

High Woods Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Range Rules

Introduction

In order to maintain safety on all of our shooting ranges (indoor archery, outdoor archery, pistol, rifle, black powder and trap) the membership of the Highwoods Sportsmen's Club (later referred to as the club) must have rules and regulations which promotes safety to all who use the ranges and also provides for the safety of our neighbors.

To make it understood that all rules and regulations are adhered to, we must as a club take disciplinary action against those who violate any of the club rules and regulations. This action will be handled according to the club Bylaws by the Executive Board and when needed by vote of the club membership.

Safety with firearms and archery equipment, as with any other potentially hazardous machine, comes through learning and practicing safe procedures until they become habit. The knowledge, skill and respect developed for the firearm or archery equipment thru safe practice will benefit all.

Firearms and archery equipment are only dangerous when people make them so. When handled improperly they can be instruments of danger to people and property. When handled correctly they are a valued tool for the sportsman and there is no cause for danger. Obedience to the rules of safety makes archery and shooting the safe sport we know and enjoy.

Accidents don't just happen. They are caused by ignorance and disregard for safe procedures. Horseplay, drinking of alcoholic beverages and drugs are examples of disregard for safety rules which are not allowed in marksmanship classes or on the shooting range. **Alcoholic beverages are strictly forbidden on club property at any time.**

The rules of safety and proper gun and bow handling should be practiced until they are never out of mind. They should be observed at all times and become habit.

Range Descriptions

The Highwoods Sportsmen's Club, Inc. maintains the following ranges for the exclusive use of members in good standing and escorted guests:

Archery – Indoor and Outdoor

Pistol

Rifle

Black powder Muzzleloaders

Trap

Time of Use

Firearms ranges may be used Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until sunset. On Sunday firearms ranges may be used from 11 a.m. until sunset. Outdoor archery ranges may be used from first light until sunset Monday through Sunday. Indoor Range hours are set by the Archery Committee.

High Woods Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Range Rules

Time of Use (continued)

If the club is rented for a private event, which will be posted several weeks in advance, the ranges will be closed except for activities using them as part of the rental activity. Hunting Season - During the regular Big Game Rifle season, all outdoor ranges (archery, pistol, rifle, trap) are closed. The firearms ranges may be used for emergency sight-in only during the hours of 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. only. This is only for extreme emergency cases. All other use of outdoor ranges is prohibited.

Hunting on Club Property

Dues paying members in good standing **only** may hunt on club property during the hunting season. Guests are not allowed to hunt on club property. Members must first sign-in at the club house and post the hunting safety flag. Members must have a valid N.Y.S. hunting license. Any game taken must be immediately removed from club grounds. By vote of the club membership, DOES may be harvested during the legal season. This could be by lottery or open shooting provided the taker has a valid wild game management unit 3C permit.

The club's policy to permit members to hunt on the club premises is on an individual basis. This shall not be considered an authorized club function. **You are hereby specifically notified that no insurance protection against your personal liability for any occurrence arising out of your hunting activity, on or off the premises, is or will ever be provided by the club or the club's insurance.**

Sign-In

Before using any range, the member must sign in at the clubhouse. The member must ensure that his/her use of a particular range will not present a safety conflict with other persons using club facilities. The appropriate safety flag must be displayed on the sign board before using the range. For pistol, rifle and trap use the "Range" red flag. For archery use the "Archery" red flag. For hunting use the "Hunting" red flag. The member should be familiar with the location of the telephone in the clubhouse and the number for Woodstock Emergency Dispatch, 679-2422, located on the bulletin board.

Range Officer

During organized events, a range officer will be designated. All shooters will follow the commands of the range officer. In the case of any disputes, the decision of the range officer will be final. For informal shooting where a number of members are using the range, it is recommended that one of the members present should take the role of range officer. Firearms or bows should not be loaded, drawn, or fired without the express direction of the range officer.

Safety Equipment

Members should use correct safety equipment for their shooting device (ear protection, safety glasses, arm guard, finger tab, etc.). Firearms shooters should **always** use ear and eye protection on the firing line. Spectators are encouraged to do likewise. Archers should use the correct safety equipment for their bow. Loose clothing, hair and anything else which may become entangled in the shooting device should be secured before shooting.

High Woods Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Range Rules

Sportsmanship and Responsibility

The club ranges are for use by all club members. **Don't hog the range.** If use of different ranges by different members creates a safety conflict, compromise and share in a sportsmanlike manner.

