

Westford Sportsmen's Club Cross-Functional Rules

4.0.0 Cross-Functional Rules: These Cross-Functional Rules apply to all Club facilities and ranges, unless otherwise noted. Each member is expected to understand and to follow these Rules, in addition to any range or facility specific rules. When in doubt, apply facility specific rules. Members are personally responsible for making themselves aware of any changes to the rules.

4.1.0 Cross-Functional Safety Rules: The NRA Rules for Safe Gun Handling apply to all ranges whenever firearms are in use.

4.1.1 NRA Gun Safety Rules: Safety shall govern the range. Nothing comes before Safety.

A: ALWAYS: Keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction. A safe direction is any direction that would not cause an injury to a person (including yourself) or damage to property in the event of an accidental or negligent discharge. (Always treat all firearms as being loaded.)

B: ALWAYS: Keep your firearm unloaded in a safe condition until you are ready to shoot. This means that firearms may only be loaded and unloaded at the firing line.

C: ALWAYS: Keep your finger off the trigger until you are on target and ready to shoot. This means outside of the trigger guard and alongside the gun frame.

D: ALWAYS: Be alert - Safety is Every Shooter's Responsibility. All shooters have the responsibility to remain aware of not just their own firearm handling, but other range users as well. All shooters have the right to calmly and politely question other users' failure to maintain safe practices. All shooters have the obligation to immediately address any issues raised by any other users, just as if the comments were made by a Range Safety Officer.

SAFETY IS EVERY SHOOTER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

4.1.2 Be sure you have read and understand all manufacturers' instructions on how to safely load, unload, use your firearm, and it is safe to operate.

A: Be sure your gun and ammunition are compatible.

B: Be sure of your target and what is beyond.

C: Be aware that circumstances may require additional discipline and safety precautions in a particular situation or shooting activity.

D: Prior to making the range Hot or handling any firearm, ensure that no one is down range.

E: All shooting must be conducted as aimed fire. No shooting from the hip or unaimed firing. Rapid fire should be done responsibly. Always keep your muzzle pointed below the shoot line.

F: Alcoholic beverages & drugs: Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting. The WSC has ZERO tolerance for the use of intoxicants before or during shooting on any range. Prescription drugs that display an impediment of awareness WARNING label should also be avoided.

G: Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

H: Before anyone fires on a range alone it is advisable that someone in their family or a friend be aware of their whereabouts. It is also advised that the shooter check in with them when returning from the range. There is a phone in the basement of the clubhouse just outside the restroom.

4.1.3 All shooting within the Main Gate must be conducted within the normal designated areas.

4.1.4 All members must be prepared to produce proof of membership and/or qualification approval for the range they are using. if asked to do so.

4.1.5 Minors must have proximate adult supervision while on club property.

4.1.6 The WSC club and its facilities are for the exclusive use of the members, escorted guests, and participants and spectators of authorized activities.

4.1.7 Family Members and Guests: The term "guests" does not include immediate family members or competitors in authorized activities.

A: Immediate Family Members are defined as the member's spouse, children, stepchildren and grandchildren up to 18 years of age.

B: All other family members shall be considered guests.

C: Guests must be escorted by the member at all times.

D: A member may only bring two guests at a time.

E: Guests may not be invited more than twice per year to use the facilities.

F: Club members are responsible for their immediate family members and guest's safe and orderly conduct, as well as for any damage done or suffered by these

persons. Organizers of authorized activities are responsible for their participants' safe and orderly conduct as well as for any damage they incur or do.

G: Each member is responsible for the complete supervision of all family members and guests as follows:

1: Only one family member or one guest is permitted to be at a firing position at a time. All others will stay behind the firing line or outside the range facility.

2: While a family member or guest is shooting, the member must be in a position to properly supervise them. The member's responsibility is to ensure the safe handling of the firearm by the family member or guest. The member will not fire a firearm at the same time as a guest or family member.

4.2.0 Range Use and Hours of Operation Only members in good standing are allowed to use the club ranges as long as they are qualified to do so.

4.2.1 All outdoor shooting range hours: Shooting is allowed only between the hours of Sundays, 1:00pm to sunset and Monday – Saturday, 8:00am to sunset. Sunset is determined by the time posted at ranges, the club web site, or as defined by the time tables in MA fish & wildlife hunting abstracts. Exceptions to this would be the Archery or special events approved by the E-board.

4.2.2 Range Sign-In/Sign-Out Required: Upon entering any range, you shall sign-in yourself, family members and your guests using the range's logbook. This includes the time and caliber of firearms that you will be using.

4.1.3 During informal shooting sessions, when no Range Safety Officer is present, each shooter shall act as his/her own Range Officer and conduct him/herself in a safe and proper manner.

4.1.4 Eye & Ear Protection:

A: Is mandatory on all ranges where firearms are used.

B: Is mandatory for anyone on, or within 50 feet of the ranges when the ranges are active (HOT).

