

# Grafton County Fish and Game Association

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

## **Club Rules, Regulations and Instructions**

### ***SAFETY – FIRST, LAST, AND ALWAYS!***

All activities at the Grafton County Fish and Game Association (GCF&GA) facilities must be conducted in the safest manner possible. Everyone is responsible for practicing safe firearm handling and knowing the safe operation of the firearm they are using. The safe operations of this club are integral to the survival of this facility and the promotion and furthering of the shooting sports.

Safe Firearm Handling is defined by GCF&GA as:

- (1) Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy;
- (2) All firearms are always considered loaded. Even if they are not, treat them as if they are;
- (3) Keep your finger off the trigger till your sights are on the target; and
- (4) Identify your target, and what is *beyond* it.

**All members and their guests are responsible for knowing and following the rules, regulations and instructions set forth by the Grafton County Fish and Game Association. These rules, regulations and instructions will be strictly enforced to maintain a high level of safety on these premises. Any violation of club rules, regulations and instructions or action that endangers others or club property is grounds for immediate termination of your membership, per the procedures contained in the GCF&GA By-Laws as currently in force.**

### **NOTICE**

The GCF&GA club grounds, including all ranges, are under 24/7 video surveillance and digital recording. Any persons entering Club grounds grant their implied consent to each surveillance and recording. This consent extends to the use of images or recordings resulting therefrom in any investigation, disciplinary action, and/or prosecution resulting from their actions while on club grounds.

### **\*\*\* SEE SOMETHING \*\*\* SAY SOMETHING \*\*\***

*Did you witness an unsafe action or violation on a range? Please let a Club Officer or Director know as soon as possible. We want to keep our range safe for everyone!!!*

*You do not need to confront anyone on the range, but if you can provide a name or a vehicle license plate number, and the nature of what you saw. You can be sure we will take this seriously and work to get any issue resolved.*

## Definitions:

- Cease-Fire – all firing ceases immediately, all firearms made safe with actions open, and ALL HANDS OFF FIREARMS.
- Chief Range Safety Officer – This is someone who has received Chief Range Safety Officer training from the National Rifle Association (NRA). Their certification by the NRA means they have been trained in the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential to organizing, conducting, and supervising safe shooting activities and range operations. Certification of another nationally recognized organization is also acceptable.
- Cross-firing of targets – shooting at a target which is located more than five (5) feet left or right of the target directly in front of you. If multiple shooters are on the firing line, the placement of targets should correspond to the shooters position in the line, with rounds impacting the berm at a 90-degree angle.
- Down range – the area between the established firing line and the berm or target area in front of the firing line.
- Empty chamber indicator – a bright colored item, such as a tie-wrap or weed-trim line, which is inserted in the chamber to show that no cartridge can be inserted. A commercial empty chamber indicator is also acceptable. The use of empty chamber indicators is *highly recommended*.
- Firing line – The Firing Line is established by the position of the person actively shooting. This may be at the designated shooting stations, or closer to the berm as appropriate for that range. If a Range Safety Officer is on the range, they will establish the firing line to be used. A loaded firearm is never allowed behind the firing line.
- Making a firearm “safe” – means removing all ammunition and magazines, open the action, and holster (action may be closed if holstering) or place the firearm on a shooting bench with the muzzle pointed down range, or stand the firearm in a provided rack. For those handgun firearms needing a magazine inserted for the action to be open, remove the magazine and insert an empty chamber indicator or holster the firearm.
- Making a Range “safe” - All shooting is stopped and all firearms are “made safe”.
- Membership types – GCFGA offers four types of memberships: Regular, Life, Associate and Honorary.
- Range Safety Officer (RSO) – someone who has received recognized Range Safety Officer training, such as from the National Rifle Association (NRA), or another nationally recognized organization.
- Supervision of Guests – A member who brings a minor or other guest to the range is responsible for their behavior and for their supervision. The member must maintain direct physical and verbal control of any minor (under the age of 18) as appropriate for their age and experience. Members must remain on the same range with, and maintain visual and verbal contact with, any adult guest they bring to the range.
- Sweeping with a firearm – is pointing the muzzle of a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, at any part of a person’s body. It is a major violation of safe firearm handling rules.
- Transportation of firearms – the movement of firearms to and from vehicles and the firing line shall have the firearms unloaded and either cased, holstered or pointed muzzle down.

- Up range – the area behind the firing line.