Please have respect for club property. Do not shoot at posts, trees, burn barrels, bird houses, or any club structures. Do not shoot at any target you cannot see.

Please police the area and clean up when you are done shooting. Remove any and all targets that you put up or were using. Pick up your brass and deposit it in the brass bucket. Leave the range in as good or better condition than when you arrived.

Member's vehicles may be driven on the range up to the 50 yard position or into the pavilion, if it can be done safely and does not interfere with other shooters.

No alcohol is allowed on club property.

Pistol/Rifle Range Rules

1. The Pistol/Rifle range may not be used if the Trap range is in use, during clubhouse rental, during a 3D shoot or other time as may be posted at the clubhouse.
2. Always wear eye and ear protection when firearms are being discharged. Remember both are irreplaceable.
3. All shooters must be at the same firing line. Example: If the 25 yard line is in use, the 100 yard line may not be used.
4. All firearms must be kept in a safe condition when not firing. Unloaded and benched. Cylinder, action or bolt open or placed in a case or holstered. Keep firearms unloaded until ready to shoot.
5. Firearms shall be pointed downrange at all times.
6. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded at all times.
7. Use the proper ammunition for the firearm being used.
8. Make sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before firing. The eyes you save may be your own.
9. Never place your body against the muzzle of a firearm. Do not lean on a gun or lean it against yourself.
10. There will be no shooting from the roof of the trap house. The trap house is not to be used as a target stand.
11. A portable shooting table is provided. Please move it to the side or under the pavilion when you are done so it will not be in the line of fire between the 100 yard bench and the backstop.
12. Shooters are responsible for providing their own targets. **Human silhouette targets are strictly forbidden.** Paper plates from the club kitchen shall not be used. All targets shall be removed after use.
13. Shooting at trees, bottles, rocks and cans is not allowed.

High Woods Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Range Rules

Rifle/Pistol Range Rules (continued)

14. Targets must be placed in line with the bullet trap area downrange (sand and tire bank). Any targets placed closer to the firing line must have an appropriate backstop.
15. If shooting at a reactive target (bowling pin, steel plate or spinner) or a frangible target (water jug, clay bird, etc.) shooters must keep a distance of at least 25 yards.
16. The only shooting of airborne targets allowed is trap shooting.
17. **All firing on the range shall be timed so as not to exceed one firing per second.** All shooters using the range shall cooperate with each other to comply with this rule.
18. If a malfunction occurs while shooting, keep your gun pointed downrange and raise your hand to signal the Range Officer.
19. There will be no handling of any guns for any reason when a person is downrange.
20. No one will go downrange without permission of the Range Officer, or if no Range Officer is present, before announcing and confirming his intentions to other shooters.
21. All guns shall be cleared and made safe before anyone goes downrange.
22. Always clean up when you are done. Remove your brass and targets before you leave.

Trap Range Rules

1. The Trap range may not be used if the Pistol or Rifle range is in use, during club rental, during a 3D shoot, during a Black powder shoot or any other time as may be posted at the clubhouse. Club events or leagues take precedence over individual use.
2. Always be sure the trap boy is safely inside the trap house before you shoot.
3. Should a delay occur while you are shooting, open your gun, extract the shell or shells and do not reload until shooting resumes.
4. Always carry your gun unloaded with the action open when you are not in the firing position. The only time your gun should be loaded is when you are in a station, ready to shoot.
5. Never load more than one shell unless you are shooting doubles.
6. Before you head out to the field, be sure to check your vest or shell pouch to be sure you are carrying shells of the correct caliber for your firearm. Carry on your person shells of the gauge for the gun you are using at that time.
7. Safeties are not used because your gun should not be loaded until ready to fire.
8. When shooting trap, your gun should be unloaded and open when changing stations. When moving from station 5 to station 1, be sure to walk **BEHIND** other squad members.
9. When you leave your field, double check to make sure your gun is unloaded and be sure to leave the action open.
10. All guns should be stored in the rack, unloaded and action open whenever they are not in actual use.
11. When moving to or from the firing position or from station to station, use a two-handed carry.

High Woods Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Range Rules

Trap Range Rules (continued)

12. Personnel in the trap house will have an orange flag to display in the event of an emergency. In this case, all shooters will immediately cease fire, unload and open all firearms and await instructions from the Range Officer.
13. Always wear eye and ear protection while shooting.
14. Spent shotgun shells and hulls shall be cleaned up before leaving the range.

