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# THE RIDGEDALE ROD & GUN CLUB

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**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 54, Stn Matsqui, Abbotsford, BC V4X 3R2

**Range and Bookings:** 604-826-0552 **Web:** [www.ridgedale.net](http://www.ridgedale.net)

**Range:** East END of Harris Road (35655), Abbotsford, BC

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

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## Range Regulations

→ It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the range regulations.

Remember “THE VITAL FOUR” rules of firearm safety:

1. Regard every firearm as loaded.
2. Control the muzzle direction at all times.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger except when firing.
4. Open the action and check that there is no ammunition in the firearm.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club is the recreational and sporting use of firearms, 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.

→ Familiarize yourself with these Range Regulations before using any Range.

## 1.0 Sign In

- 1.1 The hours available for shooting are from 8am to dusk and no later than 9pm.
- 1.2 Members must sign in at the first range they want to shoot before using that range. When bringing guests, register and pay guest fees at that kiosk. When done shooting at that range, sign out! Then, if you want to use another range that day, members and guests must sign in at that kiosk. You do not pay guest fees again! Check the sign in board or ask help to ensure you sign in correctly. To be covered by club insurance you need to sign in properly! When leaving, do not forget to sign out!
- 1.3 To show there is someone on the range, make sure the red flag is raised at the post of the range you are using. Raise the flag, even when you are not shooting, to let the next member know there are 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 **A valid 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.
- 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 sign in correctly and 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 permitted only outside and well away from other people, walkways and ranges.

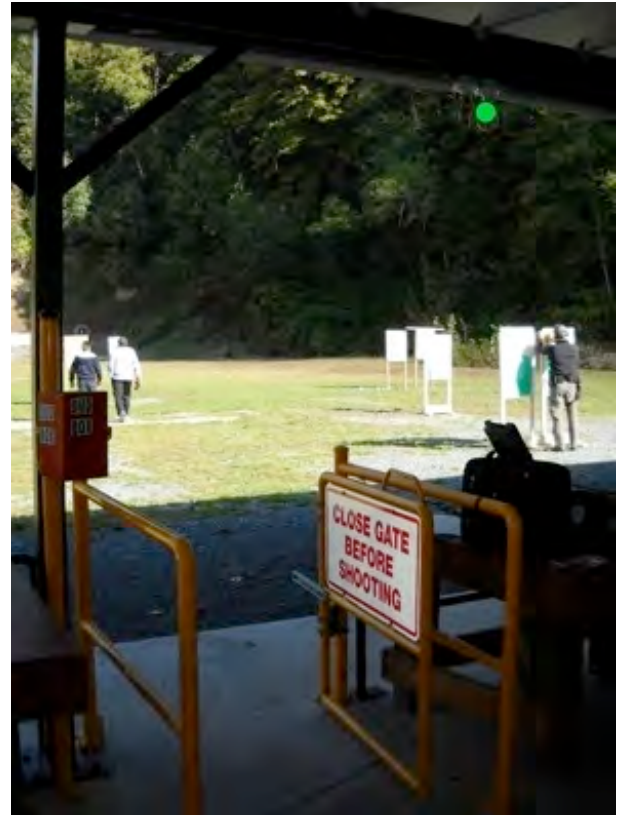
### 3.0 Range Flags & Lights

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 The rifle shed no has red and green safety lights over the benches. **The first shooter to arrive will activate the system** with a switch inside the shed, at your left. **Remember to hoist the red range flag as well.**

3.4 Operation of the lights: when the gate is closed, the red light turns on. When a cease-fire is called, and the gate is opened, the red light turns off and the green light turns on; see photos below.



