

Massachusetts Rifle Association



Range

Rules



Walnut Hill, 1875

Effective June 2, 2008

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**MASSACHUSETTS RIFLE ASSOCIATION
RANGE RULES**

June, 2008

GUN SAFETY RULES

1. **Always** point the gun in a safe direction.
2. **Always** keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
3. **Always** keep the action open and gun unloaded until ready to use.
4. Know how the gun operates.
5. Be sure the gun is safe to use.
6. Be sure your gun and ammunition are compatible.
7. Be sure of your target and what is beyond.
8. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
9. Do not mix alcohol or drugs with shooting.
10. Be aware that circumstances may require additional rules unique to a particular situation.

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T DO IT!
Check the rules or ask a Range Safety Officer

For any questions regarding MRA policies and rules, please contact a member of the Board of Directors.

FACILITY USE RULES

RR1.01 LOG BOOK:

- Upon entering MRA property for whatever reason, each person must sign the register (log book) and record the date, name, time, name of guest(s), and the name of any range you visit.
- The log book must be signed in and out indicating the time of entrance and departure.
- Guests are welcome, but members have first priority of use.

RR1.02 A. VIOLATIONS / DAMAGE TO MRA PROPERTY:

- Safety is of the utmost importance; it is expected that all members who observe anyone using poor judgment or committing an act in violation of the Range Rules remind that person of proper safety procedures.
- Violations will be reported to a Range Officer, Board Member, or the MRA office, either in person or by filing an Incident Report (to be deposited in the office), indicating the nature of the violation and the membership number or the name of the individual committing the violation. Incident Reports are located under the counter where the log book is located near the front door.
- If neither the membership number nor the name of the violator is known, then the vehicle make and registration number should be included as the identifying information.
- Members are responsible for reporting damage to club property.
- Penalties for violations of any of the Association rules may include termination of membership.

B. IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS:

- Upon request, a member or guest will provide their name.
- Refusal to identify one's self or one's guest will be cause for any person to be asked to vacate Association property and may result in termination of membership.

RR1.03 GUESTS:

- **The host member is fully responsible for the guest's conduct and for any damage to the Association property resulting from the guest's visit.**
- A member may have only one guest on the firing line at a time.
- The host member must be present with the guest on any range facility at all times.
- A member is allowed to bring an individual shooting guest to any range not more than 3 times within a calendar year.
- Members will have priority use of ranges and guests will yield their shooting position as capacity allows.
- While coaching of new shooters is encouraged, no member or guest may conduct any formal training for compensation without the express permission of the Board of Directors in consultation with the Safety and Education Program's Chief Instructors.

FAMILY EXCEPTION:

- Members may bring their spouse or children an unlimited number of times as guests.
- The spouse and children of a member may not use the club's facilities unless the member is present.

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T DO IT!

Check the rules or ask a Range Safety Officer

GENERAL RULES

RR1.04 HOURS OF OPERATION:

- No discharge of firearms is to occur on any outdoor range prior to 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and holidays (see Appendix A) or prior to 7:30 a.m. on all other days.
- All outdoor shooting shall cease at sunset, except on the Iannuzzi trap field when illuminated.
- The indoor ranges are open 24 hours a day.

RR1.05 RESERVING RANGE TIME

- The reservation of any range time must be approved in advance by the Board of Directors.

RR1.06 SMOKING AND ALCOHOL:

- Smoking is prohibited on all MRA ranges.
- Non-smoking areas include the Loeb range observation room and the classroom.
- No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed on the premises.

RR1.07 INJURY:

- Any member and/or guest who sustains any kind of bodily injury while on Association property, shall notify either a club officer, Board of Director member, or Range Officer and complete an Incident Report as soon as practical.
- Incident Reports are located under the counter where the log book is located near the front door.

RR1.08 GUN HANDLING IN LOUNGE AREA:

- No gun handling is allowed in the lounge area of the clubhouse except during special events or as authorized by the BOD.

RR1.09 FIRING LINE:

- Shooting on all ranges must be from the designated firing lanes and must be in line with the shooter's own target.
- No handling of any firearm forward of the firing line.
- Whenever a person on the firing line is handling a firearm, that firearm must always be pointed down range.
- Elevating a firearm in such a way to cause the trajectory of a bullet from that firearm to be above the target area is prohibited; all shots should be on the target.
- Extreme care must be exercised to keep all shots in the backstop area and to avoid hitting the floor, walls, and ceiling.
- No Creedmore position firing is allowed.

