

## READ BEFORE USING RANGE

The Dowagiac Conservation Club Board of Directors has approved the following rules for use of club ranges. Generally accepted rules of firearm safety are included along with specific club regulations. Members are responsible for following these rules, enforcing them when others are observed behaving improperly and reporting unresolved issues to the board for possible disciplinary action. Rules are subject to change by the D.C.C. Board of Directors.

### SHOOTING FACILITIES

- One combined rifle and pistol range, sheltered with concrete shooting benches. Target bunkers are placed at 10, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 300 yards.
- Two lighted trap ranges with paved walk ways from 16 to 23 yards. Trap machines have manual or audible triggers and can throw straight or wobble trap.
- 3-D archery course.

### AUTHORIZED USERS

DCC ranges are FOR MEMBER USE ONLY. Non-members are welcome to shoot during public events sanctioned by the Board of Directors, and are welcome to join the club. An adult member may bring one guest shooter.

Any DCC member may request a shooter to show their membership card to verify membership. Non-members wishing to use the range will be provided a membership application and may apply for membership at that time. With a completed application, and payment of the fee, they may use the range, otherwise they will be asked to leave.

Ranges are accessible to handicapped shooters within the bounds of safety and reasonable accommodation. Show courtesy and offer assistance to handicapped shooters using our facility.

Vehicles are not permitted down range, except as approved by the board of directors.

Children under age 18 are welcome to shoot under the direct supervision of an adult member. To insure complete supervision of the minor the adult may not shoot at the same time as the minor and must remain at the minor's side during all contact with firearms.

Pets cannot be left unattended, must be leashed, and must be cleaned up after.

A Donation Box is located on the firing line. Proceeds will be used for maintenance of the range. Donations to the range fund are earmarked specifically for range maintenance. **A donation is not a substitute for membership.**

## RANGE HOURS

Range hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 1/2 hour before sunset, and Sunday Noon to 1/2 hour before sunset, when the ranges are not closed for other club use. The discharge of firearms when the ranges are closed and after sunset is prohibited except as approved by the Board of Directors.

All ranges are closed during board approved events and maintenance. The Range Closed sign will be displayed. Check the calendar at [Dowagiac Conservation.org](http://Dowagiac Conservation.org) for range availability.

Occasionally a member may find the "Range Closed" sign up when the web calendar indicates the range is open. Mowing, or set up for an event such as 3-D Archery may be occurring, and will not appear on the web calendar as they occur when the weather or time permits. This is an infrequent occurrence. Speak to the member involved and see how soon you might be able to use the range. Communicate and cooperate. All work at the club is done by member volunteers. Is there anything you can do as a member to help them get the job done sooner?

## DRUGS, ALCOHOL, BEHAVIOR

Alcohol, drugs, and those under the influence of alcohol or drugs whether shooter or observer are prohibited on all ranges.

Abusive, obnoxious, unsportsmanlike conduct or language will not be tolerated.

## SHARING THE RANGE, COMMUNICATING, CEASE FIRES

When sharing the range with other shooters communicate and cooperate so all can have a successful and enjoyable time. Cease fires should occur about every 20 minutes. Use of a chronograph, wind flags and other equipment may be inappropriate on a busy range. Judge your actions by how it will affect the other shooters.

## TARGETS

DCC does not provide targets. Targets must be placed at the bottom or center between the bunker frames and at least 18" below the top of the sand inside the bunker frame. Maintain the proper target height to ensure the fired projectile hits into bunker sand after passing through the target to reduce the possibility of ricochets and projectiles escaping the range safety bunkers.

Ground level targets are not authorized without DCC board approved backstop. No targets are to be placed in the open field, on top of bunkers or stapled to any part of the bunkers. Shooting of bunker frames is prohibited and this destruction of DCC property may result in ejection from the club as well as legal action to cover the cost of bunker replacement.

Shoot only at authorized targets. Steel targets must be designed to avoid ricochet. Unacceptable targets include but are not limited to targets with wire mesh target holders, glass bottles, cans, rocks, exploding targets, unauthorized metal targets, and general junk. Tracer and incendiary ammunition are prohibited.

Remove all targets, target holders including string, wire, etc., spent brass and shotgun hulls from the bunkers and firing area. Place in the trash can or dumpster. Take home any live and misfired ammunition.

## RANGE RULES AND FIREARM HANDLING RULES FOR FIREARMS IN GENERAL

Safety for you and your fellow shooters is always first. Shooters must communicate to ensure everyone is ready and it is safe for live fire. Know where others are at all times. Be sure of your target and what is beyond and people in adjacent areas. Shooters must wear eye and hearing protection. Observers are advised to wear hearing protection and must stay well behind the firing line.