Shooters are reminded of the correct procedure by signs that read:

#### **Red Light – Range is Active**

- Shooting may commence
- Guns, ammunition and equipment may be handled
- **DO NOT OPEN GATE**

#### **Green Light - Range is Safe**

- Leave gun on bench or place in rack; PROVE'd safe, action open!
- Stay behind the yellow line
- **DO NOT HANDLE FIREARMS**, ammunition or equipment
- Change or hang targets

3.5 In case of a power outage, use the red and green flag stored against the wall of the rifle shed. Use the flags as follows:

- When calling a cease-fire, put the green flag at the right side of the gate.
- When there is going to be live fire on the range, put the red flag at the right side of the gate

3.6 The last person to leave the range must lower all flags.

## 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 Foul language, harassment, horseplay, or unsafe act is unacceptable conduct.
- 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.
- 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 when shooting smoky firearms.
- 4.9 Dispose of brass, spent casings, duds, etc. in proper containers. Red dud boxes are located near the centre of each range on the back wall.
- 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 designated storage location and leave the ranges clean for the next user.

**For the convenience of senior members, please leave one portable target stand on the range at 25 yards and one at 50 yards.**

## 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.
- 5.3 Any accident, damage, or injury caused by the discharge of a firearm must be reported immediately to the club Chief Range Officer. Incident reports are located near the bulletin board.
- 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. Firearms may be moved to the rack once they have been PROVE'd safe.
- 5.6 Keep the muzzle pointed down range. Shoot at only your target. (Shooting from the "hip" is not allowed.)
- 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 Always unload your firearm when not in use. Put your firearm away if you have to leave it unattended. It is only OK to leave a safe firearm on the shooting bench while targets are being changed during club events; e.g., Ladies Day, Youth Day, etc.  
**For rifle range only:** When changing targets, all rifles must be put in the racks with the bolt open (action open). Semi-auto and lever action rifles must have actions open and clips removed. Semi-autos may insert an empty shell in the ejection port.
- 5.10 During a cease-fire, all firearms must be unloaded with actions or cylinders open (and magazines out) and must not be handled.
- 5.11 Holsters may be used on the pistol and rifle ranges only as long as the firearm is unloaded at all times except when ready to shoot. Verify your firearm is unloaded with the Range Safety Officer before you holster it. Anyone can ask to verify your holstered firearm is unloaded at any time. Cross-draw holsters are not allowed. The holster must be designed so the firearm fits securely and the trigger is completely covered. Only people who have completed the pistol range orientation may use holsters. The holster rules may be relaxed during sanctioned club events.
- 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 required 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!

## 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.

**→ To eliminate any confusion and maintain control of the range, only the range officer is to issue all commands**

## 7.0 Range Layout

### 7.1 Pistol and Trap Range

The pistol and trap range are situated to the east of the Clubhouse, with the impact area into the mountain directly east. The firing line for pistol shooters is across the Clubhouse frontage, as 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 Caliber 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

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

### 7.2 Rifle range

The rifle range is 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 defined by 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. 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 Caliber Browning Round not allowed)
- Shotgun – Single projectiles (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 for any calibre black powder pistol and any 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 handgun 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

