

# SMSC Range Rules and Standard Operating Procedures

[www.smsclub.org](http://www.smsclub.org)

February 13, 2020 (by MJS) w/ Updates

## **IMPORTANT:**

- These rules help provide safety for all, encourage courtesy toward others, and protect neighboring properties and property owners. (Our neighbors are VERY close. A fired round may travel MILES!)
- Following the rules will enable us to keep our club open for our members' use. NOT following the rules may result in: suspension of shooting privileges, suspension of range membership, or legal liability!
- EVERY member is responsible for personally following all range rules, and for reminding others of the rules, if violations of the rules occur.

**Hours:** 8:00 a.m. until sunset – Monday through Saturday

9:00 a.m. until sunset – Sunday and Holidays

No shots are to be fired after sunset on any day, per the sunset time reported by:

<http://sunrise-sunset.org/us/rochester-mn>

Check the site above to confirm sunset time each day.

**Parking:** Park in the designated area south of the clubhouse, never in reserved areas or the driveway. You may use the trap club parking area for overflow.

**Identification:** Always wear your membership badge when on SMSC property. Non-members are not allowed to use the facilities, except as the guest of a member, as discussed later.

**Membership:** A member must be at least 18 years of age. Membership is for the member ONLY. A member has the rights and privileges afforded to a member by the SMSC bylaws. Spouses or partners sharing the same address may have their own badge for range access after paying the badge fee (\$10), successfully completing the safety orientation class, and submitting a completed waiver. A badge holder and their family and guests may use the range per the guest policy.

**Children:** Teach children safety, courtesy, safe and unsafe areas around the range, and basic range rules. If children are too young to be unattended at home, they are too young to be unattended at the range. Watch children carefully. Children are easily distracted, and may quickly move into a dangerous area, if not carefully supervised.

**Legal possession of firearms:** All adults who shoot at SMSC (members and guests) must be able to legally possess a firearm.

**Shooters younger than 18:** Shooters under the age of 18 MUST be accompanied at all times by a club member, at least age 21, who is a member of their family or their designated guardian.

**Guests:** Badge holders can bring family members as guests to the range. Up to three non-family guests

are also permitted. All guests must be known to the badge holder. Badge holders must supervise and take responsibility for their guests at all times. They are legally responsible for any damage caused by themselves or their guests, including the consequences of any round fired.

- No more than three firing lanes can be used by the badge holder and guests, and all three lanes must be adjacent. The badge holder and guests must stay together as a group at all times.
- Every person in the group must have turned in a signed waiver prior to entering the fenced area. Minors must have the waiver signed by a parent or guardian.

**Range Manager and RSO's (Range Safety Officers):** The SMSC Range Manager and/or SMSC Range Safety Officers (RSO's) have full authority over the range, to insure that all rules and safety procedures are followed, including providing safety instructions or directing members and/or guests to leave the range and not return for the remainder of that day, or to impound a member's badge or suspend a member's membership, pending hearing before the Board of Directors. EVERY member is responsible for both following and enforcing the rules.

**Moving to a Different Range or Firing Lane:** NEVER move with a loaded or uncased firearm. This applies to moving to/from your shooting position at any range or lane.

**Loaded Firearms:** NEVER leave a loaded firearm unattended.

**Eye and Ear Protection:** Eye and Ear protection are required for EVERYONE within the fenced-in area. EYE AND EAR PROTECTION MUST BE IN PLACE BEFORE ENTERING THE FENCED AREA.

**Pets:** Pets are allowed, but must be kept on a leash and under control at all times. Owners are required to clean up after their animals.

**Smoking / Open Flames:** No smoking or flames within 15 feet of firing line. This includes e-cigarettes.

**Alcoholic Beverages:** No alcohol is allowed on the ranges! Do not come to the range on the same day you have consumed alcoholic beverages. No exceptions!

**Ammunition:** Steel-core (e.g. M855) or armor-piercing ammunition is NOT allowed for use on ANY of the metal targets on SMSC ranges. Incendiary or tracer ammunition is NOT allowed for use at ANY of the SMSC ranges.

**Basic Firearm Safety Rules:**

- Keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction--down range--at ALL times (not down at the ground, not up in the air, not higher than the berm, and not to the left or right across the firing line).
- Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target, and you are preparing to fire.
- Keep your firearm unloaded until you are ready to shoot.
- When handling any firearm, always treat it as loaded.
- Never point a firearm in the direction of anything you are not willing to destroy.

### **Authorized Targets:**

- Authorized targets are paper, corrugated plastic, or cardboard targets ONLY.
- Targets must be no larger than 26” wide by 18” long. Trim or fold your target to this size, if necessary.
- Targets are to be attached ONLY to the provided wood, rubber, or corrugated backer portion of the target hangers or stands using STAPLES ONLY (no tape, thumb tacks, etc.). They are NOT to be fastened or attached to any structural elements of the range, to the metal portion of the target hangers or stands, nor to the cross ties or poles on the ground.
- Ground targets are NOT allowed.
- Do not shoot at wildlife.
- Do not shoot bottles, cans, jugs, boxes, etc.
- Silhouette targets are allowed, but targets may not have faces, photographs, political, religious, or sexist images. Note: A target with a “face” (or likeness of a face) on it must either have the face obscured (i.e., by tape, folding over or tearing off, or otherwise covering the face).
- Only ONE TARGET BACKER is allowed in a lane of fire.
- No cross-lane shooting! NEVER shoot a target that is not in your direct, down-range lane of fire (i.e., do NOT shoot targets in lanes to the left or right of your own lane).
- The metal plates on the plate range and the gongs on the 100/200 yard ranges are the ONLY authorized metal targets (except for events sanctioned by the Board of Directors).

