

# Martin County Sportsmen's Association

## New Member Orientation Range Booklet

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Contained in the following pages of this orientation are a collection of safety rules that when applied and exercised mitigates the possibility of any negligent discharges that could cause injury, destruction to property or worse. The purpose of the MCSA range safety rules is to promote safe and responsible gun handling and target shooting. Safety is the primary responsibility of every member using the range. Surrounding our range we have commercial businesses, structures and homes, therefore we cannot allow accidental rounds from leaving the premises (depending on the cartridge, caliber and slope a bullet can travel 2.5 – 4+ miles). Hence, we are here today to learn how we must conduct ourselves while at the range and on the firing line to insure safe gun handling and shooting.

MCSA is operated on the “**COLD RANGE**” principle. All firearms must be unloaded and transported in a case around the range property and between ranges. Your firearm can only be uncased at the firing line when the range is HOT. **Your firearm may only be loaded or unloaded on a HOT range at the Firing Line.**

Carrying a concealed weapon is not allowed on MCSA property. **If you have a Concealed Carry firearm and plan on shooting it at the range you must unload and place it in a carrying case before entering the property.** Once on a range at the firing line you can remove your concealed carry firearm from your case, load and shoot.

All members must adhere to these three safety rules at all times.

- a. **Always** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- b. **Always** keep the gun unloaded until you are ready to shoot.
- c. **Always** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

It is the utmost importance in keeping the finger off the trigger until ready to fire and especially when drawing and holstering if using a holster.

When sighting your firearm on the target “fishing”, or pointing of a loaded firearm up into the air and slowly coming down on the target, is not allowed when aiming. The firearm must be brought up from a low ready or 45° down angle position directly up to line of sight on the target.

## TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS IF IT IS LOADED

We are all responsible for safety. Be aware not only of yourself but also those around you. All members have the right to insist on proper observance of safety rules at all times and observe the following:

- 1) Horseplay or improper handling of firearms will NOT be tolerated.
- 2) If you observe another member operating in an unsafe manner, ex: being swept by a muzzle that is not pointed downrange, you may advise them that what they are doing that is unsafe, not in accordance with the rules and ask them to correct their actions. If they continue to be unsafe or you do not wish to confront the individual, inform the RSO (Range Safety Officer) on duty. He will handle the problem from that point, and if necessary report the incident to the BOD. An incident report may be written with possible disciplinary action depending on the severity of the infraction. RSO's decision is final.
- 3) The use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or prescription drugs that can impair normal behavior is not permitted. Should you observe abnormal behavior notify the RSO on duty immediately. Sometimes a medical condition such as a diabetic or other medical emergency may be occurring.
- 4) The command **CEASE-FIRE** may be issued by anyone for anything seen as wrong or unsafe and shall be instantly obeyed by everyone. All shooters shall immediately cease firing, remove their finger from the trigger, point their firearm downrange in a safe direction, determine the reason for the cease fire and take appropriate action; unload, action open make safe (animal/bird enters the range, catastrophic gun/ammo malfunction, loaded dropped gun, someone moving in front of the firing line, accident, emergency, injury, etc.).

## SIGNING IN

Date, Time (in/out), # Guests, Badge #, Name, Range, License Plate #

- Upon arrival the first thing you must do is sign in yourself and any guest with you in the membership register located at the front entrance of the range. When leaving the compound you must sign out as well.
- The combination for the electronic gate lock is "####". Upon entering the code the gate will open, proceed into the parking area and it will close automatically behind you. When leaving the range the gate has a sensor that will open upon your vehicle's approach then close automatically after you exit.
- Parking will be in designated areas only. No vehicles are allowed on the range other than those that are used for work parties or other sanctioned use of the range.
- All firearms must be unloaded and encased when carried to and from a vehicle to the range or from range to range; "Cold Range" principle.
- All members must check in with the RSO on duty indicating which range(s) they are going to shoot at before proceeding to any range; if the RSO is not in the office members are

responsible to find the RSO and inform them of their planned shooting activities. MCSA Membership Badge must be worn and visible at all times while at the range.

