
DESERT MARKSMEN RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB

RANGE SAFETY AND OPERATING RULES

REVISION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023

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NOTICE: THE GATE AT ANGELES FOREST HWY MUST
BE CLOSED AND LOCKED AT ALL TIMES UNLESS A
GUARD IS PRESENT, THEN STOP SIGN WILL BE OUT.

RANGE SAFETY & OPERATING RULES

These safety and operating rules are for the purpose of educating the general membership on the safe operation of the range during Open Range time and outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

NOTE:

Be aware that certain circumstances may require additional precautions not specifically outlined below. The terms “gun” and “firearms” as used here are interchangeable.

ARTICLE 1 - GUN HANDLING RULES:

1. Treat all guns as if they are loaded.
2. The only safe firearm is a disassembled firearm.
3. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
 - a. The only safe directions are muzzle pointed up, down range, or secured in its case or holster.
4. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside of the trigger guard, until your sights are on the target.
5. Keep the action open and the firearm unloaded until ready to use. This means the shooters are in position on the firing line and the range has been cleared for live firing.
6. Know how the firearm operates.
7. Be sure that the ammunition is correct for the firearm. It is recommended that when on the range with more than one firearm, use one at a time and when finished, store that firearm and its ammunition safely before using the next one.
8. Be sure of the target and what is beyond. Also be mindful of adjacent areas.
9. Do not mix alcohol or drugs with shooting activities.

ARTICLE 2 - GENERAL RANGE RULES:

NOTE: ALWAYS check the Schedule on the DMRPC club web site before going to the range.

1. The operation of the range during scheduled matches is subject to guidelines established for each discipline and will be under the control of the Match Director, also the Director may modify any Rule or Rules as necessary for the safe operation of the entire range complex.
2. All ranges at DMRPC have large range signs at or near the range access points that define the approved range usage.
3. The following projectiles and targets are prohibited:
 - a. Armor piercing projectiles.
 - b. Steel core projectiles.
 - c. Tracer projectiles.
 - d. Exploding projectiles or exploding targets.
 - e. Objects that are not specifically designed to be used as targets.
4. During scheduled matches or scheduled practice times, the range is considered closed.
5. The director of any scheduled event is the Range Officer for the entire range during the period of the event and must be consulted prior to the use of any range.
6. If a member is using any portion of the range prior to the arrival of the Event Director, or arrives during a scheduled event, the member must secure permission to use any other portion of the range and abide by the Event Director's decision.
7. Know and obey all range commands:
 - a. Call "cease firing" and make safe all firearms before a shooter moves forward of the firing line or during any unsafe condition.
 - b. Call "cease firing" if the firing line becomes staggered (one shooter forward of another) anywhere on the range complex.
8. It is everyone's responsibility to act as a Range Safety Officer when none is present.

9. All firearms will be carried to and from the firing ranges either cased, holstered, or carried muzzle up. Do NOT uncase any firearms in the parking areas. Use the appropriate firing line or “fiddle area” (practical range).
10. On the firing line, all firearms that are out of their case or holster, and not being fired must be either unloaded, benched, or racked with actions open, chambers empty, muzzles pointed down range, or if racked, muzzles pointed up.
11. There shall be absolutely NO gun handling on the line, or behind the benches when people are down range.
12. Objects that are not specifically designed as targets are prohibited. Paper attached to a shooting stand and or steel targets specifically designed as a shooting target are strongly recommended. Targets and stands are to be provided by the member.
 - a. Do not bring or shoot junk such as old appliances, electronic equipment, auto parts, furniture, etc. Take your trash HOME or put it the dumpster, don’t leave it on the range.
13. Club metal Lollipop targets on the left side, and across the 100 yd line, are restricted to non-magnum firearms at 100 and 200 yards; magnums are OK at 300 yards and beyond.
14. Targets are to be placed on the flat surface of the Range and be maintained to ensure that the fired projectiles hit a desired portion of the backstops. (Do Not place targets on the berms)
15. Every consideration must be taken to ensure that projectiles never leave the range property.
16. All firearms are to be cleared (unloaded, actions open, preferably cased) before leaving the firing line; handguns that are going to be carried must be holstered.
17. For purposes other than active target shooting, members may wear a loaded and securely holstered handgun provided that it is holstered in a safe carry condition.
 - a. Safe carry for a handgun is per the manufacturer recommendation for the make and model of that handgun, and you are proficient in the safe handling of that handgun.
18. All non-members are prohibited from wearing a handgun for any purpose other than active target shooting.
19. The use of black powder is authorized on all open ranges:
 - a. Duplex loads in muzzle loading firearms are prohibited.
 - b. Capping, priming, and firing of blanks, including popping of caps or flashing of pans will be done on the firing line only.
 - c. Open powder containers on the firing line are prohibited.
 - d. No smoking within 50 feet of the firing line when black powder is in use.
20. Eye and hearing protection will be worn at all times when shooting or observing shooting within 25 yards of the firing position.
 - a. Recommended eye protection should meet American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1-1998 standards or equivalent.
 - b. Minimum hearing protection of 25-dB reduction is recommended. Protection is strongly recommended within 50 yards of shooting activities.

