

Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club

RANGE USE MANUAL

Effective January 1, 2022



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GREATER PITTSBURGH GUN CLUB

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Membership and Range Use Manual is to orient new members to the club and to be a reference source for current members.

Club members have the opportunity to participate in organized matches with rifles, shotguns, and handguns, in addition to casual, informal/individual practice. Members are encouraged to use the facilities and to participate in the organized events hosted or held by the Club. Use of the ranges by individual members or small groups of members for practice, testing, or sight-in is the foundation of club membership. It is during this type of range use that the honor system is so important in maintaining range equipment and keeping the grounds clean and attractive.

Read this manual thoroughly and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to consult a Range Official. When in doubt about range use, ask.

HAVE FUN AND ENJOY GREATER PITTSBURGH GUN CLUB!

RANGE MAINTENANCE

Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club prides itself on a neat and functional range for its members, guests, and event participants. In order to maintain the range, it is the responsibility of all members to adhere to the range rules and regulations.

We request that all members clean up after themselves at all times. Do not leave backers or targets on target stands. Properly discard ALL used targets. Do not leave scrap cardboard or boxes on the range. Garbage must be placed in proper receptacles. All stands are to be returned to their proper storage spot after use.

VEHICLE TRAFFIC ON THE RANGE

It is not permissible to damage the range by driving on it. Cars must be parked a safe distance from where the member will be actually shooting.

FIREARMS SAFETY

Members of Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club are responsible for the safe handling of firearms while on club property. These rules apply to all members, family members, and guests while at the club for practice or sanctioned shooting events.

GPGC GUN SAFETY RULES

1. **Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. Treat every gun as if it were loaded at all times.** Never point a gun at anything you do not intend to destroy.
2. **Always keep your finger OFF THE TRIGGER until you are ready to shoot.** Your finger should remain outside the trigger guard until you are aiming at your target.
3. **Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.** Never load the firearm until you are at your firing point, with the range designated as “HOT” or “READY”.
4. **Know your target and what is beyond it.** Always check to ensure that fired projectiles will impact a suitable backstop after passing through the target.

FIREARMS IN SAFE CONDITION

All firearms must be placed in a “SAFE CONDITION” except when actually being fired. When firearms are uncased at the range, they must be immediately checked, and placed in a safe condition.

DEFINITION OF SAFE CONDITION

Handguns (Holstered vs. Unholstered)

A. Unholstered Handguns

1. Revolvers: cylinder open and no ammunition in the charge holes.
2. Pistol: magazine removed, slide locked open, empty chamber, and safety engaged if applicable.

B. Holstered Handguns

1. Revolvers: cylinder empty and hammer down.
2. Pistol: magazine removed, slide released, hammer down, and safety engaged if applicable.

Long Guns: Rifles and Shotguns

- A. Bolt actions: both open or out, chamber empty, magazine empty or removed, and safety engaged.
- B. Pump and semi auto: action locked open, chamber empty, magazine empty or removed, and safety engaged.
- C. Lever action: action open, chamber empty, magazine empty or removed, and safety engaged.
- D. Hinged action (side-by-side, over and under, single barrel): action open, chamber empty, and safety engaged if applicable.

Special note regarding Slide Action and Lever Action guns with Tubular Magazines:

When these action types are cycled, they eject, load, and cock the gun. After emptying the

magazine of live rounds, it is possible to still have loaded rounds in the action, but not visible. Thus, cycling of a presumed empty gun may still load and cock the firearm. Therefore, after emptying the magazine, it is recommended to cycle the slide or lever several times in order to ensure the gun is truly unloaded.

