# Airfield Shooting Club

*Wakefield, Virginia*

*PO Box 250, Wakefield, VA 23888 • www.airfieldshootingclub.org • NRA • VSSA • Est. 2005*

# Range Rules and Regulations

Revised August, 2010 (revised text in blue.)

## Section I: General Information

1. Members are responsible for maintaining a thorough knowledge of, and complying with, these Rules and Regulations. Further, members are also required to insure that their guests comply. Violation of these Rules and Regulations, and any amendments that the Board of Directors (hereinafter the Board) may enact from time to time, will result in disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the Club without reimbursement of dues paid.

2. The range is for the sole use of the Club members and their guests and other authorized personnel. Except during ASC sponsored functions (i.e. Sight-In Day, training programs, etc.) anyone who brings a guest shall remain present at the range with that guest (on the same range) at all times and will escort the guest from the range upon the guest's departure. Members bringing guests to the range are directly and totally responsible for their conduct and actions while on the range. Members of the immediate family must be accompanied by the related ASC member. No member shall authorize or give permission, oral or written, to any non-member to use the range facilities except as described above.

3. Members and authorized users will have on display at all times, while on the range, their valid Club membership card. They will provide their membership card for inspection to any club member, 4-H center employee, or peace officer upon request.

4. No person shall consume alcoholic beverages at the range facility. No person will be permitted at the range facility if impaired by drugs or alcohol.

5. One or more ranges will be closed while maintenance is being performed on a range. In order to maximize safety, adjacent ranges will be closed while maintenance is performed on the adjoining range. For example: if maintenance is being performed on *any* shotgun range, **all** shotgun ranges (skeet and trap) shall be closed. Likewise, when maintenance is being performed on *either* the 50-yard *or* 100-meter range, **both** of those ranges shall remain closed until the maintenance has been completed. The range will also be closed to use by members and their guest(s) on summer weekdays while 4-H campers use the range. Other range closures may occur from time to time due to special events taking place at the range. Note: A black flag flying in place of the normal range flag shall indicate that the range is closed for maintenance. Signs, indicating range closure, may also be placed on or near a closed range. Always check the website to insure the range is open before scheduling a trip to the range. Be sure to read all remarks related to a closure notice as some closures will be for an entire day, while others may only be for a limited period of time during the day.

6. Range Hours are sunrise to sunset unless authorized by the Airfield 4-H Center and the Airfield Board of Directors.

7. Immediately upon arriving at the range, club members must sign the range usage log indicating date, time of entry, member number, name(s) of guest(s), and if the first shooter on site, raise the range flag. Just prior to departing the range, the member will enter the time of departure. The last member to depart the range shall lower the range flag.

8. The club member, or authorized range user, who signs into the Range Log first shall normally assume the responsibilities of Range Safety Officer (RSO) and shall display one of the provided RSO badges so that anyone wishing to locate the RSO can readily identify him/her. When both the 50 and 100-meter ranges are in use there must be a separate RSO on duty for each range. Prior to the Range Safety Officer leaving that range, another club member or authorized range user shall assume the responsibilities of Range Safety Officer and display the RSO badge. One member must always assume the responsibility as the Range Safety Officer for the safety and control of each range as defined under "Section 2: Dos and Don'ts while on either the 50 or 100 Meter Ranges," before any firing may take place. If no club member will assume the duties of Range Safety Officer, the range will be closed.

9. Members and their guests using the range must obey the commands and instructions of the designated Range Safety Officer. Failure to obey the instructions of the Range Safety Officer will result in severe disciplinary consequences which may include expulsion from the club.

10. Junior members under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult member when on the range.
11. Animals are not to be shot on the range. If an animal is seen downrange, the first person to notice the animal should call ”Cease-Fire”. The line should be made safe until the animal is clear of the range.
12. Fully automatic fire is prohibited on all ranges. Violation of safety rules may result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors up to and including expulsion from the club.

## Section IIa: Dos and Don’ts while on either the 50 or 100 Meter Range

1. DO arrive at the range with unloaded firearms (see the exception for lawfully carried handguns, which are to remain holstered, in Section 4 of these rules, the Range Safety Officer Manual).

2. DO use good judgment and wear eye and ear protection when appropriate. Note that ASC recommends use of eye and ear protection. Members and guests assume all risks.

3. DO practice ”muzzle control” and consider firearms to be loaded at all times. Keep muzzles pointed down range when on the firing line unless the firearm is cased or placed in one of the gun racks. Muzzle up is appropriate for bringing any uncased firearm to the line or moving laterally along the firing line, especially if others shooters are already on the line.

4. DO STOP FIRING immediately upon hearing ”CEASE FIRE” from anyone. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and wait for further instructions from the Range Safety Officer.

