

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter

Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun Range Rules

March 29, 2020

Summary of Principal Changes Incorporated in this Updated Set of Range Rules

- Refined guidance on the use of muzzle loading firearms and firearms shooting shotshells.
- Updated guidance on trash removal.

Other recent changes:

- Rapid firing of any firearm, controlled or uncontrolled, is prohibited on IWLA ranges. Rate of fire must be kept to a minimum. Any director, Officer of the Chapter or range safety officer (RSO) has the final say in rapid fire matters.
- Rule added regarding perceived rapid fire by groups of shooters on ranges.
- An explicit exception granted for rapid fire in the case of using shooting techniques known as a “double tap” and a “controlled pair.”
- Prohibition of combat-type shooting with specific allowances for drawing and shooting as a clearly defined exception.
- Clarification on proper display of the IWLA All-in-One shooters identification badge while using any range. All Chapter members shooting on the ranges shall display the Shooter's Photo Identification Badge and shall offer it for inspection if requested.
- Expanded prohibition on handling firearms and ammunition while shooters are forward of the firing line.
- More precise definitions for caliber ammunition allowed on Ranges 1 and 2 and the Shotgun range (Range 4).
- Clarification of circumstances for range closures.
- Revision of fundamental gun safety rules to align with those of NRA.
- New range hours instituted.
- Prohibition on fully automatic firearms anywhere on Chapter property.
- Use of firearms suppressors requires prior approval which must be shown on demand by an RSO, director or any Chapter Officer.
- Guests of Chapter members intending to use the ranges must sign in at the gate house at entrance to Chapter grounds. “Guest” refers to anyone other than an immediate family member (a non-member spouse or child living in the household.)
- A ban on the use of steel targets on all 4 ranges.

These Rules supersede all prior Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun Range Rules. Anyone in violation of the published Range Rules will be asked to leave the range immediately.

1. PURPOSES: There are several purposes for these rules:
 - A. To provide for a Range Safety Program.
 - B. To provide guidance in the form of rules for the use and maintenance of the Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun Ranges.
 - C. To provide for safety when pursuing the shooting sports on the IWLA ranges.
 - D. To provide for the enforcement of these rules and establish penalties for the violation thereof.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES: It is the responsibility of each Chapter Member using range facilities to read, be familiar with, and to follow these Rules. Each Member shall accompany and be responsible for the actions of their guests and ensure that these Rules are obeyed. Every Member is responsible for reporting to the Chapter President, a member of the Board of Directors or a member of the Range Committee any person observed in violation of these Rules.

3. PROCEDURES: The Range Committee shall oversee and enforce these Rules, as well as maintain and repair the ranges. The Chapter President, any member of the Board of Directors, and/or any member of the Range Committee has the authority to immediately suspend the range privileges of any Chapter Member or any other person for the violation of any of these Rules.
 - A. Any decision of the Range Committee or any member thereof may be brought before the Chapter President and the Board of Directors at the next monthly meeting of the Board for appeal. Any appeal, citing facts and allegations, must be in writing and provided to the Chapter president before the Board meeting.
 - B. The names of the Range Committee members are appended to these Rules and shall be posted on the bulletin boards, both inside and outside the Clubhouse. Any Chapter Member has the authority to ask anyone using the ranges for identification as well as to ask that person or persons to immediately cease any activity in violation of these Rules. All Members shall properly display their "All-in-One" Shooter's Photo Identification Badge when using the ranges and, when asked, make it available for inspection.
 - C. During scheduled or organized shooting event, one person shall be appointed as the Chief RSO in order to control movement and firing on that range or ranges, and to ensure compliance with these Rules and any other rules that apply to the organized shooting event. Assistant RSOs shall also be appointed to assist the Chief RSO as necessary.

Fredericksburg=Rappahannock Chapter Ranges

LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Range #1 (the Bobby Cox Pavilion): Two handgun firing points at a maximum distance of 25 yards and two handgun firing points at a distance of 50 yards. (This is the range located closest to the Clubhouse)

Range #2: Four handgun firing points at a maximum distance of 25 yards (This is the range located across from the boat access ramp to the pond)

Range #3: Seven long gun firing points at distances of 50 yards and 100 yards. (This is the "Rifle range" located past the dam, before the Shotgun range)

Range #4: Shotgun firing points primarily for shooting clay pigeons. (This is the range located past the dam and rifle range)

Range #5: A multipoint archery range. The designated portion of the archery ranges located adjacent to the Manahoac Bowman Clubhouse may be used by any Chapter Member. The use of the remainder of the archery ranges is limited to members of the Manahoac Bowmen (a Chapter subgroup).