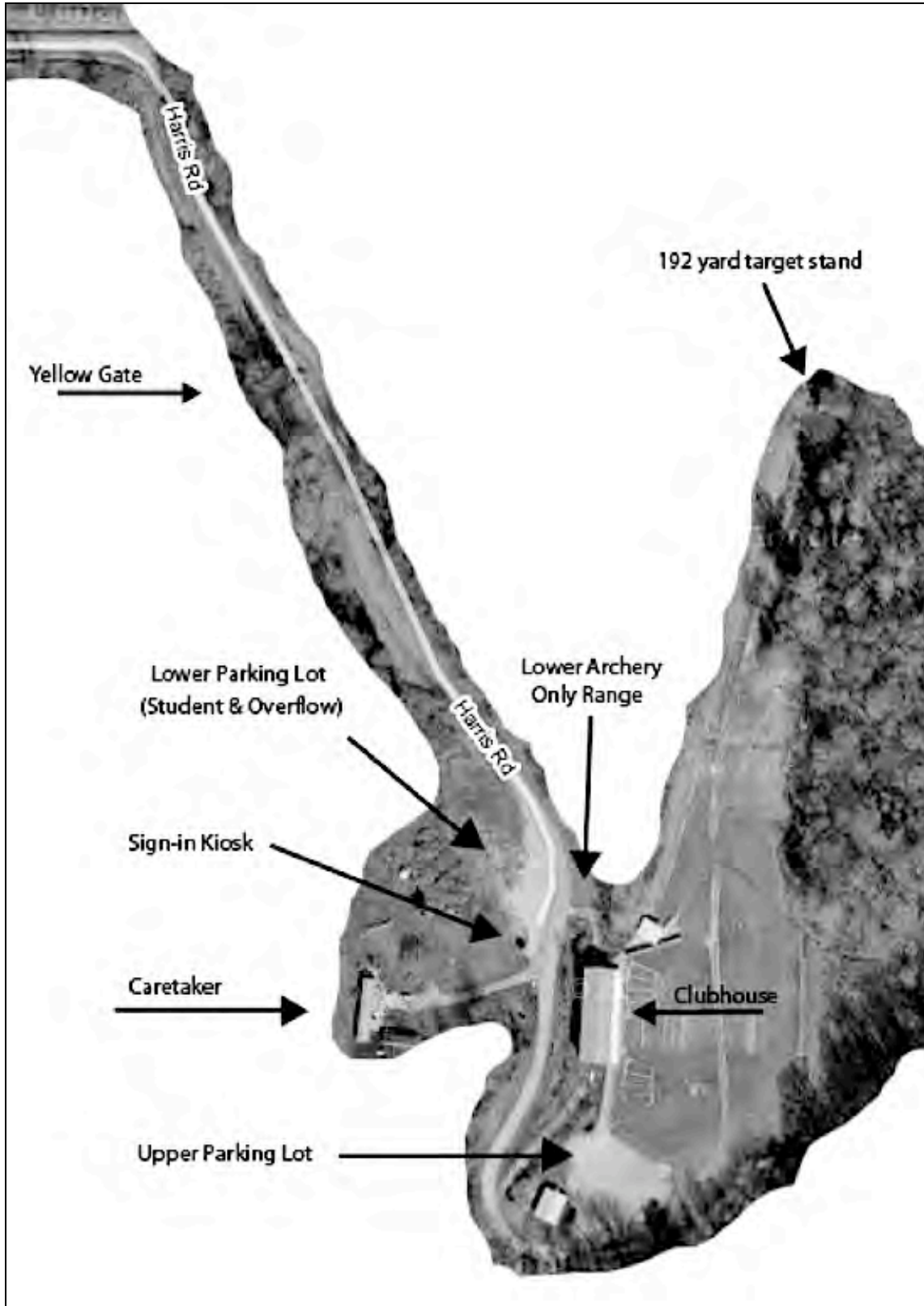
## **Summary**

The Club Executive has to consider many factors to ensure that range activities are administered 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, designed so club members and other users have a ready reference as to club organization, administration, and how to conduct safe shooting.

