



**DEM**  
RHODE ISLAND



# **GREAT SWAMP SHOOTING RANGE POLICY MANUAL**

**RI Department of Environmental Management  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
277 Great Neck Road  
West Kingston, RI 02892  
United States of America**

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## – PLEASE NOTE –

Significant regulation revisions and additions will be highlighted.

- *Policy guidance for regulations will be bulleted and italicized.*

# General

## Purpose

This document serves to codify the Great Swamp Shooting Range's (hereafter "GSSR") regulations and additional policy context to ensure a safe, inviting environment for all users and staff.

Documentation and maintenance of this manual will enhance transparency, consistency, and clarity regarding the GSSR operations.

This manual is directly applicable to the entirety of the GSSR site and GSSR operations. The regulations are established under the jurisdiction of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (hereafter "RI DEM") that serves as the property management organization.

GSSR staff have authority to apply the regulations as well as discretionary authority for safety and site management. Comments and challenges regarding GSSR staff decisions and policies can be forwarded to the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Coordinator.

## Facility Features

The Great Swamp Shooting Range is a free, public shooting range situated in Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Great Swamp Management Area (approx. 3,500 acres).

Established in 1976, the range has gone through several renovations over the years. In 2018, through combined state and federal Pittman-Robertson funding, the range underwent a major renovation to update and improve its capabilities and accessibility. In this latest iteration, the facility offers areas for three distinct disciplines: archery, clay target shooting, and paper target shooting.

The archery range does not require full range permitting. Two lanes offer up to 40 yards each of usable distance. Users can bring their own targets or ask RSOs for foam block or cloth bag targets.

The clay target range uses a foot-operated clay target thrower machine capable of launching clay targets in fixed or random trajectory modes.

The main target firearm range is physically split between two 8-lane ranges: a 100-yard total range (with 25-, 50-, 75-, and 100-yard positions) and 50-yard total range (with 7-, 10-, 15-, 16-, 25-, 33-, and 50-yard positions). Both allow air guns, black powder, rimfire, and centerfire cartridges. Each numbered shooting station has a concrete shooting bench covered in rubber mat, adjustable height-and-position stool seating, and shell deflectors to either side. Users have the option to shoot while sitting or standing (no prone position) and from either side of the bench to accommodate right- and left-handed users, as well as wheelchairs.

The main target range area is paved and wheelchair accessible. RSOs are able to help users with target setup down range. The archery, clay target, and parking areas are packed earth. During foul weather all earthen areas, including the target areas down range, can become muddy, snow/ice covered, and/or flood.

An ADA compliant portable toilet is onsite in the parking area and a hand wash station is provided outside the range office. A drinking water cooler dispensing commercially acquired bottled water is always available inside the range office, but please ask an RSO before entering.

## **Hours of Operation and Severe Weather Policy**

The facility is open seasonally, generally opening in early Spring and operating continuously, seven days a week—holidays included—until early Fall. Public access and shooting hours are 8:00AM to 6:00PM on weekdays and 8:00AM to 5:00PM on weekends. Users may arrive as late as 15 minutes before closing to begin using a range, but all range use stops at the listed time to allow users and staff time to clean, close, and lock the facility. RI DEM reserves the right to close the range, either partially or completely, to public use for the purposes of outreach events and educational programming. Advance notice of temporary or extended scheduling changes will be given whenever possible.

Severe weather may close the facility if it is deemed there is a risk to users. Rain will not cause a closure or shooting suspension but sustained heavy winds may require facility closure. During lightning, users will be asked to pack up their belongings and standby in their vehicles until RSOs deem it safe to resume operation or close the range. If conditions are such that traveling to and from the range may become dangerous or impossible, such as due to snow or fallen trees, the range will be closed. Facility availability decisions are made by GSSR staff in the interests of safety and must be respected by our users.

If in doubt regarding severe weather or local circumstances, check the GSSR website, RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife Facebook page, or contact the range supervisor cell phone, listed under the “Contact” heading, for up-to-date information or a voicemail status message.