GENERAL FIREARMS HANDLING RULES

1. The use of alcohol before or during handling of firearms is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.
2. Ensure that all family members and guests know firearm safety rules and safe handling procedures. **Children and guests must, at all times, be under direct and positive supervision of an adult club member(s) when using the club and especially when handling and firing firearms.**
3. All firearms transported from a vehicle to the range must be in **SAFE (Open) CONDITION**. Each time a firearm is removed from a vehicle or passed to another individual, a visual inspection must be made to assure the firearm is in **SAFE CONDITION**.
4. When a firearm is not an actual use, the safety will be activated, magazine empty or removed, and the breech open to show a clear chamber.
5. **Eye and ear protection must be utilized** at all times when firing or in the proximity of others firing a firearm.
6. All firearms will be presumed to be loaded at all times. **DO NOT** point a firearm at anyone or anything other than the designated target.
7. Dry firing is permitted only on designated ranges and only in the downrange direction.
8. The 180° rule is always in effect at Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club.
9. No loaded firearms are allowed in the clubhouse. The only exception to this rule will be to allow the carrying of loaded firearms by lawful Concealed Handgun permittees.
10. The firing of a firearm in other than the designated ranges is prohibited.
11. Unless approved by the club, all forms of hunting on club property is prohibited.
12. Shout **“CEASE FIRE”** if you witness a safety violation.
13. **IMMEDIATELY** notify club officials of a safety rule violation and add an entry to the Incident Report Log in the clubhouse.
14. Strict discipline will be followed while on the range. Negligence will not be tolerated on the firing line.
15. In the event of a misfire or malfunction, keep your firearm pointed down range, and use extreme caution in clearing the firearm.
16. When you leave the firing line your firearm must be clear and in safe condition.
17. Any violation of the safety rules can be grounds for expulsion from Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club.

GENERAL RANGE RULES

1. **Every member must have their membership card/badge on them at all times or available upon request.** If the badge is not present, you will not have use of the range. If a badge is lost the member must report immediately. Members are not permitted to allow the use of their badge to Family members or friends.
2. Shooting hours for non-competitive events will be posted in the clubhouse.
3. Shooters who are mentally and/or physically impaired by alcohol, narcotics, medicines (prescription and/or non-prescription) are prohibited from using any of the ranges while impaired. Members and guests under the influence of alcohol and/or narcotics are prohibited from using the club facilities.
4. Shooters are required to exhibit and practice as good judgment dictates. Eye and ear protection are required to be worn by all shooters and bystanders on and adjacent to firing lines.
5. Any shooter may and should call for a "cease-fire" if any situation is observed that warrants immediate action.
6. After any shooting session, all target debris should be placed in the provided trash receptacles, and target stands returned to their proper storage location. **Targets and backers may not be left on target stands. Backers should be discarded or properly stored.**
7. On days other than registered competition, the use of the range is first come, first serve basis. Please be courteous to other shooters. Shooters may not monopolize a range. When shooters can use an alternate range for their intended shooting, they should do so in order to accommodate others. In the event of a range used conflict, shooters should move to such ranges as to allow other parties to shoot without restriction. It is assumed that shooters will attempt to accommodate each other to the maximum extent, including one party moving to another suitable area, so that everyone can shoot without constraint.
8. Maintenance and range mediation have priority over any non-registered shooting.
9. When several shooters gather for practice, one shooter should assume the position of Range Officer while practice is in session.
10. When a range is "cold" or under a "cease-fire" condition with shooters down range, firearms may not be handled or touched in any way at the firing line. If a shooter needs to handle a gun during a cease-fire condition, the gun must be removed, in SAFE condition as listed above, from the firing line and taken to a safe area before shooters move down range (i.e. to check target etc).
11. Use only targets approved for your particular shooting. **Anyone shooting or destroying club property will be expelled from Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club.** Provided target stands are to be used with paper targets and cardboard or similar backers only. Target should not be placed/centered on stand uprights so as to allow shots to damage the stands. Shotguns used with shot may not be used to shoot targets affixed to club provided target stands. Targets must be on approved target stands. Props and walls are not target stands.

12. No targets are to be placed on the range so as to allow shots directed at the target to impact anything other than the backstop. A fired round may not exit the shooting bay or the property or impact the ground in front of the backstop, whether striking or missing the target.
13. Local law Enforcement may use Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club for their mandatory training. Do not remove, rearrange, or change any training equipment which Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club may leave on the range.
14. It is the responsibility of each club member to know and follow the rules and safety procedures. Ignorance is no defense.
15. Guns must always be aimed or pointed at the backstop when unholstered or uncased.
16. Loaded firearms must never be pointed above the backstop or sideberms.
17. Target height and placement must be appropriate so that rounds passing through them impact the backstop. Bullets must not impact the floor of the range or in front of the backstop berm.
18. Debris, target, and target stands must be cleaned and removed by the shooter after every range session.

