

# FALLS TOWNSHIP RIFLE & PISTOL ASSOCIATION RANGE RULES

*NOTE: Violations may result in disciplinary actions, including termination of membership.*

## Definitions for Underlined Terms in Rules

**Unloaded**: A gun is unloaded when the chamber is empty, the action is open, and the magazine is removed. Muzzleloaders must also have an empty flash pan, or no percussion cap affixed.

**Cased**: A gun which is cased is stored in a secure case, box, that covers the trigger guard and secures the trigger from being engaged. It is acceptable to store an unloaded firearm in a holster off the body to provide extra protection to a trigger guard within a case, box, or range bag.

**Endorsement**: Members, matches, or events which have been cleared to engage in certain activities which require special training. Details are on the members only webpage. Endorsements (MG for machine gun, H for draw from holster, S for being able to place approved steel targets, RSO for Range Safety Officer, LC for large caliber) are displayed on the badge.

**Cease Fire**: A command given by anyone on the range to immediately stop firing and unload and flag any uncased guns.

**Cold Range**: A range which has had a cease fire called by anyone on the range who, once they ensure all guns are unloaded, will sound the horn once, and activate the flashing red light.

**Hot Range**: A range where loading of guns and firing is permitted, with no person being ahead of the shooting line. To make the range hot, shooters should ensure the downrange area is clear of persons and it is safe to resume shooting. Shooter shall indicate a hot range by sounding the horn twice, and switching off the flashing red light.

**Club-Provided Steel**: Any steel target placed by club directors, match directors, or members of the committee the Board of Directors designates to place, maintain, and test targets.

**Safe Direction**: Muzzle pointed either downrange while at the line or pointed up and not pointed at any person or dwelling. This includes when the gun is being cased or uncased.

**Empty Chamber Indicator**: A plastic flag-like device, brightly colored, which is inserted into the chamber to indicate to other shooters that the firing chamber is empty. ECIs are provided on all shooting ranges.

## Code of Conduct

1. Members are expected to foster, expand, and perpetuate the practice of target shooting and the spirit of good fellowship among all sportsmen. To this end members shall not:
  - 1.1. Engage in harassment, intimidation, written or verbal abuse, or threatening behavior aimed at any member, guest, or volunteer. Disagreements must be handled with mutual respect.
  - 1.2. Initiate a fight, scuffle.
  - 1.3. Take a poor attitude correcting or being corrected for a rule violation. If you feel a correction is improper, appeal the dispute to the Board of Directors for adjudication.

## Club Rules

- 2.1. Alcoholic beverages, unlawful controlled substances, and people under the influence thereof, are prohibited on the premises.
- 2.2. Members and guests are required to sign-in upon arrival and sign-out before departing using the log located at the sign-in desk. Members must sign-in each of their guests and pay any guest fees required at the time of sign-in. Members are limited to no more than four guests in any one visit without prior approval from the Board of Directors.
- 2.3. While on the premises, members must display their valid membership badge (as defined by the Board of Directors) in plain view and non-members must wear a filled out guest badge filled out at the time of sign-in.
- 2.4. Members are not permitted to give or loan their badge to another person permitting access to the property unsupervised, including immediate family.
- 2.5. Members are required to accompany and properly supervise their guests to ensure safe shooting and compliance with our rules. Members will be accountable for any rule broken by their guests which is not immediately corrected.
- 2.6. Members and guests must obey all posted signage and may not remove or add signage not approved by the Board of Directors.

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- 2.7. The Indoor Range is open for shooting 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Outdoor ranges are open from 8:00AM to sunset with the exception of the Archery Practice Range, which may be used off hours provided the lights are used if it's dark. Programs may have extended hours. Events may reserve club facilities for special events. Members may only use reserved facilities at the discretion of the event coordinator or match director. Members are encouraged to check the club calendar before coming to use a specific facility.
- 2.8. Shooters are responsible for following state and federal law regarding the transportation, possession, and use of guns, ammunition, and accessories. NFA items are permitted only with a lawfully issued tax stamp.
- 2.9. Members must clean up their shooting area after finishing shooting, including removing all casings on the shooting line and taking it with you or depositing it in the brass bucket on the range. Members may take their own brass or another member's brass with permission, but any brass in the brass bucket is club property and may not be taken. Reloaders can make arrangements with the club if they would like to sort range brass.

