follow these rules at all times.

Remember: You, personally, are legally responsible for any damage, on or off the range, caused by your actions.

Know and follow the NRA's Three Rules for Firearm Safety

- 1. Always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep firearms unloaded until ready to use.**

Additional specific Club/Range Rules do apply while on club property.

The following sections of your membership packet list the General Range Rules followed by the rules specific to each range (7 pages total).

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL RANGES

- Wear eye and ear protection at all times while you are on or around active (“hot”) ranges.
- The use of incendiary or tracer ammunition, any exploding target material, or any other activity that presents a fire hazard is explicitly prohibited on club property.
- *Keep all firearms cased until at the specific shooting range where they will be used.* You may not remove an *uncased* firearm from a vehicle. You may carry your *cased* firearm to or from the firing line on our ranges at any time.
- When first arriving and it appears that you are the only person at the range, you must verify that there are no persons downrange and that no other unsafe conditions are present before proceeding with your shooting activities.
- Firearms shall be pointed down range while at a shooting station. When moving to a different shooting station, firearms shall be carried unloaded with the muzzle pointing up. Break action firearms may be moved unloaded, with the action open, and the muzzle pointing down.
- During scheduled events, range safety and control will be handled by a designated Range Safety Officer (RSO) and following the published rules of the governing organization for that shooting event. (Additional rules may apply.)
- When there are no official RSO’s and two or more people are using a shooting range, all parties must work together to coordinate “Range Safe” and “Range Hot” status. If you are the only shooter present on a shooting range, it is your responsibility to conduct yourself in a safe manner.
- The Shotgun and Covered Rifle Range share a common, continuous firing line. “Safe” and “Hot” status must be coordinated simultaneously along the entire firing line.
- When a shooting range is declared “**Range Safe**”, *YOU MAY NOT TOUCH OR HANDLE ANY FIREARM* – including the act of casing or uncasing a firearm. While the range is Safe you may go forward of the firing line. You may also load or unload *detached* magazines, but *YOU MAY NOT TOUCH, LOAD OR UNLOAD ANY FIREARM*.
- When a shooting range is declared “**Range Hot**”, you may case or uncase a firearm, load or unload a firearm, and discharge a firearm at an approved target down range. *WHEN A RANGE IS HOT YOU MAY NOT CROSS THE FIRING LINE FOR ANY REASON.*
- Anyone noticing an unsafe condition must immediately and loudly declare “**Cease Fire.**” All shooters must stop shooting immediately, keep their muzzle pointed downrange, remove their finger from the trigger, and wait for further instructions. If required, completely unload, open the action, and place the firearm on the bench or rack. Wait for the unsafe condition to be resolved and the range to be declared “Range Hot” before handling or discharging firearms.
- No person shall be under the impairing influence of any drugs or alcohol when handling or using a firearm.
- If any incident occurs on a shooting range, including accidental discharge or damage to club facilities, it is required that an Officer or Board member be notified as soon as possible.

RULES FOR COVERED FIRING LINE

- Shooters on the Rifle and Shotgun ranges must collaborate on “Range Safe” or “Range Hot” status. Both ranges will be “Hot” or “Safe” simultaneously.
- All shooting must be controlled fire and all projectiles must impact the lower 1/3 of the berms.
- DO NOT shoot at target stand supports, uprights, chains, bolts, anything painted orange (for example, the target board outer frame area), or the ground between the firing line and the berm.
- Permanent target boards are provided at the 50, 100, 200, 300, and 400 yard berms. Do not shoot at distances beyond your ability. Start at 50 or 100 yds. and work out. Know/learn your projectile’s trajectory.
- Portable wooden target stands are provided for use in front of the 50 yard berm. When placing portable stands, adjust target height so that all bullets impact the lower 1/3 of the 50 yard berm.
- Steel silhouettes and gongs are provided by the PLSC. Steel targets may only be shot with solid lead or copper jacketed lead bullets. Never use solid copper, solid brass, armor piercing, or steel core ammunition on steel targets. (Some examples of prohibited ammo are 5.56/.223 M855 or 62 grain “green tip”, most Eastern European manufactured military surplus ammo, Barnes solids, etc.) Steel targets are not designed for some of the “magnum” cartridges that are commonly used for big game hunting. If your ammo/cartridges are doing damage to the targets, stop immediately.
- Approved targets you may bring/use on the PLSC range:
 - Only paper or cardboard targets placed on provided target boards are permissible. Do not shoot beverage containers, appliances, books, club structures, range props, or any other items.
 - No privately owned steel targets or gongs may be used.
 - No targets may be placed on the ground.
- Rifle rest sand bags and paper targets are available on the shelves on the east end of the covered firing line (right side when looking downrange). Please return sandbags to shelves prior to leaving the range.
- All members are responsible for policing their own brass. Take it with you or place it the white plastic barrels provided.

Instructions for Range Safety Control when a Range Safety Officer (RSO) is Not Present

If you are the only shooter present on a shooting range, it is your responsibility to conduct yourself in a safe manner.

