
HOUGHTON LAKE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB RANGE SAFETY RULES

All members are required to enforce all safety rules while using any of the ranges at HLSC.

Safety First governs all other rules.

1. All members using any Range are required to sign in using their legal name (no nicknames) in the Range Book for the Range they are using **and**, to check the range prior to shooting for any damage, and/or hazards. Any damage or hazards discovered should be noted in the sign-in-book or reported a club director.
2. When entering the Clubhouse, if the “**Archery Range in Use**” sign is on front door, use the side door to enter.
3. Eye and hearing protection are mandatory for everyone at a hot range (a range in use).
4. All outdoor shooting is to be aimed at targets placed in front of and substantially below the top of the earthen berms. **NO OTHER DIRECTION!** Any shot over a berm is **unfriendly fire** and subject to discipline.
5. The HLSC runs Cold Ranges. Therefore, loaded firearms are prohibited anywhere on club property except on the firing line. The only exceptions are CPL holders, and their guns must remain holstered unless at a firing line.
6. When using the indoor firearms ranges, the exhaust fans must be used.
 - o **Range #1** is only be used for Leagues. During a League, there will be a member in charge of that League as an Activity Leader, RSO, etc. The member in charge will activate the exhaust fans in Range #1 by pulling down a red lever next to the PA cabinet to equalize the airflow of the exhaust in both ranges. Target light switches are located under the PA cabinet.
 - o **Range #2**, the light, and fan switches are on your left. The exhaust fans are on a timer switch that can run up to 45 minutes. Please be sure all fans and lights are off when you are finished using the indoor ranges.
7. Anyone observing a dangerous situation that may endanger persons or property if firing were to continue shall give the command to “**CEASE – FIRE**” or “**STOP**”. **If you hear those words STOP immediately!**
8. Firearms must be made safe before facing any direction other than down range.
9. There will be **no horseplay**, on any range during firing, training, or with firearms at any time.
10. Never proceed to a location in front of the firing line until directed to do so. This includes picking up dropped equipment. Further, no one shall move forward of the firing line on any firearms range without making sure all firearms have their chambers open, unloaded, and an **ECI** (empty chamber indicator) has been placed in the chamber. **All shooters are to be back from the firing line before the line is called safe to go down range.**
11. No person is permitted at a shooting bench behind the firing line when people are down range.
12. Know the specific rules of the range you are on and observe all signs or postings pertaining to the proper ammunition that can be fired (or not fired) on that range. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or doubts ask the RO, RSO, or contact a Board Member before proceeding.
13. Shotgun slugs may **ONLY** be fired on outdoor Range 2. To test pattern a shotgun with shot, **ONLY** use the shotgun pattern range, Range #4. Bring your own piece of cardboard for patterning.
14. The Metal Silhouettes on outdoor Range #1 are to be shot with **.22 LONG RIFLE ONLY**. Metal plates on Range #3 are to be shot with pistol-caliber ammunition only. **DO NOT USE MAGNUM CALIBER** ammunition on these plates in the pistol ranges. Hanging steel targets in the rifle range are the **ONLY** steel targets that may be shot with centerfire rifle ammunition. The steel targets on the Black Powder Range may **ONLY** be shot with

Muzzleloading firearms permitted for that use. Any misuse of ranges and or damage to ranges or targets will be subject to discipline per ARTICLE IV of the By-Laws of the Houghton Lake Sportsmen's Club.