RANGES

Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club has ranges for shotgun, pistol, and rifle. Each range has Range Rules posted on signage at each area.

SHOTGUN

- Shotgun ranges are exclusive for use of shotguns only.
- **# 7 ½ shot is the heaviest shot allowed at GPGC.**
- Once shooting is completed it is the members responsibility to clean up shotgun hulls, trash, or other debris. Trash receptacle are located on every Field.
- Pull Cords must be wrapped up and placed back on the holder once shooting is completed.
- No members are allowed to go up or into the machine houses. If you need assistance please contact GPGC Management at 412-510-2255 or go into Clubhouse.

PISTOL

- GPGC pistol ranges are treated as cold ranges. This means the gun must remain in a safe condition when holstered or carried to the line/ position except when directly shooting at targets.. When leaving the firing line/position, guns also must be in safe condition. (Safe Condition means Gun unloaded, no magazines in Gun, chamber empty)
- Guns must always be aimed or pointed at backstop when on holstered or walking with gun loaded firearms must never be pointed above the backstop while drawing, engaging, reloading, or moving. During the draw, reload, or movement the shooters trigger finger

must be off the trigger and out of the trigger guard. The finger may only be on the trigger when the shooter is ready to engage a target. No exceptions.

- Target height and placement must be appropriate so that rounds passing through them impact the backstop. Bullets must not impact the floor of the bay in front of the backstop berm.
- Targets must be on an approved target stand. Props and walls are not target stands.
- Shooters must not place any items on the ground which could cause a tripping hazard
- Shooters must at all times remain inside the shooting bay in the area bounded by the ends of the sideberms. No shooting from outside this area
- The 180° safety line (parallel to rear backstop) is always in effect. Under no circumstance is a firearm to be aimed or pointed up beyond the 180° line whether loaded or unloaded. The safety line follows the shooter wherever he may be in the range.
- Debris, trash, and targets must be cleaned and removed by the shooter after shooting is completed. Trash receptacles are located on every Bay.

Rifle

- Targets may not be placed less than 50 yards which is located at the first backstop berm.
- Each shooters position and targets must be aligned so that all shots impact back stops. Under no circumstances can a bullet impact the flat ground or shot over backstops. **Anyone caught breaking these rules will be terminated from the membership immediately**
- No targets may be placed on top of berms.
- Range Rules posted on the rifle range must be followed with no excuses
- Debris, trash, and targets must be cleared and removed by shooter after shooting is completed. Trash receptacles are located at the rifle range.

TARGETS

It is the shooters responsibility to come prepared for a shooting session with proper and safe target equipment. The shooter must bring targets, target backers, a suitable target holder, if necessary a stapler or some other means of attaching the target, target backer, and target stand.

1. Pistol/Rifle targets
 - Paper targets: paper targets can range from commercially manufactured targets to homemade ones.
 - Reaction targets: these types of targets are steel reaction targets or any other type which visibly or audibly reacts when struck by a bullet.
 - Do not engage a metal target at a distance closer than 10 meters (11 yards or 12 large paces). All metal targets, where allowed, must be placed near the rear berm so that fired rounds hit the steel or backstop only.

- Always stand at a point perpendicular to the target surface. Do not fire at the targets at an angle as a ricochet might result.
- If a metal target is designed to fall when struck, do not prop, wedge, or adjust the target to remain standing after being struck. Preventing the target from reacting will result in a dangerous ricochet and damage the target.

2. Unauthorized targets:

- There are numerous types of objects, which **MUST** not be used as a target or a target holder. Concrete blocks, bricks, rocks, bowling balls, bowling pins, and containers of paint, or other non approved stands, are not suitable as targets. Likewise trash cans, barricade props, stage props, chairs, and other club property are not suitable for use as a target, target holder or backing. Exploding targets, i.e. tannerite or similar are prohibited.
- **Common sense is all that is necessary to determine what can be used as a target or target holder. Any target that could cause a ricochet, flying debris, shrapnel, trash, or damage to the range is prohibited.**
- Do not place targets on target stands such that the stand will be impacted by the bullet. Always remember that this is a membership range. Do not abuse membership property. Come prepared with appropriate target material.

