

**MADISON COUNTY SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION (MCSSA)
RANGE RULES**

HOURS OF OPERATION:

MCSSA members may shoot any day between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Members shooting on a weekday will ensure they are accompanied by at least one other person that is at least 19 years of age. The second person necessary for the range to be in operation is not required to be a member of MCSSA or a shooting participant. This requirement is to ensure first aid can be administered and 911 dialed if there's an emergency.

The range will be open and a RANGEMASTER provided for non-members (the public) to shoot on Saturdays and Sundays, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., except for the weekends of Christmas and New Year's Day.

RANGE RULES:

The RANGEMASTER on duty is in complete charge of the range and has final authority for shooting activities on the range. No shooter, or group of shooters, is to utilize any part of the range without the authorization of the RANGEMASTER.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. If you observe any unsafe acts, or have any concerns, suggestions or questions about safety, contact the RANGEMASTER.

Failure to abide by these rules may result in your dismissal from the range and, if you're a member, of the MCSSA. The Madison County Sheriff's Office may be contacted if any shooter appears to be intoxicated, under the influence of drugs, or is belligerent/uncooperative with the RANGEMASTER and/or other shooters. No alcohol or illicit drugs are permitted on range property, at any time, for any reason.

SAFETY RULES:

ALL RANGES:

1. **ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.** This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.

2. **ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.** When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.

3. **ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.** Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, if the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.

4. **Hearing and eye protection are MANDATORY FOR ALL SHOOTERS and PARTICIPANTS (i.e., coaches, scorekeepers, observers, etc.) on active ranges.**

Hearing and eye protection may be borrowed or purchased from the RANGEMASTER, if shooters and/or participants do not have any. Prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses (prescription or not) qualify as eye protection. Shooters should not wear open toes sandals or 'flip-flops' on the range, due to the danger of cuts due to separated bullet jackets. **To reiterate, hearing and eye protection must be worn at all times by everyone on an active range.**

5. Firearms are to remain cased or unloaded with actions open until reaching the firing line to shoot and the range is declared "**HOT.**" **Ensure the firearm is safe to operate and you are familiar with how to safely operate it.**

6. With the exception of the RANGEMASTER, (if he/she chooses to carry a firearm) no loaded firearms are allowed anywhere on the range, except at the firing positions.

7. When a cartridge fails to fire immediately, you may have a misfire or hang fire situation. If this occurs:

- Keep the firearm pointed downrange.
- Wait at least 30 seconds.
- If the firearm is equipped with a safety, if possible, place the firearm on "safe."
- Remove the magazine (if applicable), open the action or cylinder and remove the cartridge.
- Turn the round over to the RANGEMASTER. **DO NOT** throw live cartridges onto the ground, towards the berm or into the trash can or burn barrel to dispose of them.

8. Anyone observing an unsafe situation may call a **Cease Fire**. When the command “**Cease Fire**” is given:

- Stop shooting immediately.
- Remove your finger from the trigger and keep it outside of the trigger guard.
- Keep the firearm pointed down range.
- Wait for further instructions from the person calling the **Cease Fire**.

9. Children are not permitted at shooting positions or on active ranges unless they are under constant adult supervision while shooting and must also wear eye and ear protection. The minimum age to shoot is determined by the parent/guardian/adult with the child and the RANGEMASTER and is based on the maturity level of the child and his/her ability to operate a firearm in a safe manner.

10. Always wash face and hands immediately after shooting, handling ammunition and/or cleaning your firearm. Powder/lead residue and cleaning solvents may be harmful to your health if contact is made near your mouth, eyes and nose.

11. **In the event of a serious injury (i.e., gunshot wound), apply first aid and get immediate help. Call 911 and tell the 911 Dispatcher that you need immediate medical assistance at the shooting range at Sharon Johnston Park in New Market.**

PISTOL (50 YARD) RANGE:

1. All firearms (including black powder) will not be loaded until the range is declared **HOT**.

2. At least one shooter will state that the range is “**GOING HOT**” so all can hear and insure all individuals acknowledge that the range is **HOT** before firing. The command will be repeated, as necessary, down the firing line, so all can hear it. **All shooters will ensure everyone (including spectators) on the pistol range has eye and ear protection in place before firing commences.**

3. Before announcing that the “**LINE IS CLEAR**” and the range is **COLD**, shooters must ensure the following conditions are met:

- All firearms are unloaded with the safety on (if it has a safety), action open/locked to the rear, and magazine removed (if magazine fed). For semiautomatic, pump and lever action firearms, the slide/bolt/action must be locked to the rear and the chamber up so this can be visually verified by anyone on the range. For revolvers, the cylinder must be open and the firearm placed where the cylinder is up and can be verified by anyone on the range.
- **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL FIREARMS BE HANDLED WHILE ANYONE IS DOWNRANGE. THIS INCLUDES CASING/UNCASING OF FIREARMS.**
- All persons not downrange will remain behind the green (SAFE) line away from their firearms.

