

# The Rod & Gun Club of New Bedford, Inc.

PO Box 79575

North Dartmouth, MA 02747

[www.rodandgunclubofnewbedford.org](http://www.rodandgunclubofnewbedford.org)

(508) 995-2555

## Ground Rules and Regulations

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### I. General

- 1) All members must wear their valid club button on their person whenever on club property or have a valid membership card on their person.
- 2) Only members and their guests are allowed to use club facilities. Each member is allowed to bring one guest at a time to use club facilities. The same guest is allowed to come with a member three times per year. The member is totally responsible for his or her guest's actions.
- 3) Wife, husband and children under 18 years of age may come with the member throughout the year. The member is responsible for his or her relative's actions.
- 4) Members may camp overnight on club property in designated areas - must notify Camping Committee in advance. Any campfires must be in complete control at all times.
- 5) In season, members with a valid Massachusetts fishing license may fish on club ponds. These ponds are open to the general public. You must follow all Department of Fisheries and Wildlife regulations.
- 6) When a member uses club property, he or she is expected to keep the area he or she uses clean. Don't be a litter bug - THIS MEANS YOU.
- 7) This club is maintained, controlled and regulated for your pleasure and safety. You have been given the privilege of using its facilities and it is your responsibility not only to abide by its rules and regulations, but also to ensure that others abide by them in your presence.
- 8) Children under 16 years of age are not allowed to wander about unless accompanied by an adult.

- 9) Notice is hereby given that the Rod & Gun Club of New Bedford, Inc., as a club, assumes no responsibility for any accident occurring on club property, and the Rod & Gun Club of New Bedford, Inc., is held harmless from any and all claims for injuries or damages. Members and their guests use club property at their own risk. Any accident occurring on club property must be reported to a club officer at once. Please follow the Emergency Plan posted at the clubhouse.
- 10) Any member or guest who uses conduct unbecoming a member of the club, causes injury, endangers others or commits any negligent act is subject to review by the Board of Directors. Their decision will be final.
- 11) **No shooting before 9am or after sunset on club property, except as designated.** Sunset times vary daily. It is your responsibility to know when the sun sets.
- 12) Common sense is your best judgment; when in doubt, don't do it.

## II. Ranges

These general rules apply to ALL SHOOTING RANGES. Additional rules apply to each type of range as the noted in the following sections.

- 13) The main range road gate is operated by an electronic key card, which is given to all members (except Junior members) after orientation is completed. It is prohibited for members to loan their key card to anyone at any time. All members must scan their badge on entry and to exit the range. In other words, no "piggy-backing": allowing others to follow through the gate could cause vehicle damage / unauthorized range use.
- 14) The use of eye and ear protection is **REQUIRED** by all persons on the range, spectators included.
- 15) All firearms, when not in use, are to be cased or holstered and unloaded, or have the action open and unloaded.
- 16) Firearms are not to be loaded until the range is clear for firing.
- 17) Keep finger off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard until ready to fire.
- 18) Never turn around while you have a firearm in your hands. Always keep them pointed down range.
- 19) Never handle a firearm without first making sure it is unloaded. Do not handle firearms while behind the firing line.
- 20) Never, in the case of a misfire, open the breech mechanism of any firearm for at least 15 seconds. Keep it pointed down range - it may be a hang fire.
- 21) Members and guests **MUST** ensure bullets impact the back berms. Any willful shot not impacting the berm is considered a negligent shot and subject to review per rule #10.

- 22) Shooting at rocks and bottles on the range is prohibited. Only aimed fire at proper targets is allowed.
- 23) Using bowling pins as targets is prohibited.
- 24) Before proceeding down range to inspect targets, the shooter must call out 'All clear'. Any shooter who has a loaded firearm must reply 'Not clear'. Only when there are no loaded firearms on the firing line may a person go down range to check, replace or put up a new target.
- 25) ABSOLUTELY NO HANDLING OR TOUCHING OF FIREARMS WHILE PEOPLE ARE DOWN RANGE. VIOLATIONS SUBJECT TO REVIEW PER RULE #10.**
- 26) The use of illegal firearms on the shooting range is prohibited.
- 27) Tracers, incendiary ammunition, explosive devices and explosive targets are strictly prohibited.
- 28) It is prohibited to bring intoxicating beverages of any kind on the range or to be under the influence of liquor while using the range.
- 29) It is prohibited to use the range while under the influence of mind-influencing drugs.
- 30) Children under 18 years of age may not use the range except when with an adult member.
- 31) All firearms are dangerous when handled carelessly - they cannot think for themselves. Any mistake is your mistake, not the firearms. Regard the firearm as loaded at all times, taking nothing for granted, look for yourself, and above all, keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- 32) Clean the area you used, including spent bullet casings. Dispose of trash in the trash barrels and brass in the "brass" buckets.
- 33) Common sense is your best judgment, when in doubt, don't do it.
- 34) Black Powder
- a. No direct charging of muzzleloaders from flasks or horns
  - b. No smoking when near black powder
  - c. The cap must not be put on, the pan primed, or the cartridge put in the chamber before the shooter gets himself/herself ready to fire; and in doing so he/she must point the muzzle down range.

