

**Range Rules
and
Safety Plan**

of the

CUERO SPORTSMANS CLUB, INC.

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CUERO SPORTSMANS CLUB, INC.

Range Rules and Safety Plan

Overview

This safety plan has been established to ensure the safety of those individuals who use this facility and the community at large. The rules and regulations in this document are to ensure the continuity of this facility and the continued safety of users and neighbors of this facility.

The use of the real and personal property of the Cuero Sportsman Club, Inc. ("Club" or "CGC") is a privilege and the improper use of firearms is an inherently dangerous activity. Your activities and actions must always be conducted in a manner that is consistent to safeguard yourself and others against harm or injury, and property against damage and destruction. The rules in this safety plan shall be adhered to in order to protect the lives and safety of all and preserve your privilege.

Failure to follow the rules in this safety plan will result in punishment from the Executive Committee of Cuero Sportsman Club, Inc. The Officers, Range Officers or Directors-at-Large shall have the authority to take immediate action to temporarily suspend range privileges of users found violating the Range Rules and Safety Plan rules pending action after investigation, hearing and action by a majority of the Executive Committee. Violations of these rules can lead to temporary suspension from the Club, revocation of membership and termination in use and privileges. Trespass charges for violation of any of these suspensions or restrictions may be presented by the Executive Committee.

This document was developed using "*The NRA Range Source Book*". The structure of this document and the Gun Handling Rules are taken from "*The NRA Range Source Book*". These rules comply with the recommendations of the NRA.

Section 1 - Gun Handling Rules

SAFETY AND PROPER GUN HANDLING ARE OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE IN AVOIDING ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES.

1.1 Always keep the muzzle of the firearm pointed in a safe direction. A “safe” direction is defined as downrange towards the target area or straight up.

1.2 Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire.

1.3 Keep the action open and the firearm unloaded until ready to use. Rifles and shotguns may be placed in the racks during a cease-fire and when not in use. Break action shotguns may be closed while in the rack, but must be opened as soon as they are removed from the rack. All other shotgun and rifle action types shall have the action open while on the range or in the rack unless the shooter is on a station and ready to shoot.

1.4 Be aware of your target and what is beyond. Yield to all traffic on the road or adjacent range.

1.5 **Eye and hearing protection is REQUIRED** for everyone on all the ranges while the range is “HOT”. Eye protection is defined as lenses covering your eyes. Half-glass frames (*reading glasses*) are not appropriate eye protection. Eye protection should be worn so it covers your eyes. Hearing protection should be worn over or in the ears. A hat or cap of some sort is recommended, but not required.

1.6 Do not mix alcohol or drugs with shooting activities. **Alcohol consumption is prohibited until shooter has completed firing and gun is secured for travel.** If a person is taking a prescription, over the counter drug bearing a warning about operating machinery, driving etc., or any substance which adversely affects their individual performance, that person will refrain from engaging in shooting activities until free from the effects of the drug or substance.

1.7 Be sure your firearm and ammunition are compatible. Carry only the correct gauge or caliber shells for the shotgun, rifle or handgun you are currently shooting. When switching to a different gauge or caliber of weapon, separate and secure the ammunition that was previously being used.

Section 2 - General Range Rules

2.0 Definitions -

Range Definitions. As used in these Rules: Skeet, Trap, Country Doubles, and other type of ranges established to NORMALLY fire shotguns are differentiated from rifle or handgun ranges. The term "Shotgun Range" will refer to any permanent range reserved for the firing of a shotgun; specifically, those for skeet, trap and country doubles, including any temporary range set up for use in firing a shotgun.

50-yard pistol/rifle "short" range: Weapons are to be fired at ranges **not to exceed 50 yards** on this "short" range. Both rim-fire rifles and all-caliber handguns may be fired on this short range; however, ALL targets must be placed in close proximity to the berm/backstop. **Shotgun usage is not permitted on this range.** Enforcement of this policy may be at the discretion of any attending Range Officer.

100-yard pistol/rifle "long" range: Weapons may be fired at ranges **not to exceed 100 yards** on this "long" range. Both rifles and pistols may be fired on this long range. **Shotguns are not permitted on this range.** ALL targets must be placed in close proximity to the berms/backstops. Enforcement of this policy may be at the discretion of any attending Range Officer.