The Ten Commandments of Shooting

1. Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded firearm.
2. Watch the muzzle! Carry your gun safely. Keep the safety on until you are ready to shoot.
3. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger. Know identifying features of the game you hunt.
4. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that the ammunition is correct for the particular firearm.
5. Unload guns when not in use. Take down or have actions open. Guns should be carried in cases to the shooting area.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot and avoid any horseplay with a firearm.
7. Never climb a fence or tree or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm. Never pull a gun towards you by the muzzle.
8. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or water. At target practice, be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. Store firearms and ammunition separately beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
10. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages on premises at any time.

Archery Ranges – Indoor and Outdoor

Equipment and Safety

1. Bows and arrows shall be used only for the type of shoot to be had.
2. Regulations of the shoot depend on the type of shoot.
3. Never dry fire your bow. Shooting without an arrow can cause serious damage.
4. Use only matched equipment.
5. Use safety equipment: Tab, glove, release and arm guard.
6. Cease fire: This means stop shooting, put down equipment and replace arrow to the quiver.
This can be called by voice.
Two blasts of a whistle.
Repeated blast: Stop shooting and put arrow away.
An emergency has arisen.
Await instructions of the Range Officer.
7. When other activities are in the meeting hall, there will be no shooting until the hall has been cleared and the door secured. No one shall be forward of the line of shoot or to the left or right.

High Woods Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Range Rules

8. Crossbows are absolutely forbidden on outdoor shed targets, 3D animal targets and the indoor range. Crossbows may be used on the rifle range only with the shooters provided free standing portable backstops, i.e. the block.

Outdoor Archery Range

1. All shooters must sign in and post the archery flag.
2. Shooters must stay on designated trails and not back track to exit the range.
3. Shooters must exit to the clubhouse either by the first half (#14) or second half (#28) of the course.
4. Shooters leaving the course who come upon a person shooting at a target must ask permission to pass through or must wait until the shooter advances to the target to clear the group.
5. When you come to a target and are not sure the target is clear, holler "Timber". Anyone hearing this should answer immediately.
6. Shoot only from designated stakes, not from unsafe angles.
7. All shots must be directed to the target and/or backstop.
8. 3D targets are for **Club functions only**, they are not for individual use.
9. When looking for lost arrows, leave your partner or equipment in front of the target so the next shooter will know that someone is there.
10. Do not shoot at a partner or equipment in front of a target.
11. There will be no shooting of bent or broken arrows.
12. Broad heads shall not be used at any time.

Indoor Archery Range

1. Stay on the shooting line with other shooters.
2. Nocking of arrows and pointing of arrows shall be downrange at all times.
3. Shoot only the amount of arrows in practice that you would normally shoot indoors (5). Be fair to your fellow archer.
4. Move forward only when range is clear by signal from the Range Officer in charge.
5. Inspect equipment at all times when shooting.

High Woods Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Range Rules

August 3, 1995

Running Animal Target/Woodstock Planning Board

This is a synopsis of our final meeting and the basic agreement reached with the Woodstock Planning Board in regards to the installation of the running animal target. All agreed information is on tape in the Woodstock Planning Board records. Please note that the Woodstock Planning board and the Highwoods Sportsman's Club met **seven times over fourteen months** just to settle the issue of the running animal target installation (talk about a crazy process!).

However, listed below are the basic agreements as understood by the club members in attendance.

1. The club can hold as many firearms shooting events as desired, but can only use the running animal target in seven (7) such events per year. In such events the allowable shooting hours will be from 8:00am to 4:00pm.
2. The running animal target can be used for bow and arrow shooting at any time with no restrictions.
3. The firearms shooting range will be closed on the first Monday of every month.
4. The firearms shooting range is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00am until dark. On Sunday the range will be open from 11:00am to 6:00pm or dark, which ever comes first.
5. During the regular New York State Big Game Firearms Season, the firearms range can only be used from 12:00 noon until 1:00pm for emergency re-sighting purposes only.
6. During all events where there will be a large influx of people, the parking lot must be cordoned off so as to have one controlled entrance and one exit.

Those in attendance at this final meeting were: Charles Baechtle---President
Pat McGuire -----Vice President
Frank Cafaldo-----Treasurer

Compiled By:
Charles Baechtle