ARTICLE 3 - RANGE USE DURING OPEN RANGE TIME IS RESTRICTED TO:

Note: Open Range Shooting Is Allowed From Sunrise To Sunrise (24 Hours), Except For Scheduled Matches / Events

1. Main Rifle Range (A) - All positions of the 600 Yard range,
 - a. Shooting benches 1 thru 14 plus the prone positions 1 thru 10.
 - b. Shooting benches 1 thru 4 must be marked as closed when the covered Pistol Shed is in use.
 - c. Main Rifle Range is open to all firearms, provided that all Federal and State of California laws concerning, firearm type, caliber and gauge requirements are met.
 - d. When the Practical Pistol Range (C) is in use, ensure that all projectiles fired on the Main Range impact at 100 yards or beyond.
2. The Covered Pistol Shed Range (B) - Restricted to any rim fire firearm, any standard center fire pistol caliber firearm (including pistol caliber carbines), muzzling loading pistols/rifles, smoothbore muskets, and all air guns.
 - a. Main Rifle Range benches 1 thru 4 must be marked as closed when this range is in use.

- b. No shotguns, centerfire rifles, or pistols using rifle cartridges are permitted.
- 3. The Practical Pistol Range (C) – Open to all firearms, except that high power rifles are restricted to paper targets only; pistols, shotguns, pistol caliber carbines, and rim fires may use appropriate steel targets.
- 4. NOTE – The Black Powder / Small Bore Range (D) is CLOSED except for scheduled matches.

ARTICLE 4 - HOURS OF OPERATION AND SCHEDULING:

- 1. Normal shooting hours are 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except for scheduled matches / events
- 2. If members are staying overnight, they are to expect that other club members may at ANY time use the ranges for shooting as outlined in these club rules.
- 3. Members may submit a proposed scheduled activity in writing to the Executive Committee by mail or in person at the General Membership Meeting.
 - a. All proposed activities are subject to approval regarding safety or conflict with previously scheduled events.
 - b. Proposals must be submitted 90 days prior to the event.
- 4. When range A is closed for a match, the Match Director may open range D for 100-yard practice/ sighting in.
- 5. Weekend scheduled matches run from 8:00am until 4:00pm:
 - a. First Sunday - Muzzleloading Rifle (monthly, range D)
 - b. Second Saturday - Practical Pistol (monthly, range C)
 - c. Second Saturday - Bullseye Pistol (Apr-Oct, range B)
 - d. Second Sunday - Small Bore Rifle (monthly, range D)
 - e. Second Sunday – Defensive Pistol (monthly, range C)
 - f. Third Saturday - High Power Rifle (monthly, range A)
 - g. Third Saturday – Urban Tactical (monthly, range C)
 - h. Third Sunday - Cowboy Action (monthly, range C)
 - i. Fourth Saturday - Tactical Rifle (monthly, range A, and two (2) 1000 yd. events in September)
 - j. Fourth Sunday - 1000 Yard Rifle (monthly, except for three 4th Saturday nights) This closes the entire range.

ARTICLE 5 - GUEST POLICY:

- 1. Persons belonging to the immediate family (parents, spouse, and children) of a current member may accompany that member to the range an unlimited number of times.
 - a. Minor children must be always under the direct supervision of the member or an adult member of the members immediate family.
 - b. For minor grandchildren to be counted as immediate family, the member must have a document from the child's parents granting permission to the member to allow the child to handle and discharge firearms in the members possession when at the range.
- 2. Non-members are not allowed access to the range except in the company of a current member, or to attend a regularly scheduled club match or another club open house event.
- 3. Members are responsible for their guest(s), only 2 permitted, and must ensure that the guest(s) comply with all safety procedures.
 - a. Guest(s) must be under the direct supervision by the member while the guest is handling and/or discharging firearms.
- 4. Non-members who live in California are to be considered as prospective club members and are limited to two "familiarization visits" to the range. Such persons must become club members before they are allowed further access to the range (matches and open house events excepted).
- 5. Non-members living out of state are limited to two range visits in any calendar year (matches and open house events excepted).
- 6. All scheduled events are open to the public and are not subject to this policy.