5. DO position targets so that all rounds will impact in the lower portion (impact zone) of the back berm. For example, targets to be shot from the prone position may need to be placed lower than targets intended to be shot from the standing position. Use common sense and, if necessary, another person, viewing from the firing line to assist you in placing targets at the proper elevation.

6. DO ensure reactive targets are placed inside the target frames, no closer than 25yds. These targets must be attached so as not to twist from side to side and must be able to swing fore and aft, or be angled so that bullets are deflected downward. Placement on or near the berm is also acceptable.

7. DO fire only ”aimed shots” at selected targets. Indiscriminate rapid firing is prohibited!

8. DO ”police-up” after using the range. Place target papers, cans, etc. in appropriate trash containers. Target frames may remain upright and in place on the range, but cardboard backers should be removed from them. Cardboard backers which are still usable should be returned to the designated storage area; those which are too shot up for further use should be placed in trash containers. Make repairs to target frames and other facilities as you see the need—it’s your range! Some tools and materials such as 2x4s, nails, etc. are kept at the range.

9. DO take home unfired ammunition, spray cans, etc. DO NOT place these in the trash containers. Duds should be placed in the “Dud Cans” or taken home. All shooters should be aware that we share this facility with 4-H and any duds or other ammunition left on the range may be found and picked up by young shooters.

10. DO exercise care and common sense at the range. Watch yourself and fellow members. DO quickly and firmly act to correct unsafe practices and save someone from avoidable injury or death.

11. DO NOT become upset if you are corrected for a safety violation. We all make mistakes and can benefit from the counsel of others.

12. DO NOT use glass, stone, solid metal or breakable objects which create hazardous debris, as targets.

13. DO NOT place targets on, or in front of the target support frames. Cardboard backers are available for stapling to the target frames. All targets should be fastened to the cardboard so that bullets aimed at the target will NOT hit the target frame. Targets shall be placed in line with the shooter’s position so as to avoid cross firing on the range.

14. DO NOT set targets closer than the 100 meter line on the 100 meter range. Because of the raised firing position on that range, bullets fired at targets placed closer to the firing line could result in ricochets which may not hit the back berm. See rule 5 above. (The one exception to this is silhouette targets as used for 4-H .22 rimfire competition. Silhouette targets may be placed at 77-meters on the 100-meter range when a small auxiliary berm has been erected so as to stop any bullets fired too low to impact the lower half of the back berm.)

15. DO NOT handle, load, clean, or inspect firearms when the range is cold. All firearms are to be on the bench (or grounded) with actions open, the chambers cleared, and magazines removed or emptied. As with other firearms, muzzle loaders should have their chambers cleared before anyone goes downrange. If your chamber is loaded when the RSO wants to make the range cold, make the RSO aware of this and he/she will authorize you to discharge your load into the impact area of the berm. (If it is acceptable to the RSO, you may fire the load into your target.) Once the chambers are empty, traditional caplock muzzle loaders will have hammers at half cock and not be primed. Flintlocks will have the frizzen open, with no priming charge in the pan, and the hammer forward. Inline muzzle loaders should have their actions open so that the RSO or his designee can confirm there are no percussion caps or primers in place, safeties should be placed in the "safe" position. Firearms brought to the firing line, while personnel are down range, will remain cased.

16. If moving between the 50 and 100 meter ranges it is strongly recommended that you unload and case your firearm before moving. If for some reason you cannot case your firearm it will be necessary to coordinate with the RSOs for both ranges before picking up your unloaded, uncased firearm to move it.

17. DO NOT move down range until the command "The RANGE IS NOW COLD" is given by the Range Safety Officer.

18. DO NOT load until on the firing line, then only after determining that the range is "HOT" for loading. When two or more shooters are present, load only after the Range Safety Officer has called the line "HOT."

19. DO NOT commence fire until the range is declared "HOT" by the Range Safety Officer. See rule 17 above.

20. DO shoot on the 50-yard and 100-meter ranges from the firing line under the pavilion roofs. However members may, by mutual agreement with everyone on the line of that particular range at the time, move the firing line downrange. When the line has been moved forward, all shooters on that range must shoot from the newly established firing line until someone wishes to shoot from the normal firing line. Those shooting from forward of the normal line should check with any members just arriving to see if they are willing to shoot from the same firing line or if those forward need to move back to the normal line. Except during scheduled matches, those wishing to shoot from the normal firing line shall have priority.

21. Do NOT set targets nor shoot at anything closer than 12-feet laterally from the range separation wall on the 50-yard range.

22. Any member observed purposely shooting into the range separation wall will be subject to expulsion from the membership. If a guest is observed purposely shooting the wall the guest will be asked to leave the range and never return. The member responsible for this guest will be subject to expulsion.