### **General Range Rules**

- Shooting Hours are 9 am to Sunset for all outdoor firearm ranges. The sunset time for each day is listed by NH Fish and Game Digest or by local NH weather. The archery range may be used during daylight hours.
- Personal Carry firearms – If you are not using the personal carry firearm at the range, it must remain holstered. If you are planning to shoot your personal carry firearm, all of the rules below apply.
- It is never permissible to walk around the ranges or club property with firearms that are not “made safe” (unloaded) and cased, holstered, or slung muzzle down. For example, if you are shooting on a range, you may not carry your firearm in hand when you go downrange to check your target.
- All NH State, *NH Fish and Game*, and Federal laws must be adhered to.
- Absolutely No Alcohol or Illicit Drug is allowed on the premises, internally or externally.
- Eye and Ear protection must be worn by every person in the shooting areas, whether person is an active participant or a spectator.
- Always have your current membership card with you while on GCF&GA property. Members must show their member card or official identification card to any officer, *Director* or club member when asked to verify their member status.
- It is encouraged that all individual shooters on a range communicate to ensure all understand the firing line, up range and down range areas.
- The use of empty chamber indicators is highly recommended for all ranges.
- All shooters must clean up their trash, brass and targets when done shooting.
- No minors are allowed on GCF&GA property without adult supervision.
- No pets are allowed on GCF&GA property without being leashed.
- Any unlawful act witnessed must be reported to the local police immediately. A Club Officer *or Director* shall also be notified as soon as possible. Officer *and Directors* emails and phone numbers are available at <https://gcfga.org/officers>.
- Members are asked to report all injuries and all club rule, regulation or instruction violations to a Club Officer *or Director* as soon as possible.

### **Rifle, Small Bore, and Handgun Range Specific instructions**

- Shoot at range appropriate targets only. Do not shoot at items on the ground, bottles, trees, target frames or rocks.
- Only Sighted fire is permitted on any range. Hip-shooting or un-aimed fire is never allowed.
- Cross-firing at targets more than five (5) feet left or right is not allowed, unless approved by a Director or Officer or on-site RSO.
- There is NO handling of any firearm while anyone is down range.

- A firearm may not be loaded until the shooter is on the firing line and ready to engage a target. It is never permissible to load or have a loaded firearm behind the firing line.
- All firearms shall be pointed down range, toward the berm, while chambering a round.
- NO aerial or exploding targets are allowed except for clay targets on the shotgun ranges.
- No armor piercing ammo is allowed on any range.
- Shooting into the side berms is prohibited.
- All targets must be placed at least one (1) foot above the range floor and at least one (1) foot below the top of the berm.
- All targets must be placed within ten (10) feet of the berm and must be engaged so that all projectiles will strike the berm.
- The use of steel targets is allowed providing the target is either angled downward or hung loosely. Steel targets should be placed at the berm and shot from a minimum of 10 yards (pistol and small bore ranges) or 25 yards (rifle range).
- There will be no shooting while vehicles are on the range side of the chain.
- There must be no one forward of the firing line, including the shooting tree lane, unless the firing line has been made safe.
- Anyone, participant or spectator, may call a "Cease-Fire" for any safety reason.
  - Once a "Cease-Fire" has been called, be SURE that everyone is aware of the cease-fire. No one should go down range until all firearms are made safe: actions open, shooting stopped, and ALL HANDS OFF FIREARMS until the range is declared safe to shoot again.

#### **Rifle Range Specific Instructions**

- All shooting must be done from the covered firing line positions. Exceptions to this may be approved by a Club Officer or Director and require an RSO onsite.
- No targets will be hung from the structure of the bullet trap at the 100-yard line.
- Due to safety, shooting .50 BMG caliber weapons, anti-tank rounds and such are not allowed.
- All full-automatic rifles or sub-machine guns must have suppressors.
- NO ONE will go down range for any reason, target change or check, maintenance such as mowing or any reason, without first activating the red-light system. If you are going down range, any place forward of the cover, you MUST activate the system. If the system is activated when you arrive, you have a responsibility to ensure the range is 100% cleared and reset the system before handling any firearms.
  - To activate the system: At each end of the rifle range cover exits, there is a switch that will activate the red lights above each of the shooting stations. When the lights are activated, there is to be no handling of any firearms until the range is cleared and the system is secured. To shut off the lights, just use the switch at either end.

#### **Small Bore Specific Instructions**

- Only rim fire ammunition and firearms may be shot on the small bore range.
- Shooting may be done from cover forward, but all targets must be properly placed at the berm.

### **Handgun Range Specific Instructions**

- Only standard handgun ammunition will be used on the handgun range. All handguns using rifle ammunition will be shot on the rifle range and follow those range specific instructions (.410 handgun exception).
- Ammunition used on steel targets, including the dueling tree, is restricted to regular handgun calibers .22 through .45. No steel core, tungsten bullets, or .17 caliber of any type. No ammunition deemed unsafe or likely to damage the targets may be used.
- Only Handguns will be shot on the handgun range with the exception of pistol caliber carbines using 9mm or other standard handgun ammo.
- All handheld, full automatic/sub-machine guns must have suppressors.
- No targets will be hung on the structures of the bullet traps.
- Shooters may engage targets from the cover forward, but all targets must be properly placed at the berm.
- The shooting tree will NOT be removed from the designated structure.
- All shooters must be inside the designated shooting lane when using the shooting tree.
- No shooters will shoot at the shooting tree forward of the safety line.