## **Staffing**

The range only operates while under the supervision of RI DEM-approved Range Safety Officers (hereafter “RSO(s)”). All employed RSOs will have at least one of the following: applicable military or law enforcement experience, RSO certification, firearm instructor certification, or sufficient prior RSO experience—with verifiable references—per RI DEM discretion.

A minimum of two RSOs will be on-duty at all times. If for any reason a user finds the range accessible, but with no RSOs present, the user should not unpack or handle firearms, nor go down range. Users should contact the range supervisor, listed under the “Contact” heading, to report an extended absence.

## **Donations**

The GSSR is funded through state and federal means, primarily Pittman-Robertson taxation on firearm and hunting industry goods. Monetary donations, while appreciated in thought, are not necessary for the continued operation of the range. If a user wishes to discuss gifting relevant items to the range, please contact the range supervisor, listed under the “Contact” heading.

## **Volunteering**

During instances where outreach events require more assistance, RI DEM reserves the ability to designate approved volunteers as RSOs. Outside of such events, volunteer help is generally not needed for facility upkeep. Any user who still wishes to explore volunteering time or effort to the range is welcome to contact the range supervisor, listed under the “Contact” heading.

## Contact

Questions, comments, or concerns can be directed primarily to the range supervisor, Branton Elleman. They may be reached at 401-575-6331 or Branton.Elleman.CTR@dem.ri.gov.

**If the range or a visiting user needs to be contacted for emergency reasons—and the supervisor is unreachable—call the Hunter Education Office at 401-539-0019 during standard business hours.** Staff there will be able to coordinate further action. During weekends or holidays, call the emergency number verbally communicated at the end of the range supervisor's voicemail message.

## Range Safety Enforcement

### Corrective Actions

Due to the seriousness of firearms safety, in instances where bodily harm or property damage is imminent, RSOs are allowed to take physical control of a firearm. RSOs should make every effort to first correct behavior verbally, but if immediate action is necessary, user shall passively allow the RSO to take corrective action without argument. RSOs may need to alter hand, arm, leg, or feet positions in such situations, but should do so in the least invasive way possible while still rectifying the safety concern. If, after the situation has been deemed safe, a user finds the actions of the RSO unreasonable or unprofessional, they are encouraged to accurately log the event and contact the range supervisor. Any significant safety incident will always be officially logged by an RSO.

### Administrative Penalties

In the event safety on the range is put at risk, disciplinary action against a range user may be necessary. The following are general guidelines only as each RSO may use personal discretion to inform their decision. RSOs are required to report all administrative penalties to range supervisors and a log is kept of all instances.

The following examples are not exhaustive. Compliance and safety matters will be managed at the discretion of the RSO as necessary. User attitude and cooperation will be factored into the enforcement decisions by the RSO. Impact on other users, guests, the facility, and the environment will also be factored into the enforcement decisions by the RSO.

#### 1 Day Ban – Minor violations, such as:

- Poor muzzle and/or trigger discipline, minor procedural infraction (e.g. handling items on shooting table during cold range condition), repeated accidental facility damage, disruptive behavior, harassing other users
  - Permit retained by user

#### Permit Suspension – Moderate violations, such as:

- 1 week – dangerous muzzle and/or trigger discipline that endangered self or others, serious procedural infraction (e.g. gun handling during cold range condition)
  - Permit withheld by RSO
- 1 operational season – repeated serious infractions
  - Permit withheld by RSO

#### Permit Revocation – Severe violations, such as:

- Reasonable suspicion of drug or alcohol use, intentional facility damage, intentional disregard for gun safety and/or range regulations, assault and/or battery
  - Permit seized by range supervisor

## Operating Procedures

### Sign In/Out Procedure

Any user entering the range for the first time that visit shall promptly sign in using the provided sign-in sheets. Users may sign in before gathering their firearm and accessories or lay them down temporarily while signing in.

A clipboard with the sign-in sheets and pen will be hung under the covered range structure to the left of the range office where users enter using the paved walkway.

Users will fill in the next blank section completely, except “TIME OUT.” If multiple ranges will be used during the visit, users are encouraged to check off all that will apply versus having to return to sign-in sheet as they change activity.