2.1 Know where others are at all times. The downrange (target) area shall be checked before any firing commences. Non-shooters must be in the safety zones immediately behind the current shooting station or completely off the range before loading or shooting commences. Due to the close proximity of the various ranges, it is essential that each shooter maintains muzzle control and ensures the ranges are clear prior to shooting.

2.2 Remove the magazine, cartridges, shells, snap caps, or hulls from any part of your firearm in use. Unload the chamber, open the action and rack all firearms during a cease fire.

2.3 Skeet Shooting: Two shells may be loaded on all stations with the exception of Station #8. *On Station #8 only one shell may be loaded; except, at shooter's option, one or two shells may be loaded on Low #8.* At no time will more than two shells be loaded in a shotgun on any Trap, Skeet, Country Doubles or other shotgun range.

2.4 Do not load or fire your rifle, handgun or shotgun unless you are on or at an established or provisional shooting station. A weapon is considered loaded when the chamber or any part of the weapon is occupied by a cartridge, shell or hull, and shall be treated as a loaded weapon.

2.5 Weapons will be unloaded and the action will be open before stepping off the firing station/line. During skeet, country doubles or trap shooting, if a gun or trap malfunction occurs or the house runs out of birds the shotgun will be completely unloaded and action opened before any shooter steps off the station or before anyone traverses the range outside the safety zone.

2.6 If a shell misfires: keep the weapon pointed downrange for a minimum of 30 seconds before unloading. It is recommended that misfired shells not be placed in your pocket or pouch containing other ammunition.

2.7 On the skeet, country doubles or trap ranges, no hand held or portable traps may be used. No unauthorized devices or equipment may be used on, attached or connected to Skeet/Trap/Country Double Range equipment. Exceptions may be granted by Executive Committee members, including Range Officers.

2.8 Any shooter whose weapon accidentally discharges for mechanical reasons shall be required to change weapons or, if time permits, make repairs before continuing to shoot.

2.9 All Ranges should be kept clear of grass, leaves, or debris to prevent rounds or hulls being dropped in areas around the shooting stations that could obscure a live round. These areas shall be cleared before the range is used.

2.10 On the Skeet/Trap/Country Doubles ranges, only one shooter may fire at a time, and only one shot per clay (target) is permitted. Special events requiring other types of shooting must be approved by the Range Officer or the Executive Committee.

2.11 Targets: The following rules apply:

- a. ONLY paper or approved metal targets are to be used on the rifle/handgun ranges. Glass, metallic or plastic bottles, metal cans and improvised targets are NOT permitted.

- b. The use of explosive or detonating targets or substances is expressly prohibited due to the extreme safety hazard of using same in a gravel area.
- c. Metallic targets and stands have been installed in both rifle and pistol/ rim fire ranges. Rules appropriate to those specific ranges apply. Backstops/Berms: The targets are to be placed close to the backstops/berms to prevent and/or minimize ricochets.
- d. Targets ARE NOT to be placed at mid-range distances, or any other distance from the backstop, other than adjacent/contiguous to the backstop/berm. **This is essential to prevent potential accidents, ricochets and injuries.**
- e. No Club property, including chairs, benches, tables, etc., is to be used as targets or target stands.
- f. Handguns and rifles may only be fired on the pistol/rifle ranges, at an approved target. No rifle/handgun shots are to be fired except at approved targets, using the backstops, as previously noted.
- g. USE CAUTION when firing at targets attached to target stands. DO NOT shoot at the target stands themselves.

2.12. **Hunting is PROHIBITED on Club property.**

Section 3 - Specific Range Rules

3.0 Automatic/semi-automatic firearms: (1) The use of ANY full-automatic weapon on club property is restricted to Law Enforcement Personnel in the process of maintaining their proficiency certification, under supervision of their certifying officer. The use of rapid-fire devices (bump stocks, special trigger devices, etc.) is prohibited. Firearms so equipped may be used if locked into a conventional semi-automatic mode, i.e. one trigger pull, one round discharged. This is a demonstrated safety issue, violators will be disciplined.

3.1 All members should be instructed by a knowledgeable member or Club Officer in the use and loading of the clay throwing machines to ensure all safety and operating procedures are known and understood. You are charged with the duty, after shooting, to:

- a. Turn off the machine.
- b. Release the arms of the clay throwing machines
- c. Reload each clay throwing machine with clay birds.
- d. Load new clays to each house so there are not less than 8 boxes for use.
- e. Sweep out the house, remove and dispose of empty boxes and trash.
- f. Shut/close the trap doors.

