

Valley County Gun Club Range Operations Guide

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. A violation of this rule may result in removal from the range

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

1. Range Safety Officers (RSO)

- 1.1. When two or more shooters are on the range or shooting bay, one is designated as the range safety officer and enforces the range safety rules. This applies to all participants, club members and guests.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. An RSO is expected to identify and address any unsafe condition on the range.
- 1.4. An RSO may contact, advise, and correct actions of a participant who has presented an unsafe condition or is in violation of range rules.
- 1.5. An RSO may take action to remove any participant who is creating unsafe conditions or who has violated range rules.
- 1.6. 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.

2. The Firing line

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. When shooting has commenced and you are not on the shooting line, do not approach.
- 2.3. Never present, load, or handle any firearms when you are behind the line of shooters.

2.4. 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.

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

2.6. The RSO has the responsibility to declare the range to be either 'hot' or 'safe'.

2.7. 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.

2.8. 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.

2.9. When a ceasefire is called, immediately stop all action and wait for a specific direction from the RSO. If directed to make your firearm safe. You will first ensure the weapon is pointed in a safe direction-downrange and remove the magazine. Ensure the chamber is empty, and lock the action open. Holster, or place the firearm as directed by the RSO.

2.10. 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.

2.11. All ranges must be kept "safe" by RSO's 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.

2.12. Some disciplines may use similar safe procedures authorized by VCGC under their own set of safety rules, but must not conflict with general safety rules. All participants need to be aware of what is going on around them. Help watch for safety issues, make sure other shooters wait for the range safety officer's instructions, make sure everyone is back behind the firing line before the range is declared 'hot' and ready for safe handling of firearms.

2.13. In the event of a malfunction, hang fire, or misfire, remain on the firing line, keep the firearm pointed at the target-downrange for 30 seconds, then render safe following the directions on page 6.

3. Range Rules

3.1. 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)

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

- 3.3. Eye and ear protection is mandatory for everyone on the range near the shooting bays. This means all shooters, spectators, and non shooting guests.
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. 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.
- 3.7. 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.
- 3.8. When moving an uncased firearm to or from the ranges, make sure the action is open, there is no ammunition in the firearm, and the muzzle is pointed downward toward the ground.
- 3.9. If you see an unsafe condition, immediately call a cease-fire and notify the RSO or Range Coordinator. Unsafe actions or range conditions may be reported to the VCGC Board of Directors via email @ valleycountygunclub.org
- 3.10. Hunting and shooting wildlife is prohibited on club property.
- 3.11. It is your responsibility to transport firearms in accordance with any and all laws.
- 3.12. 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 on the range. Do not burn any garbage on the range.
- 3.13. No Smoking while on any of the ranges and/or under structures or in the clubhouse. Smoking/vaping is only permitted away from the firing line/benches and away from other shooters.
- 3.14. Tracer ammunition, armor penetrating-piercing, and .50BMG rifle cartridges are prohibited.
- 3.15. Pistol Ranges: Only handguns chambered in pistol cartridges or rimfire cartridges are permitted on the pistol ranges. Rifles, or pistols chambered in rifle cartridges, and shotguns are prohibited on pistol ranges.
- 3.16. Rimfire .22 Rifle Range: Only rifles chambered in rimfire .22 short, long and long rifle cartridges are permitted. Centerfire or large caliber rifles are prohibited on the rimfire range.
- 3.17. Holster Use: Is permitted on all ranges. Any handgun in a holster should be retained securely.

3.18. Black powder long guns (including rifles and muskets) may be used on any range where centerfire rifles can be used. Black powder handguns may be used on any range where handguns can be used. Be conscious of your smoke drift.

3.19. 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.

4. Range events

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

4.1. 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.

4.2. Do not lend your gate code or give your gate lock 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.

4.3. 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.

4.4. Non-members found to be on the range without a member or persons who are not authorized as a guest i.e. (not authorized by fee and signed waiver) may be considered trespassing on private property.

4.5. The range entry gate and clubhouse doors are to remain closed and secured at all times for safety.

4.6. Park only in designated areas; do not obstruct roads, gates or other parked vehicles.

4.7. Dogs are not permitted on club property unless special events authorized by the coordinator or board.

4.8. Members may bring guests to the range. All guests must read and sign the guest form at the gate prior to entry. A day use fee of \$5.00 per guest may be paid at that time.

4.9. Memberships may be purchased online through the VCGC club website. Day passes can be obtained at the range. Please see the club webpage or call for current membership/pass prices.

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

5. Targets

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

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

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

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

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

5.6. Member supplied targets will be picked up and removed from club property when the member leaves the range.

5.7. 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.

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

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

5.10. 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.

5.11. No flash bangs, pyrotechnics, explosive targets and ammunition may be used (except by authorized law enforcement training venues as approved by the board.

6. Guests

6.1. Guests are required to stop at the entrance. Read the range rules, sign the waiver form, and pay the \$5 day use guest fee.

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

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

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 problem.

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

- **Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times during this procedure.**
- Do not attempt to fire the gun again.
- Leave the action closed, and retain your safe shooting position. Wait at least 30 seconds.
- If the gun has not fired after the wait period, open the action and remove the cartridge. Also check the gun for obstructions but do not attempt to clear unless you 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, check-feel through both the cylinder and breach to safely clear.
- 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