After signing in, but before taking the line, users will be either assigned or allowed to choose a shooting station. Each station has a corresponding column directly behind with a clip where user will attach their valid permit—with photo identification—for the duration of their visit. The clay target range and archery range have clips directly behind the sign-in clipboard.

Before leaving the facility, users will reclaim their permit and enter their “TIME OUT” on the sign-in sheet. This has emergency procedure ramifications so please signify you have left our facility safely to ensure accurate head counts.

In the event a specific range is full and RSOs indicate no user is already due to leave, please sign in using the next available section. The “TIME IN” indicated will place you in queue for the next available shooting position. If you then decide to leave before taking the line, indicate the time you are leaving and strikethrough both “TIME IN” and “TIME OUT” to indicate for range records that you were not able to use the range due to an extended wait time.

### Hot/Cold Range Procedure

The 100- and 50-yard target ranges operate in three basic operational states: hot range, cold range, and cease fire (see *Cease Fire Procedure*, page 7). The 100- and 50-yard ranges are considered safely separate and may change operational states independently.

**When a range is hot**, gunfire is allowed, casing and uncasing of up to two (2) firearms is allowed, and no users shall cross in front of the red firing line. **When the range is cold**, gunfire is prohibited, any gun handling (such as touching, moving, casing, uncasing) is prohibited, and users may move down range to view or alter targets.

The GSSR has overhead lighting to help indicate the current range condition. **A hot range displays RED lights, and a cold range displays GREEN lights (like many firearm safeties, RED is DANGER).** Range condition can be changed by an RSO when all users are safely behind the firing line and have finished making their firearms safe or altering their targets down range. Always check that other users have moved away from their shooting station and the RSO has made the verbal/visual declarations before moving down range.

In the event the controllers for the range lights are malfunctioning, YELLOW lights may be switched on indicating the range condition status has gone verbal-only. All normal procedures apply, but please be especially attentive to RSO commands before attempting to walk down range or handle firearms.

**Before a range can be declared COLD**, all uncased firearms must be laid on the shooting bench, action and ejection ports up when possible, and have the ammunition source emptied and/or removed, the action open (or rendered as safe as possible per RSO discretion for non-reciprocating/atypical firearms), and a provided chamber flag (red plastic cord) partially inserted into the barrel from the breech end. Once all criteria have been met to make firearms safe and all users have stepped behind the firing line, the range may be declared cold verbally by the RSO and the lights changed to reflect its status.

Users may then proceed down range and WILL NOT take or reach for ANY items on their shooting station's bench or inside their firearm case(s). Magazines, ammunition, targets, etc. must be taken from the bench or case BEFORE the range is declared cold. In the event a user forgets this rule, an RSO *may*, under their direct supervision, allow a user to take targets from the bench to be used down range if the firearm does not need to be touched or moved. Users may handle ammunition and/or magazines freely, away from the shooting bench, during cold status. Bags or containers separate from a user's firearm case(s) may be handled if on the ground, stools, or in the area behind the firing line. If a user wishes to step away from their bench and uncased firearms for more than a moment and will leave the immediate area (such as when using the portable toilet, washing hands, etc.), they should make their firearm safe as described above to not impede range status changes in their absence.

If a user wishes to take an extended break away from the firing line, firearms should be re-cased during the next HOT status and secured in their vehicle or with an accompanying adult user.

**Before a range can be declared HOT**, all users must be behind the firing line and acknowledge they are finished making any alterations to their target or target frame distance. While a range is hot users may handle their firearms and commence fire from their assigned shooting station but WILL NOT approach or cross the firing line. Hands and feet shall stay within the zone created by the painted red and yellow lines and adjacent shell deflector screens. At no point shall uncased firearms leave the shooting station. If a user is given permission by another, they may move between stations at will to handle or fire other firearms. Firearms MUST be cased if moving between stations or off the firing line. While either range is hot, hearing protection is required for spectators behind the firing line.

## Cease Fire Procedure

If for any reason, at any time, a person on the range believes bodily harm, property damage, or an otherwise unsafe condition is imminent they may call a cease fire. While we want to prevent "false alarm" cease fire incidents, we encourage users to declare a cease fire whenever safety is in question.