15. Other than noted above, the use of paper targets is the only type of target permitted on ranges. No cans, glass bottles, explosive targets, clays, etc. No personal target holders are to be used on any of the HLSC ranges. Targets are to be centered on target boards so as not to hit posts or cross members of said frames. All used targets are to be removed by the shooter prior to leaving the range.
16. No high-power rifles or ammunition, black powder muzzleloaders, or shotguns are allowed on the Indoor Firearms Ranges. Pistol Caliber Carabines (PCC) and .22LR rifles are allowed indoors provided they don't exceed 1600 FPS.
17. All members using the firearms ranges are required to bring their cased firearm to the bench area or Designated Safety Area (Safety Table), at which time the gun is to be pointed down range or in the steel safety tube, checked, and made safe. After making safe (magazines out and unloaded) the shooter may put the gun in a holster or place an ECI (empty chamber indicator) in the open chamber before removing it from the bench or firing line area.
18. There will be no uncontrolled or unsighted fire with a (handgun or rifle) at any time on any firearms ranges except while under direct supervision by an RO or RSO and as a written stage briefing or class exercise.
19. All FULLY AUTOMATIC FIREARMS, TRACER AMMUNITION, ARMOR PIERCING, STEEL CORE or .50 cal. BMG are always prohibited. NO devices to convert to auto-mode like BUMP-STOCK or FRT/BINARY TRIGGERS are allowed at any time.
20. When two or more members are shooting on any range, a "Range Safety Officer" shall be designated among those shooting to control the firing line and ensure all safety procedures of the HLSC Range Rules are followed. Preference should be given to "Certified Range Safety Officers" if present.
21. All members are responsible for making sure that when they are using the club's firearms range(s) that they, and anyone else are shooting responsibly. As a member, if you view anyone appearing unfamiliar with a firearm or using it in an unsafe manner, you should call a "**Cease-Fire**" or "**STOP**" on the firing line and direct them to the safety procedures.
22. All members using any of the club ranges are required to clean up after they have finished, by picking up all brass, litter, and refuse and placing it in the proper receptacle. Members are also required to turn off lights, fans, etc. before leaving the facility.
23. When using the outdoor lower range facility, the entrance gate **MUST always remain open** while in use for emergency access if needed. It is the responsibility of the last member to ensure no one else is in the lower ranges and to secure the gate when leaving.
24. At no time will both indoor firearms ranges be used simultaneously with the indoor archery range. In case of conflict, the "**Half Hour Rule**" will apply and members can take turns using the indoor ranges. Scheduled events like meetings or leagues will always take precedence over who will use the indoor ranges at any time. See 24-a below for definition of the "Half Hour Rule".
25. At no time will both the indoor firearm ranges and the Black Powder Range be used simultaneously.

NRA Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling.

1. **ALWAYS KEEP THE FIREARM POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.**
2. **ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT.**
3. **ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO USE.**
4. **KNOW YOUR TARGET AND WHAT'S BEYOND**

24.a – Definition of the Half Hour Rule:

The **Half Hour Rule** (30-minute rule) establishes a protocol to ensure fair usage of Club facilities among members engaged in different types of shooting sports. Members with conflicting activities must grant 30 minutes for members who are already engaged in an activity to complete their activity. A couple example scenarios are detailed below to help clarify this rule and how it works. The HSLC encourages Fellowship among its members and to make new friends and enjoy sharing the facilities. Members should be kind and courteous to one another when invoking the Half Hour Rule when facility use conflicts arise.

Scenario 1 – Indoor Firearm and Archery Ranges:

Member John Doe is using the Indoor Pistol Range #2 to sight in his new pistol. Member Bob Jones arrives at the clubhouse with his two grandchildren to use the indoor Archery Range. Member Bob Jones introduces himself to Member John Doe and lets him know he intends to use the Indoor Archery Range. At that point, the 30 Minute Rule applies, and Member John Doe has 30 minutes to use the Indoor Pistol Range before Member Bob Jones can use the Archery Range. If Member John Doe wishes to continue firearms shooting and is willing to wait, Member Bob Jones then has 30 minutes to use the Archery Range before he must cease and allow Member John Doe to resume his use of the Firearms Range.

Scenario 2 – Conflicting interests at the Outdoor Rifle Range #2:

Member Jane Smith is firing her Ruger 10-22 to practice for the Outdoor Silhouette League. Member Dave Brown arrives with his guest, and both have AR-15 rifles each with Muzzle Brakes installed. Member Jane Smith finds the strong concussion and report from the centerfire rifles to be very jarring and inhibits her concentration while shooting and prefers to shoot only with other 22 shooters. She introduces herself to member Dave Brown and invokes the Half Hour Rule, asking them to wait 30 minutes before shooting to allow her to finish up. The Half Hour Rule continues - if Member Jane Smith so desires, she can wait 30 minutes for the centerfire shooters to shoot at which point they will again have to wait 30 minutes for her to shoot.