



West Liberty Gun Club Inc.

Range Safety Rules

(Original December 2020 / Revised 2/2025)

The following Range Safety Rules are adopted by the West Liberty Gun Club Inc. Board of Directors. These rules are implemented to keep our members, visitors, property, and surrounding neighbors safe.

If you have any questions or concerns about these range safety rules, or observe problems with other shooters, please contact West Liberty Gun Club Staff on Duty. If there are no staff on duty please email your questions and concerns to thewlgc@gmail.com.

In case of an **EMERGENCY** Call **911** first then contact West Liberty Gun Club Staff at 319-627-2295.

In the event that you or any other person is injured, there are trauma first aid kits located in the Orange boxes on the North Pistol Bay behind the indoor range building, the 100 Yard Rifle Range, and between Bays 1 & 2 and Bays 4 & 5 in the South Pistol Bays.

Firearms Safety begins with you.

West Liberty Gun Club Inc.

Range Safety Rules

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Section 1. Range Security (Member Log-in / Guest Log-In)

- 1.1 All members entering or exiting club property must swipe their issued gate key card no matter what position the gate is in.
- 1.2 If other passengers have a gate key card, they may scan the card without signing in. All other passengers and guests must be signed in at the log-in station (The Log-In station is in the Yellow Box near the South Pistol Bay Entrance).
- 1.3 All individuals entering club property must have a signed liability waiver on file. Liability waivers are located in the Yellow Log-In box.
- 1.4 Exceptions:
 - 1.4.1 During Public Hours, all Guest of WLGC Members SHALL Check in with the RSO and sign the RO Log Sheet. **Sections 1.1 & 1.2 still apply.**
 - 1.4.2 During scheduled sanctioned matches or special events the gate will be open. Match participants must check in with the Match Director or check in according to the match registration process specific to the sanctioning organization. Special event participants must check in with the events coordinator. **Sections 1.1 & 1.2 still apply.**
- 1.5 Members should be prepared to show proof of membership (IE: membership card or gate-key card) when requested by club personnel. Do not be offended; we cannot know everybody, and range security is important.
- 1.6 As a member or guest of the **WLGC** you are subject to video surveillance and other monitoring.

Section 2. Safety

- 2.1 The first concern of everyone at the West Liberty Gun Club is SAFETY.
REMEMBER THE THREE PRIMARY RULES OF SAFE GUN HANDLING:
M - A - T (Muzzle, Action, Trigger)
 - (1). **MUZZLE**: Never point the muzzle of any firearm at another person or in an unsafe direction, even when unloaded. **KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED DOWN RANGE AT ALL TIMES!**
 - (2). **ACTION**: Always keep the action **OPEN** with magazine removed (if applicable) unless you are on the firing line and preparing to shoot.

(3). TRIGGER: Never put your finger into the trigger guard or touch the trigger until you are on target and ready to fire.

REMEMBER THE ACRONYM! M - A - T

MUZZLE - ACTION - TRIGGER!

If you see anyone violating any of these rules, speak up!

If you are corrected for violating any of these rules, thank the person who corrected you!