- Any member bringing a guest must first go to the range office. The guest must sign a waiver of liability and guest information form located in the range office.

### **APPROACHING A RANGE**

- When at a range and before going downrange for any reason, you must call the range “COLD”. You must make visual contact and verbal contact with anyone who is currently at the range and be sure all shooters are aware of your intentions. Do not assume...verify. Make absolutely sure that all firearms on the firing line are unloaded with actions open, slides back, cylinders open, bolt open, loading gates open, etc. (distance Ranges 5 and 6 have blinking yellow lights indicating a COLD range). When proceeding downrange all shooters not going downrange must stay behind the yellow line, no handling of firearms or approaching the shooting benches.
- **DO NOT HANDLE ANY FIREARMS WHILE THE RANGE IS COLD.** If you approach a range that is COLD you may prepare your targets and go down range to position them or you must remain in the safe area behind the yellow; there will be NO Handling of firearms cased or otherwise when the range is COLD. You may place your cased firearm at the shooting position, move your cased firearm to another shooting position, remove your firearm from your case or put it away ONLY when the range is called “HOT”. Remember to know the orientation of your firearm within the case so that when you place it on the firing line the muzzle will be pointed downrange, level with the berm, never at “blue sky” in the safe direction. You may load magazines on the back bench when the range is COLD.
- When handling your firearm always maintain proper muzzle control in keeping the muzzle pointed safely downrange, level with the berm, never at “blue sky”.
- When loading a semi-automatic always make sure magazine is inserted fully and when racking or releasing the slide do not ease the slide forward, let the spring of the firearm strip the cartridge from the magazine to insure it goes into full battery.
- When unloading a semi-automatic always remove the magazine first, then move and lock the slide rearward. To prevent sweeping someone with the muzzle while attempting to lock the slide back, simply rotate your body 90 degrees to the firing line maintaining the muzzle downrange. This action will allow you to have more leverage in moving the slide to the rear position.
- If you should drop a magazine or anything (other than your firearm) do not try and retrieve the object with your firearm in your hand. First, make the firearm safe, place the firearm on the table pointed downrange, then bend over to retrieve the object. If the object falls ahead of the red firing line you may retrieve it with a broom as long as it can be reached

without any part of your body going ahead of the red firing line, otherwise you must call the range “COLD” before stepping in front of the firing line.

- If you should drop your firearm, no matter the value, do not attempt to catch it before it hits the ground.

## ***“Remember, a fumbled gun is a dropped gun”***

### **THREE TYPES OF AMMUNITION MALFUNCTIONS**

1. **Misfire**: Failure of a cartridge to fire after the primer has been struck. If after 30 seconds, or you feel comfortable of not having a “hang fire”, then eject the round and inspect it to see if the primer was impacted by the firing pin. A dented primer would indicate a misfire and should be discarded. If the primer shows no sign of a firing pin hit then it is possible that the firearm was not completely in battery or some other malfunction may have occurred.
2. **Hang fire**: A perceptible delay in the ignition of the cartridge after the primer has been struck. A hang fire can occur due to many reasons. What will happen is the firing pin or hammer strikes the primer at the base of the cartridge but the round fails to go off. If this occurs do not lower the firearm. Wait approximately 30 seconds while keeping the muzzle pointed downrange, level with the berm, never at “blue sky”. If it is a hang fire the round may go off so be prepared. Hang fires usually occur due to old ammunition, ammunition that has been contaminated internally by oil or water or the primer was slow to ignite. After waiting a brief time you can then eject the round and assess.
3. **Squib**: Development of less than normal pressure or velocity after ignition of the cartridge resulting in the bullet getting lodged in the barrel. A squib is the most serious malfunction.

