



Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 54, Stn Matsqui, Abbotsford, BC V4X 3R2 **Web:** www.ridgedale.net
Range and Bookings: 604-826-0552 **Range:** East END of Harris Road (35606) Abbotsford, BC

Archery, Pistol, Rifle, Black Powder, Trap and Fishing

Range Regulations

(It is **your responsibility** to read, understand, and know the range regulations.)

Remember “THE VITAL FOUR” rules of firearm safety:

Regard every firearm as loaded.

Control the muzzle direction at all times.

Keep your finger off the trigger except when firing.

Open the action and check that there is no ammunition in the firearm.

HEARING and EYE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

Purpose

The purpose of the Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club is for recreational and sporting use of fire arms, archery and fishing equipment. The following range regulations are set out to ensure users know and comply with Club Rules, Safety Procedures at the Ranges, Range Etiquette, and Common Range Commands. **Read these Range Regulations prior to the use of any Range.**

1.0 Sign In

- 1.1 The hours available for shooting are from 8am to dusk and no later than 10pm.
- 1.2 Members and guests must sign in prior to the use of a range. Check the sign in board or ask for assistance to see how to sign in properly. You need to be properly signed in to be covered by club insurance!
- 1.3 Display the flag at the sign in kiosk to show that there is someone on the range. Display the flag even if you are not shooting to let the next member know to be aware of other people on the range.
- 1.4 Check the activity calendar for any notices or scheduling that may limit or restrict use of a range. The web site is usually kept up to date and we recommend you check it before making the trip to the range.
- 1.5 Confirm with other members where you will be shooting and who the range officer is. This increases safety for everyone.
- 1.6 Children must be under direct adult supervision at all times. It is up to the adult to make sure the children do not interfere with any range activity, are safe, and that those around them are safe. Children are required to wear eye and hearing protection any time they are near an active range.
- 1.7 Dogs are only allowed on the range when it is not in use. You are responsible for cleaning up after your dog.
- 1.8 Club membership cards must be displayed at all times for proof of club membership. Display your card or you will be asked to leave.

2.0 Members and Guests

- 2.1 Consumption of alcohol or being under the influence of alcohol or any drugs is prohibited during range use.
- 2.2 Members and guests are responsible for having their firearms properly registered, Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) is valid, appropriate permits are in their possession, and that all firearms are properly and safely stored. Range Safety Officers will be checking your paperwork.
- 2.3 Guests (or members) that do not have a PAL (restricted PAL for handguns) must have a member with a valid PAL standing within arm's reach of the firearm at all times. Observing this federal law will ensure the firearm user is not charged with an offence.
- 2.4 There is a maximum of two guests per membership per day. A family membership with two or more members counts as a single membership with a maximum of two guests per day. A person may only be a guest twice in one calendar year. Attending a public shooting event as a guest does not count towards a person's limit.
- 2.5 Members are responsible for ensuring their guests follow the range regulations.
- 2.6 Guests will be under direct supervision of the member and shoot from the same shooting station as the member. Each shooting station is limited to one person shooting at a time.
- 2.7 Smoking is only permitted outside and well away from other people, walkways, and ranges.

3.0 Flags

- 3.1 Raise the range flag to full mast when there is going to be live fire on that range.
- 3.2 Raise the range flag to half mast when that range is in use but no live fire is taking place.
- 3.3 Put the rifle shed flag across the indoor shooting positions when there is a cease-fire.
- 3.4 Put the rifle shed flag across the walkway when there is going to be live fire on the range.
- 3.5 Lower the range flag when you are the last person to leave that range.