- 2.2 All firearms not on the firing line **SHALL** be a) safely holstered, or b) unloaded with their action open, any detachable magazine removed, chamber flag inserted if available, and tabled with the muzzle pointing downrange, or c) unloaded, chamber flag inserted if available, and cased.
- 2.3 All Federal, state, and local firearm laws shall be obeyed. Members and guests are solely responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with applicable law.
- 2.4 Members who possess a valid Iowa permit to carry may carry a loaded firearm on club grounds. Hand guns shall be holstered and long guns shall be slung with the muzzle up. Loaded firearms shall not be handled except when facing downrange within the confines of the berms.
- 2.5 ANYONE may give the emergency range command "CEASE FIRING." If you see a hazardous or unsafe condition, you may use this command to stop all shooting immediately.
- 2.6 When the command "Cease Fire" is given by a Range Safety Officer (RSO) or ANYONE on the Firing Line:
 - 2.6.1 Stop shooting IMMEDIATELY,
 - 2.6.2 Remove your finger from the trigger,
 - 2.6.3 Keep the firearms muzzle pointed in a safe direction,
 - 2.6.4 Wait for further instructions from the **RSO** or the Individual who called Cease Fire.
- 2.7 During a 'Cease Fire' for target changes, or downrange activities, firearms **SHALL NOT** be touched or handled under any circumstances. All shooters **SHALL** clear their firearms, by unloading it and make it safe by removing any magazines (if applicable), chambered rounds and inserting an empty chamber indicator (chamber flag) if possible, or leaving the chamber open, before putting it down on the bench. When benching any firearm, the muzzle **SHALL** be pointed downrange.
- 2.8 Loaded firearms shall not be set down on any surface and left unattended. If for some reason you wish to bench your firearm without firing all the ammunition in the firearm, unload the remaining ammunition, remove the magazine, open the chamber, and insert an empty chamber indicator (chamber flag) if possible with the muzzle pointed downrange.
- 2.9 Never load a firearm or insert a magazine into a firearm until you are on the **firing line**, prepared to fire, and have determined there is no one in front of the **firing line**. Never load any firearm or insert a magazine into a firearm that is not pointed at a berm. This rule also applies to any administrative loading of a carry firearm prior to placing it back in its holster or slinging it for carry use.
- 2.10 All shots fired at the **WLG**C shall be aimed. This means use the sights for each shot. Rapid firing is permissible, but those who wish to empty their firearms as fast as possible without regard for their target or the safety of others, should find another place to shoot. **WLG**C will not tolerate reckless use of firearms.
- 2.11 All shots must be fired at an appropriate backstop. No shots should impact the ground or be aimed over a berm.

- 2.11.1 EXCEPTION: Shotguns may be fired into the sky on the trap range between the designated angles allowed for clay targets.
- 2.12 Incendiary, tracer, armor-piercing, explosive, steel core, and any illegal ammunition is not permitted on **WLGC** ranges.
- 2.13 NO ONE may climb or walk on the berms at any time.
- 2.13.1 EXCEPTION: Range personnel inspecting the ranges when a Full Range closure has been called.
- 2.14 Firearms with release triggers, “binary” triggers, or bump stocks and fully automatic firearms are not permitted on WLGC ranges. Rifles chambered for .50 BMG / 12.7 x 99 mm or larger caliber, or .416 Barrett SHALL NOT be fired on any WLGC ranges. Muzzle loaders, shotguns, and straight walled calibers are exempted from the caliber restriction. Not all ranges are suitable for all firearms. Section 5 through Section 8 of this document outline which firearms are appropriate for that range.
- 2.15 Hunting is not permitted on the range grounds.
- 2.16 Always respect other shooters while on the range. Before commencing fire, be certain no one is ahead of the **firing line** and others on the range know you intend to fire.
- 2.17 Target stands and targets **SHALL NOT** be placed on the berms.
- 2.18 Commands issued by RSO’s and Range Personnel shall be obeyed immediately and without question.
- 2.19 Always determine that your firearm is in safe working order, that the bore is not obstructed, and you are using safe and proper ammunition.
- 2.20 Use the appropriate target, placed at eye level, to ensure that your shots strike the backstop or side berm and not the ground, target holder or go over the berms. Targets placed along a side berm shall be positioned in a manner that will not allow engagement beyond a 90-degree angle from the back berm.
- 2.21 Always assume that every firearm is loaded.
- 2.21.1 Even when the firearm has been inspected and is determined to be unloaded, you should always handle it as a loaded firearm.
- 2.21.2 The use of chamber flags is a perfect example of an unloaded, safe condition and allows others to visually see the firearm is in a safe condition.
- 2.22 While loading, unloading, and firing keep the muzzle pointed down range. Never allow the muzzle to point past 90 degrees in any direction from the backstop.
- 2.23 Suppressors are legal to possess in the state of Iowa. The use of suppressed firearms at the West Liberty Gun Club is permitted only under certain circumstances.
- 2.23.1 First and foremost, ALL range rules must be scrupulously followed, just as with any other firearm.
- 2.23.2 During public shooting hours, anyone wishing to shoot a suppressed firearm shall report this fact to the **RSO** on duty and indicate which range will be used.
- 2.23.3 The **RSO** may direct the shooter to use a specific range if the range is busy or for other reasons of safety.
- 2.23.4 There is inherent hazard in use of suppressors in that others may be unaware a suppressed firearm is being fired.
- 2.23.5 If a range is being used by other shooters, they must all be notified that the shooter will be shooting a suppressed firearm.
- 2.24 Anyone who violates any portion of these range safety rules may be subject to financial restitution requirements, reporting to the appropriate authorities, suspension or even removal from the club.
- 2.25 In the event that a projectile (besides appropriate shotgun shot fired at clay targets on the Trap Range during normal and safe use of the thrower) fails to strike an appropriate

