

Pemigewasset Valley Fish and Game Club, Inc.

Range Rules

Approved July, 2014



Pemigewasset Fish and Game Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 38, Plymouth, NH 03264

www.pemi.org

mail@pemi.org

GUN SAFETY RULES

1. Treat all firearms as though they are loaded.
2. Always point muzzle down range.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target - - - and what's beyond.

Safety First, Safety Last, Safety Always



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Club Goals

Promotion and preservation of the shooting sports
Conservation of habitat, fish, and wildlife
Good sportsmanship, safety, and outdoor ethics
Proper management of fish and wildlife resources

Introduction

To meet the Club Goals, the president, officers, and members of the Pemigewasset Valley Fish & Game Club, Inc. seek to provide a safe environment for our Club activities. We have adopted the rules in this booklet to ensure the safety of members and guests and to promote the enjoyable use of the Club and its grounds.

Safe gun handling and good sportsmanship are the obligation of every member and guest everywhere on Club property. The rules listed below must be followed without exception. In addition, confrontational language including yelling, derision, and/or profanity will not be tolerated on the Club grounds. Any behavior which has the potential of causing an accident or creating a hostile environment is prohibited. Club officers, directors and assigned range officers are authorized to remove any person whose behavior is detrimental to the safety of members, guests, and Club facilities.

Shooters must know and follow all range rules. There will be rule changes from time to time; these will be posted at the ranges, and shooters must read and follow posted signs.

Members may contact a Club officer or a board member with questions by referring to our web site, www.pemi.org, or sending email to mail@pemi.org. The phone numbers of Club officers and directors will be posted at the ranges.

Who May Use the Ranges

1. **Only Pemi Fish and Game shooting members with a current year badge are allowed to shoot at the Club's ranges, except at Club-sanctioned events.**
2. Persons under 18 years of age must be supervised by an adult 18 years or older at all times everywhere on Club grounds.
3. Persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult on any firing range, with these exceptions:
 - a. Members ages 16 and 17 are allowed upon presentation of a certificate that they have passed a Hunter or Bow hunter Education course
 - b. Members age 16 and over may shoot on the archery range without adult supervision.
4. Guests are welcome to watch but not allowed to shoot. Members are responsible for their non-shooting guests and are to explain the Club and range rules to them and are responsible for compliance with the rules.
5. Members shall wear their membership badge at all times on the range. (A badge will be mailed to all renewing and new members will receive a badge holder when the application is processed).
6. Refusal to identify oneself will be due cause for any person to be asked to leave the Club property.

Penalties for violations of any of the Club rules shall vary from a warning to expulsion.

Please note: hunting is allowed on Club property with the exception of a 300 foot setback from the clubhouse and the covered firing line. The acreage is not posted.

Range Hours of Operation

1. The indoor range is available to key holding members and members accompanying them from 08:00 AM to 9:00 PM daily except for Club sanctioned events.
2. The outdoor rifle and pistol ranges are open every day from 08:00 AM to one half hour after sunset.
3. The trap range is open for member use from 8:00 AM to one half hour after sunset. Scheduled trap shooting under the lights may occur until 9:00 PM.
4. The archery ranges may be used at any hour.

Note that the Board may approve other hours of operation.

Note: Specific ranges may be closed for Club-sanctioned events. These events will be posted on the calendar available on the Club website www.pemi.org.

Logging In and Out at the Ranges

All members who use any range shall sign in before going onto the range and shall sign out when they are leaving the range.

Log books shall be maintained on all ranges. Each member shall record his/her name, membership number, the log-in date and time, the ranges used, the log-out time. Shooters shall indicate whether they are paying a daily range fee or have already paid the annual range fee. (Paying a daily range fee allows a member to use all of the Club's ranges for that day. Logging in and out at every range is required, paying the daily range fee is only required at the first range used that day. Whichever range the payment was made should be noted at each subsequent range.)

A non-shooting guest may accompany a Club member. The guest must log in and out, and write "guest" in the membership number column and "non-shooting" in the comment column. The Club member shall enter the name of the guest after his own and write "non-shooting guest". The host member is responsible to ensure that his guests follow all Club rules.

Participants in Club-sanctioned activities are exempt from the requirement to log in and out for these events.

Range Fees

There is a fee to use the ranges that is in addition to the basic membership fee. The fee amount is set by the Board of Directors and may change from time to time. Members can choose to pay a daily range fee or pay an annual range fee. This fee entitles the member to the use of all Club ranges not in use for an event sanctioned by the Board of Directors. The daily fee allows use of all Club ranges for that day. The annual range fee, which must be pre-paid, allows unlimited use of Club ranges for the membership year. (Note: these fees do not apply for Club-sanctioned events).