## **II. i. Ranges: Rifle (100 and 50 yard ranges)**

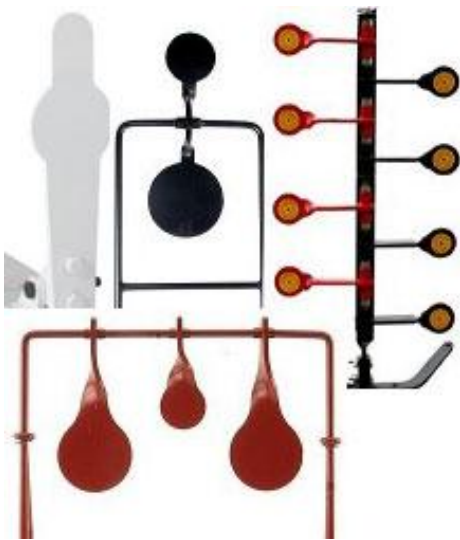
- 35) It is prohibited to fire in any direction but down range. No cross-range shooting allowed. Stay in your lane.
- 36) Members and guests MUST ensure bullets impact back berms. Any willful shot not impacting the berm is considered a negligent shot and subject to review per rule #10.

- 37) Targets shall only be placed in the fixed target racks at the base of the berms; at 100 yards on the 100 yard range and at 50 yards on the 50 yard range. Note: there are two 'sight-in' lanes on the 100 yard range and two 'sight-in' lanes on the 50 yard range that have fixed target racks at shorter distances. These are the only four firing positions that allow for shorter target distances. These are the left two lanes on the 100 yard range and the two right lanes on the 50 yard range.
- 38) Portable bases are NOT ALLOWED on the 100 or 50 yard ranges.
- 39) Do not shoot the number boards (lane markers) on the target racks. Any willful damage to the target racks will be subject to review per rule #10.
- 40) All target frames must be of sufficient width to support standard targets. Target frames must be of sufficient height to have the bottom of the target at least 48 inches above the ground. Target frames must be placed in the fixed target racks only. Do not lean target frames against the racks or berms.
- 41) Targets must not be hung on any part of the target racks (wooden structures that hold target frames) or on the number boards (lane markers).
- 42) Patterning of shotguns allowed ONLY on the 50 yard range using target frames that hold targets so the bottom of the target is at least 48" above the ground.
- 43) Use of steel targets permitted, with the following limitations:
- Absolutely no steel-core or penetrator ammo allowed on steel targets
  - Steel targets must be either commercially made for the purpose of being a target; or must be a copy of such a target. Miscellaneous pieces of scrap steel or other non-traditional targets not allowed. Only un-damaged steel targets may be used.
  - Steel targets that are damaged or deformed by holes, pitting, cracking, cupping, excessive wear, etc. must not be used.
  - No ground based targets allowed on the rifle range, they must be at least 4' off the ground and must not be mounted directly on top of the target racks.
- 44) Organized club sanctioned events may allow other target heights and positions with specific written permission from the Club Safety Officer and/or Board of Directors to ensure bullets are contained within the ranges and do not damage target racks.

## **II.ii. Ranges: Pistol (10, 20 and 30 yard ranges)**

- 45) It is prohibited to fire in any direction but down range. Shooting at side berms is prohibited.
- 46) Members and guests MUST ensure bullets impact the back berms. Any willful shot not impacting the back berm is considered a negligent shot and subject to review per rule #10.
- 47) Targets shall be placed in portable target racks. Any willful damage to the portable target racks will be subject to review per rule #10.