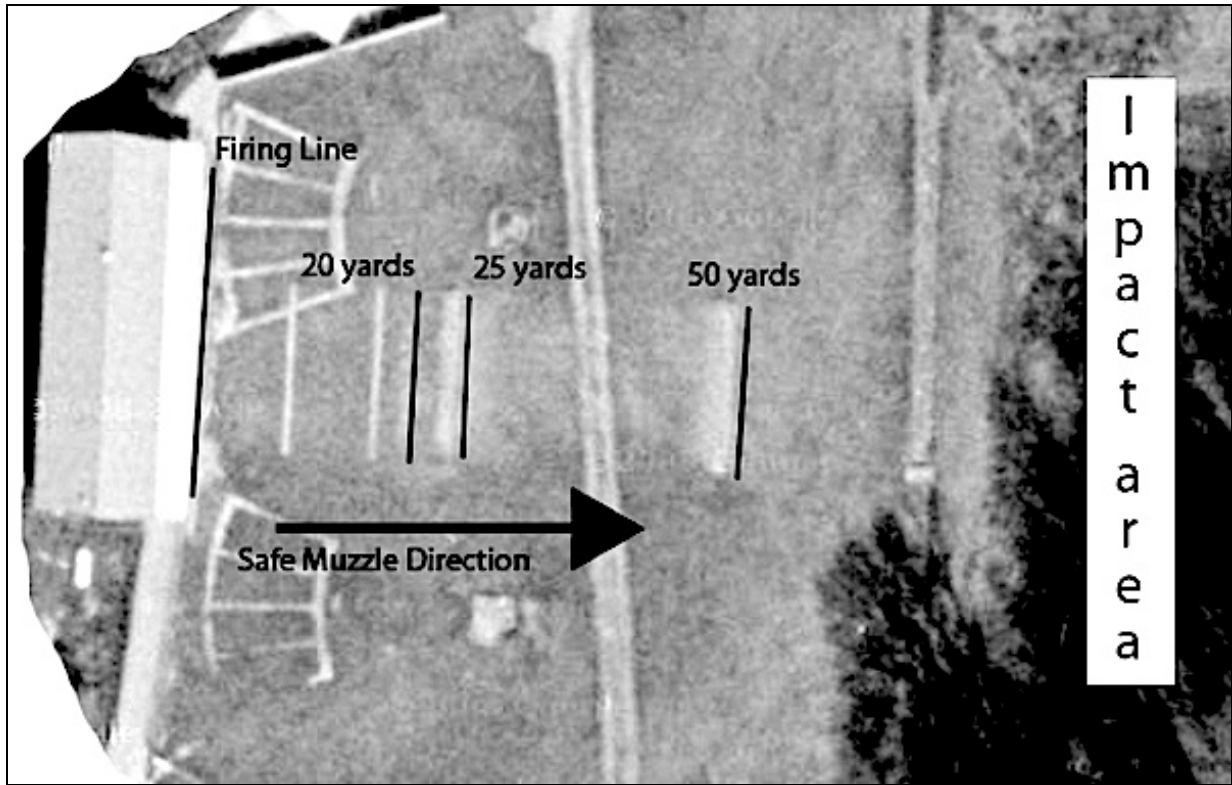
## **References**

- 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
- The Canadian Forces Range Manual G-GL-304-003/TS-0A1

