

PALO ALTO RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 245, Duplessis, Louisiana 70728

Range Physical Address- 1393 Hwy 943 N, Donaldsonville, Louisiana 70346

RANGE RULES

Revised December 1, 2023

Palo Alto is a 'Cold Range'; i.e. no loaded firearms are allowed at any time/place other than an active (hot) firing line. This includes concealed carry firearms.

Any violation of the following stated rules by a member (or their guest) will subject that member to possible disciplinary action, up to and including revocation of their membership and expulsion from the club.

I. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

- A. All members by acceptance of these rules and by their participation at Palo Alto Rifle & Pistol Club are, by extension, Range Safety Officers. As such, if any member in their capacity as a RSO witnesses any unsafe act or rules violation, it is their accepted duty and responsibility to make the other party aware of such or to report the incident, along with the name(s), date, time and issue to an Officer of the Club.

This club is by and for its members and as such members are encouraged to contribute to its maintenance and upkeep in small ways by keeping the range clean and tidy, by picking up trash, old targets or range brass, etc. If you can help in a small way please do so.

II. RANGE OPERATIONS

- A. Firing may begin at 7:00AM and must end no later than sunset.
- B. All facilities and ranges are for the recreational use of members and their guests. No commercial activities are allowed without prior approval of the Board of Directors. (Training, classes, tournaments, etc.)
- C. The Competition ranges (bays) West of the 25yd Multi-Purpose Range are for Club competitions and tournaments only. The general club membership may not use these bays.

III. EYE AND EAR PROTECTION

- A. Eye and ear protection is required on any active (hot) range.
- B. The use of impact resistant eyewear with side (temple) protection is strongly recommended.

IV. RANGE FIRING LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS

A. INDISCRIMINATE FIRE:

- a. Un-aimed or indiscriminate fire has a higher probability of impacting target frames and/or other range equipment or of escaping the safety berm, so is therefore prohibited.
- b. Examples of indiscriminate fire are:
 - 1. Using any firearm without sights or without employing the sight system on the firearm.
 - 2. Firing from the hip, chest or other position that does not allow proper visual sighting.
 - 3. Firing “quick draw” style without using sights or bringing the firearm’s sighted into the shooters visual plane.

B. PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- 1. Steel targets on any range other than the club provided steel targets on the 200yd range or unapproved steel targets on the 25yd multi-purpose range.
- 2. Bottles, cans or hard items used as a target. Other than item B-1 above, paper targets only.
- 3. **FULLY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS OR ANY FIREARM WHICH MIMICS FULL AUTO FIRING; i.e. binary triggers, bump stocks, etc.**

4. .50 caliber BMG rifles
5. Tracer, explosive or incendiary ammunition
6. Any firearm not equipped with sights or an adequate aiming/sighting apparatus
7. Long guns without a shoulder stock (including side or under-folder style stocks with the stock folded)
8. Possession of alcohol or drugs. (Anything that may impair a person's senses or ability to conduct himself in a safe manner.)

v. GATE

The Club provides a unique access card to each member. Replacement cost for lost cards is \$25.00. The card must be on display on your person or range equipment at all times!

- A. The gate is to remain closed at all times except when matches are being conducted (usually weekends). Use the provided access card to open the gate by flashing the card at the keypad. Do the same when exiting the range using the inside keypad. The gate will close automatically in 45 seconds.
- B. No member is to give or loan the access card to any other person. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this rule.

vi. SIGN IN BOOK

- A. **Upon arrival, each member MUST sign in using the book located on the 100 yard range.** They will record their name, **the name of any guest(s) and/or family member and relationship, i.e. son, wife, etc.,** the range to be used (i.e. pistol, 100, 600) and time arriving. When leaving, the member must record the departure time in the book as well.
- B. Your membership card must be displayed at all times. This is not a requirement if shooting in a sanctioned match.

vii. GUESTS

- A. **ALL** guests must be recorded in the Sign-In Book. **PRINT ALL INFORMATION LEGIBLY**

- B. The guest fee is \$15.00 per day per guest, with no attendance limits. Unstamped addressed envelopes are provided in the sign in box to expedite payment to the club. Please mail payments, **do not put cash in the box.**
- C. Guest fees are to be paid within ten (10) days of the guests(s)' visit.
- D. Members are responsible for all guest activities while on the range.
- E. Guests can only shoot on the same range as the member.
- F. No guest fee will be charged for:
 - 1. Member's immediate family (wife/husband, dependent children under 21.
 - 2. Member's student child over 21.
 - 3. Member's non-resident immediate family member.
- G. The member **MUST** be present if family members under F above are shooting on the range.
- H. **Family members' must still be signed in as guests and relationship noted**

VIII. **GARBAGE/REFUSE**

- A. Do your part to keep the range clean.
- B. Pick up spent brass and dispose of it.
- C. Do not place live or defective ammo in the trash barrels. Bring it home for safe disposal.
- D. Fired .22 rimfire brass should be swept up and disposed of or swept onto the gravel portion forward of the firing line on the pistol and 100 yard lines.