- g. After shooting, and before leaving the Trap, Country Doubles or Skeet Ranges, roll up the release cords and place them in the storage facilities
- h. Lock the clay throwing houses
- i. DO NOT attempt to adjust, modify, or repair any clay target throwing machine. Report the malfunction or repair requirement to a Club Officer or deposit a note in the cash box, describing the malfunction or repair requirement.

3.2 No shot size larger than #7½ shall be used on the skeet/trap/country doubles (shotgun) ranges, no tracer or incendiary type shells shall be used. Permitted shot size is restricted to sizes 7½, 8, 8 ½, and 9 only. This rule is mandated by safety requirements and there are no exceptions. Violators will be subject to suspension of privileges upon the Club property, whether temporary or permanent, and trespassing charges may be presented to those who violate any suspension.

3.3 Only legal, modern-style 12, 16, 20, 28 gauge and .410 bore shotguns may be fired on the Ranges: and, specifically, this is to include and be limited to single-shot, over/under, side-by-side, pump-action and auto-loading or semi-auto action guns. Under no circumstances shall handguns (pistols/revolvers), rifles or black powder rifles or shotguns be used on the skeet/trap/country doubles ranges.

3.4 Skeet, Country Doubles and Trap Ranges: Only clay targets may be used. Other targets must be approved by the Range Officer or other Executive Committee member.

3.5 Skeet, Country Doubles and Trap Ranges: Shooters may not advance to the next station until all shooters in the group have completed the current shooting station. Shooters waiting and spectators must be in the safety zone behind the current station. Shooters and spectators may not be on the walkways between shooting stations during any shooting activity. Spectators may also observe from the shelter.

3.6 The use of the trap/skeet/country doubles fields shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes or one regulation round of skeet, country doubles or trap if other groups are waiting to use a Trap, Country Double or Skeet Range. Rifle/handgun ranges are to be shared and no member is to be excluded from participating in the use of the ranges. The use of the rifle/pistol ranges is to be limited to thirty (30) minutes if others are waiting to use the field. Generally, as a courtesy to other shooters, shooting squads should not exceed five (5) members.

- 3.7 All ranges, including Rifle/Handgun and Shotgun Ranges:
- a. The targets on the rifle/handgun ranges are to be removed, any **trash picked up** and the **area left clean** for the next shooter.
 - b. Use paper or authorized metal targets only.
 - c. DO NOT use metallic cans, glass or plastic bottles, or other unauthorized targets. Also, the use of explosive or detonating targets or substances is expressly prohibited.
 - d. Remove targets from stands when shooting session is completed and properly dispose.
 - e. **Pick up and properly dispose all trash including spent ammunition.**
 - f. **DO NOT shoot the target stands, target holders, chairs, tables, etc.**

3.8 **You are responsible to clean up the ranges** when you have completed your shooting. All rifle/handgun cartridges (“brass”) and all shotgun hulls must be removed from the range surface and disposed of in an appropriate manner. Empty clay boxes and other large containers shall be removed from the Range and placed in either a trash can, recycle bin or the designated burn pit.

3.9 **Do not dispose of live rounds of ammunition in the trash containers, as they may explode if burned.**

3.10 All persons on the shotgun ranges will refrain from passing in front, or conducting activities in an area in front, of the open house window where one is in danger of being struck by a clay target; this is especially possible to occur at the Skeet Low-House Station 7 and the Country Doubles Field.

Section 4 - Administrative Range Rules

4.1 **Club members are responsible for any guests they may bring on Club property.** This includes making the guest aware of all range rules and regulations before that guest uses the range facilities. Additionally, the Executive Committee shall establish and post a fee schedule for the use of the Club’s facilities, including all ranges. (See *Attachment “A”* for current fees)

4.2 **All members and their guests must sign-in at either the sign-in sheet on the front porch of the Clubhouse or the Rifle/Rimfire-Handgun ranges.** Members or their guests who are

found on the premises and who have not signed in, will be asked to sign-in or leave the premises. **Non-Members found on the Club property without the accompany of a member may be charged with trespass.**

4.3 Your **Membership ID card furnished at sign-up time is to be prominently displayed at all times on your person while on the Club property.** Members, guests or visitors who fail to identify themselves to a Range Officer, Club Member or any Executive Committee Member or leave the range when asked may be subject to temporary/permanent suspension of privileges or may be charged with trespassing.