4.0 Range Usage

- 4.1 Range users will comply with the range orders from Range Officers and club approved Range Safety Officers.
- 4.2 Abusive or foul language, harassment, horseplay, or unsafe act is unacceptable conduct. You will be asked to leave and could lose your club membership.
- 4.3 Use approved targets only. No glass or metal targets - they are very unsafe. Range equipment and target holders are not approved targets. Archery targets can be shot at with arrows only. If you are unsure if a target is approved please contact the Chief Range Officer.
- 4.4 Targets depicting a human shape are only allowed for certain shooting sports such as PPC and IPSC. Members will display appropriate behaviour towards these targets and will only use firearms appropriate to that sport on these targets
- 4.5 Targets must be positioned so that the bullet hits the proper impact area (berm or hill) and not the ground. This also means that targets cannot be placed on the ground. A special "shelf" target stand will be available for shooting at tin cans etc.
- 4.6 If someone is using a range when you arrive check with them about where the firing line is and who will act as Range Officer. If there is disagreement on the location of the firing line, the standard club firing line will be used.
- 4.7 Leave a comfortable space between you and other shooters.
- 4.8 Try to position yourself downwind of other shooters if shooting smoky firearms.
- 4.9 Dispose of brass, spent casings, duds, etc. in proper containers.
- 4.10 Remove all targets from the range including paper and all pieces of other targets you may have used.
- 4.11 The club does not have garbage pickup. If you have more than a small amount of garbage please take it home with you. There are recycling bins available at the club to dispose of drink containers.
- 4.12 Replace club equipment to storage and leave the ranges clean for the next user.

5.0 Range Safety

- 5.1 Obey all Range Officer commands instantly. There may be a danger you do not see.
- 5.2 Please refer to your Canadian Firearms Safety Course handbook for more information on range and firearm safety. If you are being careless or unsafe you will be asked to leave and could lose your membership.
- 5.3 Any accident, damage, or injury caused by the discharge of a firearm must be reported immediately to the club Chief Range Officer.
- 5.4 Eye and Ear protection must be used when shooting.
- 5.5 Firearms are to be handled only at the firing line. Firearms must be properly cased or uncased on the firing line and not on the bench behind the line.
- 5.6 Keep the muzzle pointed down range. Shoot at only your target. (Shooting from the “hip” is not safe.)
- 5.7 Your finger can only touch the trigger when the firearm is pointing at your target and you are ready to fire.
- 5.8 Treat every firearm as if it is loaded. This is the cardinal rule of firearm safety.
- 5.9 Unload your firearm when not in use. Put your firearm away if you have to leave it unattended.
- 5.10 During a cease-fire, all firearms must be unloaded with actions or cylinders open and must not be handled.
- 5.11 Holsters may be used as long as the firearm is unloaded at all times except when ready to shoot.
- 5.12 Stand well behind the cease-fire line until the range officer makes the range active again.
- 5.13 Wait for another shooter to finish shooting before talking to or touching them. Keep talking and other noise or distractions to a minimum so shooters can concentrate on what they are doing.
- 5.14 Get permission before touching someone else’s firearm.
- 5.15 Members are encouraged to report people who are not following the rules. We want the club to run smoothly and safely. We can only resolve problems if we know about them. Thanks!

6.0 Common Range Commands

The range officer should allow about three seconds between each command.

- Is the line clear on the right?
- Is the line clear on the left?
- The line is clear. You may handle your firearms.
- Assume the _____ position
- You will fire _____ rounds in _____ min/sec.
- With _____ rounds, load.
- Ready on the right?
- Ready on the left?
- Ready on the firing line?
- Commence fire.
- Cease-fire.
- Clear and ground all firearms (cylinders open, magazine out, chamber clear).
- Make the line safe.
- Safe on the right?
- Safe on the left?
- The line is safe.
- Go forward, score/repair/change targets, etc.

Only the range officer is to issue all commands to eliminate any confusion and maintain control of the range.

7.0 Range Layout

7.1 Pistol and trap range

These are situated to the east of the Clubhouse, with the impact area into mountain directly east. The firing line for pistol shooters is across the Clubhouse frontage, and is defined by the yellow line. The firing line for trap shooters is forward of the yellow line. The positions are defined by cement pads on the ground. A diagram of the range layout is attached and shows the safe muzzle direction and safe area of fire. Authorized firearms and loads are:

Pistol – any caliber

Rifle - any load up to .338 Lapua Magnum (.50 Calibre Browning Round not allowed)

Shotgun – any gauge lead or steel shot including rifled or sabot slugs (lead shot only for trap)

Black Powder – any load for handguns and rifles

Shooting on the pistol or trap range has to be coordinated, as only one type of shooting may take place at a given time. All shooters must use a common firing line.

