

Putnam County Gun Club Rules

The 4 rules of Gun Safety

Treat all guns as if they are always loaded.

Never let the muzzle cover anything that you are not willing to destroy.

Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target and you have made the decision to shoot.

Be sure of your target and what lies beyond it.

1. Members must always lock the gate and check in and out at the registration hut when entering & leaving club property. Check the ID badge of a member before you pass the gate lock to him or her. Never give the lock or combination number to any non-member except in the case of an emergency.
2. All member guests; non-member competitors and spectators must complete and sign our waiver form located on the website or in the registration hut. Completed forms must be deposited in the mailbox inside the registration hut.
3. Members must have badge with them and produce badge if asked. The member must be present with all family & guests at the range being used and must be within an arms distance of a minor while shooting. Member is responsible for the actions of the entire party. If a member cannot or will not produce their badge when asked and current membership cannot be verified, the member will be asked to leave.
4. The badged member is responsible for choosing the appropriate shooting range, firearm, target, and firearm support aids (such as sandbags) so that the members in the party can successfully strike the target & backstop without skips, or misses.
5. The following items are prohibited on the grounds: alcohol, illegal drugs; legal drugs that impair judgment or ability; tracers; incendiary materials and exploding targets (Tannerite). Please leave these items at home or locked in your vehicle.
6. Club property is a game sanctuary and shooting or attempting to shoot at wildlife is strictly prohibited.
7. All members must always wear eye protection while at the range. Hearing protection is mandatory for all shooters and spectators on or near the firing line.
8. With the exception of the action pistol bays, the firing line is the downrange edge of concrete pad, shelter support poles, anchored tables, or as designated by a signage. In the action pistol bays a member can designate the firing line as long as all parties in the group know where the firing line is and no one behind the shooter handles any firearms.
9. Firearms may only be uncased or unholstered at the firing line or designated safety areas.
10. All firearms must be unloaded, action open, safely placed on a table (or cased) and remain out of arms reach when a cease fire is called and before anyone goes down range. The other shooters must acknowledge the command & may retrieve brass or go down range as well. No firearms shall be handled. A cased firearm may be transported.
11. The shooter is responsible for each round fired. All rounds must be deliberately aimed to impact the backstop and all shots fired must be straight towards approved targets (90 degrees +/- 10° to firing line). Shooting cross range is strictly prohibited. Approved targets include paper, cardboard, bio-degradable skeet, and steel. Unapproved targets include, but are not limited to bottles, cans, rolling & skipping targets and exploding targets.
12. Steel targets must be placed at least 7 yards from the firing line for pistols, birdshot and buckshot. Steel targets must be placed at least 100 yards for rifle caliber ammunition (bottle-neck cartridges) and shotgun slugs. Shooting PCGC steel with armor piercing (steel core, penetrator), 338 Lapua, 50 BMG, or any ammo that damages PCGC steel is strictly prohibited. When shooting at any steel target, please periodically check the targets for damage. If for any reason your bullets appear to be damaging the target; stop shooting that target and notify our Executive Officer so that the target can be repaired or replaced if needed.
13. Bottleneck rifle cartridges are not allowed on the Cowboy or Liberty ranges without written authorization from an officer of the executive board. Requests must be made 48 hours in advance.
14. Full-auto fire is allowed with written authorization from an officer of the executive board. Requests must be made 48 hours in advance.

Recommendations

For members convenience please visit our website before coming to PCGC for the latest information on range usage, conditions or closures. View the bulletin boards and laminated signs for any updates and important messages.

If possible, report inappropriate behavior and rule violations to an officer at your earliest convenience. Please try to obtain a badge number or license plate number so that we may follow up on your report.

Notable Additions and Changes

We have added the 4 rules of gun safety. Please follow these rules every time you handle a firearm anywhere. It is nearly impossible to have a gun related injury if you learn and follow these rules.

1. Members must sign in and out at the registration hut. Most everyone is doing a great job with this already, but it is new to the rules and has several important reasons. We have already had one shooter leave an expensive range at the rifle range and we were able to get ahold of him to let him know before he realized it was missing.
2. No real change.
3. Instead of wearing your badge at all times, we are going to allow you to just have your badge with you and then produce it if asked. This is how our safety officers can verify that you are a current member and on our insurance. Also, this will verify that you have your gate combination with you and do not get locked in by mistake.
4. No real change.
5. We have removed armor piercing (steel core) bullets, shotgun slugs and buckshot from the prohibited list. You may shoot armor piercing bullets at approved paper targets only.
6. No real change.
7. No real change.
8. Clarified the firing line in the action pistol bays.
9. Clarified where guns are allowed to be uncased or unholstered.
10. No real change.
11. No real change.
12. It is now legal to shoot the steel on the Cowboy Range with jacketed bullets from handguns and shotgun birdshot and buckshot. Most of the steel on the Cowboy Range has been switched to AR500 through the years and very little damage should occur. There is some mild steel being used mostly for shotgun targets that we will change out as it becomes damaged. If you are shooting higher power handgun cartridges and notice damage to the targets, please pick another target to try. DO NOT continue to damage the targets. Also, it is important to note that while steel is reactive and fun to shoot, it also causes a lot more splatter to come back at the shooter. WEAR YOUR SAFETY GLASSES.
13. This rule is more important for what it doesn't say. You are now approved to shoot rifle caliber ammunition on all ranges EXCEPT the Cowboy Range and Liberty Range. This is a good time to point out that target height is very important. You need to set your targets at a height so that all rounds that pass-through impact the rear berm. If you are seated, your targets will typically have to be lower (around 30-36"). If you are standing, your targets will typically need to be placed at shoulder height. When targets are not placed at the correct height, bullets impact the ground before the rear berm and can skip off of PCGC property. If you have any questions about this, please speak to someone from the Executive Board and we will help in any way we can.
14. There are 2 reasons for needing to notify an officer of the Executive Board if you would like to shoot full auto at PCGC. One is to verify that the shooter understands that all rounds at PCGC must be deliberately aimed fire at approved targets. We have had people practice poor marksmanship in the past while shooting full-auto and PCGC property was damaged. And the second is that in the past we have had neighbors report full auto fire to the Sheriff's Department. In this instance, if the Sheriff's Department gives us a call it is nice to be able to tell them who is shooting and let them know that we knew in advance.