backstop and leaves the Club premises, any person with knowledge of such occurrence **SHALL IMMEDIATELY** inform **WLGC** Authorized Personnel after contacting emergency services if appropriate under the circumstances. Failure to do so **SHALL** be grounds for removal from the club, in addition to any other penalties.

Section 3. General Range Policies / Shooters Conduct

- 3.1 Everyone **SHALL** use proper ear and eye protection when shooting on **WLGC** ranges, or when in the proximity of the **ready line** and other shooters. It is recommended that you wear both at all times.
- 3.2 No food, beverages or smoking on the **ready line**. Food, beverages & smoking are permitted outside of the **ready line**. No smoking in any structure on **WLGC** property.
- 3.3 **If you set out target frames or stands to support your targets, you will need to return them to the storage area or target shed once you are done. This includes all range equipment and target stands.**
- 3.4 Shooters under 18 years of age must be supervised by an adult or directly by the **RSO** on duty.
- 3.5 Do not fire at posts, supports or target frames or any unauthorized objects. These are expensive and time consuming to replace.
- 3.6 Shoot at only range-approved targets.
- 3.7 Approved Targets are paper, cardboard, clay bird, metallic silhouette and similar targets may be used on **WLGC** ranges.
- 3.8 NON Approved Targets
 - 3.8.1 Glass bottles, pop cans, plastic jugs, appliances, furniture, and other trash are not to be used as targets. No incendiary, explosive or reactive targets of any type shall be used on **WLGC** ranges.
- 3.9 All steel targets are designed for specific ammunition based on their construction. Use of ammunition more powerful than they are designed for **WILL DAMAGE OR DESTROY THEM**. Silhouette and reactive targets to the south on the 100-yard range are for .22 caliber rimfire (not magnum) ammunition only. Any .17 caliber rimfire and .22 magnum are far more destructive than .22 short or long rifle cartridges. They **SHALL NOT** be used on targets or ranges which are indicated for .22 rimfire only.
 - 3.9.1 If you are responsible for the damage to any Plates or Targets throughout the Club that have a specified ammunition limitation you will be held financially responsible for the repair or replacement.
- 3.10 Obey all range commands. **ANYONE** may call a cease fire; cease firing immediately, maintain control of your firearm, pointing the muzzle in a safe direction, finger off the trigger, and await further instructions.
- 3.11 **WLGC** personnel (Range Safety Officers, Club Officers & Board Members) are here to assist you. They are "in charge" when on the property, and their control of the **WLGC** ranges is not to be disputed. If there is a dispute, follow their instructions, then report your concerns to a board member.
- 3.12 **WLGC** authorized personnel reserve the right to inspect any firearm, ammunition, or other equipment at any time and to prohibit their use. **WLGC** personnel reserve the right to close any or all ranges when an unsafe or hazardous condition exists.
- 3.13 Persons on the range who do not observe these rules, who appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, who engage in horseplay or unsportsmanlike behavior will be required to leave the premises immediately, and may be subject to suspension, sanctions and possibly termination from use of the club.

