



SOMERSET WEST PISTOL CLUB

A-Range Public Session Rules

2024-03-18

1. Introduction

A-Range is our primary handgun-calibre range where new members and visitors are most likely to shoot with the club for the first time. It is also the range where the most shooters at any given time will shoot simultaneously. The range/safety officers are given the responsibility of maintaining range safety and order, and managing all shooters and people accompanying them.

We strive to make all shooters enjoy their time with us at the range and, wherever possible, assist them and share knowledge to improve their skills. However, when an infringement occurs, the rule of “safety before diplomacy” will be respectfully enforced.

The following sections detail the specific rules that are applicable for public sessions as well as the obligations of the range/safety officers and the procedures they will follow when operating the range.

2. Fees

The following fees are applicable per session.

1. Range fees, as displayed in the A-range foyer, shall be charged before entry is permitted.
2. Range fees exclude paper targets, which may be purchased at an additional cost per target.
3. Any active A-range range/safety officer, including those in training, may shoot without charge at the A/B-ranges.

3. General Rules

The following rules, in addition to the **Club & Range Rules**, will be enforced by the range/safety officers.

1. The range/safety officers shall have complete control of all persons on the range, including spectators.
2. No loaded firearms shall be brought onto the range.
3. Any weapon may be inspected by a range/safety officer. Any person objecting to such an inspection shall not be allowed to shoot.
4. No firearm shall be handled if anyone is in front of the firing point.
5. Firearms shall not be handled, unpacked or packed until the range is declared closed by the range officer.
6. Shooters may handle ammunition and load magazines while the range is open but only from behind the designated yellow line.
7. Shooting and loading of firearms shall only be performed under the instructions and supervision of the range officer.
8. Eye and ear protection shall be worn by all persons on the range when it is under closed conditions.
9. Targets shall be placed a safe distance from the firing point. A minimum distance of 5m applies to paper and cardboard targets. A minimum distance of 15m applies to steel-type targets/gongs, for which only lead cast bullets are permitted (no jacketed bullets).
10. Draw-and-shoot and reloading drills from a holstered firearm or magazine are prohibited.
11. When experiencing a problem with a firearm which cannot be rectified by the shooter, the range officer must be called for assistance.
12. When temporarily leaving the firing point for any reason, firearms shall be unloaded and placed in such a way to "show clear".
13. The range/safety officer may appoint a competent assistant if necessary.
14. Any person who fails to obey the commands of the range/safety officers, carelessly handles any firearm or jeopardises the safety of others will be ordered off the range and may face disciplinary action.

4. Firearm Types, Calibres, Equipment and Event-specific Rules

(1) The following rules and exemptions apply for shooting activities on the A-range:

(a) Only the following firearms and calibres are permitted:

- (i) All handguns chambered in typical handgun calibres (.22 Short to .50 S&W). Handguns in typical rifle calibres (e.g. Thompson Contender) are prohibited.
- (ii) All rifles/carbines of any action chambered in typical handgun calibres.
- (iii) All air rifles and air pistols in typical airgun calibres.

(b) Equipment designated for this range shall not be used on other ranges.

(c) During **Carry Gun** events, additional rules shall be enforced as per the **Carry Gun Rules**.

(2) The following rules and exemptions apply for shooting activities on the B-range:

(a) All rules as per paragraph (1) of this section.

(b) During Pin Shooting events, additional rules shall be enforced at the discretion of the range and safety officers.

5. Typical Range Procedures

The range officer will perform these or similar steps during the following procedures.

5.1 Preparing to Commence Firing

- Close the gates at the firing line.
- Perform a sharp whistle blow to draw shooters' attention that they are about to make an announcement.
- Announce "The range is now closed."
- Announce "You may pack or unpack your firearms."
- Announce "You may load your firearms and fire on your own target."

5.2 Preparing to Cease Firing

- Perform a sharp whistle blow to draw shooters' attention to cease firing.
- Announce "Unload, make safe your weapons, place them on the bench and stand behind the yellow line."
- Inspect all weapons to ensure that they are safe and unloaded.

- Announce “You may attend to your targets and pick up empty cases. No handling of any firearms.”
- Open the gates at the firing line.
- Ensure that nobody handles any firearms.

5.3 Safety Marshal Obligations

This section is aimed at current safety marshals and those in-training, however new members may also find it useful to understand the procedures that will be enforced.

Our safety marshals are referred to as the safety officer (SO) and range officer (RO) – the officials willing to and capable of taking on the responsibility for running the shooting activities on the range for a session. The SO and RO must be able to perform each other’s duties with one not being senior to the other. Rotation of officials are recommended to build experience in the different duties and to give one another a break. It is also recommended that the SO & RO remain armed at all times, being the only persons allowed to have loaded firearms on the range when not actively shooting.

5.4 Safety Officer

The official responsible for administration and safety in the entrance lobby.

Obligations:

- Ensure that all relevant equipment is placed at the entrance. This includes the attendance register/indemnity form, cash, PPE and targets.
- Ensure that every person entering the range facility completes and signs the attendance register/indemnity form as per the **Club & Range Rules**.
- Handle all applicable fees as per the **Club & Range Rules**.
- Ensure that all firearms brought onto the range are in a suitable bag, case or holster, and that all firearms are safe and unloaded (i.e. no ammunition in the firing breech, magazines are removed and tubular magazines cleared).
- Ensure that additional range protocols are adhered to. This may include ad hoc protocols which may vary from time to time.

5.5 Range Officer

The official responsible for managing the firing line and supervising all shooting activities.

Obligations:

- Ensure that all safety nets are placed on the range benches/shooting platforms and at the correct intervals.
- Ensure that no person enters or leaves the range with a loaded firearm.
- Ensure that shooters set up their targets correctly, at a safe distance from the firing point and in line with their shooting bays.
- Ensure that everyone wears eye and hearing protection at the appropriate times.
- Ensure that shooters only unpack their firearms upon the RO's command and under "closed range" conditions (meaning there are no shooters/people in front of the firing point).
- Ensure that shooters only fire on the RO's command and cease immediately when instructed.
- Manage shooters and ensure that they exercise sufficient control over their firearms at all times and always point muzzles downrange, even when not actively shooting. This includes checking that participants shoot within their capabilities e.g. not hitting the target stands or baffles.
- Enforce ad hoc protocols as may be required to maintain safety and control.

5.6 Combined Obligations

- Enforce safety protocols on the range. Should the RO become aware of misconduct in the lobby, they should act upon it. In turn, if the SO becomes aware of an infringement on the firing line, they should reprimand the transgressors.
- Assist with the duties of the other official. As the firing line is quite long, it is advised that the SO assist the RO in their duties when the opportunity allows.
- Inspect the baffles and mark all bullet holes before and after the session. New holes must be reported to the executive committee.
- Ensure that all equipment is packed away and the range left in a reasonably clean state.
- Check equipment and alert the following week's team of any shortages to be replenished.
- Ensure that the facility is locked up securely and the alarm activated before leaving.