IX. **TARGETS**

- A. Only paper targets may be used. **APPROVED** steel targets can be used on the 25yd multi-purpose range only after the member has completed the "Steel Target Rules Acknowledgement" available on the club web site.

X. **TARGET FRAMES**

- A. Members may construct and use their own frames. Frames **MUST** be constructed from non-ricochet type materials.
- B. **ALL TARGET FRAMES** must be configured and positioned so as to **ENSURE** that **ALL** bullets impact the rear berm.
- C. Do not position targets so the fired projectile will impact the side berms.
- D. Do not position targets so that fired projectiles will impact the ground in a manner which could cause a ricochet and escape the protective berm(s) or range complex. (See B above) Existing target frames are designed to meet this requirement and are different heights on some ranges. Standing or sitting changes the safety angles.
- E. If a member wishes to use their own target frame it must meet the requirements set forth in A, B, C and D above.
- F. Paper targets are to be secured to the backer with staples, pins and/or tape. Do not use any type of glue. **The Club provided target frames are constructed from 1-1/2" wood which is covered with a coroplast face to attach targets. Place all targets at least 1-1/2" INSIDE the frames to minimize frame damage!**
- G. When firing is complete, remove the target, staples, pins and/or tape and return the target frame to the target storage.
- H. Shotguns are **NOT** to be fired at club target frames. To pattern a shotgun, the member must supply their own club approved frame and use it on either the 50yd pistol range or the 25yd multi-purpose range; shotgun slugs may be fired on the 100yd range; and only on member owned target frames. Police your fired hulls!
- I. If a member has any questions about this section, please ask an officer.

XI. FIRING LINE SAFETY RULES

- A. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded at all times.
- B. Firearms should always be pointed up or downrange when being handled. **DO NOT** "muzzle sweep" the line.
- C. Do not load the firearm until the line is hot and firearm is pointed downrange.
- D. All personnel must be thoroughly familiar with their firearm(s) and must follow all manufacturers' operating instructions.

- E. Shooters experiencing a malfunction of any kind will keep their muzzle pointed down range at the berm at all times. The malfunction will be dealt with per manufacturers' instructions.
- F. Anyone on the range can and should call an immediate "cease fire" if they see an unsafe or potentially dangerous situation. All persons should acknowledge the cease fire.
- G. Any shooter experiencing an "abnormal report" or misfire will keep the muzzle pointed at the target for a minimum period of 30 seconds to preclude the possibility of a hang fire (delayed ignition).
- H. **All uncased firearms not on the firing line MUST have actions OPEN and MAGAZINES REMOVED.**
- I. **Every firearm on the shooting bench (firing line) or ground shooting mat MUST have an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) installed in the chamber when the firing line is "cold."**
- j. **During a Cease Fire, firearms active on the firing line will not be touched, handled, cased, uncased, moved etc. All personnel not going downrange will remain behind the shooting benches during a Cease Fire.**

XII. TRANSPORTING FIREARMS

- A. Weapons are not to be loaded or unloaded except on the actual firing line. Whenever a firearm is removed from a vehicle it must be in an unloaded condition, this includes concealed carry weapons.
- B. When transporting UNCASED firearms from a vehicle to the range, the action must be OPEN and the magazine REMOVED.
- C. When transporting CASED firearms from a vehicle to the range, upon opening the case, the firearm must immediately have the action OPENED and any magazine REMOVED.
- D. As stated earlier- Firearms should always be pointed up or downrange when being handled. **DO NOT** "muzzle sweep" the line.

XIII. RANGE COMMANDS

- A. Routine Range commands (i.e. "cease fire", "the line is cold", the line is hot", etc.) are to be issued by members only. An emergency "cease fire" can be called by anyone.
- B. A "cease fire" should be called every 15 minutes or sooner, if by agreement.
- C. Before calling the line "HOT", the member wishing to call it "hot" will-

1. Determine that no one is downrange.
 2. Poll all persons on the firing line to see if they are ready. I.e. hearing protection in, etc.
 3. The command “the line is hot” will then be given loudly enough for all on the firing line to hear it.
- D. After a “hot” period of 15 minutes or sooner if by agreement, a member may call the line “COLD.” Before calling the line “cold”, the member requesting it will-
1. Poll all personnel on the firing line to see if all are in agreement.
 2. Double check that all shooting positions, including prone or standing have made their weapons safe (bolt is open, ECI inserted, etc.) and have moved away from them to behind the shooting bench area.
 3. The member shall then call the line “Cold.”
 4. The command will be acknowledged by all shooters.
 5. People may only then go downrange.