- 3.14 Be aware of and courteous to other shooters. If a range you wish to use is occupied, ask if you may join shooters already using the range, or wait until they are finished. If you are using a range, make it available to other shooters if possible and make it safe for all to use.
- 3.15 If you have questions about a firearm you intend to shoot, or if you are unfamiliar with any range procedures, ask the **RSO** on duty. If none is present, do not shoot until you are able to have your questions answered.
- 3.16 It is highly advised that you wash your hands and face as soon as possible after shooting and/or cleaning your firearm.
- 3.17 Range equipment stored in the target shed, **RSO** Shack and unsecured outdoor locations are for everyone's use and enjoyment unless otherwise noted. All equipment stored in the old indoor range building is reserved for the practical shooters matches and **SHALL** not be used under any circumstances. You will need to get the RSO on duty to open certain buildings during public hours. Always return range equipment, target stands, spotting scopes, mats, unused targets, silhouettes, etc. to their proper places.
- 3.18 Report any damaged range equipment to the **RSO** on duty.
- 3.19 If you notice damaged range equipment outside of the public hours, a report should be made to the WLGC Officials by emailing thewlgc@gmail.com.
- 3.20 Shooters are expected to clean up after themselves. Clean up all trash, used targets, expended shotgun hulls and return the range back to a clean state.
- 3.21 In addition to these rules and policies, other rules and policies may be posted from time to time in and around club property. Such posted policies shall be followed at all times.
- 3.22 **Range equipment stored in the pistol bays around the red & green Conex SHALL NOT be used by WLGC members or the public. This equipment is specifically used during and for approved matches.**
- 3.23 All gun club range equipment, props, benches, etc. available to **WLGC** members and the public should be treated with respect.
- 3.24 No specialty equipment, props, etc. may be used without permission.
- 3.25 If you damage club property by accident, you should volunteer to pay for damages. ANYONE caught damaging club property could face serious sanctions up to and including expulsion from the club or civil/criminal prosecution.
- 3.26 **At no time may any member of the club store personal belongings at the range.**
- 3.27 Please note, the south pistol bays are subject to flooding. When the bays are wet, please do not drive into the bays. **You may never drive into Pistol Bay #6.** Your vehicle tires will leave ruts in the bays that will become a problem when the surface dries. The 100-yard bay grass parking area along with the trap range areas are also subject to rutting. If you are observed driving in a pistol bay or other parking areas and leaving ruts or destroying the surface, you will be financially liable and suspended from the club until full restitution is made.

Section 4. Indoor Range

- 4.1 This section will be revised with new rules & policies when appropriate.
- 4.2 Access to the building is restricted to WLGC Board Members, Range Safety Officers (RSO), Match Directors and Approved Contractors.
- 4.3 The building may only be used for other purposes with pre-approval of the WLGC Board.

Section 5. Specific Range Rules – Trap Range / North Pistol Bay

- 5.1 The trap range and the north pistol bay ranges cannot be used at the same time.
- 5.2 Both will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis except for scheduled matches and prior reservations.
- 5.3 If a member, or a guest during public hours, wishes to use either the trap range or the North Pistol Bay, please limit your time accordingly to allow others the use of the range.
- 5.4 ONLY shotguns may be used on the trap range.
- 5.5 Nothing larger than #7.0 shot may be used on the trap range.
- 5.6 The trap machine is available to use. Contact the on duty RSO for access.
- 5.7 The trap range has a maximum angle (right & left) that **SHALL NOT** exceed approximately 70 degrees from center each direction.
- 5.8 The north pistol bay is rimfire & centerfire pistol only.
- 5.9 Magnum loads **SHALL NOT** be used on the plate rack or on other steel targets belonging to the Club. All firing at steel targets shall be from a distance of 30' or greater for safety reasons.
- 5.10 All shooters are responsible to clean up all shotgun hulls and other trash when finished.