Currently the range fees are as follows:

A. Annual Range Fee: \$75. For the **First** family member, \$50 for each **Additional** family member.

OR

B. Daily Range Fee: \$5.

- i. Minors ages 12 and under: NO RANGE FEE
- ii. Minors ages 13, 14 and 15: Range Fee \$2.00/day, or \$75 annual range fee
- iii. Ages 16 and older: Range Fee \$5.00/day or \$75 annual range fee
- iv. Non-members must be accompanied by a current member for a 1 Day Membership.

One Day members are to fill in the application provided and include \$5 for a 1 day membership and \$5 for the range fee, total \$10.

How to Become a Member with Range Privileges

Becoming a Pemi member is easy. There are two types of membership: the regular annual membership and a special one-day membership. There is a separate application form for each membership. A person becomes a member by filling out one of the membership application forms and paying the appropriate membership fee. Application forms are located at the range kiosk by the driveway to the ranges, at the indoor range, at the archery kiosk, at the trap range, and in the clubhouse. Badges will be mailed within two to three weeks.

For a one-day member, a current regular member, age 18 or over, must co-sign the application, must accompany the applicant, and is responsible for the one-day member's actions. Limit of 3 – 1 day members per badged member.

GENERAL RULES

1. **Safety is of the utmost importance.** All members must observe all safety rules at all times.
2. Except for hunting, no one may shoot anywhere on Club property other than designated ranges. No one will shoot on a range where the “range closed” sign is posted.
3. Gates are to be kept locked at all times. When entering the shooting area, lock the gate behind you, the same applies when leaving the shooting area. If you are being courteous for a new arrival, be sure they have a current membership badge. This will help eliminate non-members from entering the shooting area. The only exception to this rule is when there is an event in progress in one of the shooting areas. When the event is completed, the gate is to be locked.
4. **Shots must go into the backstops and not into the range floor or over the backstops.**
 - a. Shooters are responsible for positioning their targets at the proper height.
 - b. Rapid fire is allowed **if and only if** shooters use their own target frame and can be absolutely sure every shot goes into the backstop. Rapid fire is defined as any sustained fire of more than one shot every two seconds.
 - c. Drawing and shooting from a holster is allowed **if and only if**
 - i. shooter uses his/her own target frame, **and**
 - ii. shooter can be absolutely sure every shot goes into the backstop, **and**
 - iii. shooter is on an action range bay (the Cowboy/IDPA area) or at a covered range when no other people are on the firing line, **and**
 - iv. when using a strong side holster (outside or inside the waist band) or, if using a cross draw holster, if the shooter pivots his weak side downrange so that the muzzle is pointed downrange while drawing.
5. The use of either unsafe firearms or unsafe ammunition is prohibited. It shall be the discretion of a range officer whether a condition is safe.
6. The consumption of alcoholic beverages either prior to or while using any range is prohibited. The use of any drug other than prescribed medication that does not impair judgment, either prior to or while using any range facility is prohibited. The use of prescription drugs that affect the safety of the shooter or others is prohibited.
7. **No discharge of firearms is to occur on any range outside of the hours of operation for that range** unless approved by the Board.

8. **No fully automatic firearms** may be fired on Club premises without both of the following requirements having been satisfied:
 - a. Written authorization must be obtained from the Board of Directors; and
 - b. A Club officer or his/her designee must be present.
9. Shooting on all ranges must be from the designated firing lines and must be in line with the shooter’s own target. Shooting from forward of the firing line may be done only when all shooters on a given range are shooting from the same location.
10. **When arriving and departing the range:**
 - a. Firearms are considered ‘Clear’ or ‘Cleared’ if they are unloaded (the magazine is removed and the chamber has been visually checked), the action is locked open and, if possible, the safety is on. The safety can typically be applied with long guns with the action locked open but this often doesn’t work for handguns.
 - b. Firearms should arrive at the range unloaded and either in a case or with the action open and a chamber flag inserted (also called an open bolt indicator – these can be purchased at gun shops or online). There should be no magazines inserted and, if practical, the action should be locked open and the safety on. The only exceptions are handguns being carried concealed.
 - c. Do NOT uncase or handle firearms at your car. Bring the firearm you intend to shoot to the firing line and place it on a shooting bench or on the ground next to the bench with the muzzle pointed down range. Other gear including other cased or bagged firearms may be placed on the bench, the ground or a table behind the line of fire.
 - d. If no one is down range (in front of the firing line) you may uncase the firearm – immediately removing any magazines, locking the action open and placing the safety on if not already in that condition. We encourage the use of chamber flags even if you bring the gun cased since it’s a visual indicator that the gun is clear. If someone is down range – do not handle any firearms until the person is back behind the firing line and range declared HOT.
 - e. When not in use, long guns may be stored on the bench with the muzzle pointed down range per the above procedure. At certain events, long guns are also considered safe if stored in a rack with the muzzle up or down and the action open (ideally with a chamber flag) and the safety on.
 - f. When bringing an uncased gun with chamber flag from your car or when moving between benches – the muzzle must be pointed straight up or down with the action open and safety on if possible.

