

Rowan County Wildlife Association Inc.
Range Manual
(Revised April 10, 2019)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

While members are not expected to memorize these Range and Club Rules in their entirety, they should review and be familiar with those rules that pertain to the specific ranges they may use. Members are strongly encouraged to keep a copy of these rules for their future reference while at the range.

These rules are current as of the date indicated; however, they may be revised from time to time. RCWA's most current Range Manual and Club Rules are available on the RCWA web site: www.rcwa.club.

Club information can be found on the website or the calendar card including the RCWA Officers and Board of Directors, as well match information and dates of member meetings. Contact information for the RCWA officers can also be found on the back of your membership card.

1.1 MEDICAL EMERGENCY

In case of a medical emergency call 911, if the gate is locked go to the entrance gate, unlock the lock and wait on emergency services to give them directions to the injured party.

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2.0 GENERAL RULES

Members are encouraged to use the facilities of the Rowan County Wildlife Association, Inc., hereinafter known as "RCWA" as often as they like. These rules are intended to make our activities safe, convenient, and enjoyable for everyone. **Please follow basic rules of common sense, safety, and courtesy.**

The speed limit in front of the clubhouse and on the drive adjacent to all ranges is 5 mph. The speed limit on the entrance road is 10 mph.

The possession or use of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages under any circumstances is prohibited on RCWA property. Any member who uses, or allows their guests to use, illegal drugs or consumes any alcohol immediately prior to or during shooting may result in their membership being terminated and permanent expulsion from all RCWA property.

All loaded firearms must be holstered around the clubhouse and/or parking areas. Firearms in the clubhouse must be unloaded with actions opened except for legally concealed handguns. Loaded firearms may not be handled in the clubhouse for any reason.

National Firearms Act (NFA) "Class III" firearms with full-automatic-fire capability may only be fired with written permission from the Board of Directors. You must have a copy of this written permission with you if you have full-automatic-fire NFA firearms on RCWA property. You must also have a copy of your Form 1, Form 2, Form 3, Form 4, Form 5 or Form 7 (whichever is applicable) with you if you have any NFA firearms on RCWA property.

Possession of a bump fire stock or binary trigger system is prohibited on RCWA property.

ENTRANCE GATE: Gate access cards are issued to members for their personal use only. Do not allow anyone else to use your card. Do not allow anyone to follow you through the gate without using their own access card.

Please allow the gate a chance to open before scanning your access card multiple times. The gate does not begin to open instantly, and repeatedly scanning your card may cause the gate to malfunction.

If the electric gate malfunctions please call one of the phone numbers posted on the gate

Only Club officers or officer-authorized personnel may lock open the entrance gate.

All group matches, law enforcement training, clinics, events, personal firearms training, concealed carry classes, concealed carry qualification and other activities that occur on

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RCWA property must have prior approval from the RCWA Board of Directors and must comply with all regulations established by the Board of Directors.

3.0 RANGE USAGE RULES & HOURS OF OPERATION

Range safety is a must for RCWA to remain a safe place to shoot. If you see dangerous or prohibited activity taking place, speak to the person(s) involved - they may simply be unaware of the danger or rule violation. If it is not possible to correct any safety or rule violation problem diplomatically, ask another club member for help. Please get the vehicle license tag number of the person(s) involved and give it to a Range Safety Officer or a RCWA Officer or a member of the Board of Directors. Also report any damage to Club property to a Range Safety Officer or a RCWA Officer or a member of the Board of Directors.

Ranges #1 through #10 and Ranges A through L

All members and guests are expected to follow RCWA's rules, and all members share the responsibility to enforce these rules.

Dependents and guests of a member must be accompanied by the member while at ranges #1 through #10 and Ranges A through L, the lake and archery range. Only a member may bring guests to the range. Visitors may not use any range facilities except as guests of a member, or as guests while participating in sanctioned matches that are authorized by the Board of Directors. Guests must remain with their host member at all times while on RCWA property. It is the responsibility of the host member to be certain his/her guests are familiar with and abides by RCWA's RANGE & CLUB RULES.

Ranges #1 through #10 and Ranges A through L are for use by all members and their guest when accompanied by a member. No ranges may be reserved without RCWA's Board Approval. For example, if you leave a range to take a break or go to lunch, other members may use the range. When you return, you must wait for other members to finish using the range or they allow you to join them. Ranges are for use on a first come first served basis.