When there is no official RSO and two or more people are using a shooting range, all parties must work together to coordinate "Range Safe" and "Range Hot" status.

When shooters are using the rifle range and any of the shotgun ranges, range commands and range status must be coordinated across both ranges so that the rifle and shotgun ranges are simultaneously hot/safe!

When a Safe Range condition is desired:

1. Ask all shooters (including shotguns) if the line can be made safe.
2. When everyone agrees to "go safe":
 - a. Unload all firearms in magazine and chamber,
 - b. Open all firearm actions,
 - c. Either place all firearms on the bench with the muzzle pointing downrange or place firearms in the rack provided.
3. After verbal acknowledgement by all shooters (including shotguns) that the line is safe, visually confirm that the line is safe.
4. Switch the range safety status light to green.
5. Verbally declare, "The line is safe!"

Once a shooting range is declared "**Range Safe**":

YOU MAY NOT TOUCH OR HANDLE ANY FIREARM!

You may *not* case or uncase a firearm.

You can go forward of the firing line to place or retrieve targets, pick up brass in front of the firing line, etc.

You can load or unload *detached* magazines, but **YOU MAY NOT TOUCH, LOAD OR UNLOAD ANY FIREARM.**

When a Hot Range condition is desired:

1. Ask all shooters (including shotguns) if the line can be made hot.
2. After verbal acknowledgement that all shooters are ready to go to a hot status:
 - a. Verify that there are no downrange hazards,
 - b. Verify that all people are behind the firing line(s),
 - c. Verify that no other range hazards exist (on either range).
3. Switch range safety status light to red.
4. Verbally declare, "The line is hot!"

Once a shooting range is declared "**Range Hot**":

you may not cross the firing line for any reason.

You may case or uncase a firearm,

You may load or unload a firearm,

You may discharge a firearm at an approved target down range.

5-STAND CLAY RANGE RULES

- 🚩 Shooters on the Shotgun and Rifle ranges must collaborate to declare “Range Safe” or “Range Hot” status. Both ranges will be “Hot” or “Safe” simultaneously.
- 🚩 All clays must be launched with PLSC-owned throwers and shot at from the assigned station or platform.
- 🚩 Shot size is limited to 7-1/2 or smaller. (Do not use 6, 4, 2, BB, T, buckshot, etc.).
- 🚩 All firearms must be cased between your vehicle and the range.
- 🚩 All shotguns must be placed in the racks provided when not in use on the range.
- 🚩 Only the active shooter may mount their shotgun.
- 🚩 Load shotgun only when standing at the shooting station and immediately prior to shooting. Load two shells maximum at a time.
- 🚩 Before leaving the shooting station, shotguns must be unloaded, break actions opened and muzzles down, pumps and semi-autos with action open and muzzle up.
- 🚩 Anyone seeing an unsafe situation should shout “cease fire” immediately.
- 🚩 All range commands must be immediately obeyed.
- 🚩 Pick up shotshell hulls (take home or dispose in barrels provided).

RULES FOR THE MEMBERSHIP CLAYS THROWER

- 🔫 Shooters on the Shotgun and Rifle ranges must collaborate to on “Range Safe” or “Range Hot” status. Both ranges will be “Hot” or “Safe” simultaneously.
- 🔫 Remove the padlock on the thrower using the gate combination.
- 🔫 No users under the age of 16 without close adult supervision.
- 🔫 Shoot from shooting stations 1 and 2 ONLY- No other location.
- 🔫 Caution! The thrower requires an operator. Be very careful cocking the thrower. Never place any part of your body within the area of travel of the thrower arm. Never cock or release the thrower arm when anyone is standing downrange or within the swing of the thrower arm.
- 🔫 Shooter will “call” for target release. Shooter must keep their finger off the trigger until ready to “call” for a target.
- 🔫 Bring your own clay pigeons! Do not pick up clay pigeons from the field.
- 🔫 Pick up shotshell hulls (take home or dispose in barrels provided by the shooting platforms).
- 🔫 Re-lock the thrower when you are finished shooting.

NOTE: Instructions for using the membership clays thrower are posted on the frame of the thrower platform.

RULES FOR PISTOL PIT

- This 50 yard range may be used for pistol or rifle shooting.
- Targets must be placed so that bullets impact the lower 1/3 of the *rear* berm.
- No shooting towards the side walls of the pit.
- Only paper or cardboard targets placed on uprights of the target stands are permissible to shoot.
- Steel plates and the plate rack in the Pistol Pit will only be used under supervision of the PLSC board or their appointed Range Safety Officer.
- Do not shoot beverage containers, appliances, books, the ground between the firing line and the berm, or any other items.
- Do not shoot range props, plastic drums, club structures, target stand supports, uprights, chains, or bolts.
- A safety area has been established to the southeast corner of the “horseshoe”. Ammunition is not allowed in this safety area. Unloaded firearms may be cased or uncased and holstered or unholstered in the safety area.
- All members are responsible for policing their own brass. Take it with you or place it in the white plastic barrels provided.

ARCHERY RANGE RULE

- All arrows must impact the provided targets or the target backstops.