## Range Safety Rules for All Ranges

- 3.1. Guns must always be pointed in a safe direction, even when casing and uncasing.
- 3.2. Eye and ear protection are mandatory on all hot ranges where firearms may be used.
- 3.3. Unless being carried under 3.4, all guns which are brought onto the property must be unloaded and cased. Guns may be moved around the property uncased provided the firearm is unloaded, empty chamber indicator inserted, and at all times pointed in a safe direction.
- 3.4. Notwithstanding 3.3, holstered firearms may be carried loaded or unloaded on the premises, but members and guests may only draw their carried firearm in an emergency. This does not apply to members who have a club endorsement which allows draw-from-holster, or to persons taking part in an approved class or match. Members with a holster endorsement are permitted to draw from a hard-sided holster which completely encloses the trigger, made of polymer or leather, placed strong-side only.
- 3.5. Guns may only be loaded and fired at the firing line with the muzzle pointed downrange. Uncased guns not being actively used must always be unloaded with an empty chamber indicator inserted. Shooters shall not position themselves or benches such that their muzzle is behind other shooters on the line.
- 3.6. Shooters shall keep their fingers outside the trigger guard until on target and ready to shoot.
- 3.7. Shooters must utilize their sights: no hip or point shooting is permitted. Shooters are responsible for ensuring that any projectiles will safely impact the backstop after passing through or impacting the target. No rounds may be fired that cause damage to or leave the property.
- 3.8. Shooters may not place targets on target frames such that their placement risks damaging them.
- 3.9. Shooters may use their own frames *only* if they are wooden or polymer, roughly follow the same design as the club's, and are of a sufficient height to avoid ground or baffle strikes. Placement restrictions for any range must be followed for personal stands in the same manner as club stands..
- 3.10. Shooters must obey all range commands immediately. If the cease fire command is given by anyone on the range, everyone on the firing line must immediately stop firing, unload, insert an empty chamber indicator, and step away from their firearm.
- 3.11. All guns not being carried under 3.4 on a cold range shall be and remain unloaded with an empty chamber indicator inserted. There shall be no handling or touching of any gun whatsoever on a cold range. No one is permitted ahead of the shooting line on a hot range. Loading ammunition into detached magazines is permitted on a cold range, but no magazine shall be inserted into any gun.
- 3.12. No armor-piercing, tracer, or incendiary ammunition may be fired on the premises. Steel core ammunition (green or silver tip) may not be fired at any steel targets, but is not restricted for use at the club on other targets.
- 3.13. Fully-automatic firearms may only be used at the club by those holding the required endorsement or to persons taking part in an approved class or match. Binary triggers, fast-reset triggers, or any other device that simulates fully-automatic fire is also covered by this rule.

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- 3.14. Use of .50 BMG firearms, firearms using rounds having a muzzle energy greater than 8000 ft-lbs , or firearms greater than .50 caliber, may only be used at the club by those holding the required endorsement or those being instructed in an approved class or match. This does not apply to muzzleloading rifles or muskets. Nor does it apply to shotguns.
- 3.15. Club-provided steel targets may not be moved out of position. If a target has been moved, it may not be fired upon.
- 3.16. Damaged or broken club-provided steel targets may no longer be shot at. Members may remove the damaged targets from the range or notify the Board if they are unable to move the target.
- 3.17. No cross-lane firing on steel targets.

## Indoor Range Rules

- 4.1. Shooters must use the ventilation fans when shooting firearms on the indoor range.
- 4.2. Only pistol caliber cartridges listed in Appendix A of these rules, rimfire cartridges of at least .22 caliber, and lead air gun pellets are permitted on the Indoor Range.
- 4.3. Shot shells of any gauge/caliber, steel shot or BBs fired from air guns, and black powder ammunition are prohibited.
- 4.4. Shotguns or other firearms using shot shells are prohibited.
- 4.5. Black powder firearms are prohibited.
- 4.6. Only paper\_targets\_are permitted. Approved club-sanctioned events may use steel targets. Rimfire swingers are permitted for members who have a steel target endorsement on their badge, provided they are affixed to the designated space in the bullet trap and shot with allowed rimfire ammunition.

## Fifty-Yard Range Rules

- 5.1. Shot shells (multi-projectile shells) may only be fired at positions 1 and 2 using the provided patterning boards placed at the provided target positions. This is the only place on club property shot may be used. Shotguns firing single projectiles may be fired from any other position on the 50-yard range.
- 5.2. Only paper and club-provided steel targets may be fired upon unless the member has an endorsement for steel targets and the targets are placed in compliance with the steel rules provided to them.
- 5.3. Any steel targets on this range are limited to calibers in Appendix A of these rules. Target stands may not be placed any closer than 25-yards. The slope before the 25-yard position is *not* a backstop.

