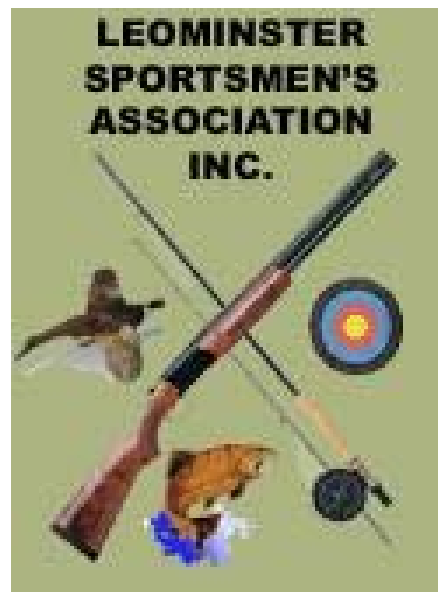


Leominster Sportsmen's Association

Rifle Range

Operating & Safety Rules

Revision 1.0



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1.0 LSA Range Operating Rules

The Leominster Sportsmen’s Association shooting ranges are designed to provide authorized personnel, access to a facility where they can become proficient with privately-owned firearms and archery equipment.

As of 3/12/2011, these operating procedures and rules supersede any pre-existing procedures and rules and may only be changed by the Rifle Range Committee or by a proposal to the Board of Directors through one of the current committee chairmen or by a member of the Board of Directors, that will inherently improve or make the rifle range safer, for use by the members of the Leominster Sportsmen’s Association (LSA).

All persons using the rifle range, do so at their own risk and peril. As such the Leominster Sportsmen’s Association (LSA) assumes no liability for the deliberate or accidental acts or negligence of those who use these facilities.

1.1 Authorized & Prohibited Firearms

Full-automatic firearms are authorized for use on the rifle range only. However, the owner must contact the rifle range chairman or a club director for approval prior to a live-fire event or activity. The board of directors can deny full-automatic fire during shooting for any reason. The member must provide the proper federal licenses and all required paperwork to the rifle range Chief Range Safety Officer (CRSO) prior to firing any full-automatic firearms. The CRSO and/or a Range Safety Officer (RSO) must be present during live fire of automatic firearms. All other conventional small arms (long guns and handguns) are authorized for use on the LSAs various ranges.

1.2 Facilities for Use

For the purpose of these Rifle Range rules live-fire shooting is normally limited to the following ranges and equipment:

1.2.1 Outdoor Rifle and Pistol Range

Currently the outdoor rifle range is not limited by caliber. Primarily because older black powder cartridges and shotgun rifle slugs may be as large as .750 or larger. However, specific cartridges such as .50 Browning Machine Gun (BMG) may be limited in their use at the discretion of the Rifle Range Chairman and/or per the direction of the Board of Directors. Please see Rifle Range operating procedures and rules below.

2.0 General Range Safety Rules

The following safety rules apply to the rifle range and must be adhered to at all times. Any violation of these basic safety rules or procedures will be considered for cause to revoke your membership in the Leominster Sportsmen's Association.

- Always treat every gun as if it was loaded.
- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Always keep your action open and gun unloaded until you are ready to shoot.
- Never handle a firearm on the firing line during a green flag when others are down range.
- Eye and Ear protection is required for any and all personnel on the LSA rifle range.
- Use of drugs or alcohol before or during shooting is strictly prohibited. Alcoholic beverages or drugs are not allowed on the rifle/pistol ranges at anytime. You will be asked to leave the range if an LSA Range Safety officer has any concern about use of alcohol or drugs while handling a firearm.
- Shooters will conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times and are also responsible for the conduct of their guests.
- All shooters are responsible for their own firearms, equipment and ammunition while on the LSA complex.
- Firearms that are out of their case and not being fired must be **benched** and/or in a range provided rack. Ie. Actions open and facing up, chambers empty, magazines removed, muzzles pointing downrange and safeties on (if applicable).
- You are responsible to issue a cease-fire command if you believe an unsafe condition exists or a safety infraction has occurred.
- You must follow all instructions from the Chief Range Safety Officer (CRSO) or Range Safety Officer (RSO) when they are present on a range.
- Absolutely no pets are allowed on any range complex where there is or will be live fire.

3.0 Rifle Range Operations

3.1 Operating Hours

- Rifle range hours will be posted at the rifle range. The rifle range is open to the public every Sunday morning from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm **EXCEPT** when the range is closed for maintenance. Members may use the range anytime between sunrise and sundown. If you can't **clearly** see the target, you shouldn't be shooting. Members may purchase a key for the gate from the club secretary.