Section 6. Specific Range Rules – 100-yard range

- 6.1 Rifles firing rifle cartridges may only be used on the 100-yard range unless otherwise noted in other sections of this document.
 - 6.1.1 EXCEPTION; Pistol Caliber Carbine Rifles (PCC) that use centerfire pistol ammunition may be used on any range that allows centerfire pistols.
- 6.2 Shotgun slugs may be fired ONLY on the 100-yard range.
- 6.3 Rimfire Firearms, Centerfire Pistols & Revolvers are approved on the 100-yard range.
- 6.4 No rifles of .50 caliber or larger may be fired on any WLGC ranges. This does not apply to muzzle loaders and shotguns.
- 6.5 The hanging steel placed at approximately 100 yards in the center of the bay may be used for rifle practice.
- 6.6 Targets may be placed from 10 to 100 yards as long as the trajectory is such that the projectile hits the center of the back or side berms. Be aware of the height of the target prior to using it. Targets placed along a side berm shall be positioned in a manner that will not allow engagement beyond a 90-degree angle from the back berm.

Section 7. Specific Range Rules - Rimfire – .22 Shooting Gallery (Left Side of 100-Yard Bay)

- 7.1 Only .22 Long Rifle, .22 Long, and .22 short ammunition **SHALL** be allowed on the .22 Gallery. This includes Rimfire Pistols & Rifles.
- 7.2 Magnum .22 loads, .17 rimfire loads, centerfire loads, and any other ammunition not listed in Section 7.1 above **SHALL NOT** be used on the gallery plates.
- 7.3 All steel targets are designed for specific ammunition based on their construction. Use of ammunition more powerful than they are designed for **WILL DAMAGE OR DESTROY THEM**. Silhouette and reactive targets to the south on the 100-yard range are for .22 caliber rimfire (not magnum) ammunition only. Any .17 caliber rimfire and .22 magnum are far more destructive than .22 short or long rifle cartridges. They **SHALL NOT** be used on targets or ranges which are indicated for .22 rimfire only.
- 7.4 If you are responsible for any damage to these or any other Plates or Targets throughout the Club that have a specified ammunition limitation you will be held financially responsible for the repair or replacement.

Section 8. Specific Range Rules - South Pistol Bays (Bay 1 through Bay 6)

- 8.1 The south pistol bays shall be used for target practice and plinking.
- 8.2 The south pistol bays are closed during sanctioned matches for set up and **SHALL NOT** be used during those scheduled matches or during set up. Prior to planning a visit to the WLGC please check our calendar for scheduled matches which is available for viewing at www.westlibertygunclub.org/calendar
- 8.3 Range equipment stored in the pistol bays around the Red & Green Conex containers **SHALL NOT** be used by club members or the public. This equipment is specifically used during approved matches only.
- 8.4 Center fire rifles which are chambered for the following cartridges, and **ONLY** the following cartridges, **SHALL** be allowed in Pistol Bay 6 **ONLY**:
 1. 5.56x45mm NATO
 2. .223 Remington
 3. .300 Blackout (a/k/a .300 AAC or .300 AAC Blackout)
 4. 7.62x**39**mm (i.e., the cartridge developed for use in the SKS and AK-47 families of rifles and other Soviet weapons systems – **NOT** 7.62x51mm NATO, .308 Winchester, 7.62x54R, or any other rifle cartridge which happens to fire a 7.62mm projectile).
 5. 5.45x39mm
 6. .30 Carbine
 7. 7.92x33mm Kurz (a/k/a 8mm Kurz)
 8. 30-30 Winchester
 - 8.4.1 Persons using the Pistol Bays who are unsure whether their weapon fires one of these allowed cartridges **SHALL** verify the cartridge's allowance or disallowance under this rule with a Range Officer **PRIOR** to firing the weapon in Pistol Bay 6. Misunderstanding of the descriptions above **SHALL NOT** be an excuse for violating this rule.
 - 8.4.2 Additionally, shotgun loads firing projectiles larger than No. 7 ½ birdshot, including buckshot and slugs, may also be used in Pistol Bay 6 **ONLY**.
 - 8.4.3 In addition to being restricted to Pistol Bay 6 **ONLY**, center fire rifles and shotgun loads firing projectiles larger than No. 7 ½ birdshot, when used in Pistol Bay 6, **SHALL NOT** be fired at **ANY** steel targets of any kind whatsoever under any circumstances, **INCLUDING** personally owned steel targets as well as WLGC-owned and WLPS-owned steel.
 - 8.4.4 For all purposes under Rules 8.4 and 8.5 and all of their subsections, the term "center fire rifle" **SHAL INCLUDE** any large format pistol chambered for center fire rifle cartridges, as well as any other firearm whatsoever that fires a center fire rifle cartridge.
- 8.5 Center fire rifles and buckshot, slugs, or other shotgun loads firing projectiles larger than No. 7 ½ birdshot **SHALL NOT** be allowed in Pistol Bay 1 through Pistol Bay 5. All other Pistol Bay Rules **SHALL** apply.
 - 8.5.1 **EXCEPTION**: During organized practical shooter matches or other events under the direct supervision of a match director, a match range officer, or an instructor specifically permitted to hold a class on Club property, such authority may allow the use of center fire rifles and/or buckshot, slugs, or other shotgun loads firing projectiles larger than No. 7 ½ birdshot in Pistol Bay 1 through Pistol Bay 6 and additionally, notwithstanding Rule 8.4.3, may allow the firing of such weapons at steel targets.
- 8.6 Steel targets **SHALL** be used only in the westernmost pistol bays (Bays 4, 5 & 6).