7.2 Rifle range

Situated north of the clubhouse along the cement pathway and behind the protective wall left of the pistol range with the impact area into the hill directly north. The firing line is the marked positions in the shed and beside the shed. Target stands are available for the main range (up to 100 yards) with a permanent target set up at 192 yards. The leftmost position in the shed is for the 192 and 100 yard targets ONLY. The next position can be used for all targets. The three remaining positions in the shed are for the 25, 50, and 100 yard targets only. The two positions outside the shed are for 25 and 50 yard targets only. A diagram of the range layout is attached and shows the safe muzzle direction and safe area of fire. Authorized firearms and loads are:

Pistol – any caliber

Rifle - any load up to .338 Lapua Magnum (.50 Calibre Browning Round not allowed)

Shotgun – slugs only

Black Powder – any load for handguns and rifles

7.3 Archery trails

Archery trails with simulated animal targets placed around the perimeter area to the north, east, and south of the shooting range impact areas. Archery targets may be shot at with a bow and arrow (or crossbow) only. When the archery trails are in use all shooting ranges are closed and notices are posted to that effect. Early warning is given at the club entrance, the activity bulletin board, and range entrances. Archery practice range is located below clubhouse on North West side. There is to be no firearm usage on the archery practice range. Broadhead (hunting) arrows are only to be used on designated broadhead targets. You must shoot directly at a designated target (no shooting up into the air).

7.4 Black Powder Walk

Black powder walk with targets placed around the perimeter area to the north, east, and south of the shooting range impact areas. Archery targets are for bow and arrow ONLY. (You probably don't want to spend \$1,000 to replace one of them!) Approved up to .50 calibre black powder pistol and .58 calibre black powder rifle. (No mini-ball "slug" loads.) See black powder rules in section 9.0

7.5 Indoor Range

The indoor range has five shooting positions and is only open during organized shooting times for archery, pistol, rifle, and air gun shooting. When the range is in operation the red warning light on the downstairs entrance will be on. Please keep the door to upstairs closed to reduce noise. A red range light indicates the range is active – do not walk past the firing line. A green range light indicates a cease-fire and the range is safe – stay behind the cease-fire line when not changing targets. Metal targets are not allowed on the indoor range. Authorized firearms and caliber are:

Rifle / Pistol - .22 rim-fire in .22 short, .22 long, and .22 long rifle only (no .22 magnum)

A Range Safety Officer must be present during shooting activities. Rifles not in use will be stored in the rifle rack. A storage table behind the shooting positions will be used for cased handguns not in use. Only the Range Safety Officer may handle club firearms away from the firing line.

8.0 Law Enforcement / Peace Officers

- 8.1 Peace officers must sign in prior to the use of a range.
- 8.2 Must be a member in good standing of the Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club to use the range.
- 8.3 Official agency identification will be shown upon request.
- 8.4 Peace officers must wear their badge if they wish to wear body armor or shoot human picture targets. It is your responsibility to ensure that only peace officers use human picture targets.
- 8.5 Remove all human picture targets by burning them or removing them from the property.
- 8.6 Unload your firearm when not in use. Put your firearm away if you have to leave it unattended.
- 8.7 During a cease-fire, all firearms must be unloaded with actions or cylinders open and must not be handled.
- 8.8 Holsters may be used as long as the firearm is unloaded at all times except when ready to shoot.
- 8.9 Follow Range Safety Officer commands.
- 8.10 Be courteous and act in accordance with all the range rules.