- g. If you are carrying a concealed firearm that will be used on the range, step forward to the firing line before removing it from the holster. Immediately unload the handgun and place it on the bench with the magazine out, action open and muzzle pointed down range.
 - h. You may transition between firearms when the range is HOT by placing one firearm on the bench and retrieving another as long as all guns are cleared and you can do so without sweeping anyone else with the muzzle.
 - i. Guns may only be loaded immediately before shooting and must be 'cleared' immediately after shooting. NEVER leave a loaded gun on the bench.
 - j. If you need to adjust sights or otherwise work on your gun, this can be done on the firing line as long as the muzzle is pointed downrange and you stay behind the firing line. If you can't perform the required actions this way, move the gun while clear and muzzle up or down to an empty bay (like the adjoining 50 or 100 yard range) and work on it there.
 - k. When preparing to leave, if your case is behind the firing line, bring the case to the gun – NOT the reverse. After confirming that the gun is clear, re-case or re-insert the chamber flag while keeping the muzzle pointing downrange. Then you may turn around and head to benches behind the line or your car.
 - l. If you will be carrying your concealed handgun when done, you may reload it at the firing line and re-holster at the line. Once holstered, do not handle the firearm again.
 - m. The use of "open bolt indicators" (also called "empty chamber indicators") is highly encouraged.
11. Non-shooters and guests will stand behind the line of the shooting benches, the shooting line or the yellow safety line at the covered firing line.
12. It is expected that any member who observes anyone using poor judgment or committing an act that is in violation of the Range Rules reminds that person of proper safety procedures. If the offending behavior is not immediately corrected, a Club officer should be notified either in person or by filing a Range Infraction Form (RIF), to be deposited in one of the lockboxes at the kiosks, indicating the nature of the violation and the name of the individual committing the violation. If the name of the violator is not known, then the vehicle make and license plate number should be included as the identifying information.

13. Going down range to set up a target:
- a. **The touching or handling of firearms while others are down range is strictly prohibited.**
 - b. Before going forward of any firing line, a shooter shall notify all other shooters on that firing line using the words "Are Your Clear?", "I Am Clear", "The Line is Clear", etc. A "Cease Fire" will then exist. It is expected that all members will show others the courtesy of allowing them to finish a string of shots.
 - c. Rifles and handguns, except those that are holstered or cased, may not be carried from the firing line to the target area. All firearms, except as noted above, must remain at the firing line, unloaded, the actions open, when going down range.
 - d. All people remaining at the firing line area must remain at least three feet back of the firing line when anyone is down range. Magazines or clips that have been removed from the firearm can be handled and/or reloaded, but no firearm may be loaded.
 - e. After all people are in back of the firing line, verify by asking "Is everyone back?" When it is certain that everyone is back, announce "The line is going HOT."
14. During competition matches, firearms shall be loaded only upon command of the range officer.
15. If, for any reason, a "Cease Fire" is put into effect, all shooters must immediately take their fingers off the trigger and point their firearms in a safe direction. Until the reason for the Cease Fire is known, shooters should remain in that position.
16. Shoot only at authorized targets
- a. The different ranges allow different targets. See the range-specific rules below.
 - b. **All targets shall be placed such that all shots go into the backstop and not onto the range floor.**
 - c. **Plinking (shooting at cans, rocks, bottles other than plastic, etc.) is strictly prohibited.**
 - d. Provisions of this section may be waived by the Board of Directors for sanctioned matches or special events.