ARTICLE 6 - PARKING AT THE DMRPC COMPLEX:

1. Parking in front of any active firing position for any purpose is prohibited.
2. Parking is authorized within the picnic and overnight parking area; behind the Bullseye Pistol Range (shed) and behind the 600-yard Main Range, also on the Practical Range between the 25-yard line and the containers adjacent to the Main range.
3. Vehicle loading and unloading may be performed forward of the firing line only when a cease-fire has been called and the line is clear.
4. Vehicles may go forward of the firing line during a cease-fire to set up or retrieve targets.

ARTICLE 7 - RANGE MAINTENANCE:

1. Members are required to maintain the range in a condition the same as or better than when the member arrived.
2. Maintenance days are scheduled throughout the year and all members are strongly encouraged to attend.

ARTICLE 8 - PICNIC / OVERNIGHT PARKING / MULTIPLE USE AREA:

1. Overnight stays are permitted 7 days/week (excluding scheduled events requiring use of the area).
2. No discharging of firearms in the picnic area.
3. Campfires, BBQ's, gas stoves, gas lanterns, etc.:
 - a. When USFS posts "No Fires" for our region, NO OPEN FIRES of any kind are permitted.
 - b. The Club Safety Officer, when fires are allowed, shall designate any appropriate locations on the DMRPC complex where campfires may be permitted, and any additional precautions/measures required, including when necessary, recommending to the EXCOM that no fires be permitted.
 - c. It is required, when fires are allowed, that users of campfires, stoves, lanterns, etc., have in their immediate possession a current, valid campfire permit as issued by the USFS, and that all conditions of the permit are abided by. Users should have with them a shovel, fire extinguisher, and water
 - d. The use of built-in appliances in recreational vehicles are permitted.
4. Propane fueled stoves and BBQs are permitted to be used under the cover of the Black Powder Range (D), provided that all USFS permit requirements are followed.
5. Additional information can be found on the USFS Angeles Forest website for more specifics.

ARTICLE 9 - HUNTING:

1. Members must be aware that the Club Range is within the National Forest where hunting is permitted. During hunting seasons, care must be taken to ensure that no hunters are within any potential bullet impact area, including areas surrounding the DMRPC complex.
2. When in compliance with all hunting rules and regulations, members may hunt on the forest areas surrounding the range complex.
3. Hunting is not allowed below the ridge lines, in front of the firing lines, surrounding the range complex.
4. All scheduled or open range activity takes precedence over all hunting activity at any location adjacent to or surrounding the club range.
5. When hunting on the ridge lines adjacent to the club range or surrounding areas, members must park their vehicles off the edge of the road adjacent to the picnic/overnight parking area across from the Black Powder range, facing the Black Powder Range.
 - a. Post a visible sign on the dash stating where they are hunting with their name and member number, time, and date they started, their estimated time of completion.

ARTICLE 10 - ENVIRONMENTAL:

1. Chopping of trees is prohibited. Grounded, dead wood may be used for firewood if hauled away.
2. Due to environmental and safety concerns, the mining of lead within the range is prohibited.
3. Hazardous materials are prohibited, except for those required for routine or scheduled maintenance operations.
4. Use of gun cleaning solvents in quantities not exceeding one quart is permitted.

ARTICLE 11 - CLUB MEETINGS.

1. The Club meetings shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month at a place determined by the Board of Directors.
2. The time of the general membership meeting will be 7:30 PM.
3. A sign-in sheet will be used at all regular or special meetings so a record of the members in attendance will be available.

ARTICLE 12 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM)

1. The EXCOM shall be responsible for all Range Activities and Range Maintenance, including the Access Road, and shall have the authority to authorize spending the funds necessary to accomplish these responsibilities.
2. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of both voting and non-voting members:
 - a. Voting members shall be the club members acting as the active discipline leads.
 1. The active disciplines are:
 - a. Black Powder
 - b. Bullseye Pistol
 - c. Cowboy Action
 - d. Defensive Pistol
 - e. High Power Rifle
 - f. Practical Pistol
 - g. Tactical Rifle
 - h. Urban Tactical
 - i. Smallbore Rifle/Pistol
 - j. 1000 yard (Long Range Rifle)
 - b. Non-voting members shall be the members performing the duties of Quarter Master, Newsletter Editor, Membership Clerk, EXCOM Recording Secretary, Club Safety Officer, and Security Manager/Supervisor.
 - c. Voting members may also hold one or more non-voting positions but may only hold one voting position.
3. The EXCOM chairperson (Club Vice President) shall only have voting power in the event of a tie vote by the EXCOM.
4. The time of the EXCOM business meeting will be 6:30 PM on the same day and at the same place as the general membership meeting.
 - a. A sign-in sheet will be used at all regular or special meetings so a record of the members in attendance will be available.