3. Trap/ Skeet/ Sporting Clay/ 5 Stand targets:

- Clay targets: Standard clay trap disc targets.
- There is only one target approved or authorized for use in the trap machines. It is the ATA Official Clay Bird target. Do not under any circumstances use any other type of object as a target to be thrown by the trap machine. Severe damage to the trap machine will result.
- Only 7.5 ounce shot is allowed at Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club.

4. Rifle Range targets:

- Paper or cardboard targets: as with pistol targets, rifle targets can be easily made or purchased. When finished with your shooting session, please dispose of any target debris, and clean the range.
- Reaction targets: these types of targets are the steel reaction targets or any other type which visibly or audibly reacts when struck by a bullet.
- Target holders: wooden target stands may be used to hold targets and target backers on this range. Stands must be high enough to ensure that all rounds impact the berm.
- Unauthorized targets: there are numerous types of objects, which **MUST** not be used as a target or a target holder. Concrete blocks, bricks, rocks, bowling balls, bowling pins, and containers of paint are not suitable as targets. Likewise trash cans, barricade props, stage props, chairs, and other club property are not suitable for use as a target, target holder or backing. Exploding targets, i.e. tannerite or similar are prohibited.

- **Common sense is all that is necessary to determine what can be used as a target or target holder. Any target that could cause a ricochet, flying debris, shrapnel, trash, or damage to the range is prohibited.**
- Do not place targets on target stands such that the stand will be impacted by the bullet. Always remember that this is your range. Do not abuse your property. Come prepared with appropriate target material.

Shooting animals or wildlife within the Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club Property will result in immediate membership expulsion, removal and we will file charges.

GUESTS

Members may periodically bring guests to GPGC. They may bring up to 2 guests. Members are responsible for paying guest fees to GPGC BEFORE any shooting is done on the grounds as well as sign the release liability waiver before shooting. Otherwise they will be considered trespassing. Guests are NOT permitted to use the Action Pistol member bays unless permission is given from GPGC Management and additional fees are paid. Once a Guest has visited more than 3 times, membership will be required for additional range use.

CLUBHOUSE

The Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club clubhouse is centrally located to all the ranges. It is a fully equipped facility with men's and women's restrooms, retail, and kitchen. Fully accessible to members it provides a climate controlled atmosphere with indoor entertainment. Club parties and events are hosted in the clubhouse for both members and members guests. There are a multitude of activities such as TV's, couch's, tables, pool table, ping pong table, as well as reading material.

An event calendar is posted and shows current shooting and clubhouse events. Upcoming classes for safety and education will be advertised. Dates and information about upcoming matches will be updated and displayed. Wireless controllers and other Field controls are located in the clubhouse.

Safety equipment and shooting gear is available.

Enjoy your time at Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club!

SAFETY BRIEFING AND OPERATION CHECKLIST

Date: _____

Member Name: _____

The undersigned member of the Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club hereby stipulates that he or she has received safety and operation training in the following areas on the aforementioned date(s).

Firearm Safety _____

Club rules, policies, procedures, and bylaws _____

General Range The Rules _____

Range layout _____

Member further stipulates:

1. That he or she fully understands the training received.
2. That he or she understands that additional training is available at any time upon request.
3. That he or she will hold Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club harmless in the event of any injury, personal or property, or death, and personally accepts all liability for any incidents, injuries, or death at Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club.
4. That he or she has read and is familiar with the Greater Pittsburgh Gun Club manual.
5. That he or she is duty-bound to report all violations to club officials as soon as possible.
6. That it is impossible to predict every situation that may occur on the range, and therefore not possible to enact rules and policies for such. Consequently he or she shall at all times behave in a manner in keeping with common sense and reasonable actions.

I, _____

Fully understand and completely agree to the foregoing terms and conditions.