IT IS NOTICEABLE BY AN INSIGNIFICANT REPORT WHEN THE FIREARM IS FIRED OR LACK OF RECOIL (you may also see a puff of smoke emanating from the breech area)

***IF YOU SUSPECT A SQUIB STOP FIRING IMMEDIATELY, UNLOAD THE FIREARM, PLACE IT ON THE TABLE AND NOTIFY THE RSO ON DUTY!***

You must not fire another round or a catastrophic failure will occur to the firearm possibly injuring yourself and others around you. A “squib” is a round fired and either due to lack of

powder, insufficient powder or contaminated powder or primer produces insufficient gas to propel the bullet or projectile fully down and out the muzzle of the barrel. The bullet becomes lodged inside the barrel and firing another round into the plugged barrel will either cause the barrel to rupture or bulge.

If you reload ammunition or are using reloaded ammunition you have probably seen this before.

MCSA is usually equipped with tools to safely remove the squib without defacing your investment. Do not attempt to clear the squib yourself if you are unfamiliar with the proper procedure. Be careful not to leave the range with an obstruction in the barrel.

### **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY**

- Every range at MCSA is equipped with an air horn, emergency instructions and range information (telephone #, address and directions).
- **In the event of an emergency it is IMPERATIVE to get the RSO To The Location IMMEDIATELY as the RSO's are responsible for coordinating an Emergency Response, Not Members.** Blow the air horn continuously until it is empty and stops in order for the RSO to respond. Upon hearing the horn every member on MCSA's property must IMMEDIATELY make their firearms safe, leave them on the bench with the muzzle pointed safely downrange and proceed expeditiously to the location.
- **Upon arriving at the location of the emergency be prepared to take direction and aid the Range Safety Officer in whatever he or she directs you to do as they are responsible for coordinating the response.** You may be asked to call 911, drive to crossroads to signal emergency responders to the location, to aid in treatment, etc.
- Be prepared to provide 911 the following information; the emergency (gun shot, heart attack, etc.), if the person is breathing or not, conscious or unconscious, age, gender, race, height, weight.
- If the victim is conscious render first aid only with their permission.
- Do not administer first aid beyond your level of training.
- Do not move the injured person unless there is a danger to life.
- Due to the remote location of MCSA in an emergency situation, and until help arrives, we must depend upon each other to coordinate the appropriate actions needed to handle the situation.

## TARGETS

- Only paper targets are allowed on all ranges. Maximum Target Size 16" x 16". No cans, plastic bottles, metal, incendiaries, reactive targets, etc. Additionally, self-sealing polymer silhouette targets may be used on Ranges 1, 2, 3 and 6.
- Self-supplied cardboard, 30" wide and between 24" to 30" high, should not be stapled to the provided wooden uprights, only plastic or metal spring clamps should be used. Spring clamps are available for purchase at Home Depot, Lowes and may be available from the Range Office.
- Self-supplied targets may be taped or stapled to your cardboard. Remember, wooden target uprights are supplied by the club but the cardboard and targets are not.
- Range #4 (Steel Target Range) Only pistol caliber firearms are allowed. The use of rifle caliber firearms and magnum ammunition is prohibited.
- Uncontrolled rapid firing is not allowed on any range. Semi-automatic and full automatic firearms are allowed at MCSA. The RSO on duty must be informed of automatic firearm intentions before using. Automatic firearms users should have in their possession their BATFE (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives) Tax Stamp while on the range. If approached by the BATFE...well, you are on your own. If there is a display of "uncontrolled" rapid firing on any range and the operator of the firearm cannot safely perform the proper muzzle control contributing to unsafe acts to the shooter, bystanders or property such as baffles and structures you will be commanded to stop immediately and disciplinary action may be taken.
- Controlled rapid firing is allowed when the shooter understands the reaction of a firearm when shooting in the automatic or rapid firing mode and able to counteract the reaction safely and maintain proper muzzle control with all rounds going downrange and impacting the target.
- Aerial shooting is not permitted on any range for any reason. No muzzle should be raise above your line of sight to the target.
- When finished shooting at a range it is your responsibility to police your area of all trash, used brass, shot shells and used targets and cardboard. The white buckets on each range are for used brass only. Do not put aluminum or steel cases in this bucket. The recycled brass will be used to help defray club cost for picnics and etc. If you reload and wish to keep your brass you are welcome to do so. We will not tolerate brass scavenging.