XIV. RANGE USE

25yd MULTI-PURPOSE RANGE

- A. The 25yard multi-purpose range can be used for pistol, rifle or shotgun (shotguns use member supplied target frame). Targets may be placed at any distance provided an approved target frame is used, and **ALL BULLETS IMPACT THE REAR BERM!**
- B. Pistol competitors who are “**STEEL QUALIFIED**” may follow their standard pistol protocols in lieu of the above ECI requirement when using the Pistol Range.

50YD MULTI-PURPOSE RANGE

The 50yd Multi-Purpose range may be used for pistol, rifle or shotgun (shotguns use member supplied target frame). The Club provides target hangers at 7, 15, 25 and 50 yards. There are two benches for seated 50yd shooting. The Club recommends this range for initial sighting in of rifles and pistols using the shorter range facilities to insure safe impacts beyond the target. Bullet impacts into the rear berm vary greatly in height based on gun height, i.e. standing or seated.

DO NOT bring target frames from another range for use on the 50yd Multi-Purpose range.

100 YARD RANGE

- A. The 100yard range can be used for pistol (minimum 4" barrel), rifle or shotgun (slugs only)
- B. **Rifle and Pistol targets must be no closer than the 50yard line.** If you need to shoot closer than 50 yards, use the pistol range.
- C. Club frames or approved dimension frames must be used.
- D. All firing must be done from the firing line (the end of the concrete slab).
- E. All rounds must impact the rear protection berm.

200 YARD RANGE

Rifles or long-range pistols only. The Club provides target frame positions at 100 and 200yards. No targets are allowed closer than 100 yards. The Club also provides steel targets on this range.

600 YARD RANGE

GENERAL RULES FOR 600 YARD RANGE

The general membership is limited to firing from 200yd or 300 yards until successfully completing the club 600yd qualifying class. Non-600yd qualified members and their guests may shoot 600yds under the direct supervision of a 600yd qualified member.

- A. It is the member's responsibility to maintain good judgment in the use of appropriate equipment when firing from any or all distances.
- B. Members must have a knowledge of elevation and windage doping to safely place a round in the target at all distances.
- C. **DO NOT** close the bolt on a chambered round until the muzzle is safely pointed downrange in a level position.
- D. Follow all other rules as outlined in the orientation.
- E. Targets are to be placed on the designated frames only. Members are asked to use Target Carrier #12 or lower, when possible.

- F. All members are entitled to use the wind flags. It is the user's responsibility to return flags to their proper container(s) when completed.
- E. No vehicles are allowed to drive on the grassy area of the range during wet conditions.
- F. Any shooter not demonstrating the ability to hit the target within three (3) rounds will immediately move to the 50, 100 or 200yard ranges to correct their issue.

200 YARD FIRING LINE ON THE 600YD RANGE

- A. Any member may shoot from the 200yard berm or bench.

300 YARD FIRING LINE ON THE 600YD RANGE

- A. Any member may shoot from the 300yard berm or bench.
- B. SKS's, AK's, 30-30's, etc. are not suitable rifles for usage at 300 yards.

600 YARD FIRING LINE AND 500YARD FIRING LINE

- A. All members who wish to fire at distances greater than 300 yards on the 600 yard range must first attend and successfully complete the 600 Yard Qualification Orientation.
- B. The qualification process will involve the testing of knowledge and equipment to be used at 600 yards.
- C. SKS's, AK's, 16 inch AR's, 30-30's, etc. are not acceptable rifles for usage beyond 300 yards
- D. Red dot sighting is not acceptable for usage at 600 yards. Rifle scopes must be dialed for elevation and not use reticle marks.
- E. Mid-Range and Highpower match competitors may be exempt from the 600 yard orientation. This information will be provided by the appropriate Match Directors, when requested.

- F. All members that have been qualified to use the 600 yard firing line will be issued a card which states in bold lettering “600 YARD QUALIFIED.” This card must be displayed while using this range except during competitions.
- G. “600 YARD QUALIFIED” members may bring non-qualified members or guests to shoot on the 600 yard firing line, but they will be solely responsible for those persons’ actions and suitability of equipment used.
- H. Shooting beyond the 300 yard firing line will require a person in the pits (See exception I below) and there must be radio (not cell phone) communications between the firing line and the pits.
- I. An approved remote viewing camera system or approved electronic target system can be used in lieu of a person in the pits **if:**
1. The camera system is designed to remotely send a clear picture of the target and bullet strikes to the firing line or the electronic target system accurately displays all bullet strikes on target.
 2. Approval to use either a camera system or an electronic target system will be at the sole discretion of the board based on information submitted regarding the system to be used.
 3. No workarounds are allowed (i.e. no cell phone camera can be used). It must be a dedicated camera system primarily designed for remote viewing.
 4. If you wish to use a remote viewing camera system or electronic targets, please provide an officer with the information. **DO NOT begin using either system until you have been authorized.**
 5. If either system fails to display a bullet impact on target by the third round, the shooter will immediately move to the 50, 100 or 200yard ranges to correct their issue.