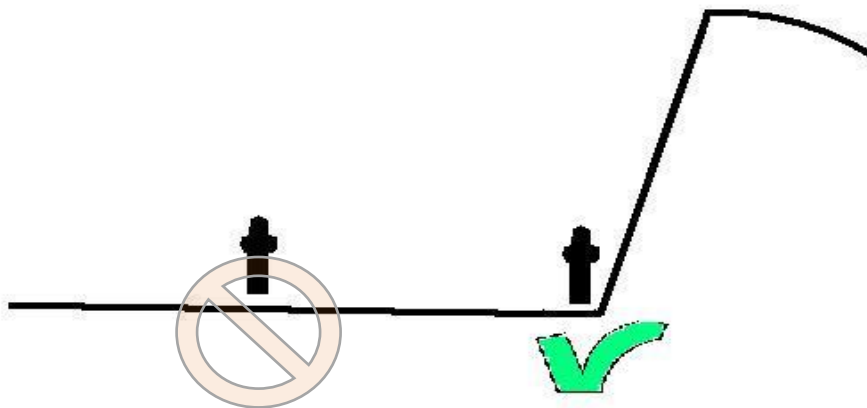
- 48) All target frames must be of sufficient width to support standard targets. Target frames must be of sufficient height to have the bottom of the target at least 48 inches above the ground (see exception in #49). Do not lean target frames against the berms.
- 49) Plinking range only (10 yard pocket range): Maximum target height is 5 feet (60 inches); minimum height is 3 feet (36 inches). May use club-supplied targets on this range only, located in shed on right side of the range. Targets must be placed directly at the backstop only. Ground-based targets not allowed. **Plinking range is currently closed.**
- 50) Targets must not be hung on any part of the portable target racks.
- 51) Stationary ground targets allowed on the pocket ranges only (not including the 10 yard plinking range). Targets must be specifically designed for this purpose and **must be located directly at the base of the backstop**. Examples of allowed targets include pepper poppers, dueling trees, gongs, spinning and self-resetting targets. Not allowed: rolling targets that change their location on the range floor when struck, rocks, bottles, cans, balls, etc.



Examples of **APPROVED** ground targets



Examples of **PROHIBITED** ground targets



Examples of **PROHIBITED** and **APPROVED** ground target locations on Pistol Ranges

- 52) Use of steel targets permitted, with the following limitations:
- a. Absolutely no steel-core or penetrator ammo allowed on steel targets
  - b. Steel targets must be either commercially made for the purpose of being a target; or must be a copy of such a target. Miscellaneous pieces of scrape steel or other non-traditional targets not allowed. Only un-damaged steel targets may be used.
  - c. Steel targets that are damaged or deformed by holes, pitting, cracking, cupping, excessive wear, etc. must not be used.
  - d. Pistol caliber and .22lr ammo only. No rifle caliber ammo allowed on steel targets in the pocket ranges.
  - e. Steel targets must be at least 10 yards or more away from shooting position.
- 53) Organized club sanctioned events may allow other target heights and positions with specific written permission from the Club Safety Officer and/or Board of Directors to ensure bullets are contained within the ranges and do not damage target racks.

### **II.iii. Hunters Walk**

- 54) It is prohibited to fire in any direction but down range.
- 55) Firearms are not to be loaded until the range is clear for firing.
- 56) Only lead ball, shot or mini-ball type ammunition allowed. Jacketed and similar bullets, and lead hollow point bullets are not allowed as they damage the targets and backstop.
- 57) The use of modern firearms on the Primitive range is prohibited.
- 58) It is not permitted to walk down range at any time.

### **III. Archery**

- 59) Make sure no one is near the target you are shooting at.
- 60) The use of broad head arrows on field targets is prohibited.
- 61) It is prohibited to fire in any direction but down range.
- 62) The use of firearms on the Archery range is prohibited.
- 63) It is prohibited to bring intoxicating beverages of any kind on the range or to be under the influence of liquor while using the range.
- 64) It is prohibited to use the range while under the influence of mind-influencing drugs.
- 65) Children under 16 years of age may not use the range except when with an adult member.

- 66) All bows are dangerous when handled carelessly - they cannot think for themselves. Any mistake is your mistake, not the bows. Keep the bow pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- 67) Common sense is your best judgment, when in doubt, don't do it.
- 68) When looking for arrows, place your bow in front of the target.
- 69) Never walk backwards on the Archery Course.
- 70) No shooting arrows up into the air, except for Flu-Flu's in the designated areas.

#### **IV. North Woods**

- 71) Discharging of firearms in the North Woods is prohibited

#### **V. Hawk & Knife**

- 72) You must ensure no one is near the throwing station you are using on the 'Hawk and Knife' range.