



The Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club

Range Orientation

Revised July 2017

Facilities:

Rifle Range: The rifle range is located across the street from the clubhouse. Entry is first gained by a locked primary gate then a secondary gate. It is an open-air ADA compliant range. An enclosed structure shelters the shooters from the elements and provides 12 shooting benches inside. The individual shooting stations are designed to be used in conjunction with moveable target stanchions located at 25, 50, and 100 yards in each shooting lane. The wooden stanchions provided stand in PVC tube imbedded in the ground. An overhead baffle prevents shots from exceeding the height of the berm.

Pistol Range: The pistol range is located east of the clubhouse on the same side of the road. Entry is via a single locked gate off Route 119. It is an open-air ADA compliant range. An enclosed structure shelters shooters from the elements. There are several shooting stations but no benches. The range is approximately 25 yards. Target stanchions are usually not provided at this range.

Trap Range: The trap range consists of two trap fields adjacent to the rifle range. The trap range is open to the public during regularly scheduled trap shoot events during the spring, summer and fall. The trap range is available to members at other times when the ranges are open. Members using the Trap Range on their own during regular range hours must use the left field and not shoot any target in the direction of the Rifle Range.

Facility Usage:

Members in good standing of the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club, their children under 18 and their guests may use the ranges at the club.

Guest Policy:

- Guests will be required to pay \$5.00 fee for use of range. Fee covers use of all ranges during a single visit.
- A form will be and available at the pistol and rifle ranges and must be completed. The forms will require the following be completed:

- Date:
- Guest Name:
- Guest Address:
- Host member's name:
- Which range the guest will be using: Pistol, Rifle, both.
- Signature required of both guest and member.
- The completed and signed form with the \$5.00 guest fee and signed waiver will be put in an envelope that will be available at the ranges and placed in drop boxes that will also be located at both ranges. Guests at the trap range can utilize the forms at the rifle range. Only the guest is required to complete and sign the waiver.

The host member is responsible for the safety and conduct of their guests.

Guests will not be required to attend the Range Orientation.

Guest Policy does not apply for club sanctioned events. (i.e: weekly scheduled Trap Shoots)

Range Usage Log:

- Each member as well as guests will be required to sign the range log.
- The Range Log will consist of the following:
 - Date:
 - Membership # (guest, write "Guest" in the member # column)
 - Time in:
 - Time out:
- Aluminum storage clipboard will be at the ranges with sign in forms and pens inside.
- Trap and rifle range will utilize a single clipboard which will be located at the rifle range.

Hours of Operation:

Monday through Friday: 8:00 AM to sunset.

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 AM to sunset.

If you cannot see it is too dark to shoot.

All ranges are closed during shotgun and primitive firearms for deer, during club scheduled workdays , fishing derbies, range maintenance and other club sanctioned events.

The rifle range is also closed during the weekly scheduled trap shoots.

All ranges may be closed on other dates as deemed necessary by the Range Committee. Range closings will be posted in the newsletter and calendar. It is the member's responsibility to be aware of the dates that the ranges are unavailable.

Rules of Firearm Safety

1. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.
2. Keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

3. Finger OFF trigger until ready to shoot.
4. Know your target and what is beyond it.

Definition of Range Terms

Red Flag: Range is HOT. Shooters are shooting or preparing to shoot. Under no circumstances should anyone be in front of the firing line.

Firing Line: The front edge of the shooting stations.

Commence Firing: Shooters may load and shoot. (Red flag is up).

Cease Fire: Call for shooters to stop shooting immediately. Shooters must keep the muzzle of the firearm pointed downrange with finger off the trigger and proceed to place the firearm in a “safe condition” as described below.

Safe Condition:

- Firearm action open and chamber cleared. For firearms with a bolt action that cannot be locked open a chamber flag must be used.
- Magazine removed if detachable.
- Firearm benched with muzzle pointed downrange.

Clear: Firearm is in “safe condition” and shooters have stepped back from the firing line. When all shooters are “clear” the green flag is put up.

Green Flag: Range is COLD. Shooters can proceed downrange to check/change targets. Green flag is up. Under no circumstances should a firearm be handled when the green flag is up. This includes casing and uncasing of firearms.

Fitchburg Sportsmen’s Club General Range Rules and Responsibilities

1. All Federal, State, and Local firearms laws must be followed at all times.
2. All shooters must keep the entry gate closed and unlocked. The lock should be placed back in place on the gate but not locked shut.
3. Members MUST carry their membership cards at all times while on the ranges and present it if anyone asks to see it.
4. Members are responsible for picking up after themselves. This includes spent cartridges, targets and other debris.
5. Members are responsible for the safety and conduct of their guests. (see draft of Range Guest Policy).
6. Eye and ear protection MUST be worn at all times.
7. No pets of any kind are allowed on the ranges. The only exception is for persons training a hunting dog. In the case the dog must be at the Trap Range, behind the firing line and restrained at all times.
8. Children under the age of 18 MUST be accompanied by a member 21 or older and that member is solely responsible for that child’s safety and conduct.

9. Any person without a Firearms Identification Card (FID) or License to Carry (LTC) must be accompanied by an adult who is licensed for the type of firearm they are using.
10. Any firearm not on the firing line MUST be holstered, cased, or in "safe condition".
11. Use of alcohol or drugs on the range is strictly prohibited. You will be asked to leave if others on the range believe that you are under the influence. Repeat violations will be cause for surrender of club membership card and member termination.
12. Food, beverages and smoking are prohibited inside the range enclosures.
13. Do not shoot into the woods or at any wildlife that may be present on or above the range.
14. Practice close range firing first to avoid damage to the target frames and stanchions. Any person found deliberately shooting at any structures, target frames, glass or any other debris may be prosecuted and will be cause for immediate surrender of club membership card and will have membership terminated.
15. Shotguns may be patterned on the rifle range if the shooter brings his or her own target frames.
16. Tracer, armor piercing, incendiary, and steel core ammunition are prohibited. Automatic firearms, .50 caliber BMG rifles, grenade launchers, and cannons are also prohibited. These types of firearms and ammunition can penetrate the lead containment liner in the berm.
17. Possession of a first aid/trauma kit while on the ranges, with knowledge of how to use it, is strongly suggested.

Every Shooter Acts as a Range Officer:

Use and enforce the use of Red Flag/Green Flag policy even when on the range alone.

Enforce all rules stated in this document and maintain proper range etiquette at all times.

The range committee reserves the right to modify this policy at any time to ensure the continued safety of the members of The Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club and the public and to ensure good working order of the ranges.

All members shall agree to abide by MGL Chapter 140, sections 121-131P which regulates firearms possession and licensing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Be responsible, have fun, but most of all **STAY SAFE!**

The Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club's resident instructor offers training courses and can be contacted at the number and e-mail below:

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