9.0 Black Powder

- 9.1 A loaded firearm must be pointed down range and closely attended at all times. Once primed, it must be held by the shooter until discharged.
- 9.2 When moving around with an unloaded firearm it must be carried with the muzzle pointing up.
- 9.3 When leaving the firing line, put powder in your range box (or bag) or in the storage houses provided.
- 9.4 Powder must always be in a closed container except when filling the powder measure or charging the firearm.
- 9.5 Powder should be kept in the original factory container until put in a horn, flask, powder measure, charger, or cartridge. Use only unbreakable containers.
- 9.6 Shooters are allowed a single container with a maximum of one pound of powder on the firing line. All other powder containers must be in a closed range box (or bag) kept behind the firing line.
- 9.7 Filling of horns, flasks, multiple pre-measure devices, etc. must be done well behind the firing line.
- 9.8 Percussion caps must always be in a closed container except when priming the firearm. No loose caps allowed – keep them covered.
- 9.9 Percussion caps should be kept in the original (unbreakable) factory containers until put in a capping device.
- 9.10 Shooters are allowed one tin of percussion caps on the firing line. All other percussion cap containers must be in a closed range box (or bag) kept behind the firing line.

- 9.11 Paper cartridges must be kept in closed containers until one is removed for use.
- 9.12 A powder measure must always be used to charge the firearm. (Never load from a horn or flask.) Pre-measured individual chargers/cartridges meet this requirement.
- 9.13 Ramrods should be clearly marked for “empty” and “loaded”.
- 9.14 Only load when you are able to concentrate on what you are doing.
- 9.15 Keep body parts well away from the muzzle while loading.
- 9.16 Be aware of your surroundings. Only expose powder if the adjacent shooter is not ready to fire. Also, only fire if the adjacent shooter does not have powder exposed or is otherwise unprepared.
- 9.17 Clean firing bench of all spilled powder before continuing. Powder spilled on the ground must be well scattered before continuing.
- 9.18 Only prime (or cap cap & ball cylinders) when you are on the firing line and the firearm is pointed downrange and ready to fire.
- 9.19 Flintlock shooters must notify shooters on the touchhole side of the firearm well before firing. Calling out “flint” a few seconds before firing is encouraged. Give the other person a chance!
- 9.20 Flints must never be knapped in the cock when the firearm is charged.
- 9.21 Do not try to beat the “one minute” warning. Don’t start loading after the “one minute” has been called. If you have charged the firearm with powder and have not primed it when the “one minute” warning has gone off you may put the partially “loaded” firearm (clamped vertically in the charging position) on or next to the bench.
- 9.22 If your firearm is loaded when a cease-fire is called raise you hand and wait for the attention of the Range Safety Officer. You may only fire after the cease-fire has been called with specific permission from the Range Safety Officer. Keep the firearm pointed down range and follow the instructions of the Range Safety Officer.
- 9.23 If you have a misfire keep the firearm pointed down range until it is made safe.
- 9.24 Loads that need to be pulled must be brought to the attention of the Range Safety Officer and handled according to their instructions. If possible, loads that need to be pulled will be taken off the firing line while being worked on.
- 9.25 CO₂ dischargers may be used to remove loads on the firing line.

10.0 Club Control

Club control establishes the organization and responsibilities to safely conduct recreational and sporting use of archery and firearms at the club, and to coordinate these activities with club use.