17. Policing the range
 - a. The “Brass Bucket” is for any expended cases including shotgun hulls. Please, no other trash in these containers.
 - b. Members are responsible for policing any range area that they use. Remove your targets and clean up the area when you are finished. All trash and debris should be put in the dumpster at the upper level beyond the clubhouse or taken home with you!
18. Shoot only authorized cartridges
 - a. Tracer rounds may not be used anywhere on Club property.
 - b. Single-shot .50 caliber rifles are allowed on the 200-yard range and the covered outdoor ranges; however, shooters are requested to use the 200-yard range if any other shooters are using the covered firing lines due to excessive noise of the .50 caliber firearms.
 - c. Armor-piercing rounds, including steel core rounds, shall not be used with metal targets or with any target that’s held by a metal target frame.
19. Digging in any backstop is prohibited. **Do not climb on any of the berms.**
20. It shall be at the discretion of a range officer whether a condition is safe or unsafe. If in doubt of any rule or regulation, it is the member’s responsibility to make certain that he/she is not in violation of any and all Club range rules.
21. Any member who sustains any kind of bodily injury due to the discharge of any firearm while on Club property shall notify:
 - a. Club officer, Board of Director member, or range officer, **and**
 - b. The Holderness Police Department at 603-536-1626 or 911.
22. Any procedures, special requests, or variation of these range rules that may or may not be covered, must be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors for consideration.
23. Pets are not allowed at the firing range unless they are shut inside a vehicle or crate when the firing line is active.

Range rules are not superseded by rules of visiting organizations unless by prior written approval of the President, Vice President, or Board of Directors of the Pemigewasset Valley Fish and Game Club.

SPECIFIC RANGE RULES

INDOOR RANGE

- A. No member shall use the indoor firing range unless that member has received a key as the result of a safety orientation or is accompanied by a member who has received a key. All users of the indoor range must log in prior to shooting. There is a \$5 range fee or annual range fee. 1 day members are to fill in the application provided and include \$5 for 1 day membership and \$5 for a range fee, total \$10.
- B. There is a sign in the ready room of the indoor range that lists the permitted calibers in the indoor range. Shooting any other caliber ammunition is prohibited. Center fire rifle shooting, even carbines that shoot a listed caliber, is prohibited.
- C. Shooters may fire only at paper targets that are mounted on the target holders at the back of the range unless specific permission is given by the Board of Directors.
- D. Whenever a firearm is being handled by a person on the firing line, that firearm must always be kept pointed down range. Extreme care must be exercised to keep all shots in the backstop area and to avoid hitting floor, walls and ceiling. Among other things, **keep your finger off the trigger** until you’re on your target.
- E. Firearms will not be taken down range. Exceptions may be granted by the Board of Directors for specific matches or training sessions.
- F. During the use of the indoor pistol range the door between the range and the ready room must be kept closed.
- G. The exhaust fan is to be turned on before any firing has commenced.

TRAP RANGE

- TR-1. Shooters must log in prior to shooting. Lock gate after entering shooting range. (see GR-3)
- TR-2. The trap range is for shotgun and black powder shot (target) loads only. Shot shells fired at clay pigeons must not contain shot any larger than size 7 ½. Gauges larger than 12 are prohibited. No slugs are allowed on the trap range.
- TR-3. **All shot fall must be into the defined area downrange, to the north of the trap field.**
- TR-4. Shotguns are to be loaded only on station and with no more than two shells at one time.
- TR-5. Do not shoulder guns except on the shooting line.

200 & 300 YARD (or HIGH POWER) RIFLE RANGE

This is a Shared Use Area, There may be People Down Range working or shooting 0.1389 in

RANGE PROCEDURE:

- HP-1. Shooters must log in prior to shooting. Lock gate after entering shooting range. (see GR-3)
- HP-2. **First – Check the sign**
- Range OPEN = NO One should be down range
 - **“RANGE CLOSED”** = Someone is probably using the downrange area
- HP-3. **If 200-300 Yard is NOT in use, do not set up to shoot (regardless of sign position) –**
- **“Range Open”** = Drive down and verify no one is present
 - **“Range Closed”** = determine when they will be done working or shooting

HP-4. IF 200 yard range IS IN USE

- Communicate with others on the line to determine when and where you can set up.
- **DO NOT HANDLE WEAPONS BEHIND THE LINE** – take your cased rifle to the line, then remove your rifle, pointing muzzle down range.

HP-5. ONCE SET UP AT 200 YARDS – DO NOT PROCEED DOWN RANGE WITHOUT ENSURING THAT:

- The line is clear = all firearms are unloaded, action open and no gun handling while anyone is downrange
- Reset the sign to: **“Range Closed”**
- Keep your vehicle in sight from firing line while down range

HP-6. WHEN RETURNING FROM DOWN RANGE:

- Verify everyone is back and set the sign to **“Range Open”** before you resume shooting.

HP-7. WHEN LEAVING:

- Return the sign to **“Range Open”** once everyone is back behind the firing line

HP-8. The 200-300 yard outdoor range may be used for rimfire rifles, center fire rifles up to .50 caliber, and muzzle loading **“black powder”** rifles. Anything else requires the prior written consent of the Board of Directors and the presence of a Club officer or his/her designee.