Note:

Scheduled matches have their own set of rules, some of which may differ slightly from the above rules. The ASC Board of Directors has authorized the match and agreed that safety can be maintained if the match rules are followed. Check with the Match Director to see what differences, if any, may be applicable.

## Section IIb: Dos and Don'ts while on the Shotgun Fields

1. DO NOT use shot sizes larger than 7 1/2 (7 1/2, 8, 8 1/2 & 9 are acceptable).
2. DO use good judgment and wear eye and ear protection when appropriate. Note that ASC recommends use of eye and ear protection. Members and guests assume all risks.
3. DO ensure that all firearms remain unloaded with actions open at all times except when on a shooting pad and ready to shoot. Check that your action is open and your chamber(s) empty before leaving the shooting pad.
4. DO keep your finger off of the trigger until ready to shoot.
5. DO maintain muzzle control. Muzzles should be pointed in a safe direction at all times. It does not matter that your gun may be unloaded; do not let it point at any part of any person, period. For example: Toe pads are not to be used to rest the muzzle, the muzzles of hinged action shotguns are not allowed to swing past the heads of shooters.
6. DO know that the safe direction with a loaded gun on the shooting pad is towards the crossing stake. On the skeet range(s) loaded guns should never point back past the low or high house. On the trap fields the safe direction is downrange.
7. DO immediately stop shooting and keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction whenever a CEASE-FIRE is called. If a Range Safety Officer (RSO) or Instructor is present, wait for further instructions. If no RSO or Instructor is present, evaluate the situation and open the action and unload when it is safe to do so.
8. DO open your action, unload, and make the line safe if someone leaves the group to reload traps or enters a trap house for any reason. Keep your action open and step off of the shooting station.
9. DO turn off traps and release arms before reloading traps. The body part you save may be your own.
10. DO NOT allow unauthorized persons to load traps. Unauthorized persons are not allowed in the skeet houses.
11. DO NOT pick up dropped shells while standing on a shooting pad. Leave the shell on the ground until you are finished at that station and pick it up as you leave the station. (At his/her discretion the person doing the pulling may pick up a dropped shell for the shooter.
12. DO NOT load more than two shells at a time on stations 1 through 7, and only one shell at a time on station 8. Note: Instructors conducting training which has been authorized by the Airfield 4-H Center or the ASC Board may instruct their shooters to load more than two rounds only if required for instructional purposes.
13. DO NOT distract other shooters with your conduct or actions.
14. DO NOT look in or stand in front of the low house window on the skeet range, or the trap bunker opening on the trap range.
15. DO NOT shoot! Call CEASE-FIRE ... if anyone is seen downrange!
16. DO NOT track or shoot your target beyond "absolute vertical" on skeet station eight (8).
17. DO NOT fire a shotgun that just gave an unusual report. Unload and check the bore for obstructions.
18. DO NOT handle or load uncased firearms when on the trap range if an orange cone is on the trap bunker roof. The cone indicates that someone is inside the bunker loading clays or performing maintenance.
19. DO NOT use the trap bunker on Field Three (far right as you approach the shotgun fields) as that is for the exclusive use of 4-H.

Note: Shotgun instructors may, with board approval, designate temporary shooting positions outside the concrete pads. These temporary positions must be clearly marked and all rules pertaining to the permanent shooting pads shall apply to the temporary shooting positions as well.

## Section III: Range Safety Officer Manual

Range safety is everyone's responsibility. We all must be involved in order to insure that our range is run in a safe manner. We have written this manual to help you to understand your role as a Range Safety Officer.

Our standard operating procedure is that the first shooter at the range takes on the responsibility of the Range Safety Officer on that range. The only exception is when that club member is accompanying guests for the day and cannot supervise his guests and watch over the safety of the range at the same time. In that case, the responsibility is passed to the next member who can act as Range Safety Officer. When you stand duty as the Range Safety Officer, take charge. People will be looking to you for direction, guidance and safety.

We run a cold range. A cold range is one in which all firearms are brought to the line unloaded and cased. It is at the command of the Range Safety Officer that firearms are uncased loaded and fired. To accommodate concealed carry permit holders and others (such as law enforcement officers) who arrive at the range with a holstered firearm on their person, we will consider a loaded and holstered firearm to be a cased firearm. You may carry a gun to the range holstered. You may leave the range with the gun holstered. However, while you are using it the same rules for safety will apply to your gun as all others. In order to provide additional safety while we have people downrange anyone not going downrange must step behind and remain behind the red lines that are painted on the pavilion floors of the 50 yd. and 100 meter ranges while the range is cold. No one should approach shooting tables when the range is cold. When returning from hanging/placing targets, all persons must wait behind the red lines until the range is called hot again by the RSO. This rule is intended to help ensure that no one casually reaches down to reposition a firearm or adjust a scope while people are downrange. Remaining behind the red lines provides an additional buffer against someone momentarily forgetting that handling uncased firearms is not allowed while the range is cold.