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T DO IT!

Check the rules or ask a Range Safety Officer

RR1.10 LOADING AND UNLOADING:

- All loading and unloading of firearms must be done at the firing line maintaining safe range conditions by keeping the muzzle pointed down range at all times.

RR1.11 MAKING THE FIRING LINE SAFE (PROCEDURES):

- Before going forward of any firing line, a shooter shall notify all other shooters on that firing line using the words “Are You Clear”, “I Am Clear”, “The Line is Clear” and a “Cease Fire” will then exist with all actions open.
- No one may go down range until all shooters are behind the “red safety line.”
- When anyone is down range, all other people present must remain at least 3 feet back of the firing line, or step behind the red safety line, whichever is applicable.
- No handling of any firearm forward of the firing line.
- The touching or handling of firearms, ammunition or magazines while others are down range is strictly prohibited.
- All members and guests will show others the courtesy of allowing them to finish a string of shots.

RR1.12 CEASE FIRE:

- When a “Cease Fire” is called, all shooters must stop firing immediately, unload their firearms, leave them in an open position on the shooting bench and step behind the red safety line.

RR1.13 MISFIRES AND DEFECTIVE AMMUNITION

- Should any cartridge fail to fire during shooting, the shooter shall maintain control of the firearm, keeping the muzzle pointed down range and follow the MRA guidelines before removing the cartridge and placing it in the ‘dud bucket’:
 - a. 30 seconds for rimfire cartridges
 - b. 60 seconds for centerfire cartridges
 - c. 120 seconds for black powder
- Defective or unsafe ammunition shall be placed in the ‘dud bucket.’
- Ammunition placed in the ‘dud bucket’ is deemed unacceptable for use on any range and any attempt to reuse it shall not be made.
- The only exceptions to this section shall be at the discretion of a RSO.

RR1.14 FULL AUTO:

- Fully automatic or Class III firearms may be fired on the Association’s Loeb Range only.

RR1.15 "CONTROLLED FIRE"

- Only "controlled fire" is permitted. Controlled fire is when ones ability allows that all shots are on target at the speed at which they are shooting.

RR1.16 QUICK TARGET DRAW & SHOOTING FROM THE HIP:

- Quick draw or hip shooting is prohibited on Association property except during special events. Range time for special events may be arranged pursuant to RR1.05.
- All long guns (including shotguns) must be shouldered.

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T DO IT!

Check the rules or ask a Range Safety Officer

RR1.17 PROHIBITED AMMUNITION:

- No incendiary tracer rounds, armor piercing or steel core ammunition are permitted on any range.
- No .50 BMG or larger, nor any subcaliber round using a .50 BMG or larger centerfire case may be fired on any range.
- No black powder, Pyrodex, or similar propellants on any indoor range.

RR1.18 TARGETS:

- Only MRA approved targets and targets certified by the NRA are allowed.
- Only paper targets or clay pigeons (shotgun fields only) are allowed.
- Plinking (shooting at cans, rocks, bottles, etc.) is strictly prohibited.
- Provisions of this section do not apply during special events or as approved by the Board of Directors.
- The use of explosive targets is prohibited.

RR1.19 RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO) / APPOINTMENT

- The club's Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Chief Instructor(s) of the MRA Safety and Education Program (SEP), shall annually appoint Chief Range Safety Officers (CRSO) and Range Safety Officers (RSO) in accordance with standards set by the MRA SEP.
- MRA CRSOs and RSOs will report to the Executive Officer.

RR1.20 CLEANING ONE'S MESS:

- Members are responsible for policing any range area they or their guest(s) use.
- All refuse including paper, cardboard, wood, and spent shell casings must be deposited in proper receptacles.

RR1.21 NO FIRING AT ANIMALS:

- There is to be absolutely no hunting or intentional firing at any animals or birds on Association property.

RR1.22 DIGGING IN BACKSTOPS:

- Digging in any backstop is prohibited without the express permission of the Board of Directors.

RR1.23 REQUEST FOR VARIANCE:

- Any procedures, special requests or variation of these range rules, which may or may not be covered, must be brought to the attention to the Board of Directors for consideration.