Members may bring two guests to the range who are over the age of 19. In addition, members may also bring their children and/or grandchildren who are under the age of 19 to the range. The member is responsible for insuring any guests brought to the range are instructed in the safe handling of a firearm prior to shooting. When a member brings guests to the range only two guests may shoot at a time. The member must not shoot while their guests are shooting. The guests must not shoot while the member is shooting.

Membership badges must be visible at all times while on Club property with the exception of shotgun ranges when open to the public or while participating in scheduled matches. Members unable to produce a current membership badge (not a gate access card) and unaccompanied visitors will be asked to leave. Members pay for

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the privilege of shooting at RCWA and are expected to see that other range users are wearing current membership badges or are the guests of, and accompanied by, a member. Any person without a current membership badge or not accompanied by a member should be asked to leave the ranges immediately. If you do not feel comfortable ordering an unauthorized person to leave, ask another club member and/or call 911 and have the Rowan County Sheriff's Department remove the person(s) from RCWA property. Also, get the vehicle license tag number of the person(s) involved and give it to a RCWA officer or a Board of Director Member. Also report any damage to RCWA property to a RCWA officer or a member of the Board of Directors.

NOTE: Ranges H & L are for Pistols Only – Rimfire Pistols and Centerfire Pistols (Pistol Calibers Only).

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY – SATURDAY

8 A.M. to 8:30 P.M. or dark.

SUNDAY

Rimfire Pistols and Rifles - 8 A.M. to 8:30 P.M. or dark.

Centerfire Pistols, Centerfire Rifles and Muzzle Loading Pistols & Rifles -

12 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. or dark.

An exception for shooting after 8:30 P.M. or dark will only apply to RCWA Board approved night shoots.

4.0 Shotgun Fields (Ranges)

Skeet, Trap, and Five Stand fields (ranges) are open to the public and members on specified days as established by the manager of these fields (ranges).

See the schedule on our website at www.rcwa.club under Shotgun Fields for hours of operation or ask the shotgun range manager.

5.0 SPECIFIC RANGES & RULES

Failing to abide by rules and regulations will result in the loss of range privileges and/or membership. This is your range so take care of the bays and berms.

Additional Range Rules and information is posted on our website and on the front of the clubhouse. It is every member's responsibility to keep up with all updated Range Rules and regulations. Periodically review our website for updates.

ALL RANGES:

1. **DO NOT** handle any firearm when people are down range or forward of firing points.
2. All weapons are to be unloaded and all actions open prior to anyone going down range.

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3. Treat all firearms as loaded at all times while on the ranges.
4. Keep Muzzles pointed in a safe direction
5. Do not point your firearm at anything you do not want to destroy.
6. Always be sure of target, backstop and immediate surroundings. Shoot only into established backstops.
7. You are responsible for your actions and the actions of your guests.
8. Pick up shot shell hulls, trash and targets after shooting.
9. **Approved targets on Ranges 1 – 10 and A - L are paper or cardboard targets placed on the target wire.**
 - a) **Shooting steel plates with rifles and pistols are allowed on Ranges 1 & 5 through 10, and shooting steel plates with pistols (handguns) are allowed on Ranges 2, 3 & 4 – only if the steel plates are placed at the base of the berm to prevent rounds from leaving the bay and from hitting any target posts or frames.** Steel plates must be approved for the caliber of weapon used.
 - b) Steel plates for Pistol Targets must be placed at a minimum distance of 11 yards with target being a minimum of an 11-degree down angle.
 - c) Steel plates for Rifle Targets must be placed at a minimum distance of 20 yards with target being a minimum of a 22-degree down angle.
 - d) Be very careful with these targets – ricochets are common, and lead splatter from steel plates is a serious hazard. Keep targets near the backstop at the base of the berm to limit danger. Spectators must stand back from the firing line. Ear and Eye protection is required by all spectators.
10. Unapproved targets are cans, bottles, produce, pallets, lumber, target posts or frames, rocks, ammunition, golf balls, clay birds (skeet, trap, 5-stand or sporting clays), explosive devices or targets, ground bouncers, wobble type targets, walking/flipping type of targets, or any other targets placed on the ground, or anything that could cause a round to leave the range.
11. The firing of the following types of ammunition is prohibited on all club ranges:
 1. TRACER ROUNDS
 2. FLECHETTE ROUNDS
 3. EXPLODING ROUNDS
 4. INCENDIARY ROUNDS
12. **DO NOT** put targets on top of or on the target frame posts or other wood members holding the wire or on top of or on an eyebrow (eyebrows are located on Ranges #2 - #4 and A – L to keep bullets from leaving the range). Placing targets on these locations is prohibited.
13. Stop any unsafe action you see on the range to avoid any possible accidents.
14. If you find anyone that is not a RCWA member on the range, ask them to leave unless they are accompanied by a member. Also get the license tag number of

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anyone that is not a member or accompanied by a member and give to one of the RCWA officers.