## GUESTS

- It is preferred that probationary members not bring a guest until after passing their probationary period however, it is up to the discretion of the Range Safety Officer on Duty. So that you are not disappointed or you are turned away please call the Range ahead of time and clear it with the Range Safety Officer. Only one shooting position is to be used by a member and their guest while at the range. The member must supervise and is responsible for the guest at the firing line and conveying our safe operating practices.
- All Members bringing a guest must fill out a Guest Form at the office. The guest must sign the Waiver on the back and pay the Guest fee of \$20.00
- All Guests and anyone under the age of 18 must be supervised by a regular member at all times.
- Animals are not permitted on the range.

## HOLSTERS

- Strong side and Appendix Carry holsters whether right or left are allowed on ranges 2, 3 and 4 only.
- Small of the back, shoulder and ankle holsters are not allowed due to muzzle sweeping when drawing.
- Be ever mindful of muzzle control when drawing or replacing your firearm in the holster.
  - Make sure that your trigger finger is not on the trigger or in the trigger guard area especially when replacing your loaded firearm back in the holster.
  - Look with your eyes to see what you are doing.
  - The potential of having an accident increases because either the trigger finger did not clear the trigger guard and bumped the holster or loose clothing got in the way of holstering.

**BE SLOW, SMOOTH AND DELIBERATE WHEN HOLSTERING YOUR FIREARM.**

**There is never a need to be in a rush to re-holster your firearm.**

PRIOR TO THE FIREARM EVALUATION SEGMENT OF THE ORIENTATION YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO TO YOUR VEHICLES AND RETRIEVE YOUR UNLOADED CASED FIREARM.

THE FIREARM EVALUATION CONSISTS OF:

- Proper presentation of firearm at the table for inspection.
- Proper presentation of firearm at the firing line.
- Proper muzzle discipline.
- Trigger finger discipline.
- Safely load and unload a firearm.
- Firing accuracy.

AFTER COMPLETION OF THE SHOOTING PORTION OF THE CLASS THE INSTRUCTOR WILL INFORM YOU WHEN YOU CAN SECURE YOUR UNLOADED CASED FIREARM IN YOUR VEHICLES AND RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM WITH YOUR EYE AND EAR PROTECTION AS YOU WILL BE GIVEN A TOUR OF THE INDIVIDUAL RANGES.

**THE FOLLOWING SAFETY RULES APPLY TO ALL RANGES AND ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP  
EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING SAFE:**

- No Handling Of Firearms (Cased Or Otherwise) When The Range Is COLD
- No Firearms May Be Left Unattended (Except In The Event Of An Emergency)
- You May Prepare Your Targets And Go Down Range To Position Them Or You Must Remain In The Safe Area Behind The Yellow When The Range Is COLD
- When The Range Is HOT Eye And Ear Protection At And Near The Firing Line Is Mandatory
- Firearms May Only Be Loaded Or Unloaded When The Range Is HOT
- No Moving From One Shooting Lane To Another Without Casing Your Firearm; Only When The Range Is HOT
- When The Range Is Hot You May Place Your Cased Firearm At The Shooting Position, Uncase/Case Firearms At Firing Line ONLY; NOT ON THE BACK BENCH OR BEHIND THE FIRING LINE
- Targets Must Be Set At A Height So That ALL Bullets Impact The Berm (Proper Placement And Height Of The Targets Using The Chain – Range 5)
- While On The Firing, Whether The Range Is HOT or COLD, All Muzzles MUST Be Pointed Downrange Level With The Berm; That Is The ONLY Safe Direction
- All Shooting Must Be From The Marked Firing Line. No Part Of Your Body Can Be Beyond The Front Of The Firing Line When The Range Is HOT
- NO Cross Lane Or Cross Bay Shooting. Only Fire At Target In Your Lane/Bay
- Muzzleloading Firearms MUST Be Loaded At The Firing Line ONLY When The Range Is Hot Resting On Or Against The Shooting Bench With The Muzzle Pointed Up And Slightly Forward. Firearm Must Be Returned And Placed On The Bench With The Muzzle Pointed Downrange Level With The Berm Before Priming or Capping
- Read And Abide By The Rules Posted At Each Range And What Is Allowed On That Particular Range
- Note The Location Of The Air Horn, When It Is To Be Used And The Procedures In Notifying The RSO In Order To Facilitate An Emergency Response
- Note The Location Of The Trash And Brass Containers, The Location Of Fan Switches, Firing Line, Safety Area, Back Bench, Safety Lights (Ranges 5 & 6) And Overall Range Layout
- When Done Shooting Police Your Area, Remove All Of Your Equipment, Trash And Brass discarded in the proper containers; white bucket Brass Only, all other trash, steel and aluminum casings in the black garbage containers.