HP-9. Allowed targets on the 200-300 yard range are paper targets, steel targets, clay birds, balloons, and plastic bottles. **Shooters must pick up all their trash and debris.**

HP-10. Do not elevate the muzzle of your firearm above the target line unless your finger is off the trigger.

OUTDOOR COVERED RANGES

- OR-1. Shooters must log in prior to shooting. Lock gate after entering shooting range. (see GR-3)
- OR-2. **Shooters must position targets in line with the muzzle so that all shots hit the backstop, not the range floor and not over the backstop.**
- OR-3. Allowed targets on the outdoor covered ranges are paper targets, steel targets, clay birds, balloons, and plastic bottles. **Shooters must pick up all their trash and target debris and put it in the dumpster next to the clubhouse or take it home.** The brass bucket is not a trash receptacle.
- OR-4. Targets put on the “Club-provided frames” must be centered and well away from the vertical frame legs. Do not attach or overlap targets to the vertical legs of the frame. Bring your own target frame to ensure there will be target frame available. The Pemi does not guarantee there will be frames available.
- OR-5. No rapid fire shooting is allowed unless (1) you can be absolutely ensure all shots impact the backstop and do not go into the range floor or over the backstop, AND (2) you provide your own target frame. (see GR-3b)
- OR-6. Drawing and shooting from a holster is allowed **if and only if** the requirements of General Rule 3c are met.
- OR-7. Shotguns at the outdoor range must shoot slugs only. **Using shot is not allowed unless you provide your own target frame.**
- OR-8. **If you break a wire, fix it**, or, if you can't, notify a Board member or a range officer. (A stepladder, wire and pliers are available at the range).
- OR-9. Never climb on berms. Ensure your children never climb on berms.

ARCHERY RANGES

There is a walk-around 3-D archery range starting at the kiosk on the left of the clubhouse driveway and a field range on the lawn to the right of the drive. **A second walk-around range starts at the clubhouse and is for sanctioned shoots ONLY.**

- AR-1. Shooters must log in prior to shooting.
- AR-2. Absolutely no discharge or handling of firearms on any archery range is permitted.
- AR-3. Broadheads and crossbows are permitted only on designated targets.
- AR-4. While searching for arrows, an article of clothing **MUST** be placed against the target face to alert other archers of your presence in the target area.
- AR-5. Only paper targets and approved 3D targets are allowed on the archery range.
- AR-6. Never take shortcuts between 3-D trails or between targets to avoid being in a line of fire.

ACTION BAYS and the Machine Gun area

- AB-1. Shooters must log in prior to shooting. Lock gate after entering shooting range. (see GR-3)
- AB-2. These facilities are reserved for competitive events and are not to be used by Club members without written approval from one of the action range officers.
- AB-3. When using the Action Bays, the 200-300 yard range will be closed. See 200-300 yard range rules.
- AB-4. For scheduled events, range closure shall be indicated in the schedule.
- AB-5. No more than one shooter shall handle a loaded firearm in any bay at any one time.
- AB-6. Jacketed ammo and armor-piercing (including steel-core) ammo is prohibited when shooting on the steel targets.
- AB-7. Cowboy props, tables, and other Club property must not be used as target holders.
- AB-8. Please note the following special conditions:
- During IDPA events, multiple targets arranged so that some shots hit the side berms will be permitted. Determination of safe shooting angles shall be at the discretion of the Match Director. Moving targets, steel targets and various types of barricades may also be used.
 - During cowboy and IDPA events, only a single b shooter shall be allowed into the active shooting area and he/she will be under the direct supervision of a range officer at all times.
 - During an organized event, shooters will be allowed to move between firing positions while handling firearms per published IDPA or SASS rules.
 - During Machine Gun events, full automatic weapons can be used either under the direct supervision of a designated range officer or with the written permission of the match director when renting a shooting position.

RANGE INFRACTION FORM

It is expected that any member who observes anyone using poor judgment or committing an act that is in violation of the Range Rules reminds that person of proper safety procedures. If the offending behavior is not immediately corrected, a Club officer should be notified either in person or by filing a Range Infraction Form (RIF), to be deposited in one of the lockboxes at the kiosks, indicating the nature of the violation and the name of the individual committing the violation. If the name of the violator is not known, then the vehicle make and license plate number should be included as the identifying information.

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RANGE INFRACTION FORM

Your name: _____

Date of infraction: _____

Was anyone else present? _____

Name of person committing the rules infraction or vehicle license plate number:

Which range: _____

Nature of the infraction: _____

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- 3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.**
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