The 100-yard, 50-yard, clay target, and archery range operate independently, but users should assess their area's safety when a cease fire is called on another range.

A cease fire verbal declaration should be done with loud, clear authority. After the cease fire call is made, users should respect the following sequence of steps:

Any user using a shooting station on the firearm target ranges must:

1. Immediately stop firing
2. Lay any firearm in their control on the table, muzzle pointing down range.
3. Do not attempt to remove ammunition or manipulate the action
4. Even if the firearm is not pointing strictly down range when placed, DO NOT handle it further.

5. Move behind the firing line
6. Await further instruction from the RSO

Any user using a shooting booth on the clay target range must:

1. Immediately stop firing
2. Point shotgun muzzles high above the down range tree line, near vertical as possible while still facing down range
3. While maintaining muzzle discipline, empty the ammunition source and chamber
4. When empty, point muzzle up to near vertical, away from face
5. Lock action or hinge open
6. Maintain vertical muzzle orientation and exit shooting booth
7. Place shotgun in the standby rack
8. Assess range conditions and/or notify RSO

Any user using archery equipment on the archery range must:

1. Immediately stop firing
2. Remove any nocked arrows or bolts
3. Place bow on rack, in case, or on ground
4. Place arrows in quiver, in case, or on ground
5. Assess range conditions and/or notify RSO

If it is safe to continue normal range use following the cease fire, the RSO will inform users how to resume. In the event a firearm was left with a dangerous muzzle direction or in a dangerous condition, the RSO will supervise the user as they resume safe control. RSOs may need to take temporary direct control of a firearm if deemed a safety issue.

In the event the cease fire was called unreasonably, the RSO will use their discretion to educate the person who called it. A cease fire will be logged using an Incident Report Form and the range supervisor notified in all instances.

## **Target Range Regulations**

**250-RICR-60-00-12**

**TITLE 250 – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**CHAPTER 60 – FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**SUBCHAPTER 00 – N/A**

**PART 12: Target Range Regulations**

### **12.1 Purpose**

- A. The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to establish and regulate permitted shooting activities and establish operational procedures of Rhode Island's state target range(s).



## **12.2 Authority**

- A. These Rules and Regulations are promulgated pursuant to RI General Laws Chapters 42-17.1; 42-17.10; 20-1; 20-13;1-8; and in accordance with RI General Law Chapter 42-35, the Administrative Procedures Act.

## **12.3 Repealed**

## **12.4 Definitions**

- A. For the purposes of these Regulations, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
1. “Armor Piercing Ammunition” (per 18 U.S. § 921) means a projectile or projectile core which is constructed entirely (excluding the presence of traces of other substances) from one or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium.
  2. “Cease Fire” means users are to immediately stop firing and place in-use firearms on the shooting table with the muzzle pointing downrange or in a gun rack with the muzzle pointing up.
  3. “Cold Range” means users are forbidden from handling or shooting firearms and may travel down range.
  4. “Down Range” means the area on any range forward of the designated firing line or shooting station(s).
  5. “Firing Line” means a designated and clearly marked line or area at a shooting range where shooters stand or position themselves to engage their targets.
  6. “Hot Range” means users are allowed to handle or shoot firearms and must not go down range.
  7. “Minor” means any person under the age of 18, as defined in Rhode Island General Law 15-12-1.
  8. “Range Safety Officer (RSO)” means an approved RI DEM staff member or volunteer who oversees the safe function of an entire range facility and firing line.
  9. “Shooting Station” means a designated position or area at a shooting range or facility where an individual stands or takes their position while engaging in shooting activities.
  10. “Uncontrolled Rapid Fire” means taking multiple shots at such a speed that all projectiles do not hit the intended target down range.

## **12.5 Administrative Rules**

- A. All target range users are responsible for adhering to the Rhode Island Code of Regulations Title 250 RICR-60-00-12.

