

Martin County Sportsmen's Association

New Member Orientation Range Booklet

The purpose of the MCSA range safety rules is to promote safe shooting and responsible target shooting. Safety is the primary responsibility of yourself and each member using the range. Surrounding our range we have commercial businesses and structures and we cannot allow accidental rounds from leaving the premises. Hence, you are here today to learn how we must conduct ourselves safely when at the firing line.

MCSA is operated on the “**COLD RANGE**” principle. All firearms must be unloaded and transported in a case around the range property between ranges. Your firearm can only be uncased at the firing line when the range is HOT. Know the orientation of your firearm within the case so that when you place it on the firing line and uncase the firearm the muzzle will be pointed down range in the safe direction. **Your firearm may only be loaded or unloaded on a HOT range.**

Carrying concealed weapons are not allowed on the property. **If you have a Concealed Carry firearm you must unload and place it in a carrying case before entering the property.** You can remove your concealed carry firearm from your case, load and shoot it only when at the firing line. 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 the 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.

Firearm must be brought up from a low ready or 45 degree angle position directly to line of sight to the target.

(TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS IF IT IS LOADED)

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 of what they are doing that is unsafe 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 report the incident to the BOD. An incident report will be written. Firearm muzzles must always be pointed downrange, level with the berm and never at "blue sky".
- 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. All shooters shall immediately cease firing, remove their finger from the trigger, point their firearm in a safe direction, and determine the reason for the cease fire.

No concealed carrying of a firearm of any kind is allowed on the property. If you plan on practicing with your concealed carry firearm, unload it; place it in a carry bag before entering the range property. You may then unbag it when you have arrived on the firing line.

SIGNING IN

- 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 gate must be locked behind you each time you enter or leave the range.
- 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.
- All members must check in with the RSO on duty indicating which range they are going to shoot before proceeding to any 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. The RSO on duty will reinforce the club member that that he or she is responsible for the conduct and actions of the guest and be aware that the guest must shoot on the same lane as the member as the member observes. MCSA will not be held responsible for any injuries resulting from the failure of members or guest to use safety equipment or abide by range safety rules as posted. Members are required to wear membership badges at all times and guests must wear a guest shooters badge. From a point outside the Range Office eye and ear protection is required to be worn by all personnel and especially when approaching the firing line.

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. So as not to assume everyone knows your intentions. 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. 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.** You may place your cased firearm at the shooting position and return to the safe area behind the yellow line when the range is COLD. 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 down range in the safe direction. You can only remove your firearm from your case or put it away when the range is called “HOT”.
- When handling your firearm always maintain proper muzzle control in keeping the muzzle pointed safely downrange.

- When loading a semi-automatic always make sure magazine is inserted fully and when racking the slide do not ease the slide forward. Let the spring of the firearm strip the cartridge from the magazine.
- 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 do not try and retrieve the object with your firearm in your hand. First, make the firearm safe, place the firearm on the table and 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 handgun. Wait approximately 30 seconds while keeping the muzzle pointed downrange. 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. If after waiting a brief time you can then eject the round.
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. **STOP FIRING IMMEDIATELY, UNLOAD THE FIREARM, PLACE IT ON THE TABLE AND NOTIFY THE RSO ON DUTY!**

You may also see a puff of smoke emanating from the breech area. You must not fire another round or a catastrophic failure will occur to the firearm possibly injuring yourself and others around you. If you reload ammunition or are using reloaded ammunition you have probably seen this before. A “squib” is a round fired and either due to lack of powder, insufficient powder or contaminated powder, insufficient gas is produced to propel the bullet or projectile fully down and out of the end 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 should suspect that you have a squib, unload your firearm, place it on the table and notify the RSO on duty. 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.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

- Every range at MCSA is equipped with an air horn and specific emergency instructions, directions and coordinates to the range.
- **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 down range and proceed expeditiously to the location where the horn is being blown.
- **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 drive to the various intersections to signal emergency responders to the location, to call 911, to aid in treatment, etc.
- Due to the 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 the range. Maximum Target Size 16" x 16". No cans, plastic bottles, metal, incendiaries, etc.
- Self-supplied cardboard 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. Your cardboard must be 30" wide and between 24" to 30" high.
- 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. Disciplinary action will 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 maintaining 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 raised 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 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 \$10.00
- 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 increase 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.

PRIOR TO THE FIREARM EVALUATION SEGMENT OF THE ORIENTATION YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO TO YOUR VEHICLES AND RETRIEVE YOUR CASED FIREARMS. THE 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 FIREARM IN YOUR VEHICLES AND RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM. YOU WILL NEXT BE GIVEN A TOUR OF THE INDIVIDUAL RANGES:

THE FOLLOWING SAFETY RULES APPLY TO ALL RANGES:

- No Handling Of Firearms When Range Is “COLD”
- You May Place Your Cased Firearm At The Shooting Position And Return To The Safe Area Behind The Yellow Line 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
- When The Range Is Hot You May 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

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
- Buffalo and Ram targets - LEAD bullets/slugs ONLY
- 50 Yard Target Lines One Target Per Stand
- 100 Yard Line 2 Targets Allowed Per Stand (Over & Under)
- No Shooting From The Standing Position
- Bench Rest All Lanes, Bench Rest or Prone On Lane 7 & 8 ONLY (no kneeling)
- 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
- Steel Buffalo And Ram Targets Lead Bullets ONLY, No Jacketed Ammunition
- 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 Gong Any Rifle Up To .30-06 With Non-Penetrator Bullets. 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 6 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!