- 10.1 Club Executive - Conduct business of the club, establish and control finances, set club policy in response to membership, and conduct meetings.
- 10.2 Executive Activity Chair - Certain club activities such as archery, pistol, and trap are assigned to an executive member to manage and supervise.
- 10.3 Chief Range Officer - Prepare, amend and promulgate Range Safety Orders; co-ordinate Range Officer requirements and provide for the training of Range Officers; ensure all range activities are conducted according to Range Regulations; attend to range inspections requirements, records keeping, and initiate range maintenance requirements; arbitrate any grievance appeal and issue a final decision/ruling on the matter.
- 10.4 Competition/Match Officer - An individual appointed by the Executive Activity Chair to plan and conduct a competition or match. This individual issues any detailed local instructions, ensures applicable safety regulations are made known and understood by all participating personnel, controls and supervises personnel and firearms, ensures all safety regulations are observed during a shoot, issues orders to commence and cease fire, and ensures that the range facilities are left in an acceptable condition. This individual is responsible for command and control of the competition or match.
- 10.5 Range Safety Officers - Individuals appointed by the Chief Range Officer for monitoring all aspects of safety associated with the ranges. Range Safety Officers so appointed wear a "Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club Range Safety Officer" badge to distinguish from Range Officers on an informal firing line, group of two or more: or a Range Officer designated for a competition or match.
- 10.6 Assistant Range Officer - When firing is taking place over a large area, it is necessary to have additional personnel to monitor safety. These personnel work under the direction of the Range Officer. A good ratio is one assistant range officer for each seven to ten shooters.
- 10.7 Instructors and Coaches - The control of training is exercised by instructors and coaches who are designated by an executive activity chair, an officer in charge, or are formally recognized by license such as a CORE or PAL instructor. They are responsible to their superior, noted above; for the conduct of specific activities, the supervision and control of personnel and firearms under their command, ensuring safety regulations are observed, and relaying the officer in charge order to commence and cease fire.
- 10.8 For competitions and matches the Executive Activity Chair shall appoint an Officer-In-Charge and a Range Officer. Depending upon the scope and extent of the event, the Officer-In-Charge and the Range Officer may be the same person. Individuals so appointed must be proficient on the firearms being used, have demonstrated the ability to supervise and control the applicable match, and be conversant with the club range regulations.
- 10.9 The Chief Range Officer will conduct briefings, seminars, or training sessions for range safety officers to ensure they are current, and have a comprehensive knowledge of the range regulations and procedures.
- 10.10 From time to time, the Membership approves non-club use of range facilities, particularly in support of local police forces, DFO, and other local organizations. The support provided is within our capacity as a recreational and sporting activity: it provides minimal interference with membership use, and does not conflict with our Range Orders. Application for use of range facilities is made in writing to the club Booking Chair, an agreed daily charge is established, membership approval is sought, and a lease agreement is then signed.

11.0 Range Officer Safety Checklist

For competitions, matches, and organized activities a designated Range Officer is required and a briefing on Range Regulations is to be provided to ensure non-club users are familiar and comply with the rules.

11.1 Confirm muzzle direction is always down range.

11.2 The action of any firearm must be open at all times except when actually being used on the range.

11.3 Firearms are to be handled only at the firing line.

11.4 Firearms must only be loaded when the range officer gives the command to load.

11.5 Fingers must be kept out of the trigger guard until the shooter is in position to fire.

11.6 Upon the command “cease fire” all firing stops at once. Firearms are unloaded, actions are opened and firearms laid on the mat or on the table with the muzzle pointing down range. Check firearms and confirm actions open, and no shells in breach.

11.7 During the cease-fire, no one will handle firearms, ammunition or equipment. Persons not engaged in changing targets down range will stand well behind the cease fire line.

11.8 Unloaded firearms not in use are to be placed in the rack or kept in a case. They should be moved with the muzzle up or cased at the firing line.

11.9 Check with club for any ammunition restrictions, and how ammunition is under control of the club when dealing with juniors.

11.10 Do not tolerate horseplay, careless handling of a firearm or any other distracting activity while shooting is in progress.

11.11 Confirm shooters are using correct ammunition for their firearm.

11.12 Do not shoot at target holders or other range equipment.

11.13 Make sure backstop is safe and range is clear of hazards and individuals. Display range flags.

Summary

Many factors have to be considered by club executive to ensure they administer range activities in the safest manner possible by applying the use of safety rules and regulations and upgrading facilities as and when required. These range regulations are somewhat more detailed than a simple set of rules, and are designed so club members and other users have a ready reference as to club organization, administration, and how to conduct safe shooting.

Reference has been made to the Canadian Firearms Safety Course Student Handbook, Published by authority of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, 1994; The Guidelines for Construction of Small Arms Ranges prepared by the Office of the Chief Provincial Firearms Officer British Columbia; and Canadian Forces Range manual G-GL-304-003/TS-0A1 thus the Club Range Regulations are a reasoned approach to comply with firearms safety laws and build on shooter knowledge and skills.