ARTICLE 13 - DUTIES OF THE EXCOM OFFICERS:

1. The discipline lead shall act as the range safety officer during all discipline matches and shall be responsible for all activities occurring on the entire range during the discipline match.
2. Each discipline lead shall have at least one alternate lead who shall be required to attend EXCOM meetings to represent and vote for the discipline when the discipline lead cannot attend.
3. Match reports and match fees shall be turned in at the first EXCOM meeting following the match.
4. EXCOM Meeting Attendance. All committee members, both voting and non-voting, are expected to attend ALL Executive Committee meetings.
5. Any Discipline without representation by its discipline leader, or alternate, without prior written notice to the EXCOM Secretary, for two consecutive meetings or three meetings within one year, shall result in the Discipline being suspended from active status until such time as a responsible leader and alternate can be presented to the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 14 - SAFETY VIOLATIONS & OFFENSES:

1. Safety and Operating rules are established to protect members and guest from serious injury or death, and to protect range property.

2. Violating any portion of the “Range Safety & Operations Manual” will result in disciplinary action appropriate to the nature of the offense.
3. The severity of disciplinary action will be determined by considerations such as the impact of damage causing bodily injury or death and the circumstances of the violation.
4. Three violations, general or major, or a combination of both within one year shall result in the immediate loss of Club membership for all time with the loss of current membership fees.
5. Depending on the severity of the offense, a final warning notice can be issued at any time.

ARTICLE 14A - General Offenses / Disciplinary Action:

1. Any violation of a section of the “Range Safety & Operations Manual” not resulting in personal injury or property damage and not directly involving the discharge of a firearm.
2. Committing any General Offense can result in the following action being taken.
 - a. Any member may have a discussion with any other member (or guest) about a General Offense and at their discretion report the offense to an Executive Officer.
3. When any violation is reported to any Club Officer, that officer shall be required to call for an investigation of the incident by the Club Safety Officer.
 - a. The Safety Officer shall investigate all General Offenses within thirty days.
4. Should the investigation find that a safety violation has occurred the following action must be taken by the ExCom.
 - a. First Incident, the offender shall be counseled to the incident by the Club Safety Officer or Club President. The offender must attend a new member orientation within 45 days and sign an affidavit of understanding and compliance, which will be forwarded to the Club Secretary.
 - b. Second Incident, (within one calendar year) the offender shall be counseled by the Club Safety Officer or Club President, shall receive a suspension of Club privileges for one to three months without reimbursement or credit of member fees..
 - c. Third Incident, (within one year of the first incident) the offender shall result in the loss of club membership for all time, with the loss of current membership fees.
5. Failure to comply with the above administrative requirements shall result in the loss of club membership for all time with the loss of current membership fees.
6. Before reinstatement the offender must attend a new member orientation and sign an affidavit of understanding and compliance to include a final warning notice to be forwarded to the Club Secretary
7. A suspended member who is found to be at the range, shall because of discovery, lose all club membership status for all time, with the loss of current membership fees. Except when attending a public match/event.

ARTICLE 14B - Major Offenses / Disciplinary Action:

1. Any violation of the “Range Safety & Operations Manual” resulting in personal injury, property damage, or involving the discharge of a firearm, committing any Major Offense may result in the following action being taken:
 - a. When a violation is reported to any Club Officer, they shall be required to call for a review of the incident by the Club Safety Officer.
 - b. Investigations regarding firearm discharge, or property damage with no bodily injury occurring shall be investigated within 30 days.
 - c. Non-serious bodily injury, accidental in nature, and non-firearm related, shall be investigated immediately.
 - d. Violations involving serious bodily injury, any bodily injury involving a firearm, or any accident resulting in death, members must call 911 and ask for medical and law enforcement assistance.
2. Members must immediately report the incident to any Club Executive Officer, who shall immediately contact the Club Safety Officer.
 - a. The Club Safety Officer shall then immediately perform an investigation.
3. For any alleged violation of county, state, or federal law, members must first call the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department for assistance, then report the alleged violation to any Club Officer, who will request a review by the Club Safety Officer.