- B. The RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to alter hours and days of operation as conditions warrant or for maintenance, safety concerns, and weather conditions.
- C. The range is primarily a Hunter Education facility and may be closed without advanced notice for authorized training events.
- D. All users must obtain a range permit prior to shooting or handling firearms on range ground except as part of division-sanctioned events. The RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to limit the number of range permits issued. Range permits are non-transferable.
- E. To apply for a range permit, all applicants must:
  - 1. Obtain an application form from the RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife, Great Swamp Field Headquarters, Education Office, or at [www.dem.ri.gov](http://www.dem.ri.gov).
  - 2. Complete the application form (in pen or typed).
    - a. All applicants eighteen (18) years of age or older must:
      - (1) Attach a copy of your driver's license or other government issued photo ID along with one (1) of the following certifications:
        - I. State-issued Hunter Safety Education card
        - II. Valid, state-issued, firearm hunting license
        - III. RI DEM Pistol/Revolver Certification Card ("Blue Card")
        - IV. Valid, Rhode Island pistol carry permit (state or town)
        - V. Police or Military ID
        - VI. Equivalent Certification as determined and approved by the RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife.
    - b. All applicants under eighteen (18) years of age must attach a copy of the driver's license or other government-issued photo ID of their parent or legal guardian.
  - 3. Submit the completed application package per the directions on the form.
    - a. Users with incomplete applications will receive an explanation of missing elements with directions to complete their application.
    - b. Users with an approved application will be notified of the currently offered Range Safety Orientation schedule.
  - 4. Range permits will be issued at the conclusion of a mandatory Range Safety Orientation with the following conditions:

- a. Photo ID of the adult user, or the parent or legal guardian of the minor, must be presented in-person before the range permit is issued.
  - b. Users must attend a Range Safety Orientation within the season of initial range permit application before their application is nullified and must be resubmitted.
  - c. Once issued, range permits remain valid for five (5) range seasons beginning the year of the initial range permit application submission.
  - d. For renewal of expired range permits, resubmit a range permit application following the directions listed for “renewal.”
5. Assumption of the risk of injury and Indemnification: In exchange for a person’s use of the target range facility or issuance of a range permit for such use or the issuance of a range permit to a minor at the person’s request, said person agrees that he/she shall at all times assume full liability for any injuries which he/she or the subject minor may suffer while at or near the target range facility. In addition, said person shall hold the State and its agents harmless from any and all claims or damage suits arising from the person’s or the subject minor’s actions at or near the target range facility either by way of omission or commission.

## **12.6 Administrative Suspension and Penalties**

- A. With the understanding that public safety is a primary goal of the RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife; the use of a RI DEM operated range(s) is a privilege extended only to those individuals who demonstrate the knowledge and skills to safely use a firearm in public. Due to potential risk associated with the public use of firearms in a manner other than as dictated in these Regulations, the Range Safety Officer and range supervisory staff have the authority to immediately evict an individual and/or seize the range permit of any individual who demonstrates said unsafe, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior.
- B. Any person aggrieved by a suspension decision pursuant to this Part, permanent revocation of a range permit, or determination to suspend or revoke a range permit, may appeal the decision in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, RI General Law 42-35 and the Administrative Adjudication for Environmental Matters Act RI General Law 42-17.7.
- C. Any person who is found, pursuant to the authority of RI General Law 42-17.1-2, to have used or to have attempted to use the target range prior to having been issued a range permit or during a period when the range is closed shall be assessed an administrative penalty in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- D. Any person who is found, pursuant to the authority of RI General Law 42-17.10 to have used or to have attempted to use the target range during the period of a suspension/revocation of his or her range permit pursuant to this Part, shall be assessed an administrative penalty in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- E. Any person aggrieved by a final decision pursuant to this Part, may appeal the decision in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, RI General Law 42-35 and the Administrative Adjudication for Environmental Matters Act, RI General Law 42-17.7.

## 12.7 Firearm Handling Requirements

- A. While using a target range, all users shall:
1. Always treat all firearms as if they are loaded.
  2. Always keep the muzzle of the firearm pointed in the safest direction available.
  3. Always keep their finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
  4. Always know what is in front and beyond their target.