RANGE USE PERMISSIONS and RESTRICTIONS

Range #1: Pistol Range (the Bobby Cox Pavilion):

25 yard backstop: Limited to handguns and carbines firing common handgun ammunition calibers up to and including .45 long Colt (LC). **Larger caliber handguns in .44 Magnum or more powerful are not permitted at this backstop.** Rifles in rim-fire caliber such as .17 HMR, .22 LR, .22 WMR, and any semi-auto rifles or pistols shooting common handgun ammunition (9mm, 40 S&W, and .45 ACP caliber) are permitted.

50 yard backstop: Limited to handguns, carbines and rifles firing common handgun ammunition calibers up to and including .45 LC and .44 Magnum. Rifles in rim-fire caliber such as .17 HMR, .22 LR, .22 WMR, and any semi-auto rifles or pistols shooting common handgun ammunition (9mm, 40 S&W, and .45 ACP caliber) are permitted.

Black powder handguns are permitted on this range at either backstop.

Use of shotshells: Only pistols designed to fire the .410 gauge shotshell or slug (eg. Taurus Judge) are allowed to be fired at either backstop. **Use of shotguns is not permitted on Range 1. This includes mini shotguns such as the "Shockwave."**

No firearms designed for firing any center fire rifle cartridges or black powder rifles are permitted on Range 1 at either backstop.

Range #2: Pistol Range (25 yard backstop):

Use is limited to handguns and carbines firing common handgun ammunition calibers up to and including .45 LC. **Larger caliber handguns in .44 Magnum or more powerful are not permitted on Range 2.** Rifles in rim-fire caliber such as .17 HMR, .22 LR, .22 WMR, and any semi-auto rifles or pistols shooting common handgun ammunition (9mm, 40 S&W, and .45 ACP caliber) are permitted.

Black powder handguns are permitted on Range 2.

Use of shotshells: Only pistols designed to fire the .410 gauge shotshell or slug (e.g. Taurus Judge) are allowed to be fired on Range 2. **Use of shotguns is not permitted on Range 2. This includes mini shotguns such as the "Shockwave."**

No firearms designed for firing any center fire rifle cartridges or black powder rifles are permitted on Range 2.

Range #3 (Rifle Range):

Both backstops:

All rifle calibers up to and including .416 Rigby, .458 Winchester Magnum, and .460 Weatherby Magnum are permitted on this range. Handguns up to .50 caliber pistol ammunition are permitted on this range. All black powder rifles, rifle caliber pistols, and any gauge of shotgun (including mini shotguns such as the "Shockwave") are permitted on this range using shot sizes up to and including slugs or buckshot for patterning only. **Centerfire rifles in excess of .49 caliber (notably caliber .50 BMG) are NOT permitted on this range.**

Range #4 (Shotgun Range):

Shotgun cartridges up to and including 10 gauge when loaded with shot loads (shot size not greater than number 7 1/2 shot) for shooting at clay pigeons are permitted. **Patterning is allowed with shot size up to but not including buckshot or slug loaded shotgun ammunition.** The patterning target must be placed near the berm on the far end of the range so that all patterning shot is directed into the berm. **Any patterning with buckshot or slug loaded cartridges must be done on Range #3 (rifle range).**

Range # 5 (Archery Ranges):

Restricted to archery. **No firearms may be discharged on any part of these ranges.** There is no restriction on bow size or type or pull weight except as may be decreed by the Manahoac Bowmen. Use broadheads only on broadhead targets. Consult with the Manahoac Bowmen organization for specific safety requirements associated with the archery range.

RANGE OPERATIONS

Operating Hours (As of September 15, 2014):

Daylight Saving Time (DST):

- Monday thru Saturday hours 8:00 AM until 7:00 PM.
- Sunday hours: 12:00 PM (noon) until 7:00 PM.