15. Range 1 and Range 5 are designated for use by the for Law Enforcement training at the posted times on Range 1 and Range 5, at the clubhouse, and on our website. Please use other ranges on those dates and times.

5.1 Rifle Range (Range 1)

1. Vehicles may only be driven on Range #1 to and from the berms to replace targets, etc., or for maintenance purposes, or as necessary during matches. The light system must be used when going to the 50yd and 100yd Target Lines. When going to the 200yd Target Line and Target Trailer both the light system and the orange flag must be used while down range. All vehicles must remain visible from the firing line. The Board of Directors or the Range Officer (during matches) may approve exceptions (in written form) for physically handicapped members.
2. Each shooter must use the light system (Black button to go down range – Red button when you return). If you are going down range to the 200-yard targets, always use the flag in addition to the down range warning system.
 - a) Never handle a firearm or leave a firearm loaded while someone is down range.
 - b) Anytime any lights are flashing on/off and/or the flag is up, the firing of any weapon is prohibited.
 - c) Firing across established shooting lanes is prohibited.
 - d) Approved targets on Range 1 are paper or cardboard targets placed on the target wire or steel plates only if they fall within the guidelines under #9 on page 5 of this manual.
 - e) All shooting must be done from the established firing line (under the shelter).
 - f) Be considerate of others if you arrive on Range #1 and members are shooting. Before pushing the Black button to go down range, ask those shooting if they will be at a stopping point in a few minutes. You would expect to be treated the same if you were firing and someone else needed to go down range.
 - g) Always check with other shooters to get an “all clear” before going down range.
 - h) Personally make sure that every shooter using the range understands that the firing line has been cleared before moving down range.
 - i) Be considerate of others – set enough targets at one time to shoot for 15 to 30 minutes.

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- j) Before calling the firing line “hot” again, personally verify that each shooter knows that the line is going hot.

The Board of Directors may make exceptions to some of these rules for special situations or circumstances. Any exceptions by the board will be made in written form.

5.2 RIFLE RANGE WARNING SYSTEM INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: IF YOU ARE GOING DOWN RANGE TO THE 200-YARD TARGETS, ALWAYS USE THE FLAG IN ADDITION TO THE DOWN RANGE WARNING SYSTEM. THE 200-YARD TARGETS CANNOT BE SEEN FROM EITHER END OF THE FIRING LINE. ALSO, THE PERSON PUTTING THE FLAG UP MUST BE THE PERSON THAT TAKES THE FLAG DOWN.

BEFORE GOING DOWN RANGE: Check with all shooters on the Rifle Range before pushing the Black pushbutton to go down range. Be courteous!!! If someone only needs a few minutes to finish shooting prior to going down range, please be patient and wait.

Push the Black push button on a push button station that is near your bench (The 8 overhead lights will start flashing on/off every three seconds). After 3 seconds, the sirens will sound for 2 seconds. The rotating red lights will also turn on at this time and stay on as long as the 8 overhead lights are flashing on/off (See additional information in Note 5).

After the firing line is clear, go down range.

WHEN YOU RETURN FROM DOWN RANGE: You must push the Red push button on the same push button station that you pushed the Black push button prior to going down range., (As you return from down range, go ahead and push your Red push button. You do not need to wait until everyone has returned from down range to push your Red push button. The 8 overhead lights will continue to flash on/off until all Red push buttons have been pushed below any Black push buttons that were pushed prior to anyone going down range).

The firing line should be considered hot when the lights stop flashing on/off and the rotating red lights go out and the flag is down. Double check with all others on the firing line before assuming the line is hot and make sure no one is still down range.