### **Shotgun Range Specific Instructions**

- Only shotguns or handguns using shotgun ammunition may be used on the shotgun range.
- No shot larger than 7 1/2 will be used on the trap, skeet and 5 stand fields.
- Any size pelletized shot is allowed when using the pattern board.
- Absolutely no slugs or "Defender Rounds" that include metal disks used on the shotgun range.
- Absolutely no solid projectiles will be shot on the shotgun field.
- All shotguns are to be kept unloaded with actions open until the shooter is on the shooting station with the muzzles pointed down range as targets are prepared for launching.
- No shooter will turn around or leave the shooting station without first opening the action and removing all shells.
- All shotguns will be carried by the shooter with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Forward and down is the preferred method.
- Only Members approved by the shotgun Directors will operate the powered trap, skeet, and 5 stand machines. Any member may use the hand operated throwers mounted by the trap range.

### **Indoor Range Specific Instructions**

#### **General Indoor Range Instructions**

- The indoor range shall only be used for approved, organized events or competitions. NO INDIVIDUAL USE OF THE INDOOR RANGE IS ALLOWED.
- Officers and Directors may use the indoor range to introduce or instruct a new member regarding one of the shooting sports. Only members trained in the safe use of the heating and ventilation systems and general operating procedures will open the indoor range for firearms shooting.

- No member shall use the indoor range until they have received a safety/operations briefing from the Range director or designated alternate. This briefing must include all safety aspects of the indoor range.
- All shooting shall be done from the established firing line.
- No food or drink is allowed in the indoor range.
- It is suggested that all participants and spectators wash hands thoroughly before leaving the facility.

#### Indoor Range Firearm Instructions

- Only .22 long rifle, long, or short rounds shall be used; standard/low velocity ammunition is preferred., No other handgun or rifle calibers are allowed no matter how similar; .22 Magnum rounds are not permitted.
- Only .22 rimfire caliber rifles or handguns may be used.
- Firearms shall be carried to the firing line while cased or with actions open. All Shooters will use empty chamber indicators
- Firearms shall be safely pointed at the backstop while on the firing line or being moved to the firing line. Extreme care must be exercised to avoid hitting the floor, walls or ceiling of the indoor range.
- Firearms shall not be taken down range.
- Shooters must use only paper targets which are properly mounted on the target holders immediately in front of the backstop.
- The Red light system will be activated before anyone goes down range. There is no handling of firearms while anyone is down range or the red lights are activated.

#### Indoor Range Archery Instructions

- Archers may use the indoor range at approved events or competitions.
- Archers must use paper targets mounted on the foam backstops.
- No arrows may be nocked until the shooter is on the firing line.
- No arrows may be nocked if someone is down range.
- There is no handling of bows while anyone is down range.
- The Red light system will be activated before anyone goes down range.

#### Archery Range Specific Instructions

- Archery range is not limited to the 9 am starting time.
- No broad-head arrow points may be shot at any target or backstop on club grounds.
  - This may be updated if a broad-head only target is established on the range.
- Absolutely no firearm shooting on the archery range or the 3-D course.
- No one shall be in front of the firing line unless the range has been “made safe”.
- Arrows should be nocked to string only when on the firing line and ready to shoot.
- When searching for lost arrows, station one shooter in front of the target before proceeding behind it, or lean bow in front of target if alone on range.
- Crossbow bolts must have screw-in target points.

- Crossbows should only be loaded and cocked while on the firing line when the range is clear.
- Crossbows may be used at any sanctioned events in accordance with the sanctioned event rules.
- NO ONE will go down range for any reason, including maintenance such as mowing, without first activating the red light system. If the system is activated when you arrive, you have a responsibility to ensure the range is 100% cleared and to reset the system before handling any bow or crossbow.
  - To activate the system: At the archery cover, there is a switch, approximately middle of the range, that will activate the red lights. When the lights are activated, there is to be no handling of any bows until range is cleared and the system is secured. To shut off the lights, just use the switch.