## 12.8 General Facility Regulations

- A. Obey all range Regulations and commands issued by range staff.
- *While attending a range safety orientation is not mandated every year, users should check with RSOs for new regulations or policy and procedure changes at the start of each season.*
- B. Obey any and all “cease fire” commands immediately.
- *While users should make every effort to only call a cease fire for genuine emergencies, there will be no penalties for any cease fire called with reasonable justification.*
- C. No alcohol or drugs are permitted on range property. Any user who is suspected of inebriation will not be permitted to engage in shooting activities and may be subject to range permit suspension or revocation.
- D. Appropriate eye and ear protection must be worn at all times while shooting or while in proximity to an active firearm range.
- E. All shooting range users must sign in before using a range and sign out upon leaving.
- *See Sign In/Out Procedure, page 6.*
- F. All permitted individuals must display their range permit on the corresponding shooting station clips so that it is visible to other users and to supervisory personnel. The range permit will remain displayed for the duration of the visit and should be reclaimed upon departure.
- G. RSOs reserve the right to limit users from shooting if they are unable to safely handle their equipment or appropriately respond to RSO commands.
- *There is no minimum or maximum age for permitted range users. Users who are hard of hearing should notify RSOs prior to shooting on each visit.*
  - *All equipment is subject to inspection, if requested. Failure to comply may mean that equipment is no longer permitted to be used at the range.*
- H. RSOs reserve the right to limit range time if new arrivals are waiting to shoot.

- *Typically at least one (1) hour.*
- I. RSOs reserve the right to limit overall range capacity at any time.
- *Typically only during times when a staff member must temporarily leave the shooting area or range.*
- J. No cell phones or electronic devices not directly related to shooting are allowed on the firing line without prior RSO authorization.
- *Cell phones and other such electronic devices must be put away and silent while at the firing line. If a user is required to have a cell phone or other device for special circumstances it should be set to vibrate, or they must make special arrangements with the RSO prior to shooting. However, at no time is any user allowed to answer, check, look at, or otherwise handle a cell phone or electronic device while at the firing line. If the cell phone or device must be checked the firearm must be unloaded, placed properly orientated on the shooting table, a chamber indicator inserted in the firearm, and the user must step behind the ready line before answering, checking, or handling the cell phone or electronic device.*
- K. Users must be dressed appropriately for shooting activities as determined by range staff.
- *No flip flops, sandals, or open-toed shoes. No sleeveless shirts, tank tops, bikini tops, or low-cut blouses. "Top" and "bottom" garments must be worn at all times.*
- L. Food and drink are not allowed on the firing line.
- *Please wash hands and face thoroughly before consuming food or drinks and keep containers closed, when possible.*
- M. Individuals are responsible for properly disposing of all trash generated, including shell casings and targets, prior to leaving the range.
- *Please inspect all waste to ensure it is inert and ensure that no live ammunition is mixed in accidentally. Propellants, black powder, and other chemical wastes should be kept separate from other trash and brought to range staff for proper disposal.*
  - *Adhesive backed targets may be left on target frame backer boards.*
  - *Brass shell casings, including plated, may be donated to the range for recycling in the provided white buckets. Shell casings are first the property of the shooter, then any user who given permission to take it, then the range*
  - *All other shell casings (steel, aluminum, plastic shotshells) should be discarded in the trash.*
  - *Shotgun wads may be left in the down range areas.*
- N. Minors must be under supervision by an accompanying adult at all times and under direct one-on-one supervision by a range permitted adult user twenty-one (21) years of age or older whenever they are shooting.