Guns in the rack must be unloaded and actions open. Break-open type action firearms must be unloaded when racked. When picking up or carrying a gun the action must be open and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times (e.g. muzzle to the sky or ground).

Keep the firearm unloaded with action open until ready to use: on a rifle range shooters are in position and the range has been cleared for live fire, on a trap range actions are open until the shooter ahead of you in rotation has fired.

Do not handle firearms that do not belong to you without the owner's expressed permission.

While people are down range all firearms should be fully unloaded with actions open. Do not handle, set up or clean any firearm while people are down range. Handling of any firearm while people are down range may result in ejection from the range.

Know and obey all range commands. If a range officer is present, obey all range commands. During a cease fire, remove any magazines, open the action, and bench all firearms. The "Cease Fire" sign must be displayed at all times when people are down range. All shooting, including handgun, must be conducted behind the firing line of all ranges.

Treat every firearm as if it is loaded. Know how the firearm operates. Point the muzzle in a safe direction down range. Be sure the firearm and ammunition are compatible. Carry or use only one gauge or caliber of ammunition at a time when shooting. When planning to shoot more than one firearm, use one at a time, store that firearm and ammunition before using the next one.

Clean up the range before you leave. Pick up all litter and waste. Remove all target holders and targets from the range. Remove brass and shotgun hulls. Use trash cans and dumpster. Misfired and other live ammunition must be taken home for disposal, not put in the trash can. Leave the range better than you found it.

## MISFIRES AND MALFUNCTIONS

If an unsafe condition or misfire occurs, any shooter must call a cease fire immediately and inform those on the firing line of the problem. Shooters must unload, open actions and bench firearms until the problem is resolved. In the event of a malfunction or misfire, keep the firearm pointed down range, carefully open the action, unload the gun and correct the malfunction.

## TRAP SPECIFIC RULES

Clay targets thrown from an automatic or hand thrower are the only authorized targets on the trap range. Loading or servicing malfunctioning trap machines will be done under range cease fire conditions, firearms unloaded and actions open. An orange safety flag will be displayed. Shooters shall not enter a trap field while a safety flag is displayed or until the call for shooters has been given. If a cease fire is called during a round, actions must be open and muzzles maintained in a safe direction down range until live fire resumes. The use of one gun by two shooters on the same squad is prohibited. Firearms must be unloaded and with actions open while moving between stations. Load not more than one shell for single-targets, and two shells for doubles.

### BLACK POWDER SPECIFIC RULES

Powder containers on the firing line must be sealed while firing is in progress. Smoking is prohibited within 10 feet of a black powder shooter. Black powder firearms must be charged from a separate measure, not directly from a flask or powder horn. The first-time cap/ignition charge must be fired from the shoulder with the firearm aimed down range at a target area. Black powder shooters must fire any load that was in place when a cease fire is called. During a cease fire black powder shooters are not to handle, load or cap their weapons while people are down range.

Empty powder containers must be taken home, not disposed of at the club. No black powder is allowed inside club buildings.

### SPECIALIZED SHOOTING RULES

No quick draw, fanning of revolvers, other combat shooting techniques or fully automatic firearm shooting.

You may not rapid fire on any range at a rate that affects your ability to aim each shot and shoot safely.

### 3-D ARCHERY RANGE RULES

- All Federal, State and Local laws must be obeyed.
- Stay on the marked trail. Do not take shortcuts to the next station, you may cross into the danger zone of a nearby target.
- Field points only! No broadheads!
- When approaching a shooting station that is in use stay back far enough to not disturb the group shooting.
- Allow faster or smaller groups to go through.
- Arrows must be nocked only when on line and ready to shoot.
- When drawing your bow keep it level with the ground or below the height of your target.
- When looking for a lost arrow one member of your group must stay in front of the target to let other shooters know there is someone behind the target. If alone place your bow in front of the target.
- Individuals under age 16 can shoot only under the direct supervision of an adult or guardian.
- WALK, do not run toward targets.
- When pulling arrows from targets, stand to one side and insure no one is directly behind you.
- ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS will be allowed on the course.
- If you violate any of these rules you can be asked to leave.

### EMERGENCY 911 INFORMATION:

Club address: 54551 M-51 North, Dowagiac MI 49047. Club phone: 269-782-5508

OTHER INFORMATION including current board member phone numbers may be found on the website [www.dowagiacconservation.org](http://www.dowagiacconservation.org) and our Facebook page.