Eastern Standard Time (EST):

- Monday through Saturday hours 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM.
- Sunday hours 12:00 PM (noon) until 4:00 PM.

Ranges (either singly or multiples) shall be considered CLOSED as follows:

1. When scheduled/announced on the electronic Chapter Calendar (<http://iwlafred-rapp.org/calendar.htm>).
2. When a sign is placed at the entrance of the Chapter grounds announcing closure of the firearms ranges.
3. On scheduled Chapter workdays (usually the first Saturday of the month following the Thursday membership meeting) from sunrise until after formal completion of the work scheduled for that day. Should you arrive at the range to shoot and find it closed while work is being performed by Chapter volunteers, please feel free to join in and help. There is always a need for picking up the spent cartridges (brass, steel and aluminum) on all of the closed firing ranges.
4. As directed by the Chapter President or the Board of Directors for safety reasons when there are designated activities which would make it unsafe to use the ranges or when they are being used for other purposes. This does not preclude the use of the ranges when there are Scouts, family or other gatherings on the pond side of the range road unless it has been specifically designated as a "Range Closed Day."
5. Any RSO has the authority to close any range for any reason he or she determines to be safety related.

Range use: The use of ranges is on a first-come, first-served basis. Share the range with others. Shooters are allowed only one bench/area each. **If all of the shooting positions are full and other shooters are waiting, shooters on the line are limited to one hour each from the time that they took their position on the line.** Ranges can only be reserved by prior written permission of the Board of Directors or Range Committee.

Trash removal: The areas around the shooting benches and backstops shall be cleaned up by the shooter(s) before leaving the range. All expended, unwanted brass shall be placed in the provided plastic buckets for the use of those who reload. **All other trash (paper targets, cardboard/wood, food wrappers, drink containers, etc.) shall be removed from the range and disposed of by the shooter(s). Do not discard cigarette butts on our ranges or anywhere on the Chapter grounds.**

Badges/Identification: Chapter members must wear the current All-in-One shooter's photo identification badge on their outer clothing in plain sight whenever they are on Chapter ranges.

Guests: Guests are permitted to use the ranges; however, their actions are the responsibility of the Chapter Member bringing them onto Chapter grounds. Range guests are limited to two (2) per Member at one time. **Any Chapter Member bringing any guest other than an immediate family member onto the property to use the Chapter ranges must sign in at the gate house per order of our insurance carrier.** (An "immediate family member" is a non-member spouse or child living in the household.)

If the guests live within the "service area" of this Chapter, their attendance as guests should be limited to a total of 3 visits, after which they should be encouraged to join rather than be frequent guests.

No Member shall ever allow any non-member to use their All-in-One gate access card to gain electronic entry.

Duty to report prohibited actions: All Members and guests shall report any unsafe or prohibited actions (or the refusal by any Member or guest to correct any unsafe or prohibited action) when advised of such by any Chapter Member to the Chapter president, a member of the Board of Directors, or a member of the Range Committee/RSO as soon as practically possible.

New Member orientation: All new Members must complete a Chapter Range Safety Orientation Course prior to using any of the archery, pistol, rifle, or shotgun ranges. Only after the completion of this Range Safety Orientation Course will an All-in-One Shooter's Photo ID Badge be issued to a new member signifying permission for using the ranges.

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

Always adhere to The National Rifle Association's Three Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling:

1. Keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. Keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

In addition to these 3 NRA fundamental safe gun handling rules, users of the Chapter ranges are also expected to adhere to the following NRA rules when using a gun:

1. Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
2. Know how to use the gun safely.
3. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
4. Know your target and what is beyond.

CHAPTER RANGE SAFETY RULES

Every Chapter Member and guest shall follow these more explicit safety rules:

Shooters and any other persons in the immediate vicinity of any range should wear eye and ear protection when firearms are being fired. The shooter bears all responsibility for vision or hearing loss related to shooting without appropriate vision and hearing protection.

Check all firearm barrels for obstructions prior to firing, especially if the firearm has been dropped on the ground.

Always keep the muzzles of all firearms under control and pointed down range. Never point the muzzle of any firearm over the backstop or berm when firing or preparing to fire. Dry firing is only permitted on the firing line.