4. Shooting is only authorized at the firing points on the concrete pad. **Shooters will not move forward of the concrete pad (downrange) in order to shoot their firearm.**

5. **NO drawing from a holster (either concealed or open carry) is permitted.** This includes off duty law enforcement personnel.

6. Only paper and cardboard targets are allowed, except for the existing .22 caliber rimfire steel silhouette targets downrange at Firing Point 1. All other targets must be approved beforehand by the RANGEMASTER. Target stands, cardboard target backers and posts are furnished. Adjust target height position so rounds do not hit the baffles or posts/landscape timbers, but impact the back berm..

SHOTGUN RANGES:

1. Shotgun shooters will move between firing positions with the action open and the firearm unloaded.

2. Firearms will only be loaded while on the firing positions and with no more than two cartridges.

3. Ensure no one is in the skeet or trap houses on active fields before firing.

4. No one is to enter the shotgun range while that range is in use by other shooters. This includes all sidewalks, tables and benches on the range side of the sidewalk that runs behind all of the skeet ranges.

ALLOWABLE FIREARMS and AMMUNITION:

1. Rimfire (.17 and .22 caliber rifles), handguns with a barrel length of 12" or shorter, (.45 caliber or smaller), 12 gauge or smaller shotguns with any size shot or slugs, and black powder firearms are permitted on the pistol range. .17 cal Winchester Super Magnum rounds are **NOT** permitted.
2. Only shotguns, 12 gauge or smaller, using 2 ¾" shot shells (.410 may use 3" shells), with 7 ½" or smaller lead or steel shot are allowed on the skeet and trap ranges.
3. **Centerfire rifle shooting is not permitted on any range at any time. This includes carbines that use pistol caliber cartridges.**
4. No firearms that are capable of automatic firing (i.e., multiple shots from a single trigger pull) may be used on the range. This prohibition also includes trigger adjusters that permit multiple shots from a single trigger pull.
5. Pistols that use ammunition designed to be shot in rifles, such as .222, .308, or .30-30, etc., are not permitted on the range.
6. Tracer, incendiary, explosive, and armor piercing ammunition are not allowed at any time.
7. Fully automatic firearms are not permitted on the MCSSA range.

ALLOWABLE TARGETS

1. Paper targets attached to the target frames are the preferred target for use. Under no circumstances will targets be stapled to the landscaping timber in front of the posts on the pistol range.
2. Explosive or exploding targets are prohibited on the range.
3. No glass, metal, or plastic will be placed on the ground as targets. Bowling pins may be used, but only if on a table that raises them high enough that the bullets will hit the back berm.
4. Metallic targets (e.g., spinners, etc.) and plastic targets (i.e., 'bouncers') may be used, but must be placed at the base of the back berm.
5. Targets must be placed in the same lane as the shooter.

RANGE OPERATIONS:

1. Whenever the range is in operation, the RANGEMASTER will ensure the gate and range building will be open and the telephone tested to ensure it's operational.
2. The maximum number of shooters per round of skeet is six and for trap is five. If a group exceeds these numbers, the RANGEMASTER must approve the exemption.
3. Skeet/trap shooters are to utilize a range for one cycle. At the end of a cycle, the range is to be made available to waiting groups, at the RANGEMASTER's discretion.
4. Match directors make the final decisions during any matches.
5. Anyone under 18 years of age must be supervised by at least one person 19 years of age or older, while on the range property. If the accompanying adult is not a parent or legal guardian of the minor, then a completed and signed authorization/waiver from the parent or legal guardian must either be on file at the range or presented to the RANGEMASTER. This includes organized groups/functions (i.e., Boy Scouts of America). A single adult may accompany no more than two youths on the pistol range or a single squad (maximum of six youths) on the shotgun ranges.
6. All shooters and participants must display consideration and courtesy while on range property. Please respect the rights and concerns of your fellow shooters. Vulgar, offensive, or obscene language will not be tolerated.
7. Members and guests are to conduct themselves as they would like others to act while on the range property. MCSSA members bringing their guests on weekdays are responsible for ensuring their guests obey all rules and sign liability release forms.
8. **Leave the range clean after using it. All shooters are to clean up the range at the completion of their shooting session and prior to leaving the range.** Leave the range as you would like to find it and make it pleasurable for everyone, by accomplishing the following:
 - Sweep all unwanted brass onto the gravel area in front of the concrete pad.
 - Place unwanted shotgun hulls in the trash can on the front porch of the range office, that's provided for this purpose.
 - Return all target backers and target bases to the concrete pad when shooting is complete.
 - Return any borrowed range equipment (staplers, hearing/eye protection, etc. to the RANGEMASTER).
 - **DO NOT throw or leave any garbage on the ground. This includes cigarette butts, cleaning patches, empty cartridge/shot shell boxes, etc.**