

# Indian Lake / Blue Mountain Fish And Game Association Inc.

## RANGE USE AND RULES

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Association recognizes that the operation of a range is a serious undertaking involving the health and safety of members, guests and community at large. All Association members using the range must carefully control the operation.
- 1.2 These range safety rules and regulations are designed to make our range safe and to conveniently accommodate as many of our members as possible at any given time.
- 1.3 Please remember that all persons involved with the range are volunteers, and are working hard to give their free time to improve the range and the quality of your visits.
- 1.4 Please read and understand the rules. If you are uncomfortable or unsure with any part of the use and rules of the range, please call the Range Manager or any Range Officer with questions. Phone numbers are listed in the monthly newsletter, or you can email through [www.indianlakefishandgame.com](http://www.indianlakefishandgame.com).
- 1.5 You may also attend a Range Officer's training course and are encouraged to do so. The course is open to the general membership.
- 1.6 We are always looking for additional Range Officers. Contact the Range Manager.

### 2. Safety Officer's Responsibility

- 2.1 All members of the Association who use the range are potential Safety Officers.
- 2.2 Designate a Safety Officer when no Range Officers are present. Generally, the first member at the range is the designated Safety Officer. The first Safety Officer may yield to another member, if another member is more qualified.
- 2.3 The Safety Officer is responsible for the calling of cease-fires and resume firing commands as outlined in the rules. See section 8 and 9.
- 2.4 The Safety Officer should try to offer instruction if another member is unsure of the rules. If someone is in disregard of the rules, the best option is not to confront, but just leave and call the Range Manager or a Range Officer.

### 3. Range Officer's Responsibility

- 3.1 A Range Officer is an Association trained member with the ability to assist members and the authority to enforce these safety rules and regulations.
- 3.2 A Range Officer's job is to organize shoots and instruct shooters in the proper use and handling of firearms. Never be afraid to ask the Range Officer questions. If we work together, we hope never to see 3.4 or 3.5 on this list.
- 3.3 If a safety rule is broken, the Range Officer will give you instructions on how the procedure is done correctly.
- 3.4 In the event a Range Officer must repeatedly correct a member during a single visit, the Range Officer may ask the member to suspend shooting activities. If the member is abusive, under the influence, or a danger to self or others, the member will then be asked to leave for the day.
- 3.5 Repeat offences or dangerous actions by a single individual may be brought to the President of the Association, who may suspend the member's range privileges until the matter can be brought before an Association meeting to ask that the offending member's range privileges be terminated by the officers of the Association.

## 4. Range Manager's Responsibility

- 4.1 The Range Manager oversees the use and maintenance of the range, schedules range events, and is responsible for training and certifying Range Officers or any other member requesting training. If you should see anything that may need attention at the range, please call the Range Manager. The Range Manager also serves as a Range Officer.

## 5. General Range Use and Information

- 5.1 With the exception of organized tournaments, special club activities or open matches, the use of the range is restricted to members and their guests.
- 5.2 You will receive the monthly newsletter in which you will find a list of all matches. All range events will also be posted on the web site [www.indianlakefishandgame.com](http://www.indianlakefishandgame.com). The range will be closed for other uses during that time. All times are approximate and may run over.
- 5.3 Use the range in accordance with all appropriate N.Y.S. and Federal firearm regulations.
- 5.4 Answer the call to help when work is needed to maintain the range.
- 5.5 All members and guests must sign in upon entry and out upon leaving.
- 5.6 Prior to shooting, the range safety flag must be raised to the full up position, letting people know the range is in use. The last member leaving the range is responsible for lowering the flag.
- 5.7 The range gates may be left open upon entering. The last member leaving is responsible to lock both range and entrance gates during non business hours, after 5pm and weekends.
- 5.8 Hunting and fishing are not allowed anywhere on the Association's property.
- 5.9 No alcoholic beverages are permitted on range property at any time.
- 5.10 The range is open from 8:30 A.M. until ½ hour before sundown. All vehicles must be off the range property by sundown.
- 5.11 Target changes are normally made on the hour and half-hour. This can be done at any time if the other range members agree to it. Please be respectful to other members and let them finish a string or group, or if you are the only member at the range, let a new arrival set up.
- 5.12 In the event of a lightening storm, all ranges should be cleared.
- 5.13 When shooting at the range, an adult member must supervise a junior member under 18 years of age.
- 5.14 Pets and children must be under the supervision of an adult, and are not permitted to run at will.
- 5.15 All litter and spent shell casings are to be picked up and placed in proper containers.
- 5.16 **Please do not throw live ammo into the burn barrel!** The Association will provide a receptacle to dispose of live ammo.
- 5.17 Breach safety flags will be used and will be provided on every bench. This is simply a piece of yellow plastic that when inserted into the open breech, identifies the firearm to be unloaded. Please return breach safety flags to the holders when finished.
- 5.18 The Association will provide extra safety glasses and hearing protection in a designated place at the range. If you borrow them, please return them.