4.4 Any designated Range Officer controls the range. All directives from that person or their representatives must be followed immediately. Appeals of the directives may be brought to Executive Committee, but the directive must be followed at the time it is given, unless doing so would endanger the safety of people on the range. All members of the Executive Committee are *de-facto* Range Officers and it is the incumbent duty of all members to see that conduct on the ranges is complicit with these Range Rules and Safety Plan.

4.5 Animals (pets) are not allowed in the range area without a leash or being under owner control. Wild or domestic animals that may enter the range area shall be run off, not by shooting at them. If a wild or domestic animal enters the range area, a cease-fire shall be called until the animal is off the range.

4.6 Hours of Operation for the range facility are generally restricted to daylight hours from sunrise to sunset.

4.7 Hours of Operations on Sunday is also restricted to daylight hours from sunrise to sunset.

4.8 Fires, open flames, propane or charcoal-fueled cooking devices are prohibited on the Range and associated facilities, except in designated areas.

4.9 Club facilities may be reserved by groups, if approved by the Executive Committee and acceptance of a facilities use agreement as defined in the By-Laws. All reservations, special or group activities must be coordinated through the Executive Committee. Exceptions to range rules may be granted by the Executive Committee as needed by special

groups using the range. The Executive Committee will not grant exceptions to Gun Handling Rules in Section 1.

4.10 Every member using the ranges or facilities is responsible to ensure the rules are followed. Everyone shall report violations of these Range Rules and Safety Plan and/or unsafe circumstances to a Range Officer or other member of the Executive Committee. Confidentiality of the person making the report will be maintained if requested and circumstances so warrant the confidentiality.

4.11 No notices or signage shall be posted on any part of the ranges or facility without the permission of the Executive Committee. The only exception is a notice of a safety problem may be posted. If a safety notice is posted the Executive Committee or any member is to be notified immediately.

4.12 All members must acknowledge receipt of this Range Rules and Safety Plan, including acknowledgment of the proper use and operation of the skeet/trap/doubles and rifle/handgun ranges.

4.13 A member of the Executive Committee shall be notified whenever 911 is called or emergency response personnel are called to the Range or Club property; or for any incident requiring medical attention, even after the fact. The physical location of the Club property: **902 East Bailey Street**, shall be posted in the along with a listing of phone numbers for contact of people who need to be notified.

4.14 No construction on, alteration to, digging or depositing of soil, planting or removal of vegetation or any modification to the range and or related facilities is allowed without the prior approval of the Executive Committee.

4.15 An Executive Committee member will have final authority on all Club/Range facilities and their use.

4.16 These rules may be changed, amended, or rescinded at any time with majority vote and approval of the Executive Committee. Any permanent changes will be finalized in accordance with the "rules" procedures of the Club's By-laws.

4.17 All federal, state, and local laws in addition to Club Rules and Safety Plan and regulations shall be obeyed while on Club property, including the Ranges.

4.18 All Club members must be at least **21** years old. All Club members' families and guests must be accompanied by the Club member when visiting the Club's facilities. **NO family member or guest, under 21 years old may be left alone or unaccompanied whenever on the Club grounds and premises, whether shooting or not. The adult member must maintain constant and immediate supervision of minors and guests.**

4.19 **Members hosting guests/minors (including family) will be limited to no more than four (4) active shooters plus the member/host at any range/field.**

4.20 Charged Duty to Member in Proper Use of Facilities and Premises:

- a. Ensure the entrance gate is shut and locked with the chain if you are the last person leaving the premises.
- b. Ensure the Clubhouse is secured, by:
 1. stove, fans, air conditioners, etc., are turned off
 2. door and windows are closed and locked

4.21 **Recreational riding of ATV's, 4-wheelers, golf carts or any like-motorized or utility vehicle is EXPRESSY PROHIBITED** except that same may be used for (a) use in transport of clays from storage to the field houses and transport of maintenance/building materials, (b) use in service for trash disposal and landscape services, (c) use by the handicapped and (d) use in club-organized events. This does not pre-empt use of motorized wheelchairs by the handicapped.