## 100- and 200-yard Range Rules

- 6.1. No shot shells (multi-projectile shells) of any gauge/caliber are permitted. Shotguns firing single projectiles are permitted on the 75- and 100-yard positions. No shotguns are permitted on the 200-yard range.
- 6.2. No black powder firearms, except in-line muzzleloaders, may be used on the 200-yard range.
- 6.3. Handguns are prohibited on the 100- and 200-yard range. This does not apply to braced firearms being fired from the shoulder or handguns with barrels 6" or longer being fired from bench rest.
- 6.4. Only paper and club-provided steel targets may be fired upon unless the target was placed by a member who has an endorsement to place steel targets in compliance with the steel rules provided to them. Paper targets may be placed on target stands at designated 75-, 100-, or 200-yard distances only.
- 6.5. The club-provided steel at the 100-yard position may be fired on from positions 1 or 2 only. The 200-yard club-provided steel may be fired on from positions 17 or 18 only. Members shooting at paper targets should avoid using these lanes unless others are full.
- 6.6. Members with club steel endorsements may place steel targets at positions 1 to 4 on the 100-yard range in compliance with the rules provided to them.

## Plinking Range Rules

- 7.1. No shot shells of any gauge/caliber are permitted.

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- 7.2. Shooters may fire on paper, balloons, clay, plaster, plastic, and thin metal targets such as cans placed at the eyebrow. Paper targets may be placed at intermediate distances on target stands at the provided distances. Be mindful of the edges of the eyebrow so that rounds do not ricochet out
- 7.3. No targets may be hung from the baffles or placed in a manner that the rounds passing through impact the ground ahead of the back stop or baffling.
- 7.4. Thick metal targets are currently prohibited on this range until further notice..
- 7.5. Shooters must clean up and remove any items that were used as targets during their shooting session. If you can't clean it up, you can't shoot it. Note that clay birds or other small fragments of degradable material can be left, if they will just incorporate into the berm.
- 7.6. Prohibited targets include material a .22LR bullet will not easily pass through, and that could cause ricochet or other hazard. When in doubt, ask an RSO or Board Member (contact [inquiry@ftrpa.com](mailto:inquiry@ftrpa.com)). Examples are:
  - Thick steel, other than approved steel targets placed by steel endorsed members. (e.g. pots and pans, cast iron plates, manhole covers, etc).
  - Glass or ceramic objects of any kind that would create hazardous shards.
  - Any objects that contain hazardous materials (e.g., electronics, noxious chemicals, batteries, paint cans, etc.)

## Air Gun Range Rules

- 8.1. Only air rifles and air pistols powered by means of pre-charged pneumatic, CO<sub>2</sub>, break-barrel, or pump-action are permitted to be used on this range. No firearms may be used.
- 8.2. Only .22 caliber or smaller lead, lead-free, or lead-core pellets may be shot. No BBs, slugs, or steel pellets permitted.
- 8.3. Eye protection is required when the range is hot. Ear protection is not required.
- 8.4. Allowed Targets:
  - Paper targets.
  - Member-provided field targets, practice field targets, metal swinging targets, and NRA 1/10 scale air gun silhouettes.

## Archery Range Rules

- 9.1. No firearms may be uncased, unholstered, or fired on the archery ranges.
- 9.2. Crossbows and bows may be cocked or drawn only at the firing positions on the practice range. Crossbows are only permitted to be used on the 3D range during 3D matches.
- 9.3. Only field points may be fired at range butts. Broadheads may only be used on your own targets.
- 9.4. No sky drawing. Bows must never be pointed over the backstop when drawing.
- 9.5. Air guns are only permitted during approved competitions.

## Curtis Lake Rules

- 10.1. The only activities allowed on the lake are boating and fishing, which may be done either from a boat or the shoreline. No ice fishing, skating, or swimming is permitted in or on Curtis Lake.
- 10.2. Any person unable to swim fishing from the shore must wear an approved life vest.
- 10.3. Fishing from the shoreline is not permitted in the archery range area when the archery course is in use.
- 10.4. Persons using the lake must comply with all PA Fish and Boat Commission regulations.
- 10.5. No littering, dumping, or discharging of guns is permitted over or into the lake.
- 10.6. Boating rules:
  - Everyone on board must wear an approved life vest.
  - No hunting, carrying, or discharging of guns is permitted while in a boat.
  - The maximum boat length is 16 feet.
  - Boats may be launched from the designated launch ramp only.
  - Only electric motors may be used to power any boat on the lake. "Slow Speed, No Wake" applies.
  - No boats may be left on the premises unattended without prior permission from officers or the Board.