- *Children are not allowed to be left in a car unless accompanied by an adult guardian. At no time should children be allowed to interfere with safe range operation or allowed to wander unsupervised.*
- O. Pets must be leashed and under direct supervision at all times while outside of a vehicle.
  - *No pets are allowed forward of the ready line without RSO approval. At no time should pets be allowed to interfere with safe range operation. Users may be asked to remove themselves and/or their pets if staff find the pet to be continually and negatively affecting range operation.*
- P. Smoking and vaping are prohibited inside the range office and within twenty-five (25) feet of all target ranges.
- Q. Retrieval of copper, lead, and/or other metals and debris from range berms and backstops is prohibited.
- R. Climbing on any side of range berms and backstops is prohibited.
- S. Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only.
- T. The RI DEM Wildlife Management Area requirement of solid daylight fluorescent orange is not required of range users during any hunting season.
- U. Possession of a firearm holstered on the body—concealed or open—is not permitted on range property.
  - *Law Enforcement officers are asked to follow the same policy unless on active duty during their visit.*

## **12.9 General Range Regulations**

- A. Firearms must be transported to and from the firing line unloaded and in a case or bag.
- B. Human silhouette targets and targets that depict people are not allowed.
  - *Basic silhouette targets may be folded or cut to obscure the human form. Animal/Hunting targets are allowed.*
- C. No incendiary, reactive, or explosive targets are allowed.
- D. Firing at objects other than staff-authorized range targets is prohibited.
  - *No metal targets not supplied or authorized by the range supervisor.*
  - *The blue foam blocks on the archery range are intended as backstops or target stands, not primary targets. Ask the RSOs on duty for a target if one is not already in place.*
- E. Armor piercing and steel core ammunition is prohibited.
- F. Incendiary—including tracer type—ammunition is prohibited.

- G. The use of handloaded and reloaded ammunition is conditionally allowed. Any ammunition brought to the range in aftermarket containers, or believed to not be factory productions, is subject to inspection for safe, consistent firing behavior, per RSO discretion.
- H. No firing of firearms from positions other than a designated shooting station.
- I. No handling uncased firearms or occupying a shooting station while people are down range.
- J. Before adjusting a firearm or it's accessories, it must first be unloaded, the action opened, and the magazine removed, when possible.
  - *Simple accessory adjustments such as scope elevation or windage may be made during shooting so long as the muzzle remains pointed down range.*
- K. No uncontrolled rapid fire.
  - *Users may fire only as fast as they are able to stay on target.*
- L. Users must use a functional sighting system held to eye-level in line with a target.
- M. Stockless shotguns and rifles are prohibited.
  - *Firearms such as combination .45 Colt/.410 bore pistols are allowed.*
- N. Derringers, mini-revolvers, pocket-pistols, and other small handguns without adequate, safe gripping surface are prohibited, per RSO discretion.
- O. Slings may not be used to hang firearms freely and uncontrolled from the torso.
  - *Shooting while bracing against a sling is permitted.*
- P. 3D printed firearms are prohibited.
- Q. Bump stocks are prohibited.

## **12.10 Firearm Target Range Regulations**

- A. Firearms may only be cased and uncased on the elevated shooting station table when the range is hot.
  - *See Hot/Cold Range Procedure, page 6.*
- B. Uncased firearms may only be handled or shot while at a shooting station when the range is hot.
  - *Ammunition and magazines may be handled behind the firing line at any time.*
- C. Only two (2) firearms may be uncased simultaneously per shooting station, only one (1) of which may be loaded at one time. Users must visually indicate that they have fully unloaded all uncased firearms before leaving their shooting station.

- *Additional firearms may be in their case elsewhere in the shooting station or behind the firing line.*
- D. Before a range may be declared cold by a supervising RSO, all range users must visually demonstrate that all magazines, ammunition, powder, and ignition sources have been removed from their uncased firearm(s).
  - *Range users should lock open the action of their firearm, if possible, and use the provided empty chamber indicators provided on their shooting table.*
  - *If a user is unsure their muzzleloader contains a charge of powder and projectile, notify an RSO prior to removing the muzzleloader from the case and follow their instructions.*
- E. RSOs may limit or restrict the use of ammunition which has more than one projectile if that ammunition causes facility damage.
  - *Such as striking our overhead ballistic baffles or support columns.*
- F. Users are not to load more than ten (10) rounds of ammunition into any firearm or magazine at a time.
- G. Detachable magazines capable of holding more than ten (10) rounds of ammunition and intended for use in semi-automatic firearms are not allowed per RI General Law 11-47.1-3
  - *This includes attached tubular magazines, with the exception of those only capable of holding .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.*
- H. Use only the provided target stand designated for your shooting lane.
  - *Return target frames to the closest possible position prior to leaving the lane.*
- I. A target's intended point of aim must fit within the confines of the target stand and attached backer board.
  - *Approximately 16 inches by 24 inches. Folding or cutting targets to fit is allowed.*
- J. Pneumatic pistols, rifles, and bows are allowed but must be handled in the same manner as all other firearms, as feasible.
  - *No portable air compressors. Supplemental air canisters must be filled off-site due to range power constraints and overall range safety.*
- K. Any projectile device that fails to pierce the corrugated plastic target back boards reliably and accurately is prohibited.
  - *For example, airsoft, paintball, or foam.*
- L. Any ammunition that produces over 5,000 foot/pounds of muzzle energy is prohibited.
  - *For reference, .300 Winchester Magnum is permitted, but .338 Lapua Magnum is not.*