4.1.5 Proper Attire: Open toed shoes are not allowed on or near the ranges. Proper attire is required when shooting for safety.

- 4.2.6 Commercial Use: The use of any range for personal instruction for profit is strictly forbidden unless approved by the WSC E-Board.
- 4.2.7 Range Closure: The CRO, Outdoor Range Chair, Action Bay Committee or E-Board reserve the right to close any range if they feel there is a safety hazard (as in winter conditions) or to perform maintenance work. This has priority over all informal shooting. Any scheduled work will be posted on the website calendar.
- 4.2.8 Winter Conditions: If the ground becomes frozen, range closures may be required to prevent unsafe shooting conditions such as fired rounds ricocheting. This would also include if conditions warrant that the area is slippery where someone might fall with a loaded gun.
- 4.2.9 Range Rules & Gun Laws: In the event of a conflict with WSC range rules and State or Federal laws, then these higher laws shall take precedence. All laws must be obeyed.
- 4.2.10 Automatic Firearms: The use of firearms on full automatic - i.e., more than one round discharged per trigger squeeze - whether by individuals or organizations, is prohibited on club property, unless an exception is made by the E-Board.
- 4.2.11 Anyone in possession of fully automatic firearms or other devices regulated under the National Firearms Act such as suppressors, short barreled rifles or short barreled shotguns must have in their possession, a BATF form(s) 1,2,3,4, or 5 and any other BATF supplied documentation demonstrating registration and ownership. This paperwork must be presented, upon request, to any club official including an RSO or CRSO. Inability or refusal to produce the paperwork will result in the individual (s) immediately being asked to leave the club property.
- 4.2.12 Chamber flags (empty chamber indicator) will be used with any uncased or un-holstered firearm that is not in use.
- 4.2.13 All firearms must be made safe and racked or cased when not in immediate use. Only one firearm can be in immediate use at a time.
- 4.2.14 No person will go forward of the firing line until all firearms on the line are safe, with bolts open, slides locked back, magazine out, and/or cylinders open and empty and an empty chamber flag inserted. It is the responsibility of every shooter to ensure the entire line is safe.
- 4.2.15 Everyone shall stand behind the ready line (red or yellow line on the floor behind the firing line), when anyone is downrange.

4.2.16 No firearm will be loaded on the range until the loader is in position at his/her firing point, the range is made HOT and all shooters have returned to a point behind the firing line.

4.2.2 Prohibited Actions/ Items:

A: Handling of firearms, when anyone is down range.

B: The use of multiple firearms. Only one firearm shall be used at one time. All other firearms shall either be in a case or have an empty chamber flag inserted.

C: The use of a recognizable person's image in either cartoon or realistic form shall not be used as a target. Standard, "generic bad guy/hostage" type targets are acceptable.

D: Any device that simulates fully automatic fire is prohibited.

E: The use of tracer, incendiary, and explosive ammunition is prohibited on club property.

F: Use of a cell phone or smart phone (for any use including voice call or texting) by a shooter, while their firearm is in use.

4.3.0 Disciplinary Actions and Violation of Rules

Ignorance of the rules is no excuse. It is the responsibility of everyone using the ranges to read, understand and comply with all rules and laws. This includes staying current with any and all changes.

4.3.1 All shooting must be done in a safe and responsible manner. Any willful destruction of target holders, stands, or other WSC property, will result in the offender paying to repair/replace the damaged equipment and disciplinary actions by the E-Board which could include suspension of range privileges, and/or expulsion from the WSC.

4.3.2 Any member or their guests who refuse or neglect to follow all rules and SOP's, or conduct themselves in an unsafe or unsportsmanlike manner, may have their range privileges suspended or revoked by the CRO, Outdoor Range Chair, or Action Bay Committee pending review by the E-Board.

4.3.3 Any RSO, Action Bay Committee member or E-Board member may have any person removed from the premises if his/her behavior is considered unsafe or unsportsmanlike.

4.3.4 Reporting Safety or Damage Issues:

All members are urged to report safety violations, issues not amicably resolved, or any property damage to the Outdoor Range Chair, CRO or Action Bay Committee ASAP. Please include all info and pictures related to incidents. Any member witnessing unsafe behavior or damage to the ranges is obligated to fill out and submit an Incident Report to the Outdoor Range Chair, CRO and Action Bay Committee. These are available on the WSC website and in all range cabinets.

4.4.0 Health & Safety: The following acts are not permitted for health and / or safety reasons:

- A. Smoking, eating or drinking beverages while on the firing line. (Note: drinking water or non-alcoholic beverages are permitted when behind the firing line). This is considered a public area, please be considerate to others.
- B. The drinking of alcoholic beverages anywhere on the range.
- C. Loud talking, horseplay or other distractions while people are shooting.
- D. Profanity: Profanity at the range is in very poor taste and is discouraged.