

# Portage Lake Sportsmen's Club Range Rules

## **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.

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***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!***

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### **When a Safe Range condition is desired:**

1. Ask all shooters (including shotgunners) 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 shotgunners) 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.**

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### **When a Hot Range condition is desired:**

1. Ask all shooters (including shotgunners) 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.