



SHONGUM SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
BOX 431
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CLUBHOUSE 866-746-6485

RANGE RULES with Included Standard Operating Procedures ("SOPs")
Revised: 11/18/2017

leave the ranges in better shape than you found them

It is the individual club member's responsibility to read and understand the most current set of rules and to follow them.

1. Club Membership ID and Range Use

All members of Shongum Sportsmen's Association ("SSA") shall sign in and out in the log book and will display/wear their ID membership cards when on Club property, preferably on a lanyard with the name facing outwards. Any member of the club may be challenged or told to abide by this official rule by any other member of the club whenever they are on club property. Member Guests must sign-in indicating the Member's cardkey number and must wear a stick-on guest badge. Members (and their guests) using the facilities without current membership cards will be asked to leave the facilities to get their cards.

Shongum facilities and ranges are NOT to be used for any for-profit activities for members or their guests. Where training activities or any events result in revenue that exceeds expenses, such excess revenue shall be remitted to the Club Treasury. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Executive Committee in advance of the event. The use of SSA property other than for shooting and archery activities in the prescribed areas shall require permission of the Executive Committee.

2. Alcoholic Beverages/Medications/Smoking

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES may be consumed by participants during any formal or informal shooting on club property. Included in this category are any medications/drugs which would impair performance. Any person visibly impaired at any time shall be removed from the range.

There is no smoking within 20 feet of any firing line and inside clubhouse buildings.

3. Carrying Firearms

Only NJ-legal firearms and magazines are permitted anywhere on Club property.

All firearms are to remain unloaded at all times other than when attended and on the firing line on a hot range. All holstered/cased and un-holstered/uncased firearms must be carried UNLOADED. All firearms must be kept holstered/cased except when unholstered/uncased ON THE FIRING LINE and only while pointed downrange. Where allowed by the SOP for a scheduled event, rifles, handguns, & shotguns may be carried unholstered/uncased while away from the firing line but must be carried unloaded and with the action open. Do not leave loaded firearms unattended. Every effort must be made to ALWAYS point the muzzle at the target impact area when loading, unloading or sighting targets.

Other than for approved training events or where allowed by the SOP for a scheduled event, all firearms in the clubhouse must be cased or holstered. Loaded firearms are not permitted in the clubhouse at any time. The only exception to this is for on duty law enforcement personnel.

4. Firing Line Safety

All shooters must be able to understand and communicate in English. Any person not physically or mentally able to safely handle and use of firearms or bows will not be allowed to participate in any shooting activity. Only shooters, instructors and coaches will be on the firing line. Spectators who do not understand and communicate in English or demonstrate that they do not understand safety will be asked to leave the firing line area. Spectators are to be a minimum of 3 feet behind the shooter.

No one will go forward of the firing line without the line being declared safe and with all firearms having empty chamber indicators (ECI) also called "Open Bolt Indicators" (typically brightly colored safety flags) in them and having been checked for compliance.

These calls are for informal shooting and must be issued when more than one person is shooting. Formal matches will be "called" by the Match or Line Officer, according to the governing Match rules. Other specific rules may apply during scheduled, supervised matches. Prior to going down-range, the line call will be. "Is the line safe?" The reply will be. "The line is safe!" or, "The line is not safe!"

At any time any shooter may call a "CEASE FIRE" when they notice an unsafe condition on the line. All shooters shall immediately stop shooting, keep their firearm pointed down range, and move as little as possible while waiting for an explanation as to why the "CEASE FIRE" was called. NOTE: the unsafe condition may be on, behind, or in front of the bench.

Prior to firing, the line call will be "Is the line ready to fire?" "Ready on the left, Ready on the right, Commence Firing!"

On all ranges, all shooters must be firing from the same firing line distance from the bullet impact area.

On the Pistol Pit or Indoor Range, if new shooters want to shoot at a closer or further distance, the current shooter(s) must accommodate the new shooter(s) with the distance change after one hour from the last log book sign in time prior to the new shooter's sign in time.

5. Firearms Handling

Under NO circumstances will anyone handle a firearm, parts of a firearm or any other items on the bench when someone is down-range. [Exceptions for loading magazines will be allowed at organized matches such as Pistol League & USPSA]

Firearms are never to be pointed purposely at a person or persons.

Before going DOWN-RANGE, the firing line must be declared SAFE.

All firearms on the bench must be unloaded and have their actions OPEN (slides back, magazines out, cylinders open and empty and bolts open). The use of empty chamber indicators (ECI) also called "Open Bolt Indicators" (typically brightly colored safety flags) inserted into the chamber in an open-action firearm is required at all times during "RANGE SAFE" periods except during specific organized events where the flags are not required.

Jammed guns are to be repaired on the firing line ONLY.

6. Targets

Do not shoot at any area of the backstop that is not normally an area of bullet impact. On the outdoor ranges no shot should hit the impact area more than 8 feet above ground level.

Do not shoot at glass, metal plates, rocks, bowling pins, exploding targets, aerosol cans, or any other hard target. Any aluminum or plastic containers used as targets must be removed and properly discarded when you are done.

Photo realistic targets depicting human beings are not permitted.

The only steel targets allowed (preferably made from AR500 steel, flat, smooth) are ones used by and at a sanctioned event (or under the supervision of a USPSA RO) that meet the approval of the safety committee. The members of the Safety Committee are the Chief Range Safety Officer, the Rifle Chairperson, the Pistol Chairperson, and the applicable Event Chairperson.

7. Physical Safety

Eye and ear protection are mandatory for participants and spectators alike on all ranges. It is strongly recommended that pregnant women exempt themselves from shooting but may observe from a safe distance. Wash hands after shooting.

8. Outdoor Ranges

Hours on all outdoor ranges: Monday through Saturday 9AM to 1/2 hour before sunset, Sunday 10AM to 1/2 hour before sunset. Sunset time schedule is posted to the left of front door outside and is posted inside by the sign in sheet. All outdoor pistol, rifle, shotgun and archery must not begin before nor extend after stated hours.

If visibility downrange is impaired by fog, drizzle, rain, or snow to an extent that the shooter cannot clearly see the 100-yard impact area, no shooting at 100 yards or any intermediate distance is allowed until conditions improve.

Brass, cardboard boxes, paper, bags and any other debris is to be picked up and brought home with the shooter. All frames are to be removed from the bullet impact area and removed from the range by the club member.

All caliber of ammunition (except those listed in Section 20) is permitted on the 100 Yard Outdoor Range. The firing of a Cannon [black powder and wad only-no projectiles] is permitted with prior approval of the Executive Committee (in consultation with the Safety Committee). Mortars are not permitted.

On the 25 Yard Pistol Pit Range only handguns and rifles firing pistol caliber ammunition and shotguns firing slugs or shot shells and handguns shooting slugs or shot can be used. No rifle caliber ammunition may be used, except at approved Events. If a shooter wants to set up and use multiple target frames (typically for action shooting practice) there is no limit on the number of frames per shooter but all frames and that shooter's corresponding lateral (left to right) use of the firing line shall not exceed 15 feet.

Procedure for firing on the Outdoor Range at targets forward of the 100-yard impact area.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose and scope is to document the rules, procedures, target frame dimensions, and target distances that allow for the safe discharge of firearms at distances less than 100 yards from the 100-yard covered firing line at Shongum Sportsmen's Association's 100-yard Outdoor Range. This document does not supersede any form of organized discharge of firearms in a format that has been approved by the Executive Committee and the Chief Range Safety Officer.

Body

All discharge of firearms must be in accordance with SSA, Federal and State requirements.

Other than during approved events, all shooting on the Outdoor 100 Yard Range must be done from the covered firing line area. Firearms discharged at targets placed less than 100 yards from the 100-yard covered firing line must be fired from only the off-hand standing position or while seated at a SSA provided bench rest or from an elevated prone position using the single prone bench provided. Other than use of the Ransom Rest on its permanent mount, **Discharge at targets less than 100 yards from the covered firing line will be conducted on positions 5 through 15 only.**

Only targets hung from target frames meeting the following requirements will be utilized:

Target frames must be made of wood or PVC – not metal. The width of the target frame will be 24 inches which is the standard width of the official SSA target frame as determined by the target frame holders at the 100-yard line. The height of the target area between the top bar and the bottom bar should be 24 inches.

There is no single target height that is appropriate for all distances less than 100 yards, for all shooting positions, and for all of the numbered shooting positions. The appropriate target frame height is one that results in any projectiles passing through the 24 x 24 target area impacting the 100-yard backstop – not the ground in front of the 100-yard backstop and not the area above the 100-yard backstop. The safe impact area of the backstop is defined as the area from ground level to 8 feet above ground level. **It is the shooters responsibility to determine and use a target frame height that results in all of his or her projectiles safely impacting the 100-yard backstop area.** A good way to check to make sure that the target height is appropriate is to assume the shooting position and to look through the sights, aiming just outside of each of the four corners of the 24 x 24 target area of the frame with the frame placed at the desired intermediate range distance (25 yards to less than 100 yards). In all cases the shooter's sights should be pointing at the safe backstop impact area. Only target frames meeting the stated dimensional requirements will be allowed with the parameters allowed by this document. Targets will only be placed within the top, bottom and side bars of the upper box formed by the top, bottom and side bars of the target frame. The target must be placed directly in front of the firing position. Under no circumstance will targets be engaged from the ground prone position unless they are at the 100-yard line impact area. All reactive targets (no steel targets) approved for SSA use must be placed in the 100-yard impact area unless the reactive targets are being utilized in conjunction with an approved organized event. **Target frames may not be placed any closer than 25 yards from the covered firing line area.** Targets and target frames for the above stated purpose shall be supplied by the shooter and must meet the stated requirements. Bases for the target stands do not have to meet any specific requirement other than they afford a steady platform for the target, do not damage SSA property, and are not a source of ricochets or back splatter. Failure to follow the above stated requirements or the use of rocks to stabilize the target base will be

considered an extremely serious safety violation and may be cause for permanent loss of membership and any future range visitation rights.

9. Indoor Range

Hours: Daily (including Sunday) 9AM till 10PM.

All shooters, members and guests must sign in using the Guest and Sign in book provided. Ventilation system shall be turned on and operating during any live firing. Turn off ventilation system before leaving. (Note: There is an approximate one-minute delay before system stops.) Do not bring any beverages or food into the indoor range.

The only type of rifle permitted is 22 Long Rifle, 22 long and 22 short rimfire. Air powered pistols and rifles [bb and pellet] guns] are permitted. Strictly observe and shoot only permitted ammunition. A list of "Indoor Range Permitted Handgun Ammunition" is posted to the left of the door entering the range and in these Range Rules in Section 21. "Allowed Indoor Range Handgun Ammunition". Steel core, penetrating, incendiary, tracer and armor piercing ammunition is not permitted.

Center-fire rifles of any caliber, shotguns, and black powder firearms are not permitted. Shotshells or slugs of any caliber or gauge shall NOT be fired from handguns or long arms.

Holstered firearms must be unloaded at all times in the indoor range. Due to safety concerns, drawing a loaded firearm from a holster is not permitted in the indoor range – not even at the firing line.

Reactive targets [steel, bowling pins, etc.] of any type are not permitted.

Shooters will fire into the metal bullet traps only. At no time may shooters stand and fire into the bullet traps at any distance closer than the 7 yard (21 foot) red line marked on the range floor. All targets must be placed at the bullet impact area in the indoor range, except for club-supervised training events where the safe use of target stands positioned closer to the 7-yard firing line (insuring that all fired rounds will impact in the bullet traps when firing from the 7-yard line) may be used. When shooting from the 7-yard line shooters shall shoot from the center of the range.

After shooting, housekeeping rules apply. For safety reasons, no brooms or mops are allowed in the Indoor Range. Only the squeegees may be used. All brass is to be picked up and placed in the container labeled BRASS ONLY. Aluminum and steel go in a separate container. The brass on the floor is to be removed using the squeegee. The DUD CAN is for disposal of range misfires and not the home for your reloading mistakes.

Any shooter who hits anything other than the impact area of the bullet trap is required to notify the Chief Range Safety Officer (or another Club Officer) in person, by phone, or by

email (safety@shongum.org) Notification shall include when, (date and time), what was hit, caliber and model of firearm, and name of shooter.

Please note that the left and right-side steel panels from wall to impact area, top steel panel going into ceiling and the bottom steel panel from floor to first impact row are not considered as impact area. Failure to comply with this is grounds for termination from SSA.

10. Archers, Black Powder Muzzle Loaders, & Trap Shooters

Archers, Black Powder Muzzle Loaders, and Trap shooters will follow the rules applicable to their sport and as described in the SSA SOPs.

When shooting on the trap ranges, only birdshot #7 1/2 to #9 is allowed.

When using the shotgun patterning target frame to the right of Trap House #1, it is imperative that only birdshot #5 or higher number (smaller size pellet) is fired. Shooting slugs or any shot #4 or numerically smaller (larger pellets) is extremely dangerous due to the increased distance traveled by these projectiles. Members or their guests found violating this rule by shooting slugs or any shot other than birdshot on the patterning target (or anywhere on the Trap Range) will result in the member's expulsion from the Club.

11. Violations

Anyone violating any range rule or code of conduct may be subject to immediate removal from the range facility and club property. In addition, person(s) told to leave the range/club property will not be allowed back onto club property until Article IX- Suspension, Expulsion and Disciplinary Action of the SSA bylaws has been followed and the outcome of such actions allows the person(s) in question to retain their membership. The authority to act on this rests with any SSA Range Safety Officer or SSA Officer.

12. Incidents, Accidents and Injuries

A member who observes a violation of the range rule or code of conduct should make the person aware of violation or make the Chief Range Safety Officer or a SSA Range Safety Officer aware or submit an incident report. Any incident, accident or injury, however minor, which occurs on club property, must be formally written up by the injured party/parties and/or witnesses and submitted to the Chief Range Safety Officer. The Chief Range Safety Officer must be notified as soon as possible in person or by telephone of any incident that occurs on club property. Incident reports are on the wall to the right of the large window facing the trap fields.

13. Transporting Firearms and Ammunition

The transportation of all firearms to and from the range must be in compliance with the Laws of the State of New Jersey. It is suggested that members transport firearms and ammunition in separate locked containers. Do not carry loaded magazines. Carry your NJ Firearms ID Card and a copy of your pistol purchase permit or proof of pistol ownership.

14. Guests

A guest is a non-member who participates in Event Activities. Although SSA is a "Members Only" club, there are activities in which Guests may participate.

Guests must observe all range rules, including Eye and Ear protection.

Guests must relinquish their place on the firing line to a club member when no other option is available to the member. Guests must sign in and out in the Guest Sign-in Book provided.

Club Guests- A non-member participant in any regular or special event will be considered a Guest of the Association.

Member Guests- A non-member who accompanies a member to the range facilities shall be considered a Guest of the member. It is the direct responsibility of the member to supervise the activities of a member guest. A member guest may not use the facilities of the Association without the presence, accompaniment and supervision of the member. In addition to signing in on the Sign-In Book, a member guest must wear a handwritten name badge in lieu of a membership card.

Permanent Member Guests- The immediate family [spouse and dependent children] of a member shall be considered permanent member guests. Dependent child is one who is declared as a legal dependent on an Internal Revenue Service Annual Tax return of the member.

Occasional Member Guest- a non-member who accompanies and participates in the shooting activities of the member shall be considered an Occasional Member Guest and may not accompany the same member more than twice in a calendar year. No more than two occasional member guests may accompany a member to the range at any one time.

15 Ranges and Clubhouse

Do not give or loan your keys or access card to anyone. Keep all areas clean. Turn off all lights, fans, electrical equipment, air conditioners, ventilation systems etc. when not in use, especially when leaving range. Make sure the door locks when you leave the range.

16 Shooting Accessories

Bring your own equipment: targets, target holders, stapler, staples, clips, push pins, eye and ear protection, etc. The use of club property: i.e. paper forms, paper plates etc. for targets will be considered theft of club property and individuals doing so will be dealt with accordingly.

17. Events

An Event is considered an activity whereby selective club facilities are dedicated to a specific purpose that benefits the membership at large.

Types of Events:

Regular Event

A regular event is a recurring event that is regularly scheduled [e.g. High-Power Matches, USPSA, Cowboy Action, Women's League, Pistol League, etc.]

Special Event

A Special Event is a non-recurring, occasional event that is not regularly scheduled [e.g. Reloading Class, Firearms and Safety Training, Picnic, Police training, Women's Day, etc.].

Event Activity Form

An Event Activity Form may be obtained from the Event Chairman, forms rack in the Clubhouse or our Web Site. This form must be submitted by a member to the Events Chairman, who will submit it to the Executive Committee and schedule it on the calendar, Events will be scheduled on a first come/first served basis.

For the purpose of order and pre-notification to our membership, all Event activity requests should be submitted [90] ninety days prior to the event for a normal review, approval and publication in the newsletter.

An Event activity request which is submitted less than ninety days prior to the event will be considered on its merits. If approved, special notification may be required to inform the membership of the activity.

For the purpose of protecting the assets of the Association, the Executive Committee may impose any condition reasonable and appropriate such as the purchase and possession of a separate Insurance Policy covering the event and the presence of a Shongum Elected Officer during the event. The person running the event is the person in charge of that event. He or she is responsible for the safety of all participants and spectators.

18. Pistol Pit and Trap Shooters

Individual Trap Shooters

When shooting trap with your own trap machine or club hand trap or hand thrower, you must throw birds from designated spot between Trap House one and two.

Individual Pistol pit shooters

If anyone is shooting trap using houses 3 and/or 4, the pistol shooter must stay to the left of the warning sign [parallel to the back of all trap houses].

19. Code of Conduct

All members of Shongum Sportsmen's Association shall conduct themselves in a manner to promote the shooting sports, adhere to all SSA rules and regulations, practice safety at all times, respect the rights of fellow members, act with integrity when dealing with fellow shooters, conduct oneself in an ethical manner, and be honest and trustworthy in dealing with fellow members.

20. Ammunition Not Permitted all ranges

Tracers
Incendiary
Armor piercing
50 Browning BMG

21. Indoor Range Ammunition

Permitted Rifle

All pellet air, CO2 or spring activated (but not BB)

Rimfire 22 short, 22 long and 22 long rifle only.

No Centerfire rifle calibers permitted

Permitted Handgun

All pellet air, CO2 or spring activated (but not BB)

Rimfire 22 short, long and long rifle

Centerfire:

25 25 ACP or 6.35 MM

30 7.65 Luger or Parabellum

30 carbine pistol

32 32 ACP

7.65 MM Browning

32 S&W

32 S&W long

32 Colt New Police

32 H&R Magnum

357

357 Magnum

357 Sig

38

38 S&W

38 Colt New Police

380 MK1

38-40 Winchester/ WCF9

38 S&W Special

38 Super Auto

38 Super +P

380

380 ACP

40

40 S&W

41

41 Remington Special and Magnum

44

44 S&W Special

44 Special

44 Remington Magnum

44 Magnum

44-40 Winchester/WCF

440 CorBon

45

45 ACP

45 Auto Rim

45 Colt/Long Colt

45 Gap

45 Schofield

445 Webley

Metric

7.65 MM

7.65 MM Luger

7.65 MM Parabellum

7.62 X 25 Russian Tokarev

9 MM

9 MM Kurtz

9 MM Short

9 MM Luger

9 MM Parabellum

9X21

9X23

9X25

10 MM

10 MM Auto

The above handgun ammunition either lead core, soft alloy core or jacketed is allowed. **If you want to shoot ammo which is not on the permitted list**, bring a sample and specifications to the next Regular meeting. It will be examined by the Safety Committee. If accepted it will be added to the list.

NOT PERMITTED:

- **Any cartridge not on the permitted list above, including**
 - **Shotshell (shot or slug)**
 - **Rimfire:.22 Magnum, .17 HMR (Hornady Magnum), 17 Hornady Mach 2; .17 Winchester Super Magnum**
 - **Centerfire: 22 TCM .**

Backstop Damage (Bullet Traps)

Steel and hard core ammunition is not permitted. Any ammunition that causes damage to the backstop is not permitted. Please know what you are shooting, if in doubt; please contact a club officer for advice. Examine Backstop for damage; report any damage to the Chief Range Safety Officer (or another Club Officer) in person, by phone, or by email (safety@shongum.org). Notification shall include when, (date and time), what was hit, caliber and model of firearm, and name of shooter. Damage to the backstop could result in the revocation of the use of jacketed ammo on the indoor range.