SPECIFIC RANGE RULES

FRED FAZIO MEMORIAL INDOOR GALLERY RANGE (Upstairs, 50 foot)

Hours of Operation:	24 hours
Caliber:	Air gun pellets .22 rimfire short, long and long rifle (Standard Velocity only)
Firearm type:	Air guns .22 caliber handguns .22 caliber rifles
Maximum capacity:	Handguns 10 rounds Rifles 5 rounds

- 2.01. No center fire ammunition.
- 2.02. Handguns may only be fired from a position of on or above the bench.
- 2.03. Shooters may fire at only paper targets mounted on the clips at the backstop. Targets for precision match air guns may be mounted on stands at the 10-meter line.
- 2.04. All bench tops must be in the down position when not in use or when using a pistol.
- 2.05. In addition to these range-specific rules, all MRA general Range Rules identified in the first part of this document apply.

WILLIAM LOEB MEMORIAL INDOOR (25 yard) RANGE

Hours of Operation:	24 hours
Caliber:	Pistols: no limit Rifles: all calibers except no 50 BMG or larger, nor any sub caliber round using a 50 BMG or larger centerfire case to be fired on any range Shotgun slugs only - no buck or bird shot
Firearm Type:	Handguns Rifles Shotguns (SLUGS ONLY) Full auto sub guns
Maximum capacity:	No round limit for pistols and rifles Shotguns (SLUGS ONLY) limited to three (3) rounds

- 3.01. Hang target so the impact of the bullet is in the berm.
- 3.02. Black powder shooting is prohibited on this range.
- 3.03. All bench tops must be in the down position when not in use or when using a pistol.
- 3.04. All targets must be hung beyond the first baffle with the exception of during MRA Safety and Education Program training.
- 3.05. Quick draw or hip shooting is prohibited on Association property except during special events
Range time for special events may be arranged pursuant to RR1.05.
- 3.06. All shooting is from the bench or offhand. All long guns (including shotguns) must be shouldered.
- 3.07. In addition to these range-specific rules, all MRA general Range Rules identified in the first part of this document apply

SUMMA 100/200 YARD RANGE

Hours of Operation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discharge of firearms is to occur prior to 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and holidays (see Appendix A) or prior to 7:30 a.m. on all other days. All outdoor shooting shall cease at sunset.
Caliber:	No limit with the exception that no 50 BMG or larger, nor any sub caliber round using a 50 BMG or larger centerfire case to be fired on any range.
Firearm Type:	Rifles 8" or longer handguns
Maximum capacity:	1 round only

- 4.00. Only rifles and handguns are allowed. Handguns must be bench rested only.
- 4.01. All shooting on the line must be from the same position (standing, sitting, prone or bench) through the cement barricades.
- 4.02. Firearms will be loaded with one cartridge only.
- 4.03. Users of the 200-yard range will replace and secure the target openings in the butt-house, and secure the door on the butt-house when shooting is completed.
- 4.04. Target frames will be returned to behind the firing line when shooting is completed on the 100-yard range.
- 4.05. All firearms must be qualified at 25 yards first (with the exception of black powder).
- 4.06. Long range handguns shall be single loaded only and shall be fired from a bench rest only. No offhand or combat style allowed.
- 4.07. Loading rifles with more than one round and/or rapid fire shooting is not allowed, with the following exceptions:
 - Approved MRA Matches under the direction of a Range Officer.
 - Practice, in accordance with the NRA's National Match rules, by a member of the "MRA Rifle Team." A list of qualified personnel shall be maintained in the office.
- 4.08. Shooters shall raise a red flag when the range is 'hot,' lower the red flag and raise a yellow flag when anyone is down range, and lower all flags before leaving.
- 4.09. Warning lights will be illuminated whenever anyone is down range.
- 4.10. In addition to these range-specific rules, all MRA general Range Rules identified in the first part of this document apply.

POPE MEMORIAL OUTDOOR RANGE

Hours of Operation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No discharge of firearms is to occur prior to 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and holidays (see Appendix A) or prior to 7:30 a.m. on all other days.• All outdoor shooting shall cease at sunset.
Caliber:	Air guns Pistols Rifles (.22 LR only)
Firearm Type:	Rifles (.22 LR) Handguns.
Maximum capacity:	Handguns 10 rounds Rifles 5 rounds

- 5.00. All targets must be posted on the hooks provided at the 22-foot, 35-foot, or 50-foot line.
- 5.01. Targets must be attached to frames so as to not cover the edges of the frame.
- 5.02. All MRA general Range Rules identified in the first part of this document apply to this range.