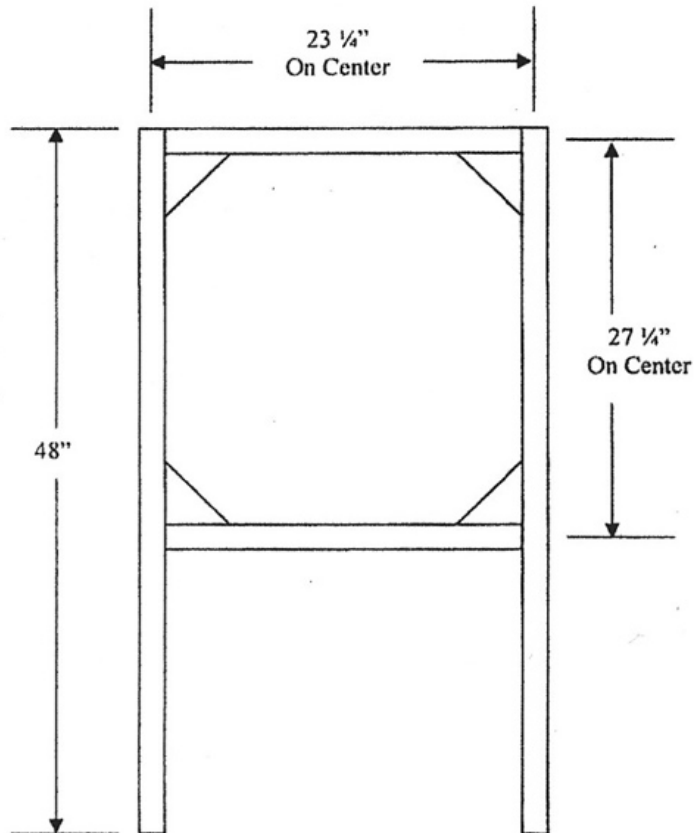
4. Should the investigation find that a safety violation has occurred, the following action(s) must be taken by the Executive Committee.
 - a. First Incident, the offender shall be counseled to the incident by the Club Safety Officer or Club President. The offender must attend a new member orientation within 30 days and sign an affidavit of understanding and compliance, which will be forwarded to the Club Secretary.
 - b. Second Incident, (within one year of the first incident) the offender shall, in addition to the preceding, be counseled by the Club Safety Officer or Club President, shall receive a suspension of club privileges for up to six months without reimbursement or credit of member fees.
 - c. Third Incident, (within one year of the first incident) the offense shall result in the loss of club membership for all time, with the loss of current membership fees.
 - d. Violations involving bodily injury, accidental in nature, in addition to the preceding, the member shall receive a suspension of club privileges for six months, without reimbursement or credit of member fees.
 - e. Violations involving serious bodily injury, gross negligence, unlawful activity, or accidents resulting in death, result in the loss of club membership for all time, with the loss of current membership fees.
 - f. Before reinstatement the offender must attend a new member orientation within 90 days. The offender must then sign an affidavit of understanding and compliance to include a final warning notice to be forwarded to the Club Secretary.
5. Failure to comply with the above administrative requirements shall result in the loss of club membership for all time, with the loss of current membership fees.
6. Depending on the severity of the offense, a final warning notice can be issued at any time.
7. A suspended member who is found to be at the range, shall because of discovery, lose all club membership status for all time, with the loss of current membership fees. Except when attending a public match/event.

ARTICLE 14 C - Disciplinary Action Appeals:

1. Appeal requests must be submitted in writing within 30 days of notification of the Executive Committees decision, to the club Board of Directors.
2. Appeals must be mailed to the DMRPC club president (via certified mail), care of Desert Marksmen, P.O. Box 1124, Lancaster, CA 93534.
3. A response will be returned to the appellant within 30 days of receipt.
4. An appeal hearing, if granted, will be conducted within 60 days of receipt.
5. The Board of Directors ruling of the appeal, with or without a hearing, is final.

Target Holder Plans

The following plans are for a target holder that will fit in most of the target bases at Desert Marksmen. All lumber is 2" x 2". The corner gusseting can be made from any piece of scrap wood. Staple heavy cardboard to the rectangular frame, and then staple your targets to the cardboard. The entire frame can be made for just a few dollars and fits easily in the trunk or back seat of most cars.



The following plans are for a base to support the target holder shown above. All lumber in the base is 2" x 4". There are two critical dimensions for the target base. Its width should match the width of the target holder above, and the cross members in the center of the base should be spaced just far enough apart to allow the legs of the target holder to fit snugly into the base. Since there is the occasional breeze at the range, a couple of sand bags to weight down the base would also be a valuable asset.