## **INDIVIDUAL RANGE RULES**

### **Range 1:**

- All Handguns, .22LR Rim Fire Rifles, And Pistol Caliber Carbines May Be Used
- No Holsters
- Shooting From Above The Bench ONLY; Standing Or Seated
- One Target Per Cardboard; Targets Posted At The 2 Designated Distances; 15 Or 25 Yards Chest Height So That All Rounds Impact The Berm

### **Range 2:**

- All Handguns, .22LR Rim Fire Rifles, And Pistol Caliber Carbines May Be Used; Controlled Automatic Or Rapid Semi-Automatic Firing Is Permitted
- Standing ONLY. Strong Side And Appendix Carry Holsters ONLY
- Targets Varying Distances One Per Lane. Target Posted At Chest Height So That All Rounds Impact The Berm. One Target Per Cardboard Backing
- Must Meet The Minimum Height Requirement of 5' Posted
- *Targets Posted Close To The Firing Line And Too Low Will Result In "Digging Up The Grass" And Result In A Possible "Ricochet". Be Aware Of The Path Of Your Bullet In Relation To The Columns Supporting The Baffles At The Berm*

### **Range 3:**

- Standing ONLY. Strong Side And Appendix Carry Holsters ONLY
- All Handguns, .22LR Rim Fire Rifles, And Pistol Caliber Carbines May Be Used When Firing At Targets. Up To 2 Target Stands Per Bay, One Target Per Piece Of Cardboard/Stand Set So That All Bullets Impact The Berm.
- Rapid Fire Function Testing Of Semi And Automatic Rifles And Shotguns Permitted When Range Safety Officer Is Present (DO NOT USE TARGETS). Any Rifle Caliber Or Gauge May Be Used

#### **Range 4:**

- All Handguns, .22LR Rim Fire Rifles, And Pistol Caliber Carbines May Be Used; Controlled Automatic Or Rapid Semi-Automatic Firing Is Permitted
- No Magnum, Hollow Point, +P, +P+, 357sig, 5.7x28, 22TCM, 10mm, etc.
- No Shotguns Of Any Type
- .22 Caliber Rim Fire Ammunition ONLY On Lanes So Designated
- Standing Only. Strong Side And Appendix Carry Holsters ONLY
- No Cross Bay Shooting
- Repaint Targets With Your Own Supplied White Paint
- Damage To Steel By Using Ammunition Prohibited On This Range Will Be The Financial Responsibility Of The Member Or Guest That Caused The Damage
- *Be Aware The Possibility Of Lead Flying Back Towards The Firing Line When Hitting Steel Targets. Therefore Projectile velocity must be kept under 1,150fps*