Remember “THE VITAL FOUR” rules of firearm safety:

Regard every firearm as loaded.

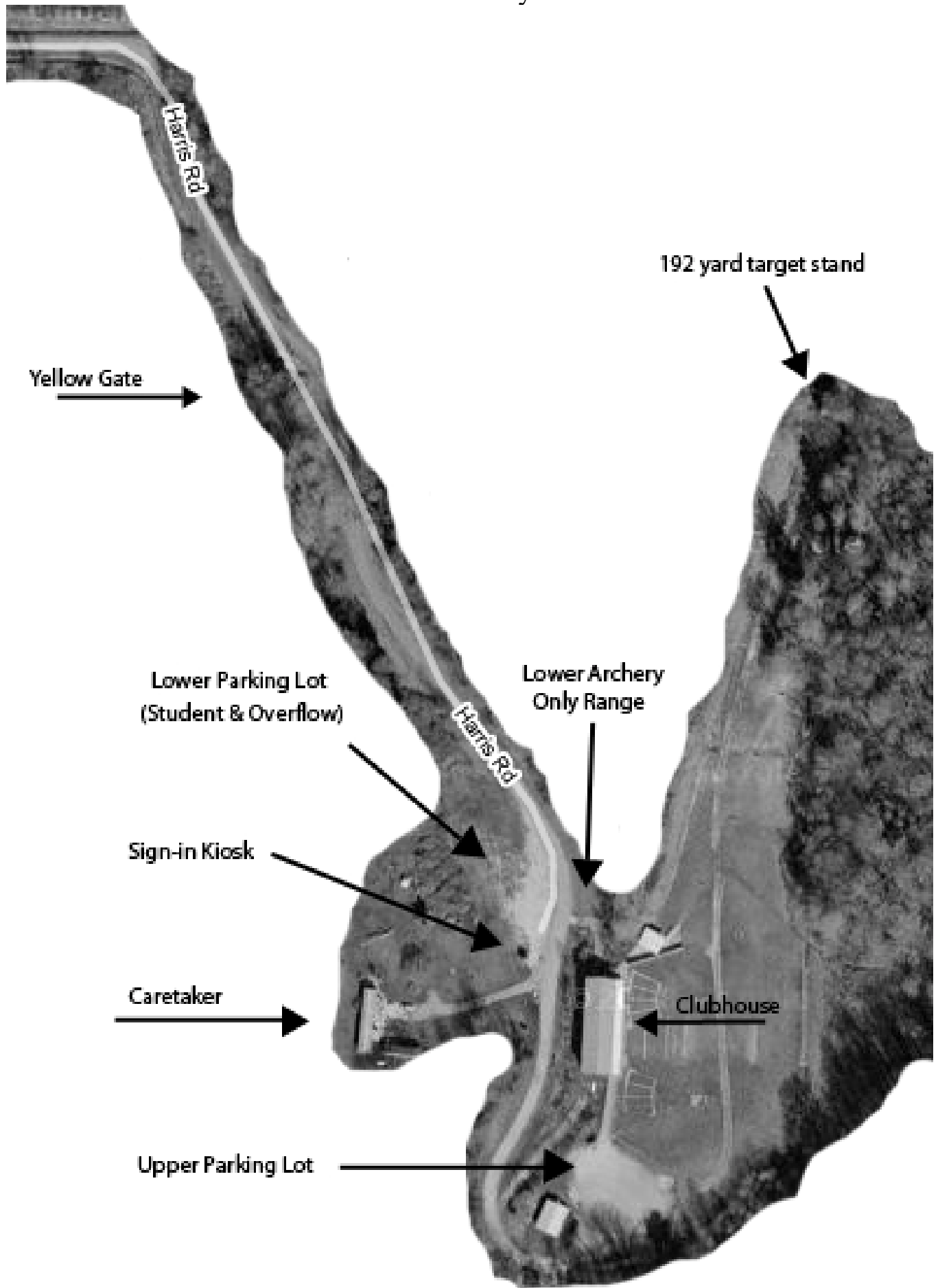
Control the muzzle direction at all times.

