

Blue Water Sportsman's Association
Range Safety Rules
Revision 3, October 2 2025

General

1. Shooting hours are 9:30 am to 9:30 pm or dusk unless the range has lighting or a special event is occurring.
2. The Association's East and West gates are to be ***kept closed always*** except when "opened" for Association sanctioned events or other Association authorized activities. A designated BWSA member will be posted on the open gate checking for valid membership during these events. From time to time the entire range may be closed for special events. It is the members' responsibility to check the club calendar prior to range use to verify if a range/bay is open or scheduled. All unscheduled bays/ranges are 1st come 1st serve to the membership.
3. SPEED LIMIT IS 15 MPH ON THE PROPERTY. Private vehicles are confined to the roads or designated parking lots. Driving on or across the ranges is prohibited; except when needed during a work party or when so directed by a Range Officer or Association official during an Association sanctioned event.
4. Absolutely NO alcohol or judgment impairing drugs shall be consumed prior to or during any shooting activity. Judgment impairing drugs can include prescription medication and over the counter medicines. Marijuana/THC and their products are banned from the grounds.
5. Members are directly responsible for the conduct of their associate and junior members on their account and their guests. ADDITIONALLY, minors must be under the immediate supervision of a parent/guardian or trusted adult (i.e. Aunt, Uncle, parent's best friend) at all times. A member may bring a maximum of 2 guests at any one time per membership number. Guests must always remain with the member on the grounds. All guests must be registered at East or West gate each day and they will sign the release of liability on the guest envelope BEFORE entering the property and shooting. Guest rates are \$20.00 for 18 years and older, \$10.00 for 17 years and younger, and active-duty military (not stationed in Michigan) with a leave form are free.
6. Proof of the current membership year must be shown when asked by any member, Board of Director member, staff, or BWSA RSO. You may show the laminated membership card or sign into your online account as proof. The presentation of the electronic gate key is **NOT** proof of membership. If you do not show proof, you will be asked to leave immediately and come back with it.
7. All members must scan their gate card upon arriving and leaving the grounds even if with another member. No member shall "hold" the gate open for anyone entering the grounds without them scanning their gate card and show proof of membership. Violation of any of these rules shall be grounds for removal from the range and other disciplinary action up to and including discharge from the Association.
8. ORDERLY, CIVIL, AND SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT is expected on the association grounds at all times. We are sportsmen and sportswomen and we shall conduct ourselves in a civilized and cordial manner. Be courteous and respectful to each other. Be respectful of other shooters. If you have an issue that cannot be civilly resolved do not become confrontational. Take your issue to the BWSA Board of Directors. Do not distract other shooters while they are shooting.
9. Every member is a safety on the ranges. If you see an unsafe situation, call a cease fire, then contact a Board of Director member or the office to handle the situation if need be.

Indoor Range

1. Indoor range is only open for scheduled events. It is never open for general member use. The indoor range will be run by a BWSA RSO. You will always follow the commands of this BWSA RSO.
2. All rounds must impact the traps on the east wall
3. Absolutely no ricochets off the walls, floors, or ceiling.
4. Pistol and .22lr only on the indoor range. No center fire rifle, shotgun or magnum calibers allowed.
5. Must use target stand or target holders.

Range 15

In addition to the general range rules:

1. Bench or prone shooting only. NEVER OFFHAND!!
2. Check behind all berms before shooting.
3. Shoot your lane. No cross-firing.

General Rules for Archery

1. DO NOT nock arrows when a person is down range.
2. Nock arrows ONLY when on the shooting line and with the bow pointed downrange.
3. DO NOT elevate or draw the bow pointing above the target butt.
4. No person shall go forward of the shooting line until the line is clear and safe.
5. Be considerate of fellow archers; distracting behavior or horseplay is prohibited.
6. The use of broadhead arrows in any club target is prohibited.
7. A certified Range Officer will be present during all Association sanctioned events. The Range Officer's decisions will be honored without dispute or contention during the event; appeals will be first directed to the Archer Director for resolution, and if necessary, thereafter to the BWSA Board of Directors.
8. Target or Field points on club targets only. Members may bring their own broadhead target to use on the range.
9. Shoot only at the target directly in front the shooter and only shoot from the designated shooting station or point.
10. No person shall go forward to retrieve arrows until shooting is complete and all bows are off the line.
11. When retrieving arrows or searching for lost arrows, have one of your party stand in the front of the target, or place bow in front of the target to show shooters following behind you that the target is NOT clear.
12. Make certain that the target is properly placed for following shooters.
13. Archers leaving the target must use designated exit paths. Do not retrace trails toward previous targets and do not cut across trails.