*****CAUTION: IF YOU PUSH THE RED PUSH BUTTON WHEN YOU RETURN FROM DOWN RANGE AND THE LIGHTS STOP FLASHING ON/OFF AND THERE IS STILL SOMEONE DOWN RANGE, IMMEDIATELY PUSH A BLACK PUSH BUTTON. WHEN EVERYONE RETURNS FROM DOWN RANGE, YOU NEED TO PUSH THE RED PUSH BUTTON FOR THE LIGHTS TO STOP FLASHING ON/OFF.*****

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- Note:**
- 1) All push button stations operate independently of each other.
 - 2) Every Red push button below a Black push button (that was pushed) must be pushed for the 8 overhead lights to stop flashing on/off when you return from down range.
 - 3) If the 8 overhead lights do not stop flashing on/off after everyone has returned from down range, someone did not push their Red push button. Have everyone push all Red push buttons until the lights stop flashing on/off.
 - 4) The lights will flash on/off for a maximum of 45 minutes after a Black push button has been pushed. If for some reason you need to be down range for a longer period of time, push or have someone push a Black push button after the lights have stopped flashing on/off.
 - 5) **It is important that everyone push their Black push button prior to going down range.** The first person that pushes a Black push button before going down range will cause the 8 overhead lights to start flashing on/off every three seconds. After 3 seconds, the sirens will sound for 2 seconds. The rotating red lights will also turn on at this time and stay on as long as the 8 overhead lights are flashing on/off. **Everyone else that pushes a Black push button will not see or hear any changes. However, everyone that pushes a Black push button will set up the circuit so that the lights will continue to flash on/off until everyone that pushed a Black push button prior to going down range has pushed their Red push button when they return from down range.**

5.3 Shotgun Fields (Ranges)

These include Skeet, Trap and Five Stand fields (ranges), and are for shotguns only, firing at clay targets. No slug or buckshot ammunition, or any loads of lead shot larger than #7½, are permitted on these ranges.

1. HEARING AND EYE PROTECTION IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES.
2. Carry your shotgun either with the breech broken or with the breech bolt open, depending on type.
3. Keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction – either down towards the ground (preferably) or upwards, *do not carry in a manner where your barrel sweeps across other people.*
4. Place your shotgun in a stand or case when not in use.
5. Keep your shotgun open and unloaded at all times except when you are on a firing station preparing to shoot.
6. Do not load more than two shells at a time.
7. Do not place shells into any part of the gun until you are standing on the shooting station with your gun pointed safely toward the flight area.
8. Maintain control of your shotgun at all times so as to pose no threat to others.

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9. You are responsible for your actions and the actions of your guests.
10. Pick up shot shell hulls and trash after shooting.
11. Stop any unsafe action you see on the range to avoid any possible accident.
12. Only one shooter, from a single firing station, may fire at a time. No more than one person may occupy a firing station at the same time, except when a coach and pupils are working together (and in that case, there may be only one shotgun on the station).
13. The person pulling targets (the “puller/trapper”) is in charge of the field, and all shooters must follow their commands. When the command “Cease Firing” is given by anyone, immediately cease all firing, open your action and remove all shells from your gun.
14. While personnel are in the trap house loading the machines, you may not sight your weapon down range in the direction of the trap house or personnel.

5.4 Shotgun Patterning Board

You may pattern your shotgun in the area designated for this purpose. *Clean up spent hulls and pieces of target when you are finished.*

5.5 Shotgun Limitations

Authorized shotguns:

1. 12 gauge or smaller
2. Shoot only 2 ¾ inch or shorter shells
3. Use only 7 ½ shot or smaller
4. LEAD SHOT, STEEL SHOT or other approved shot types
5. Shoot only from designated shooting stations
6. Shotguns must be shot from the shoulder except for approved exhibition shooters
7. Shotguns without shoulder stocks may not be used on the shotgun ranges

6.0 Matches and Competitions

All matches and competitions have rules established by various organizations that regulate these programs. Due to the length of these rules you need to locate the agency that regulates these competitions and obtain a copy of these rules by mail or by computer or by other electronic means. Each match or competition has a range officer that will inform you of specific rules that apply to RCWA ranges.

7.0 Clubhouse and Classroom Rental

The clubhouse and classroom are available for rent by contacting the RCWA's Treasurer to schedule dates and times. Rental is available only to members in good standing by paying the current security deposit and use fee in advance.