Keep your finger off the trigger except when firing.

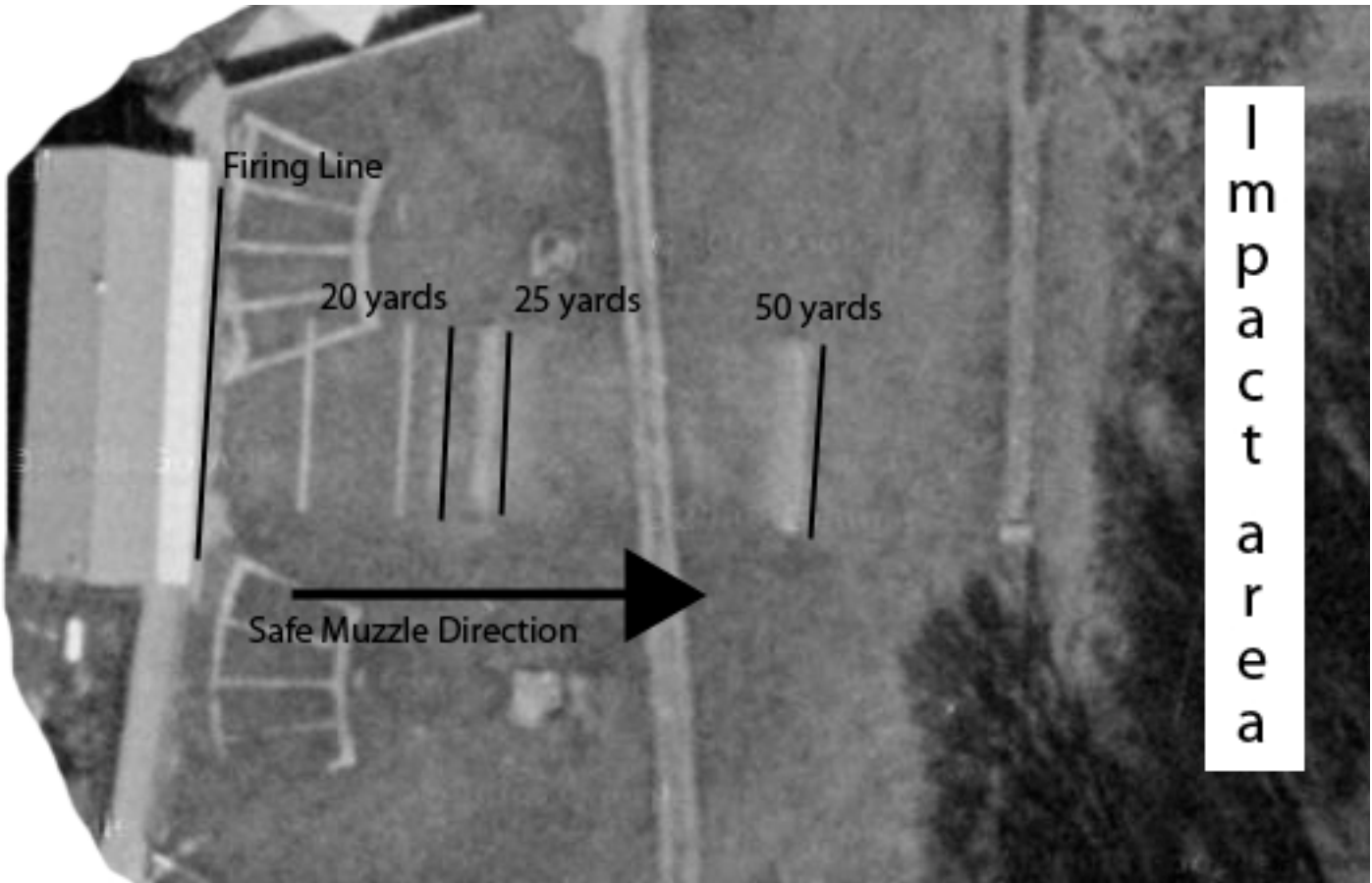
Open the action and check that there is no ammunition in the firearm.