General Firearm Safety Rules

1. At all times ALWAYS ASSUME A FIREARM IS LOADED!
2. Be certain the firearm is safe to operate; and that proper usage and handling is understood before coming to the range.
3. For sanctioned BWSA events, Open Bolt Indicators (OBI) or Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI) are required for all uncased firearms on all rifle and pistol ranges. **When cease fire is called unload the firearm, if so**

- equipped, engage the trigger safety, remove any magazines and insert the OBI or EIC, bench or ground the firearm. Step back off the firing line until the range is called clear or the line is safe.**
4. Do not handle firearms while the line is called clear and safe or when there are personnel downrange.
 5. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Never to the outside of the ranges.
 6. Make certain that appropriate and safe ammunition is used.
 7. Do not load until ready to fire.
 8. **KEEP THE FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL READY TO SHOOT**
 9. Always know your target and what is beyond it.
 10. Eye and ear protection is required on all ranges.
 11. Firing the .50 caliber Browning Machine Gun (BMG) cartridge on any Association rifle or pistol range is allowed. However, be aware of fellow shooters and avoid shooting next to them. Additionally, BWSA permits the use of all NFA firearms as long as they are used in accordance with these rules.
 12. **MEMBERS MUST INSIST ON THE COURTEOUS BUT FIRM ENFORCEMENT OF THESE RANGE SAFETY RULES FOR BOTH THEIR GUESTS AND FELLOW MEMBERS.**
 13. The following types of ammo are prohibited at BWSA: (a) Tracer; (b) Incendiary; (c) Explosive; (d) Armor piercing on steel targets
 14. No targets may be used that are fragile or breakable i.e. glass or ceramic.
 15. No fruit or vegetables
 16. No binary explosives i.e. Tannerite
 17. No walking targets. All steel must be manufactured for firearm use.
 18. No shotgun shot can be used on BWSA backers at any time. Slugs are permitted on BWSA backers. Shooters are welcome to bring their own targets for shotgun shot.
 19. Shooters are responsible for removing used targets from backers and putting them in the garbage before they leave.
 20. Unless a sanctioned event is being held, all targets must be placed at the base of an impact berm. An impact berm is the tall berm at the end of each range, this does NOT include the safety berms along the sides of the range. Placing targets on the top of any berm is prohibited. All rounds must impact the lower ½ of the impact berm. Paper targets must be affixed in between the supporting structure of all the target stands, **Do not shoot the uprights or horizontal supports.**
 21. When using steel targets rated for centerfire rifle and pistol rounds, place the target as close to the impact berm as possible.
 22. Only BWSA organized events and competitions may be fire at ranges greater than 200-yards. The 300-600 yard range is not for general membership use.
 23. Prior to using the 200-yard range, members must check pits to ensure no members are downrange.
 24. 100- and 200- yard ranges are shoot the full distance ranges. No placing of target mid-range.

Organized Events

A certified Range Officer will be present during all Association sanctioned competitions and events. Be aware that event procedures will have significant differences to rules governing use of the facilities than during normal informal shooting. All directions will be taken from the event director and/or certified RSO.

Skeet, Trap, and 5-Stand Rules

All ranges may be active at the same time. The skeet range has a “high” house on the left and a “low” house on the right. Between is a semicircle with seven stations, plus on station between the houses, which the

shooter progresses along as clay targets are projected from the “high and/or low” houses, firing single or double-loadings dependent on the particular station. The trap range has a single trap house slightly raised above ground level. On the west end of the skeet ranges is a 5-stand range. Personal eye and ear protection is required for all persons forward of the sidewalk whether firing, scoring, or coaching on the shotgun ranges.

1. Shotguns are the ONLY firearms permitted to be shot on the skeet, trap, and 5-stand ranges.
2. Shotguns must be open and empty when off the firing station.
3. Load only when on firing station.
4. Do NOT change stations with a round in the chamber.
5. Use only target velocity or 3-Dram equivalent (or less) shells.
6. Shot size is restricted to 7 ½, 8, or 9. NO magnum loads or dragons breath allowed.
7. Skeet Ranges: Load only one shell on station 8, either “high” or “low”. All shooters will shoot low 8 as a squad, then all shooters will shoot high 8 as a squad. You cannot shoot station 8 low and high back-to-back unless you are the only shooter on the field. Shooters will still only load one shell at a time in this case.
8. Trap Range: Load only one shell at all stations (unless an additional load is authorized by the Range Officer).
9. Personal hand throwers are welcome on non-shotgun days and not when the 300-600 yard range is in use on the Trap side only. Personal hand throwers must be thrown forward of the trap field and thrown in a manner to not shoot our buildings or equipment.

Muzzleloading

1. Tobacco smoking in the vicinity of the loading or firing stations is ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED
2. Use ONLY black powder, Pyrodex, or black powder substitute. Smokeless powder or duplex loads are prohibited.
3. When loading the caplock, the hammer must be on half cock, when loading the flintlock, the cock must be down and the frizzen must be up.
4. Loading directly from a powder flask, can, or horn is prohibited. A separate measure is required.
5. Prime or cap ONLY when on the firing station.
6. Powder containers must be kept closed at all times when not in immediate use.
7. Shot size is restricted to 7 ½, 8, or 9 when on the shotgun fields.

END