### **Range Terms:**

- Range is “hot.” NO ONE SHOULD BE DOWN RANGE WHEN THE RANGE IS “HOT.” When the range is “hot,” case and uncase (holster and unholster) your guns; load and shoot.
  - “Hot, OK to take a shot.” (This assumes no one is down range or no other unsafe conditions exist.)
- Range is “clear.” NEVER TOUCH A GUN WHEN THE RANGE IS CLEAR. When the range is “clear” the ONLY thing you may do is go down range to check and post targets. NEVER TOUCH A GUN WHEN THE RANGE IS CLEAR.
  - “Clear, don’t go near” your guns. NEVER TOUCH A GUN WHEN THE RANGE IS CLEAR.
- “Cease Fire” or “Stop”
  - May be called by anyone who recognizes an unsafe condition on the range. STOP SHOOTING IMMEDIATELY. Clear and bench your firearm until the unsafe condition has been remedied, and the line is safe, and declared “hot.”

### **Range Procedures:**

- You MUST transport your firearm to and from your car in an enclosed case, fully fastened (zipped, tied, latches closed, etc.) or holstered, with provided retention methods applied, in the case of personal carry firearms. A holstered firearm is considered “cased.”
- Equipment Table (or shelf):
  - Load magazines, unpack your gear.
  - DO NOT CASE/uncase (or holster/unholster) GUNS AT THE EQUIPMENT SHELF.
- Muzzles of uncased guns, or guns in the process of being cased or uncased, must ALWAYS be pointed down range.

- Case and uncase firearms ONLY at the firing line, and ONLY when the line is “hot.”
- Load and unload firearms ONLY at the firing line, and ONLY when the line is “hot.”
- To leave the range, clear your firearm (or load your carry firearm, if you wish) ONLY when the range is “hot”.
- Do not move between ranges or firing lanes with a loaded, uncased, or unholstered firearm.
- Never leave a loaded firearm unattended.
- Firing line/shooting table. Guns on table pointing directly downrange ONLY (NEVER across the firing line, up in the air, or higher than the top of a target).
- No cross-lane shooting! NEVER shoot a target that is not in your direct, down-range lane of fire (i.e., do NOT shoot targets in lanes to the left or right of your own lane).
- ONLY ONE TARGET BACKER IS ALLOWED IN EACH SHOOTING LANE.

#### **How to Make Your Gun “Safe” or “Clear:”**

- Detachable magazine out – or fixed magazine is empty.
- Action open.
- Chamber visually inspected, readily viewable, and empty (chamber flag in, if used).
- Firearm on bench (or ground, if no bench) - pointed squarely down range.
- Step back from firing line.

#### **What is Controlled Fire?**

- All shots must be aimed at authorized targets, affixed to provided target backers only. Be aware of your target background.
- No ground ricochets allowed.
- No drawing from holsters and firing, shooting from the hip, shooting over the head, under the arm, around the back, ever! (No “trick” shots.)
- No live fire, or dry fire from a holster (unless such activity was previously approved, and occurs during an event sanctioned by the Board of Directors).
- Fire is restricted to a maximum of 3 shots in any five second period (unless at the plate range or participating in an event sanctioned by the Board of Directors).

#### **Range Commands:**

- Determine who (if anyone) is “managing” the firing line. Is there an RSO in charge, or are the individual members who are shooting managing the line?
- Check and recheck with others when issuing range commands. Be sure everyone understands and agrees. Remember, other members are wearing hearing protection and may not hear you. If you cannot hear, cup your hand at your hearing protection to encourage others to speak up or repeat their last communication. DO NOT lift your hearing protection from your ear or remove your hearing protection.
- “Can we go hot?” Turn to the left and right – thumbs up is acceptable.
- “Can we go clear?” Check to the right and left – check guns of others to ensure they are properly cleared.
- "Cease Fire" or “Stop”
  - May be called by anyone who recognizes an unsafe condition on the range. STOP SHOOTING IMMEDIATELY. Clear and bench your firearm until the unsafe condition has been remedied, and the line is safe, and declared “hot.”