- M. The RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife reserves the right to allow or disallow additional types of firearms or projectile-propelling devices as deemed appropriate to the facility capabilities or safety.
- N. Regulations for muzzleloader, black powder, or black powder substitute firearms:
1. Never load directly from a bulk powder container into the barrel of a muzzleloader.
  2. Re-seal bulk powder containers and place below the shooting table or behind the firing line before firing.
  3. The use of smokeless powder in any muzzleloader not factory-designed for the use of smokeless powder is strictly prohibited.
  4. Inline muzzleloaders will be placed with the breech plug removed or action open demonstrating no primer is present when the range is cold.
  5. Black powder revolvers will have the cylinder removed from the firearm when the range is cold, if possible.

### 12.11 Clay Target Range Regulations

- A. Clay target range users will case and uncasing firearms on the designated table(s) with muzzles pointing down range and away from any persons.
- *Takedown shotguns should prioritize the barrels pointing down range/straight up while reassembling.*
- B. Shotguns are to be carried unloaded with actions open and muzzles pointed directly up when moving between the designated uncasing table, gun rack(s), and shooting station.
- C. All shotguns should be placed in a gun rack(s) unloaded with muzzle up and action open whenever persons are manipulating the clay target thrower(s) or down range of a shooting station.
- *Do not leave shotguns leaning in or on the shooting booths except in designated retention spots, if present.*
  - *Users may travel down range to collect unbroken clay targets or clean up shell casings only when all shotguns are either racked or cased.*
- D. Users are not to load more than three (3) shells in a shotgun at a time.
- E. The discharge of any firearm other than a shotgun is prohibited on the clay target range.
- F. Ammunition is limited to a maximum shot size of # 7.
- *No hunting shot, buckshot, or slugs are allowed on the clay target range. Lead and nontoxic shot are both permitted.*
- G. Users shall not change the staff placement of the clay target thrower machine(s).

- *Do not load or unload the clay target thrower until it is powered off and the battery leads removed.*
- *Please remember to use the throwing arm disarm function before removing or using all clays.*

## 12.12 Archery Range Regulations

- A. Archery range users without a shooting range permit must have a signed, current year archery range liability waiver form signed by an RSO before shooting.
  - *Users will be asked to participate in a short (5 minute) overview of safe archery range operation with an RSO—at their discretion as range conditions and time allows—and sign a form signifying they understand. This will be valid for the current year or until there is a significant archery range redesign as determined by range supervisors.*
  - *Two copies of the form will be signed. One for the user to retain and one for range staff to retain. The range supervisor will also maintain a scanned record of archery range forms. Users should bring the form with them on future visits to expedite the process.*
- B. Arrows fired by any means other than the energy of bending limbs and/or wheels and cams are not permitted on the archery target range.
  - *Pneumatic or blank-cartridge projectiles devices may be fired on the main target range, per RSO discretion.*
- C. Broadheads, both fixed and mechanical, are allowed on the archery range.
  - *Broadhead blades must be carried in a covered quiver or enclosed carrying case.*
- D. Bows must be put down and arrows removed from the string while anyone is down range.
- E. All users must shoot from the same firing line while using the archery range.