- 5.19 The Association will provide a few sandbags for rests and a staple gun for target changes. If you borrow them, please return them to the proper place. We suggest that you eventually supply your own.
- 5.20 The Association will provide a portable trap thrower area. This service is available to members as long as there is no one shooting at the rifle range. We will also provide an area and target frame to pattern shotguns also.

## 6. Firearms and Ammunition Restrictions

- 6.1 No fully automatic firearms are permitted.
- 6.2 The use of tracer, incendiary or armor-piercing ammunition is prohibited.

## 7. Tips for Approaching the Firing Line

- 7.1 All firearms, rifles and handguns must be unloaded before being transported to the firing line.
- 7.2 Transport firearm to firing line area upon arrival at range, if uncased carry muzzle up.
- 7.3 Place cased firearm on table provided. Place uncased firearm in rack provided.
- 7.4 Contact Range Officer or Safety Officer of intention to shoot, if present.
- 7.5 **Do not handle firearm behind firing line** until Range Officer has instructed shooters to take their places at the line, at which time shooter moves firearm to firing line and removes from case if so transported.
- 7.6 Shooter must always **maintain muzzle down range**, cased or not.
- 7.7 If transported in a rectangular case place a piece of tape or other marker on it to identify the muzzle end, so as to open the case with the gun pointed downrange. If a gun case is accidentally opened with the firearm in the wrong direction, close the case and turn the whole case around. **Do not lift up the firearm and turn it around.**

## 8. Procedure to Call for a Cease Fire

- 8.1 Target changes are normally made on the hour and half-hour. This can be done at any time if the other range members agree to it.
- 8.2 Ask the shooters if the line is ready to be made safe, 2 to 3 minutes before the hour or ½ hour.
- 8.3 Let the shooters finish their strings, then clear their firearms, install safety flags or remove firearm to upright rack or case firearm.
- 8.4 Ask the shooters to step back from firing bench and behind the safety line, or designated place.
- 8.5 Ask "Clear on the right?" If yes, ask "Clear on the left?" If yes, visually ensure that the line is safe. Call out, "Line is safe." Lower the safety flag system to signal the cease fire condition.
- 8.6 You may now go out to the targets.

## 9. Procedure to Resume Shooting

- 9.1 After everyone has returned from the targets and the line is to be made hot once again, all shooters must be standing behind the safety line or designated place.
- 9.2 Ask "Ready on the right?" If yes, ask "Ready on the left?" If yes, visually ensure that the line is safe. Proceed to raise the safety flag system and announce the range is hot, or ready for fire. At this point, the shooters may return to the shooting benches and resume firing.

## 10. Safety Rules for Range

- 10.1 All safety rules and regulations must be strictly adhered too, without exception.
- 10.2 Know and obey all range and safety commands.
- 10.3 All members and guests must sign in upon entry and out upon leaving.
- 10.4 Prior to shooting the range safety flag must be raised to the full up position, letting people know the range is in use. The last member leaving the range is responsible for lowering the flag.
- 10.5 Designate a range Safety Officer when none are present.
- 10.6 Beware of others and be prepared to react to any circumstance out of the ordinary.
- 10.7 When on the range and have more than one firearm, each should be stored in a safe manner.
- 10.8 At all times **treat every firearm as if it was loaded.**
- 10.9 Eye and ear protection is required at all times for people at the firing line.
- 10.10 **All muzzles of all firearms must never point in any direction except directly up, or directly downrange. Never turn a muzzle to the sides or rear of the firing range.**
- 10.11 Firearms will be loaded on the firing line only, a muzzleloader is not considered loaded until primed or capped, which will only take place at the firing line.
- 10.12 **Before shooters proceed forward of the firing line, the line must be made safe.** That is, all firearms must be placed on a firing bench with safety flags installed, or removed to upright rack, or cased on a table. Muzzleloaders must be unprimed or discharged and placed muzzle up in the loading rack.
- 10.13 **Firearms must not be handled after a cease-fire has been called.** The firing line will remain safe until all shooters are back from changing targets, and standing behind the safety line, to indicate that they are again ready to begin firing.
- 10.14 Shoot only at authorized targets. Any firing at cans, bottles, wildlife or any other improper target is strictly prohibited.
- 10.15 The range is for shooting at paper targets on Association or personal target holders only. Clay targets may be placed toward the bottom 2 or 3 feet of a berm. No climbing berms for any reason.
- 10.16 All targets on Association target holders must be removed and disposed of properly.