3.2 Rifle Range Specific Operating and Safety Rules

- Any person(s) without a Firearms Identification card (FID) or a License to Carry (LTC) must be accompanied by a member who is licensed for the type of firearm they will be using. An FID or LTC is required for long guns, an LTC is required for handguns.
- Children under 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult and **that ADULT IS SOLELY** responsible for that child's safety. You will be asked to leave the range if your child is not under your close supervision, as determined by a Range Safety Officer.
- Children under 18 with an **FID** card may not use the range without adult supervision.
- Do not shoot at the target frames, flags, yardage markers, lane indicators or any other club property. Target frames are provided for your convenience and range safety, please be courteous so other shooters after you may enjoy the same convenience. Purposely shooting at club property or any club asset is **vandalism**. You will be expelled from the club if you are caught destroying club property or club assets.
- You may only shoot at approved targets; do not shoot at rocks, cement blocks, plastic bottles, glass of any kind or any other debris on the ground, only approved target stands may be used unless otherwise approved by an LSA Range Safety Officer.
- Don't shoot diagonally across shooting lanes.
- No illegal firearms are allowed on the property and those in possession of such will be reported to proper authorities. Ie. firearms with silencers installed.
- Tracer and incendiary ammunition is not permitted at any time.
- Don't fire at low targets where bullets will glance off of the ground and fly out of the range area.
- Don't shoot into the woods. Don't shoot at animals that may be present on the range.
- Don't shoot over the 50 yard backstop on the upper range or the 100 yard backstop on the lower range.
- RED flag means the range is HOT, do not cross the firing line. GREEN flag means the range is CLEAR; all firearms should be benched with action open and facing up for all to see that the chamber is empty.

3.3 Rifle Range Commands

- There are three (3) critical commands that you must know and understand when utilizing the rifle range.
 - ✓ **CEASE-FIRE** means stop shooting immediately, keep the muzzle of your firearm pointed down range, take your finger off of the trigger. Wait for further directions from a RSO. You will most likely be asked to put the safety on or break open (hinge actions) and bench your firearm. **Anyone** on the range may issue a **cease-fire** command if they believe a safety infraction has occurred or there is a safety issue anywhere on the range.
 - ✓ **CLEAR** means all persons have stopped shooting, all firearms are **benched** which means they are unloaded, actions are visible and open and have been placed on tables or gun racks, muzzles pointed down range and no firearms are being handled, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. **Green flags will be made visible, indicating that all firearms are benched and it is safe to crossover the firing line and down range to reset, remove and/or replace your target(s).**
 - ✓ **COMMENCE FIRING** or **FIRE** means that the range is **HOT**, it is safe to shoot your firearm at your target and you may begin shooting. **Red flags will be made visible, indicating that you must not stand or walk in front of the firing line at any time while the range is HOT. If you are not a shooter or a shooting instructor/coach you should not be in the RED zone.**
- **The entire firing line (upper and lower ranges)** must have stopped shooting and firearms **benched** before a **CLEAR** command can be issued and shooters may cross the firing line to go down range to setup, replace or remove their targets.
- When the range has been declared as **CLEAR** and others are ready to go down range, you must **bench** your firearm; **DO NOT HANDLE or TOUCH** any firearm(s). This includes removing from or returning a firearm to a case. You may not handle or work on your firearm(s) while others are down range.
- Prior to issuing a **FIRE** or **COMMENCE FIRING** command, two shooters should verify that no one is downrange on the upper or lower range(s). Once all shooters have returned to the firing line, the range may be declared to be **hot** and the red flags will be clearly displayed and visible in their respective holders located at up to three points on the rifle range house.

3.4 Approved targets and target stands

- Approved target stands will be used out to 100 yards. They shall be built and placed in such a way as to ensure that when a projectile passes through any portion of the target, it will impact the backstop immediately behind it.
- Steel targets, spinner targets, or other approved non-paper targets (as determined by an LSA RSO) **MUST** be placed in front of a backstop, in such a way as to minimize ricochets. Any other targets to be used, are at the discretion of the range officer.
- Do not leave your personal (LSA approved) target stands, or used targets on the range. Be sure to pick up your empty cases and shells and either take them with you or you may use the LSA supplied trash cans for your empty cartridge boxes and other small items. Please take home, any personal target stands that you brought with you. Storage space is tight and we cannot guarantee the condition of your target stand upon your return to the range.

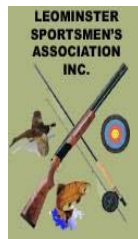
4.0 Range Officer Duties

4.1 General Duties

- Open ranges on time.
- RSOs should walk all shooters through safety rules prior to joining the firing line.
- Enforce all posted safety rules, violators of safety rules should be corrected first and RSO should assess shooters understanding of range safety rules. Shooters will be asked to leave the firing line for further coaching/instruction if the RSO feels they don't understand the range safety rules.
- Assist new shooters.
- RSOs should be capable of assisting shooters with clearing firearm jams or malfunctions. Shooters should ask for assistance in the event of a malfunction.

ALWAYS keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

- Report any problems to the range chairperson.
- Lock all doors and/or gates when shooting hours are over and everyone has left the area.



Remember, Safety and Safe Shooting is No Accident!

Think Safety and Have Fun.

Appendix A – Rifle Range Target Frame Construction