Revised by Range Safety Officers January 2010
Authorized by the executive of the Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club

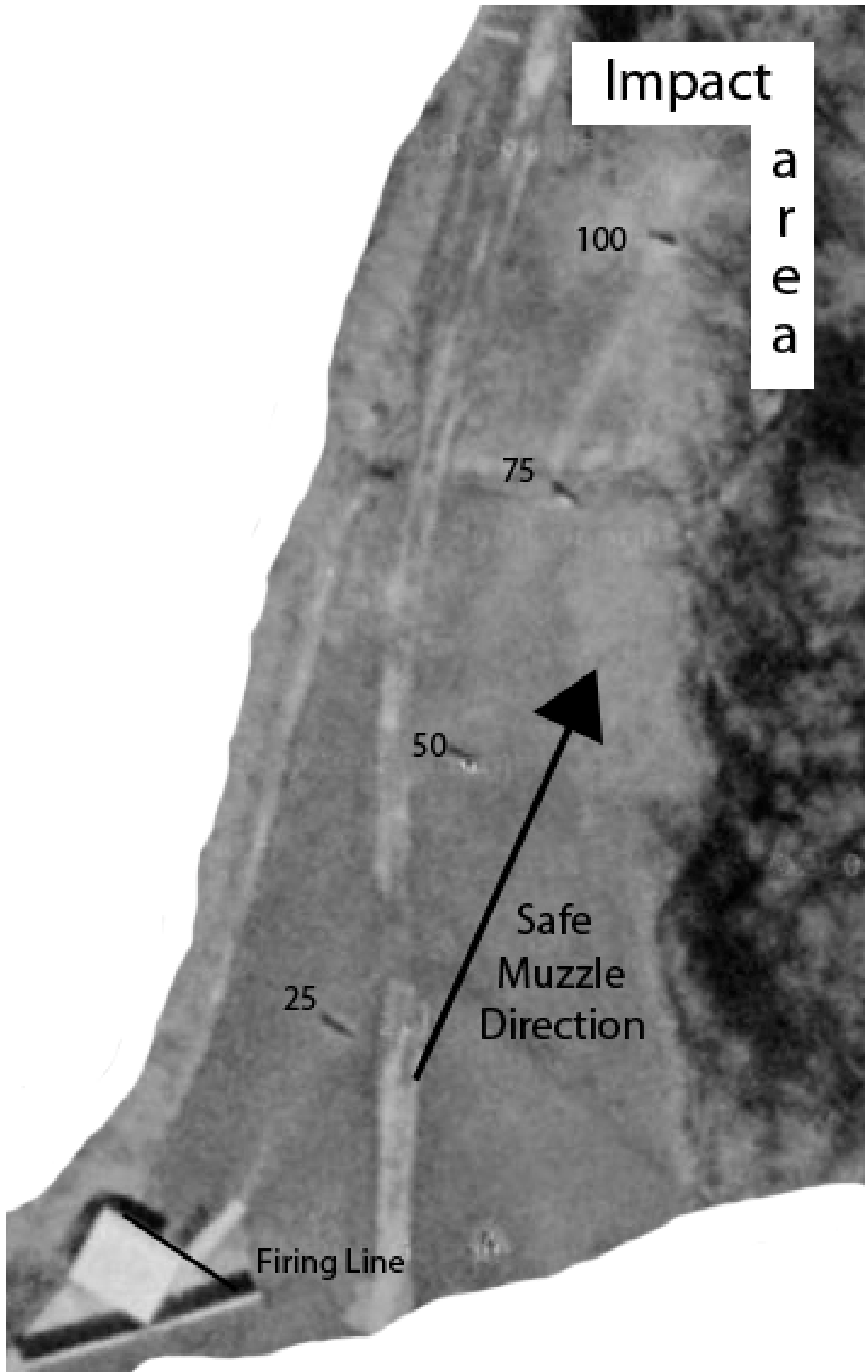
Club Layout



Pistol / Trap Range Layout



Rifle Range Layout



Notes: