

Valley County Gun Club

Range Operations Guide 2026

VITAL RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY:

1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction (downrange at your target).
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use, but always treat it as if it is loaded.
4. Know your target and what is beyond it.
5. Know how your gun operates and how to use it safely.
6. Never point your gun toward any person. Violation of this rule may result in expulsion

In case of an **emergency call 911**, Provide first aid if needed and stay with casualty if necessary. Designate someone to meet responders at the gate and direct them. A Trauma-First Aid Kit can be found at the gate house. Club address *VCGC Gun Range 599 Warm Lake Road *Nearest medical center 402 Lake Cascade Parkway, Cascade. Coord. 44.529°N, 115.938°W

1. Range Rules of Conduct

- 1.1. Respect and consideration must be shown to all. Respect the space and property of others. Violence and threats are a violation of the VCGC Code of Conduct and will not be tolerated.
- 1.2. Do not lend your gate code or give your gate combination to anyone – your membership may be revoked if this happens. You may be logged in or out of the range. Visible or concealed security cameras may be used to monitor security on the property.
- 1.3. Members should have evidence of membership while at the range. Membership cards are not transferable. Any director may ask to see a membership card. Exceptions include visitors, guests, those shooting in open matches, and special events.
- 1.4. Memberships may be purchased online through the VCGC club website. Any persons not accompanied by a member, and not authorized by fee and signed waiver) may be considered trespassing on private property.
- 1.5. The range entry gate and clubhouse are to remain closed and secured at all times when unattended.
- 1.6. Park only in appropriate, designated areas; do not obstruct roads, gates or other parked vehicles.
- 1.7. Dogs are not permitted on club property unless special events authorized by the VCGC board.

2. Guests

2.1. Members may bring guests to the range. All guests must stop at the entrance, read, sign the waiver form, and pay the \$5 day use fee.

2.2. Members are responsible for the actions of their guests, children and spectators they sponsor at the range. This includes the safe conduct, behavior, and adherence to club rules.

2.3. The number of guests or participants at any special range activity or event will not exceed 200 participants and must be safely and directly supervised by the sponsors, event coordinators, or RSO's.

3. Range Safety Officers (RSO)

3.1. When two or more shooters are on the range or shooting bay, at least one is designated as the range safety officer and enforces the range safety rules. This applies to all participants.

3.2. A board member, range coordinator, or designated range certified RSO may assist with or assume the duties from an acting RSO at the board's direction, or by use of his or her discretion.

3.3. An RSO is expected to identify and address any unsafe condition on the range.

3.4. An RSO may contact, advise, and correct actions of a participant who has presented an unsafe condition or is in violation of range rules.

3.5. An RSO may take action to remove any participant who is creating unsafe conditions or who has repeatedly violated range safety rules.

3.6. An RSO will advise the board or range coordinator of a participant who has created unsafe conditions, or violated range safety rules which could lead to membership revocation.

4. The Firing Line

4.1. The firing line is designated by the RSO. The line is defined as the point at which shooters may line up to engage targets and shoot. The designated firing line should never be crossed when the range is hot. This line may be delineated by a yardage indicator, line, concrete pad, or behind the shooting bench.

4.2. When shooting has commenced and you are not on the shooting line, do not approach.

4.3. Never present, load, or handle any firearms when you are behind the line of shooters.

4.4. Firearms (cased or uncased) may be brought into or removed from the range shooting bay only after the RSO is notified and conditions are safe to do so.

4.5. Non-shooters must always remain well behind the firing line.

4.6. The RSO has the responsibility to declare the range to be either `hot` or `safe`.

4.7. The range is `safe` when all firearms have been holstered, or made safe by – removal of the magazine, chamber emptied, action open, and either placed in the rack, or set down on the bench, or as directed by the RSO.

4.8. The range is considered in a `hot` condition when firearms are being handled, being loaded, shooters are approaching the line, shooters are on the line or shooting has commenced as defined by the RSO.

4.9. When a ceasefire is called, immediately stop all action and wait for direction from the RSO. If directed to make your firearm safe, ensure the weapon is pointed in a safe direction, remove the magazine. ensure the chamber is empty and lock the action open. Holster or place the firearm on the bench, or as directed by the RSO.

4.10. Shooters may go forward to post and take down targets only if all firearms have been holstered, benched, and or in a safe-cleared condition. The range is considered `safe` at this time. DO NOT touch any firearm for any reason during this period.

4.11. All bays must be kept “safe” by the RSO until they are ready to declare the range `hot`. When the range is `hot` shooters are permitted or directed to safely handle or load their firearms. Also only when hot shooters may be permitted to approach the line and/or commence fire as directed by the RSO.

4.12. Some disciplines may use similar procedures authorized by VCGC under their own set of safety rules, but must not conflict with general safety rules. All participants must be (safety) aware at all times. All participants must pay attention to the range safety officer’s instructions and ensure all participants are behind the firing line before the range is declared `hot`.

4.13. In the event of a malfunction, hang fire, or misfire, remain on the firing line, keep the firearm pointed safely downrange for 30 seconds, then render safe following the malfunction procedure in section (9)

5. Range Rules

5.1. Shooting is only authorized during Daylight hours from dawn to dusk or from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Seven days a week. Only the VCGC board may approve exceptions. (eg: Law Enforcement training)

5.2. Discharge firearms on designated bays only. Read and obey all range signs. Specific bay Use information in the sections (below) indicate what may and may not be permitted

5.3. No shotgun skeet, trap, or clays of any kind are permitted

5.4. Tracer, armor penetrating, steel core, and .50 caliber ammunition are all prohibited.

5.5. Eye and ear protection is mandatory for everyone on the range near the shooting bays. This means all shooters, spectators, and non shooting guests

- 5.6. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on all ranges during hours of operation. Persons whose behavior exhibits the influence of ALCOHOL or DRUGS will not be permitted on any range
- 5.7. Use only approved targets (see Targets Section.) Place your target down range directly in line with your bench or table – no cross-range shooting. Make sure your shots will hit the berm behind your target. Do not attach targets to ground baffles, support posts or edges of target frames or other range structures
- 5.8. When finished shooting, make your weapon safe and clear. Then stand back from the firing line so the Range Officer and other shooters see that a cease-fire can be called to check targets
- 5.9. All minor participants or junior members (less than 18 years old) using the Club's ranges shall be directly supervised by a parent or guardian with responsibility and control over the minor.
- 5.10. When transporting or moving firearms around range bays make sure the firearm is unloaded and the action is open. Ensure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction, downward, or downrange.
- 5.11. Immediately report any unsafe condition. call a cease-fire and notify the RSO or Range Coordinator Report the unsafe condition or actions to the VCGC Board of directors @ valleycountygunclub.com
- 5.12. Hunting, or shooting of any wildlife, or any object unintended as a target on the property is prohibited.
- 5.13. It is your responsibility to transport firearms safely in accordance with any and all laws. Use of holsters is permitted on the range bays. Any handgun in a holster should be retained securely.
- 5.14. Leave the range cleaner than when you arrived. Remove your used targets from the stands and take them with you. You pack it in--You pack it out! Pick up all fired cartridge casings and put them into containers provided on each of the bays. Do not burn any garbage on the range.
- 5.15. No Smoking while on any range bays and within or near any structures. Smoking/vaping is only permitted in marked safe zones away from the firing line, benches, and away from other shooters.
- 5.16. Black powder pistols and rifles (low velocity) may be used on any bay. Be conscious of smoke drift.
- 5.17. If you are not sure where you may discharge a certain firearm or specific cartridge, please check signage or contact the club by phone or email. (Detailed bay rules are described below)

6. Bay Descriptions and Rules:

6.1. (Bay 1) Pistol Rimfire Bay: This bay is authorized for use with all pistols, small caliber (.22) rimfire rifles, pistol caliber carbines, and black powder-low velocity rifles. (**No** high velocity or large caliber carbines, rifles, or shotguns)

6.2. (Bay 2-5): Pistol Bays: These bays are authorized for use with all pistols, small caliber carbines, and low velocity black powder firearms. (**No** high velocity or large caliber carbines, rifles, or shotguns)

6.3. (Bay 6-7): Rifle Bays: These bays are authorized for use with all firearms. Including rifles chambered in large caliber cartridges, high velocity carbines, and shotguns with slug. Any rifles or ammunition that damage steel targets are prohibited. (**No** 50 cal., or steel penetrator weapons, etc.)

6.4. (Multi-Use Bay): Access to the Multi-Use Bay is Restricted (**Restricted Use Only**)

Prior approval must be obtained through the VCGC board or coordinator and confirmed on the calendar of events at valleycountygunclub@gmail.com. A special event request form with a detailed course of fire plan must be submitted and approved by the VCGC coordinator. (insurance policy may be required for some events) All Facilitators or participants must have received (move and shoot) training if utilized for multi target, multi position, or move and shoot events. The Multi-Use Bay will not be shared with other shooters unless all participants have received training and approval for the requested activity.

6.5. Archery Bay (3D course): Only standard, recurve, or compound bows and target tips are authorized for use on the archery bay/course. (**No** crossbows, bolts, razor tip, or broadheads). No shooting of firearms in this area. Stay on the course, obey posted signs, and watch for other participants on the course.

7. Range Events

7.1. Check the calendar for events or range closures. The range coordinator or board may authorize special activities, events, or range closures. When there is a special activity or event on the calendar then the range or specific bay is closed for that period as stated on the calendar. valleycountygunclub.org

7.2. Range bays may be reserved if requested for shooting classes or special events (As approved by VCGC, \$20 per hr.) Forms can be found on the website (forms section). The forms will list fees and criteria for the specific events requested. See valleycountygunclub.org

8. Targets

8.1. Paper targets may be used on all range bays. Approved steel gongs, plates, and silhouettes may be used at safe distances as per manufacturer. No explosive, fragmenting, glass, or frangible objects.

8.2. Target exceptions may be approved by the board for special events, specific targets approved by Black Powder Section Directors, and law enforcement training.

8.3. Steel gongs or paper targets may be used on the centerfire rifle ranges.

8.4. Steel plate targets as approved by Section Directors for handgun (IPSC, USPSA, IPDA)

8.5. Some events may use balloons and small steel reactive targets on the .22 bay.

8.6. Member supplied targets will be picked up and removed from the bay when shooting has completed.

8.7. Special target props, walls, or any other target items not mentioned here are the property of club sections and are not to be used without authorization.

8.8. If your caliber will pierce or fragment the steel plates, do not shoot them.

8.9. pistol plates and racks are for pistol use only. No rifle ammunition will be used.

8.10. No flash bangs, pyrotechnics, explosive targets, or similar specialty ammunition may not be used (except by authorized law enforcement training venues as approved by the board).

9. Malfunction, Hangfire, or Misfire Procedure:

Hangfires happen when the firing pin has struck the primer and there is a fire delay. A misfire occurs when the primer strike fails to ignite the powder. This can occur for several reasons, such as a faulty firing pin or spring, defective primer, or other cartridge-related problems.

Always treat a “misfire” or “hang fire” as if the handgun is going to discharge at any moment.

- **Keep the muzzle pointed downrange, in a safe direction during this procedure.**
- Do not attempt to fire the gun again
- Leave the action closed and retain your safe position with your finger off the trigger. Wait at least 30 seconds
- If the gun has not fired after the wait period, ask for help. Do not attempt to clear unless you are experienced or have experienced help. An RSO or other experienced safety member should be requested to help clear a malfunction following the procedures below
- On a revolver, open the cylinder to visually and physically-feel through both the cylinder and breach to safely clear any casing or debris. **(Keep the muzzle pointed safely down range)**
- On a semi-automatic pistol, engage the safety and remove the magazine. Clear the chamber by removing any round or casing. **Never look down the muzzle!**
- Ensure the barrel is clear of any projectile by feel and viewing through the breach or chamber. Again **Never look down the muzzle!**
- Failure to follow these safe handling practices could result in injury or death

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