McLAUGHLIN MEMORIAL 50 YARD RANGE

Hours of Operation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No discharge of firearms is to occur prior to 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and holidays (see Appendix A) or prior to 7:30 a.m. on all other days. • All outdoor shooting shall cease at sunset.
Caliber:	No 50 BMG or larger, nor any sub caliber round using a 50 BMG or larger centerfire case to be fired on any range.
Firearm Type:	Rifles, handguns and shotguns (SLUGS ONLY)
Maximum capacity:	Handguns 10 rounds Rifles 8 rounds Shotguns 3 rounds (SLUGS ONLY)

- 6.00. All firearms, except black powder, must be sighted-in at 25 yards in the Loeb Range with all shots on paper, before proceeding outside.
- 6.01. Targets may only be posted at the target line and in designated frame. No targets will be posted short of the 50-yard target line.
- 6.02. No shooting forward of the firing line except during special matches under the direction of a Range Safety Officer (RSO).
- 6.03. The use of the Pin tables or other special equipment is not permitted except during an authorized event.
- 6.04. Rapid fire shooting is not allowed with the exception of approved MRA matches.
- 6.05. Any damage to club property, including hits on the baffle system, must be reported.
- 6.06. In addition to these range-specific rules, all MRA general Range Rules identified in the first part of this document apply.

SHOTGUN RANGES:

IANNUZZI TRAP RANGE (lower field);

ROCKY BRIDGES MEMORIAL TRAP RANGE (upper field)

Hours of Operation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No discharge of firearms is to occur prior to 10:00 a.m. on Sundays and holidays (see Appendix A) or prior to 7:30 a.m. on all other days.• All outdoor shooting shall cease at sunset, except on the Iannuzzi Trap Range when illuminated.
Caliber:	.410, 28, 20, 16, 12 gauges – STEEL SHOT ONLY (as provided by MRA)
Firearm Type:	Shotgun only
Maximum capacity:	1 Round or 2 depending on course of fire

- 7.00. ATA rules shall prevail at all times and a MRA RSO must be present.
- 7.01. No shot larger than 7 may be used.
- 7.02. Standard velocity loads only. No field loads.
- 7.03. Load one round only at your turn. Two shells only allowed when shooting double trap matches or sporting clays.
- 7.04. No hand or foot thrower is allowed.
- 7.05. The shotgun must be unloaded and the action open when changing stations.
- 7.06. No round shall commence after 8:30 p.m.
- 7.07. In addition to these range-specific rules, all MRA general Range Rules identified in the first part of this document apply.

APPENDIX A: HOLIDAYS

The following holidays are observed at MRA and the rules set forth in RR1.04 apply:

- **New Year's Day** - January 1
- **Martin Luther King Day** - Third Monday of January
- **Presidents' Day** - Third Monday of February
- **Memorial Day** - Last Monday of May
- **Independence Day** - July 4
- **Labor Day** - First Monday of September
- **Columbus Day** - Second Monday of October
- **Veterans' Day** - November 11
- **Thanksgiving** - Fourth Thursday of November
- **Christmas** - December 25

APPENDIX B: Firing Range Lead Precautions

Firing Range Lead Precautions

Protect Yourself and Your Family against Possible Overexposure to Lead

Listed below are some rules shooters should follow to protect themselves, their family members and friends from ingesting lead released at or carried from firing ranges:



Wash your hands, face and forearms thoroughly upon leaving the range.*



Never eat or drink in the range.

Wash your hands, face and forearms before eating, drinking or smoking.



Avoid touching your face in the range.



Avoid wearing clothing or shoes you have worn in the range to your home or into your car.



Wash the clothes you have worn in the range separately from the rest of your family's clothes.

Lead-saturated clothes can contaminate your car and your home, and expose your family and friends. Infants and children are especially vulnerable to the hazards of lead contamination. Do not wear clothes you have worn in the range home and then come in contact with your child.

** Always use cold, soapy water, NOT hot water.*