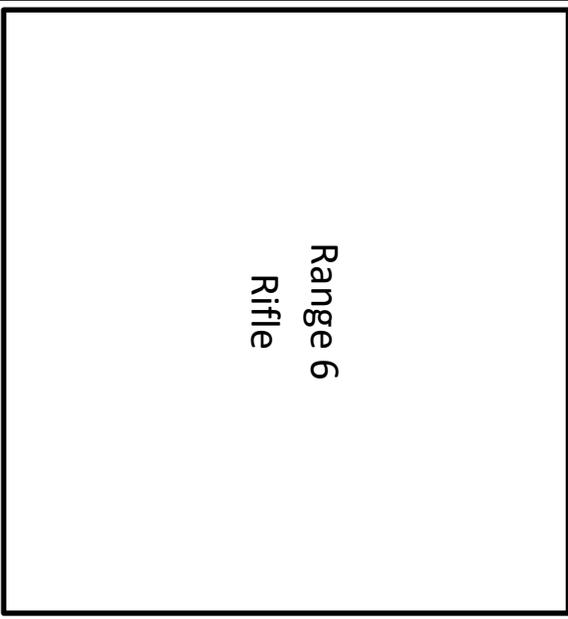
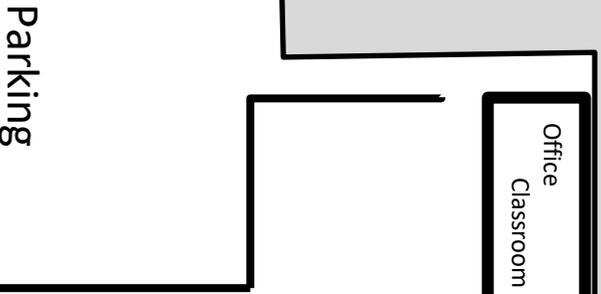
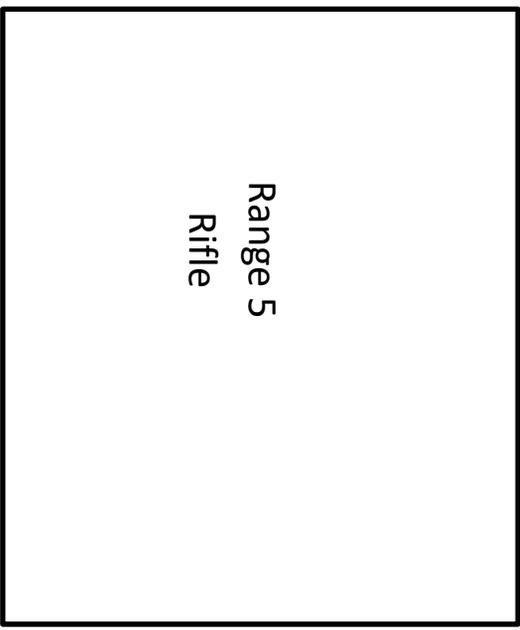
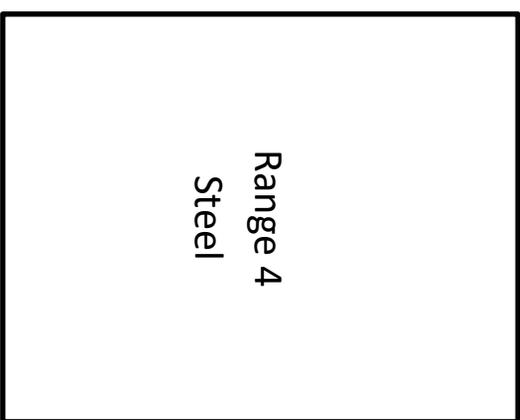
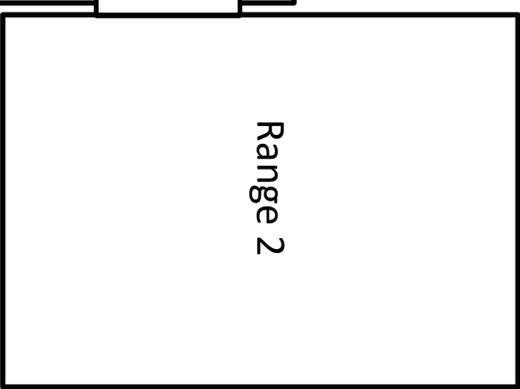
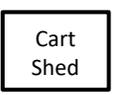
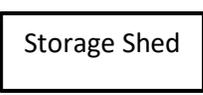
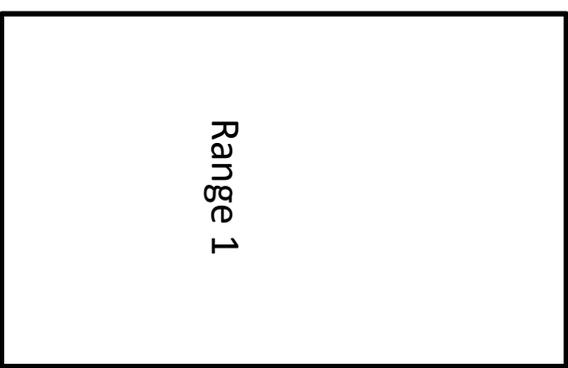
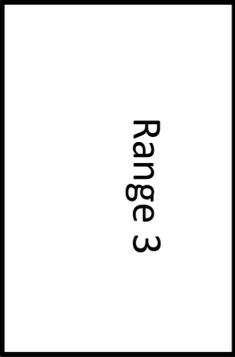
#### **Range 5:**