- 8.7 Under NO circumstances should shots be made from any position not having side berms extending behind the shooter on both sides.
- 8.8 Cardboard Targets & steel targets **SHALL** be placed as far forward into the pistol bays as possible. Shooting at steel targets **SHALL** be done at a minimum of 30' for safety reasons.
- 8.9 All shots should strike the back or side berm or an approved steel or paper target. All other Pistol Bay Rules **SHALL** apply. Targets placed along a side berm shall be positioned in a manner that will not allow engagement beyond a 90-degree angle from the back berm.
- 8.10 **Please leave the pistol bays cleaner than you found them. Return all equipment to its proper place and dispose of all trash. Do not leave targets stands in the pistol bays.**

Section 9. EXCEPTIONS to WLGC Range Safety Rules

- 9.1 During scheduled matches, the pistol bays are considered as COLD RANGES. Carry permit holders **SHALL NOT** be allowed to have their firearm on their person. No loaded firearms are permitted except at a designated location or on the **firing line** under the supervision of match personnel.
- 9.2 During sanctioned matches those rules shall apply to all competitors.
- 9.3 During sanctioned matches firearms may be placed in a loaded ready condition outside the reach or control of the shooter. These conditions are monitored and directed by match staff per specific sanctioning body rules.
- 9.4 During scheduled and approved training classes, additional ammunition types or usage in Specific Ranges may be authorized.

Section 10. Recommended Sanctions for Rule Violations

- 10.1 Violation of any Rule is a serious matter which may incur unacceptable risk of harm to persons or to WLGC or WLPS property. Recommended sanctions for violations of the Rules are as follows:
 - 1. For a Rule violation that does not cause, or create a risk of, serious harm to persons or damage to property, a three-month membership suspension in addition to a requirement that the offending member successfully complete the orientation course and test again.
 - 2. For a Rule violation that does cause, or create a risk of, serious harm to persons or damage to property, a six-month membership suspension in addition to a requirement that the offending member successfully complete the orientation course and test again.
 - 3. For a subsequent violation of a Rule after a previous violation was confirmed and sanctioned by the Board, a longer period of suspension up to and including a lifetime membership ban.
 - 4. For non-members (for example, guests of members or public hours guests) who violate a Rule, a period of mandatory absence from WLGC premises, with return to the premises during such period being considered trespassing.
 - 5. These sanctions are recommendations only and do not in any way abrogate or amend the Bylaws of West Liberty Gun Club. The Board remains free to impose lesser or greater sanctions as determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the Bylaws. For example, persons who contact WLGC personnel taking responsibility for a violation or take other voluntary action to mitigate a violation should likely face lesser sanctions than those who do not do so; those whose violation involves criminal conduct or particularly flagrant unsafe conduct, is a subsequent violation of the same Rule previously violated at an earlier time by that person, or causes severe harm to persons or property should likely be subject to greater sanctions.

Section 11. (This section is reserved for future use)

11.1 Reserved

BE SAFE!

SAFETY FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS

(Revised 7.26.2023 by Vice President Austin Collins)