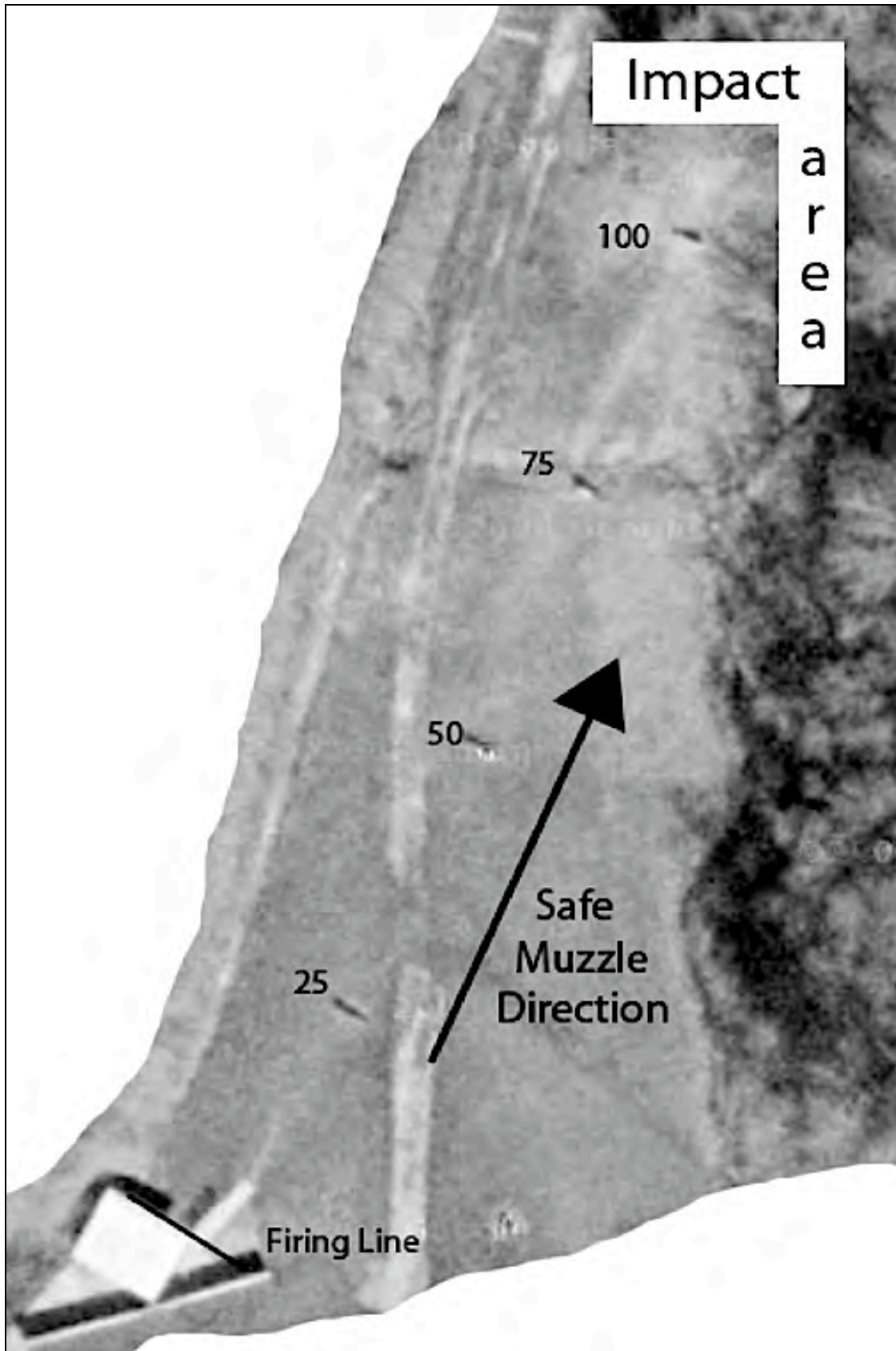
## Property Acces & Layout



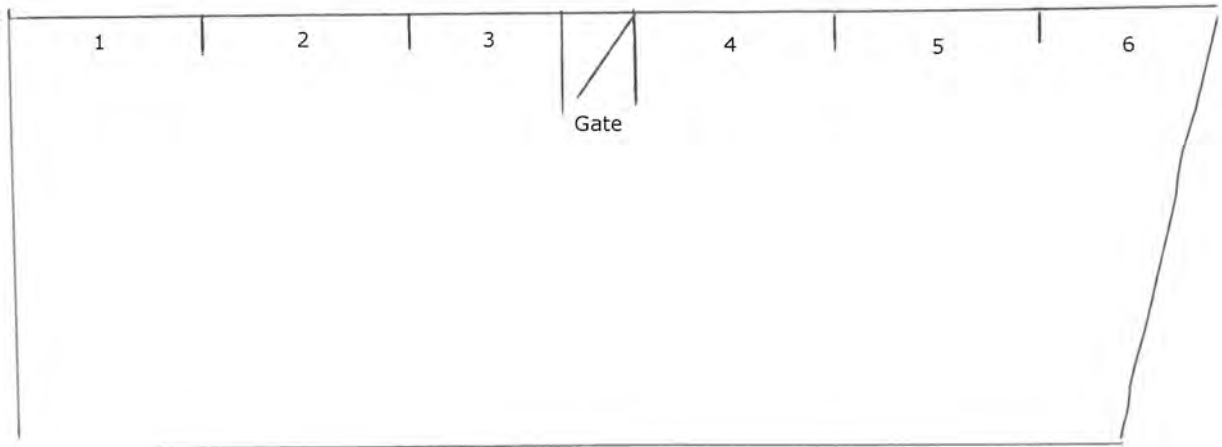
## Pistol / Trap Range Layout



# Rifle Range Layout



**Rifle Range Layout (NEW)  
Under Development!**



**Appendix: Shooting Range Approval (Also, see Bulletin Board)**