## Additional rules for other shooting venues

### 11. Rules for using Silhouettes at the Range

- 11.1 Firing of rifles and handguns at the silhouette range is limited to **all lead bullets**, standard velocity .22 long rifle rim fire only, no jacketed bullets .22 Magnums are not permitted
- 11.2 You may only use silhouettes or other reusable targets set in place by a Range Officer.

### 12. Rules for Archery

- 12.1 Broad heads are not allowed. Only target arrows maybe used.

## 13. Rules for Handguns

- 13.1 Never remove a handgun from its case, or holster behind the yellow safety line for inspection or to carry it over to a firing bench. Uncase or unholster at the shooting bench, and install safety flag with muzzle downrange only.
- 13.2 You may also place on the handgun safety rack, with the cylinder open and safety flag installed, or with the action locked back and safety flag installed.
- 13.3 When loading a handgun, **always keep it pointed downrange**. Never point the gun towards the side.
- 13.4 If there is a problem with a handgun call a Range Officer over or case it and work on it at home.

## 14. Rules for Black Powder Firearms

- 14.1 Only black powder or black powder substitutes may be used.
- 14.2 **No smoking** within 8 feet of black powder.
- 14.3 All powder cans and horns must be kept closed and on the loading bench.
- 14.4 Shooters of flintlock not equipped with a flash guard shall hold fire until shooter immediately on lock side is clear and shall announce "flintlock" prior to firing.
- 14.5 All loading will be done from pre-measured loads.
- 14.6 Pre-measured, self-contained loads only may be used on the firing line (no pouring of powder charges, this can only be done at the loading bench). The only exception will be a priming horn or flask used to prime flintlocks.
- 14.7 All capping and priming will be done on the firing line only. Priming flasks or priming horns must be capped before firing.
- 14.8 **Never lean over the barrel to push a bullet down the barrel!** If it requires that much force something is wrong! See the Range Officer for assistance.
- 14.9 When a muzzleloader is removed from the loading bench it must be carried with muzzle straight up and turned to a down range position on the shooting bench without turning it toward the sides.
- 14.10 When target changes are requested, all muzzleloaders must be discharged or unprimed and put muzzle up in the rack at the loading bench.
- 14.11 If a muzzleloader is fouled and cannot be cleared, it must be flooded with water before leaving the range area. There will be a bucket of water kept there for this purpose or contact a Range Officer for assistance.

## 15. Rules for the Trap Range

- 15.1 An Association Certified Trap Range Officer must be present to use the trap facilities.
- 15.2 All members and guests must sign in upon entry and out upon leaving.
- 15.3 Prior to shooting, the range safety flag must be raised to the full up position, letting people know the range is in use. The last member leaving the range is responsible for lowering the flag.
- 15.4 **Eye** and **ear** protection is **mandatory** before shooting.
- 15.5 Shotguns are the only types of firearm that may be used on the trap range.
- 15.6 Only standard trap loads are allowed. Shot size allowed on the trap range is 7½, 8, or 9.
- 15.7 Loaded shotguns are not allowed on the trap range except for the person on a firing station whose turn it is and that person is ready to fire.
- 15.8 Load only one shell unless you are shooting doubles. For doubles, load no more than two shells.
- 15.9 In trap shooting, the gun's safety is not used. Your gun is either loaded and ready to shoot, or unloaded. The only "safety" is an unloaded gun.
- 15.10 If you're on a firing station and the Range Officer needs to tend to the trap house to reload the machine or otherwise adjust the machine, make sure your shotgun is unloaded and placed in the designated rack.
- 15.11 Upon entering the trap house for work, reloading birds, or any other maintenance, the trap house safety flag must be installed in holder.
- 15.12 The trap machine represents serious safety hazards and no one shall walk in front of the open trap house or enter it unless the Range Officer has rendered the trap machine safe.

## 16. Guest Privileges

- 16.1 All members will be permitted to bring guests. Members can bring guests as many times as they wish. We suggest that after a few trips by the same guest that they become a Member.
- 16.2 The member is responsible for ensuring that the guests are familiar with the range rules and follow them.
- 16.3 At no time should a guest be firing without being supervised by the member.

## 17. Target Holder

- 17.1 This is a variation of the frame that must be used on the Range. The frame is made from 1-5/8x 1-5/8 wood stock (standard 2 x 2), 6 feet high and 24 inches wide (outside measurements).
- 17.2 Target holders will be available at the range for members and their guests to use.
- 17.3 The IL/BM Fish and Game Association will offer a convenient, folding leg version of this frame at a reasonable price.
- 17.4 Members may build their own target holders following the illustration provided.
- 17.5 **Tip:** If you tie or staple a piece of string or yarn on the frame you can judge the wind from the shooting bench.