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## Appendix A

**Cartridges Approved for use on the Indoor Range and club provided steel targets outdoors:**

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| All Rimfire Cartridges (.22 or larger)<br>5.7x28mm <sup>1,2</sup><br>.22 Remington Jet<br>.25 ACP<br>.25 NAA<br>.25 WCF (.25-20)<br>7mm Nambu<br>7.62 Nagant Revolver<br>7.62x25 Tokarev<br>.30 Luger<br>.30 Mauser<br>.30 Super Carry<br>.32 H&R Magnum<br>.32 S&W<br>.32 S&W Long (Colt New Police)<br>.32 NAA<br>.327 Federal Magnum<br>.32 WCF (.32-20)<br>.32 Automatic (7.65mm Browning)<br>.32 Short Colt<br>.32 Long Colt<br>.32 S&W Gallery<br>.32 Colt<br>.320 Revolver<br>7.5mm Swiss Army Revolver<br>.35 Automatic<br>.35 S&W Auto<br>8mm Rast-Gasser<br>8mm Nambu<br>8mm Lebel Revolver<br>7.5mm Nagant Revolver<br>9mm Ultra (Police)<br>9mm Mauser<br>9mm Winchester Magnum<br>.356 TSW<br>9mm Glisenti<br>9x19mm Luger (Parabellum)<br>9x21mm | 9mm Steyr<br>9x23 Winchester<br>.380 ACP (9mm Kurz) (9x17mm)<br>.38 Special<br>.357 Magnum <sup>1</sup><br>.357 SIG <sup>1</sup><br>.38 ACP<br>.38 Super Automatic<br>.38 S&W (Colt New Police)<br>.38 WCF (.38-40)<br>9x18mm Makarov<br>.380 Short & Long Revolver<br>.41 Long Colt<br>.40 S&W<br>10mm Automatic <sup>1</sup><br>.41 Short Colt<br>.41 Remington Magnum<br>.41 Action Express<br>10.4mm Italian Revolver<br>.44 Russian<br>.44 Special & Magnum <sup>2</sup><br>.44 Bulldog<br>.44 WCF (.44-40)<br>.460 Rowland<br>.45 Webley<br>.45 Auto Rim<br>.45 GAP<br>.45 Automatic Short/.45 HP<br>.45 Automatic Match<br>.45 ACP<br>.45 Long Colt<br>.45 Winchester Magnum <sup>1,2</sup><br>.455 Webley Mk I and Mk II<br>.455 Colt (Enfield)<br>.45 S&W (Schofield)<br>.455 Webley Automatic<br>.450 Revolver (Adams, Colt) |
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### **Strictly Prohibited on Indoor Range:**

- Any cartridge not on the approved list
- Shot shells, shotguns and other firearms using shot shells
- Black Powder cartridges and firearms
- Steel shot and BBs

<sup>1</sup> **No loads faster than 1600 ft/sec**

<sup>2</sup> **No loads greater than 1200 ft-lb of muzzle energy**

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## **Appendix B: Exceptions for Programs. Additional exceptions require approval.**

### **Education Committee:**

- Permitted to set targets on the indoor range closer than minimum distance for educational classes.
- Permitted to shoot ahead of the normal shooting line.
- Permitted to allow draw-from-holster for educational courses or quals.
- Permitted to move club-placed steel as necessary for training use on the range in use.

### **Steel Committee, Low Light, and NRL22:**

- Committee members may place steel targets on any range for the purposes of testing, practice, and competition.
- Permitted to shoot ahead of the normal shooting line.
- Permitted to move club-placed steel as necessary on the range in use.

### **Steel Committee, Low Light:**

- Permitted to allow competitors to draw-from-holster using cold range rules.

### **Low Light and NRL22:**

- Permitted to hold shooting events outside of normal shooting hours, provided there is no shooting during the time Falls Township Noise Ordinance (10PM to 7AM) is in effect.

### **AAFTA Field Target:**

- The use of AAFTA approved field targets and air guns are permitted on the 3D Archery Course during sanctioned matches.

### **Silhouette:**

- Permitted to practice on approved swinger targets on the indoor range, provided the target stand is set inside or immediately in front of the target traps.