Before moving between the 50 and 100-meter ranges it is very strongly recommended that shooter(s) unload and case firearms. If for some reason the shooter is unable to case firearms then the move must be coordinated with the RSOs on both ranges before the (unloaded) uncased firearm to be moved is picked up off of the bench.

Remember, at a cold range, handling firearms for any reason except to bring a cased firearm to the line is prohibited. Please, don't assume anything. As Range Safety Officer make all of your decisions with safety foremost in mind.

### Calling the Range

There are standard, basic commands that you should become familiar with. They are as follows.

### Cease-fire

Cease-fire means stop. Stop your shooting. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. The RSO looks up and down the line making sure that his command has been complied with. Cease-fire is the one command that anyone can use when it is perceived that an unsafe condition exists. It's a good idea to let the shooters on the line know beforehand that you will shortly be going "cold" and calling cease-fire. This will give the shooters a moment or two to finish their last shot.

### Unload

Directs the shooter to unload the firearm. This command is generally used in conjunction with "Show Clear" command. Remove detachable magazines and all ammunition from the firearm. For a muzzle-loading firearm to be considered unloaded; it must be discharged into the berm.

### Show Clear

This command means unload your firearm, leave the action open and the muzzle pointed downrange. This is not the time for a muzzle-loader to discharge his gun into the berm. That should have been done prior to the cease-fire. The RSO should personally inspect all firearms, or ask another to help confirm that the firearms on the line are unloaded. All personnel must step behind the red line. There will be no handling of uncased firearms for any reason from this point, including a holstered firearm, until the line is again called "hot".

### The Range Is Now Cold

The line is now safe. All firearms have been inspected and are unloaded. Muzzles are pointed down range. Everyone on the firing line has stepped behind the red line. Again, make sure that there is no handling of firearms or ammo at this time!

### You May Now Go Down Range

Shooters may now go down range to inspect, replace or set up targets. After all the targets are set, everyone is clear of the target area and is ready to commence firing again you may proceed with the following command.

### The Range is Now Hot

Shooters may step forward of the red line. Cased firearms may be brought to the line and uncased (or unholstered). Shooters can handle their firearms and ammunition. Shooters can now pack up their firearms and equipment if they are leaving the line.

### Commence Firing

Fire when ready and continue until the RSO calls cease-fire.

While the line is ”Hot” you should be alert for any unsafe gun handling practices. Corrections should be polite, but firm. You should also ensure that targets are placed, relative to the shooter, so that all rounds land within the lower portion (impact zone) of the back berm. Rounds should not impact in the grass or dirt in front of the berm, nor should they hit target frames. Refer to the Range Rules and Regulations for further guidance.

During matches and teaching situations other commands may be used but the intent is always the same: safety. We may not all use the same wording when we are calling range commands. Some people will, at times, combine commands but remember that the aim of the exercise is safety and accurate communication is essential to safety. When you stand as an RSO make sure that your commands are understood and carried out by those present.

## Section IV: Emergency Information

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| For medical and personal emergencies | 911 |
| Sussex County Sheriff's Office | (434) 246-5361 |
| Virginia State Police (Waverly) | (804) 834-2368 |
| 4-H Administration Building (Sun-Thu: 8am-5pm, Fri-Sat: typically 24 hours) | (757) 899-4901 |
| Ivor Medical Center | (757) 859-6161 |
| Waverly Medical Center | (804) 834-8871 |
| Wakefield Volunteer Fire Department (non-emergency) | (757) 899-2302 |
| Obici Hospital, Suffolk (see directions below) | (757) 934-4000 |
| Southside Regional Hospital (Petersburg) | (804) 765-5000 |

In case of a medical emergency we have provided a first aid kit. It is located in the ASC shed on the 100 meter shooting pavilion. If you do not have a cell phone and there is not one available, the nearest phone is at the 4-H Center.

It is suggested that we call before we send someone to Ivor Medical Center; if they are backed up they will likely send us to Waverly. However, since Ivor is closer, it will generally be quicker to send minor injuries there (sprains, cuts that need stitching, swelling, etc).

For major injuries, contact 911 and either the Wakefield or the Ivor Rescue Squad will respond.

If it is a fairly serious injury, but does not need EMS attention immediately, consider transporting the injured person to the Obici Hospital in Suffolk. To get to Obici, take Route 460 East to exit Route 10, turn left. Proceed to third traffic light and the Obici Hospital campus is on the right.