The actions of all uncased firearms shall be open except when the shooter is on the firing line and is firing or preparing to fire. All firearms shall be unloaded with the actions open (or with a chamber flag inserted) and the safety engaged and placed on the shooting bench before going down range to check your targets.

Shooters shall not handle firearms or ammunition, for any reason, when another shooter is forward of the established firing line.

No shooter shall continue to use any firearm when it is malfunctioning, in need of repair, or has any other condition which makes it unsafe to use. The affected range will be rendered safe by requiring all firearms be unloaded and ammunition removed from the firing line while the malfunctioning firearm is corrected. If the firearm cannot be returned to normal operation the firearm will be left at the firing line pointing at the back stop and the range closed to further use.

Any inexperienced shooters shall always be supervised by an experienced shooter when on the range.

The shooter shall advise all persons in the immediate vicinity whenever new loads are being fired in a firearm, and, consequently, there is the danger of a catastrophic malfunction, i.e., the exploding gun syndrome.

Shooters desiring to fire at their targets at a distance closer than that from the shooting bench to the backstop may go down range to the preferred distance when safe. **This is in lieu of the prohibited practice of placing the target short of the backstop.** All other shooters must agree and, if also shooting, move to the same mutually agreed firing line.

Any unsafe or prohibited action on the range shall be corrected immediately upon being advised of such by any Chapter Member, guest or an RSO.

PERMISSABLE TARGETS AND PLACEMENT METHODS

The following categories of target materials are permitted:

- Paper or cardboard targets.
- Clay pigeons, either thrown on the shotgun range for skeet shooting or placed stationary on the backstop on one of the pistol or rifle ranges.
- **The use of any steel targets is expressly banned from use at any of the Chapter ranges** (instituted May 4, 2015).

All targets shall be placed on or behind the established target line, on the backstop or suspended in front of the backstop and below the level of the target suspension rope furnished for hanging targets.

Targets shall be attached to cardboard, plywood or other appropriate target holders, which may be attached to ropes or cables, or other target holders as available.

No targets shall be placed directly on or in front of the side wooden posts holding the target suspension rope or the wooden poles at the base of the earthen backstop serving to stabilize the soil.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

These Prohibited Activities shall be considered major violations of the Chapter Range Rules and shall make the offender liable to losing his or her range privileges either for a specified period or permanently. Violations by guests shall place the Member in jeopardy of the same punishment.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages during or immediately prior to using the firing ranges.

Furnishing the gate access card to any non-member, even to a family member in the absence of a Family Membership (defined as husband and wife only, in which case both are entitled to have access cards). Children of this type of membership are not to be given the access card(s)). Disabled Members shall be exempt from this requirement upon application to and the determination of the Board of Directors that this would unduly inconvenience the disabled member.

Placing targets between the shooting benches and the backstop, i.e., midrange, instead of at the backstop.

Firing any weapon in fully automatic mode, using SlamFire stocks or the equivalent, or any other device designed and/or marketed to cause a semi-automatic firearm to perform in a manner similar or identical to a fully automatic firearm.

Entering on Chapter property with a fully automatic firearm.

Using a firearm suppressor that has not received prior approval by the Range

Committee, director or any Chapter Officer.

Using armor-piercing, tracer or .50 BMG ammunition.

Shooting at or near utility poles, electrical wires or any other unapproved target not in front of the backstop.

Shooting at glass, metal, or any other item not specifically approved as a target.

Using exploding targets of any type.

Shooting at targets on the ground in front of the backstop, on any structure designed to protect the backstop, or on the support posts or crosspieces (as opposed to placing targets on the dirt backstop, which is permissible).

Shooting at any game or wildlife at any time.

Engaging in horseplay while anywhere on a defined firearms or archery range.

Deliberately shooting at the target support posts or cables/cords or hanging clamps.

Deliberately shooting over the backstop or berms.

Using the range without properly displaying your Chapter All-in-One Shooter's Photo ID Card.

Shooting with any person in front of the firing line.