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8.0 PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF RULES

Except as provided elsewhere herein, violation of RANGE & CLUB RULES will result in action deemed appropriate by the RCWA Board of Directors or other club official (Range Officer, etc.) based upon the nature of the violation and the conduct and demeanor of the offending party. Penalties may include, but are not limited to Suspension and/or a repeat of the "Range Safety Class," or permanent expulsion from RCWA property. Members are responsible for the conduct of their guests and as such will be held accountable for Range Rule violations committed by such guests. Appeals of any penalties will be in accordance with the By-Laws of the RCWA.

RCWA RULES & RANGE SAFETY VIOLATIONS

ALL MEMBERS MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL RANGE AND CLUB RULES PERTAINING TO ALL RCWA PROPERTY AND THE SPECIFIC RANGES OR AREAS THEY USE.

1. Do not let anyone follow you in the gate without using their gate card. This is the reason we have a card system. **Note: This does not apply if the gate is locked open.**
2. Speeding on club property: The speed limit on the entrance road is 10 mph. The speed limit in front of the clubhouse and on the drive adjacent to all ranges is 5 mph.
3. Failure to use the Rifle Range Warning system on Range #1. (When going to the 50- or 100-yard berms the warning lights must be used. When going to the 200-yard berm, the warning lights and the flag must be used).
4. Failing to use berms as target backs. Example: Placing targets up range of the berm. All permitted or approved targets must be placed at the base of the berm if you are not shooting targets placed on the wire located at the berm. (For approved targets see Range Manual section 5.0 SPECIFIC RANGE & RULES: #9). Pistol Ranges L & H also have steel in addition to wire located at the base of the berm (No other targets are allowed on Pistol ranges A through H).
5. Shooting at unapproved targets. Example: Exploding targets, glass, clay birds except on the shotgun range, rocks, live ammo. This is not a comprehensive list. Approved targets are paper, and properly angled and placed steel targets. (For unapproved targets also see Range Manual section 5.0 SPECIFIC RANGES AND RULES: #10 and #11).
6. Cross firing across established lanes is prohibited on all ranges.
7. Violations of the fishing and lake rules posted at the lake.

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8. The firing of prohibited types of ammunition on the ranges. Prohibited ammunition includes tracer rounds, flechette rounds, exploding rounds and incendiary rounds.
9. The firing of centerfire pistols or rifles, or muzzle loading pistols or rifles prior to 12 PM on Sunday.

- Penalty for violations of RCWA RULES AND RANGE SAFETY VIOLATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9.

1st Offense: The member must come to the regularly scheduled Board of Directors

meeting and explain your action(s). The loss of privileges will be decided by the BOD.

2nd Offense: Loss of privileges for 2 months.

3rd Offense: Loss of privileges for 6 months.

10. Allowing anyone other than yourself to use your membership badge, gate card or key.
11. Handling weapons anywhere on club property in an unsafe manner. **“SAFE”** is Defined as using accepted safe gun handling practices.
12. Handling weapons while someone is down range of the firing line. All ranges #1 through #10, and ranges A through L.
13. Willful destruction of any club property.
14. National Firearms Act (NFA) “Class III” firearms with full-automatic capability may only be fired with written permission from the Board of Directors. Possession and/or firing any weapon with a “bump fire stock” or binary trigger system is prohibited. The bump firing of any weapon is also prohibited.

- Penalty for violations of RCWA RULES AND RANGE SAFETY VIOLATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS: 10,11,12,13 and 14.

1ST Offense: Loss of privileges for 2 months.

2nd Offense: Loss of privileges for 6 months.

3rd Offense: Loss of privileges for 12 months.

15. The possession of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages under any circumstances is prohibited. Any member who uses, or allows their guests to use illegal drugs or consumes any drugs or alcohol prior to or during shooting may result in their membership being terminated and permanent expulsion from all RCWA property.

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* Penalty for violation of RCWA RULES AND RANGE SAFETY VIOLATIONS
NUMBER: 15.

1st Offense: Loss of privileges for a minimum of 6 months.

2nd Offense: Indefinite loss of range privileges.

*This list of possible violations and penalties is not all inclusive. Any violation of the RCWA range rules will be dealt with in a manner deemed appropriate by the RCWA Board of Directors.

*The Board of Directors will keep an incident report of all violations.

*If a violation occurs, upon request the member must turn in their gate card & key and membership badge to a Board Member and/or Range Officer of RCWA. Upon your appearance before the Board of Directors, the board will decide when your membership will be reinstated, and under what conditions.

9.0 No Hunting on RCWA Property.

10.0 Website – www.rcwa.club.

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