- Must Sign In Range 5 Logbook As To Which Position You Are Shooting From
- Any Caliber Rifle Permitted
- Must Use The Height Chain To Align The Center Of The Target To The Top Link Of The Chain To Insure Proper Target Height
- 100 Yard Line 2 Targets Allowed Per Stand (Over & Under)
- No Shooting From The Standing Position
- Bench Rest Only All Lanes
- Shotgun Slug/Sabot Use ONLY (Must Have Sights/Optics And A Full Stock)
- To Fire A Handgun Member Must Have Completed Pistol Proficiency Test With A Decal Issued To Be Affixed To Member's Badge; Hunting And Target Appropriate Handguns ONLY
- When The Range Is COLD The Yellow Blinking "Range COLD" Lights Must Be Turned On, Even If On The Range Alone. Before Calling The Range HOT Visually Verify No Shooters Are Downrange, All Are Accounted For And Behind The Yellow Line Before Turning Off The Lights To Make The Range HOT

## Range 6:

- Must Sign In Range 6 Logbook As To Which Position You Are Shooting From
- 100 Yard Gongs Any Rifle Up To .30-06 With Non-Penetrator Bullets and Shotgun Slug/Sabot Use ONLY. Bench Rest Position ONLY. **Nobody Is To Go Downrange To The Gongs Other Than An RSO**
- Shotgun Patterning Lanes
  - a. Standing Position ONLY
  - b. #7 ½, #8 Or #9 Shot ONLY
  - c. Must Meet The Minimum Height Requirement of 5' Posted
- 50 & 25 Yard Target Lines Any Caliber Rifle Permitted, Shotgun Slug/Sabot Use ONLY (Must Have Sights Or Optics And Full Stock On The Gun). Bench Rest Position ONLY. 50 Yard Target Lines 2 Targets Allowed Per Stand (Over & Under). 25 Yard Lines One Target Per Stand
- 50 Yard Standing Off Hand Positions A, B and C (At The East End Of Range 6 Contained Within The Yellow Chains) One Target Per Stand;
  - a. Member Must Have Completed Off Hand Proficiency Test With A Decal Issued (An Orange "6") To Be Affixed To Member's Badge
  - b. Must Meet The Minimum Height Requirement of 5' Posted
  - c. No Guests May Shoot Standing on A, B and C Even If Member Is Qualified
- To Fire A Handgun Member Must Have Completed Pistol Proficiency Test With A Decal Issued To Be Affixed To Member's Badge; Hunting And Target Appropriate Handguns ONLY
- When The Range Is COLD The Yellow Blinking "Range COLD" Lights Must Be Turned On, Even If On The Range Alone. The Switch For These Lights Is Located In The Middle Of The Back Benches. Before Calling The Range HOT You Must Sit In The Definitely Marked Designated Position On The Back Bench To Visually Verify No Shooters Are Downrange, All Are Accounted For And Behind The Yellow Line Before Turning Off The Lights To Make The Range HOT

# **Enjoy the Range!**



Parking

Parking

Walking Path

Walking Path

Entrance Gate

Shed