Shooting your firearm in rapid fire mode, controlled or uncontrolled. Keep firing rate to a minimum. An exception to this rule is an allowed shooting of a "double tap" or a "controlled pair" where these terms are defined as follows: A "double tap" is a shooting technique where two shots are fired in rapid succession at the same target with the same sight picture and a "controlled pair" is where a second sight picture on a different target is acquired for the second shot). **Any RSO or Chapter Officer has the final decision in this matter.**

A group shooting in unison so as to convey the perceived existence of rapid fire at a range. If this happens by individual and non-related shooters inadvertently, all shooting will cease and shooters determine how to proceed in compliance with this requirement. Organized groups of more than one shall not occupy the range if the intent is to shoot quickly in unison. See prohibition on combat-type shooting below.

"Combat-type" shooting. No "tactical shooting" is allowed. One exception is an allowance for members to draw from a holster to engage a stationary target mounted at the target line on the berm while facing the target. Drawing holstered firearms and firing is permitted only while standing stationary at the firing line and only from a strong side hip holster.

- More specifically, drawing a firearm from a holster and shooting while moving or using simulated concealment cover is prohibited.
- Shooting a rifle or carbine of any caliber while moving or using simulated concealment cover is prohibited.

Leaving trash on the premises of the Chapter grounds without placing it in an authorized trash receptacle. This includes spent brass, shot shell hulls, and ammunition boxes. **It is expected that all range users take trash home. Do not discard smoking materials anywhere on the ranges or grounds. Do not spit tobacco juice on the ranges.**

Leaving cardboard target or target holder material anywhere on the grounds. Take it with you.

Shooting into or across the pond, or anywhere not deemed a firearms or archery range.

Shooting any firearm on any part of the property other than allowed by our Rules.

Driving any vehicle downrange, except when ranges are closed for designated work parties.

Using any range for personal gain, or for any commercial purpose.

Use of any range by non-members for any type of training exercises (requires prior written approval by the Board of Directors).

Use of targets composed of any metal even if designed to be impact resistant or designed as a steel target.

Refusing to correct any unsafe or prohibited action when advised by any Chapter Member, guest or RSO.

REPORTING INFRACTIONS: All Members shall report to the Chapter President, a Chapter Officer, or a member of the Range Committee as soon as practically possible, any continuing or prohibited actions or the refusal by any Member or guest to correct any unsafe or prohibited action when advised as such by any Member.

PENALTIES

Offense

Minimum Penalty

Any Infraction

As recommended by the Range Committee or Determined by the Board Of Directors.

All infractions involving safety shall be considered Major Uncorrected Infractions.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The following steps are standard operating procedure (SOP) for any emergency that might develop on the ranges:

1. Call 911; use either the phone located inside the Green Phone Box to the right side of the clubhouse door or the other phone on the Maintenance Shed. Both phones are landline phones that are connected to the telephone network.
2. Communicate to the 911 dispatcher: identify yourself, your location and the nature of the emergency. The entrance/gate address is Izaak Walton League, 12400 Herndon Road, Spotsylvania and is between Brock Road at one end and Orange Plank Road on the other end.
3. Lock open the automatic gate. (a rocker switch on the bottom of the large control box on the left side of the gate hinge locks the gate in the open position after it is commanded open and stops); leave a person familiar with the emergency and its exact location at the gate to serve as a guide for the First Responders.
4. Render first aid to the best of your knowledge and ability. Invest in a first aid kit for personal use and learn how to use its contents. Limited first aid supplies are available in the kits fastened to Range support structures.
5. Take notes. If witnesses are present ask them to gather information as to Date, Time, Location, Weather condition, Who was involved and What happened. Get names of any witnesses. A recording feature from your Smart phone can be valuable if you know how to use it.
6. Report incident as soon as possible to a Chapter Officer, director, or member of the Range Committee.

IMPLEMENTATION

These revised Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun Range Rules shall take effect immediately upon their approval by the Board of Directors of the Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America.

Approved and Adopted on March 29, 2020

By order of:

/signed/
Herbert Pritchett, Chapter President

**Izaak Walton League of America
Fredericksburg- Rappahannock Chapter**

List of Range Safety Officers as of November 27, 2021

Rita Aberegg
AJ Appleby
Steve Bennett
Jamie Branham
Conway Carter
Anthony Correa
Jerry Dean
Gib Devey
Dennis Dietz
Jimmy Green

Steve Kotowski
Jim Lloyd
Kevin Maxwell
Herbert Pritchett, Sr
Jim Rector
Al Saunders
Sandy Stanford
Joe Webb
Mike Weiss
John Yurechko