### **Ranges:**

- Trap Range: SMSC members may use the SMTC (trap club) grounds when available (not during trap club events). You must supply your own clay birds and throwers.
- Archery Range: No broadheads – field point only!
- 25/50 Yard Range: Rimfire and centerfire rifles, muzzle loaders, and shotguns using slugs or sabots only. No shot-shell cartridges (they ruin the wooden backers). No handguns other than rifle cartridge handguns for the purposes of sighting them in (*unless previously approved, and used during an event sanctioned by the Board of Directors*).
- 100/200 Ranges: Same as above. Range Rules are printed and posted on every range – look for them if you are unsure! Rifle-cartridge handguns are the ONLY handguns permitted on this range.
- Handgun Range: Revolvers, pistols, and .22 caliber or smaller rim fire rifles only. No shotguns. No shooting across lanes.
- Plate Range: Revolvers, semi-automatic pistols, and rim fire rifles only (.22 caliber and smaller). All ammunition must be non-magnum! No centerfire rifles, rifle cartridge pistols, or pistol cartridge carbines/rifles. No shotguns of any kind on the plate range. Remember: Shoot only from 33 feet in front of the falling plates (front edge of the concrete). Do not shoot across lanes. (One set of plates is a lane. The other set of plates is “cross-range.”)
- Indoor Range: Use non-jacketed ammo – lead, plated, or frangible. Range is for club and sanctioned events only. Check the club calendar for times and types of shooting. Bull’s-eye league is in the fall and winter, and they have guns to use.
- No guests on the indoor range, except for club-approved functions which allow non-members.
- ONLY ONE TARGET BACKER IS ALLOWED IN EACH SHOOTING LANE.

### **Clean Up:** It is your responsibility to:

- Take down and throw away your targets.
- Pick up your spent shell casings and either discard or remove them from the range.
- Throw away any trash.
- Leave the area of the range you use in AT LEAST as good condition as when you arrived, preferably BETTER condition than when you arrived. Be a part of the “solution,” not a part of “the problem.”

### **Emergency Procedures:**

- Check to see if you have cell-phone reception. If not, the range has one open wifi channel available. The channel is named “guest.” The password is “clubhouse” (all lowercase, no quotes).
- The range address is posted on the back (range side) of the entrance gate, to assist in placing a call for emergency assistance.

### **Emergency 911 Procedures**

- Take immediate action in the event of injuries (or illness).
- Call cease fire if the ill or injured person is down range or near the firing line.
- Clear all firearms.
- RSO, Range Manager, or other person taking the initiative to coordinate action may appoint others to call 911 and/or secure the scene (i.e., make sure all firearms are clear, that no other persons are at risk, etc.).

- RSO, Range Manager, or other person taking the initiative to coordinate action will, either personally or by appointment of others, ensure Emergency Medical Services (911) are notified, and provide the following information:
  - Location  
Southern Minnesota Sportsman's Club  
6251 S.E. 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rochester, MN 55904
  - Directions, if needed:  
Take Highway 14, East of Rochester.  
Right (south) at stop light at 50<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Go approximately 1.2 miles, and turn left on 20<sup>th</sup> street S.E.  
Go approximately 1.5 miles to SMSC building on left side of road.
- Also provide:
  - Telephone number you are calling from.
  - Your name
  - What happened and possible hazards for rescuers
  - Number of people injured or ill
  - Condition of injured or ill
  - Nature of first aid being provided
- Wait for EMS to hang up first.
- Return to the injured / ill person and continue care until EMS arrives.
- Send someone to the gate to let the emergency responders in and direct them to the location of the emergency.

### **Coordination**

- RSO, Range Manager, or other person taking the initiative to coordinate action will supervise the situation and ensure fulfillment of emergency procedures.
- RSO, Range Manager, or other person taking the initiative to coordinate action will notify Board of Directors member, Range Manager, or other official of the club concerning all details regarding the emergency and actions taken.

### **Lost & Found Property - (Abandoned Tangible Personal Property per Minnesota State Law):**

Any and all items found on the SMSC range, which were not brought to the property by the individual(s) who find them, are considered "Lost & Found Property." Such property is identified as "Abandoned Tangible Personal Property" by MN State law.

Per SMSC range SOPs, the person who finds any Abandoned Tangible Personal Property on the SMSC premises is required to follow the procedure outlined below:

1. Before leaving SMSC, take the property to the Range Safety and Facility Manager's (RSFM's) cottage (the trailer home at the East side of SMSC's parking area).
2. Receive a copy of a handwritten receipt (if desired), signed by the both the finder and the RSFM. The receipt should provide adequate detailed information to identify the abandoned item(s).
3. In the event there is no response at the RSFM's cottage, the person who found the abandoned property is responsible to call the SMSC Range telephone number, (507) 282-9808 at the

earliest reasonable opportunity and leave a complete message. The message should provide: 1) adequate detailed information to clearly identify the abandoned item(s) and 2) one, or more, means to contact finder (valid phone number and email address are both recommended; other methods, such as postal address are also acceptable).

4. SMSC will make every effort to locate/notify the owner of the property, per provisions of MN State Law. Once all statutory requirements have been met, and if the property remains unclaimed, in many cases the finder may claim the property.

Members who believe they may have left property at SMSC should check with the RSFM. To claim your abandoned property, be prepared to identify the property adequately to establish your ownership.

NOTE: The SMSC Board's discretion will dictate ultimate handling of the property (e.g., an abandoned firearm would necessitate the involvement of local law enforcement).