### **Membership and Guest(s)**

- Membership types:
  - Regular membership – a yearly membership not falling into any other category.
  - Life membership - a regular member in good standing for at least one year and who pays a fee equal to ten (10) times the annual dues. Note: The reduced annual fee for members joining after November 1st does NOT apply to life memberships.
  - Associate membership – an immediate family member, such as spouse/partner or child under 18, may be considered an associate member.
  - Associate Members:
    - May not vote on club business.
    - Must be accompanied by a regular member to shoot, regardless of age.
    - Associate members do not have a limit to the number of times they may shoot, but must be accompanied by a regular member each time.
  - Honorary membership – is offered to someone whom the club officers and directors believe deserves to have their contributions to the shooting sports recognized.
  - Honorary Members:
    - May not have a regular, life or associate membership.
    - May not vote on club business.
    - Must be accompanied by regular member to shoot.
  - Military service – Any member in good standing that is called to active Military duty for more than six (6) months, will be considered a member in good standing for the duration of their service to the United States of America. Once they return from active duty, they will renew their membership at the next Annual meeting in May.
- The membership year will begin at the Annual Meeting each May. At the end of this meeting the chain link entry gate combination will be changed. Note: the chain link entry gate will only be used in the event the electronic gate is broken. You will be issued your membership card with the updated combination once your dues are paid. Early renewals are accepted and appreciated!
- Guests:
  - Members may bring up to two (2) non-member guests to shoot. All guests must be within the member's area of control on a single range.

- A non-member may be a guest two (2) times but must join the club after that. Events which are open to the public do not count towards two (2) time limit. A Club Officer or Director may grant an exception to this rule for family members under 26 years old who are home for a short-term visit.
- More than two (2) guests will be considered a class and must be scheduled as such (see separate section on classes).  
All guests must sign a waiver form which is available at each range or on our website at <https://gcfga.org>. The Club member is responsible for their guest completing the waiver and for depositing it in the box at each range or giving it to a Club Officer or Director.

### **Gate Operation and Combination**

- To use the electronic bar gate, stop at the keypad and hold your card in proximity of the card reader. When open club events are happening, the gate bar will be locked in the open position, the green light on the keypad will stay solid green while the gate is locked open. Whoever is running the event will, after the event, unlock the bar and wait for the bar to come down before leaving.
- If the electronic gate is out of service, the chain link gate will be used with a padlock. The combination will be on your membership card.
  - During an open club event the gate will be open, and the lock will NOT be present. Be aware that the gate will be locked at the close of the event.
  - At any time, other than organized club events, the gate must be kept closed and locked. Lock it immediately after you enter and do NOT leave it open for someone that will arrive later.

**DO NOT give anyone your gate card or the combination to the entry gate. Sharing of the gate combination with any non-member or non-current member is grounds for immediate termination of your membership.**

### **Group and Public Events**

- Group and public events may have a Range Safety Officer (RSO) on site. At the discretion of the Officers and/or Directors, a Range Safety Officer may be required at any event.
- Participation fees, as approved by the membership, will be charged.
- Event participants will be subject to all Grafton County Fish and Game Association rules, regulations and instructions and must each sign a waiver.

### **Classes**

- Members in good standing may request that a Firearm, Archery or tactical class be scheduled. The member will send a written request (postal service or email) to the Club President which includes dates, times, range to be used and course content. The organizer of any class which is for-profit and/or which uses paid instructor(s) will be charged a fee of \$10 per student for use of GCF&GA facilities
  - Any group including more than two non-members will be considered a class.

- All class participants will be subject to all Grafton County Fish and Game Association rules, regulations and instructions and must each sign a waiver.

NOTE: Club Officers and Directors have limited authority to grant exceptions to Club Rules, Regulations and Instructions. Any such exception may not endanger any person or Club property, must be in response to specific circumstances and may not extend beyond the instance, event or entity for which it was granted.

POLICE TRAINING: When a range is closed for a police training event, specific range rules may be suspended to accommodate training needs.

## **Emergency Procedures:**

**NOTE: Each range has a box containing a phone and emergency first aid supplies.**

- One person takes charge of the situation
- Declare cease-fire on range, or all ranges as appropriate
- Major incident:
  - Person in charge direct a specific person to call/text 911 and advise of assistance needed
  - Address: 153 Trues Brook Road, Grafton County Fish & Game Association facility
  - Person in charge direct a specific person to open gate as necessary and position others to guide emergency responders to correct range
  - Person in charge direct specific person(s) to perform emergency first aid as necessary until emergency responders arrive
- Minor incident:
  - Person in charge direct a specific person(s) to perform emergency first aid
- All incidents:
  - The Person in charge shall
  - Contact Club President or Vice President concerning incident as soon as possible and provide information
- At the conclusion of any incident requiring an emergency response (911 call), the affected range shall remain closed until Club President or Vice-President declares it open.

Revision history:

Revision 1 - 6 October 2020 – Added draft verbiage to include red light downrange warning system information for rifle range. Added draft verbiage to include yellow light caution – range is in use warning system for the stationary archery range.

Revision 2 – May 2023 – cleaned up a number of issues, grammar, etc. Added red light downrange warning for the rest of the ranges.