

Moncton Fish and Game Association



Rifle and Handgun Range
466 Victoria Road

Range Safety Handbook

Revised for 2017-2018

Why a Safety Handbook?

As an Association the MF&GA must exercise due diligence and remind both old and new members of range procedures and safe range and firearm practices. This handbook provides a common tool for the Moncton Fish and Game Association to provide a safe and enjoyable shooting experience for all members. It is your range so keep it clean and safe!

Topics

The following topics will be covered in the pages that follow:

- History
- Membership
- Range Operations
- General Range Safety Rules
- Rules Specific to Victoria Road Range
- Best Practices
- Range Etiquette
- Emergencies

History

- The Moncton Fish & Game Association Inc., was established in 1924, and has an impressive history of activity in the Greater Moncton area.
- We welcome anglers, hunters, target shooters, and all individuals who may participate in outdoor sports and activities.
- The MF&GA is not a gun club, but operates an approved shooting range.
- The range was originally constructed on Crown Land in cooperation with the NB Department of Natural Resources to support hunters who wished to sight-in their hunting rifles and has evolved to the facility it is today.
- The MF&GA is considered as the owner and operator of the range.

General Membership

- Our membership year is from January to December.
- Club membership dues are \$30, and a shooting membership with range privileges is \$80.
- All range users must have a shooting membership and have it in their possession at the range at all times.
- Anyone under the age of 18 must be supervised at the range by an adult member of the MF&GA who has range privileges.
- Membership in the MF&GA automatically includes insurance coverage through the National Firearms Association at a cost of \$14.95 per year.
- The \$30 club membership includes membership to the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation - the parent organization for the Fish and Game clubs within the province.
- The MF&GA is not a gun club but rather an association that operates a range as a benefit to its members.

Range Membership

- The \$80 shooting membership includes all club rights and voting privileges, and provides access to the range.
- As a member you are covered by the Association's insurance policy for the range.
- The gate combination fee for new members for the range is currently \$20 (one time charge) if you are a past member you can turn in your old key from years past and receive your combination card and not have to pay the gate fee.
- The shooting membership includes a laminated membership card received after you join.
- The club sends membership information to the Chief Firearms Officer in Fredericton, and they add to your licence, if required, the ATT (Authorization to Transport) for restricted or prohibited firearms. You must belong to an officially recognized Fish & Game or Gun Club in order to receive an ATT condition on your licence.
- Your shooting membership card covers you for the transport of your long guns to and from your home and the club range during hunting and closed hunting seasons.
- Please ensure that you have your PAL, and your club membership card with you at all times.
- When you are at the range, our Range Officers may ask to see your membership card. You may be asked to leave if you do not have your shooting membership card.
- If you wish to bring a visitor with you who has not yet joined the club, a \$5 fee per guest per visit applies. The member must advise the membership director or use the MF&GA web contact in advance of the visit to ensure that insurance coverage is in place. Members are limited to two guests per visit.
- The Department of Energy and Resource Development refers individuals to our range for "sighting in" activities. This is available at a cost of \$15 per day, per person. Sighting-in permits are issued for Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons only.

Your MF&GA Range (Shooting) Membership Card

- Shows that you are a member in good standing of the MF&GA.
- Shows that you have range privileges and are authorized to use the range.
- Is an authorization accepted by Public Safety Conservation Enforcement to transport your long gun(s) from your residence to the range and return (by the most direct and practical route) any time of year.
- May be required by another range if you are a guest at that range.

Range Operations

• **The MF&GA is the owner/operator** of the Victoria Road Range (Range) as governed by its lease agreement with the Province of New Brunswick and with regard to the operation of the Range under the Firearms Act and NB Firearms Officer. The MF&GA is considered the range owner for the purposes of ensuring that the Range meets NB Firearms Officer (Public Safety) approval and inspection standards.

• **The Range Manager** is nominated by the MF&GA executive and confirmed by the Membership. The Range Manager is a member of the MF&GA executive and with the Chief Range Officer is the primary liaison with the NB Firearms Officer in arranging Range inspections for approval/certification purposes. The Manager serves as a liaison to the executive and provides day to day management oversight as needed.

• **The Chief Range Officer** is nominated by the MF&GA executive and confirmed by the Membership and oversees the general safety and weekly upkeep of the Range and works with members who have volunteered and have been trained as Club Range Safety Officers. Safety issues are usually brought to the CRO attention.

• **Club Range Safety Officers** who are also known as **Range Officers** are MF&GA members who have completed the one-day Royal NB Rifle Association, Range Safety Officer course or the

MF&GA Range Officer Course. They have been issued identifying safety vests and are designates of the Chief Range Officer.

- Range Officers have the authority to at any time:
 - Take control of, and run firing lines in the case of multiple shooters at the range or on a firing line;
 - Verify that range users are valid members of the MF&GA;
 - Immediately stop any unsafe practices they observe and take corrective measures; and
 - Report any violations to the Executive, Chief Range Officer or police of jurisdiction as necessary.

AS A MEMBER OF THE MF&GA AND RANGE USER YOU HAVE A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- follow range rules;**
- maintain safe firearm handling at all times;**
- follow safe range procedures;**
- report unsafe activities;**
- be mindful and considerate to every other person who uses the range; and**
- be a good club member.**

General Range Rules

General Safety Rules and Regulations

- Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our number one concern is to run a safe range at all times.
- The directions of a Range Officer are to be obeyed immediately and without question.
- Alcohol and drugs are not permitted at the range at any time.
- Our range is approved for rifles, handguns.
- All Shotguns and .50cal center fire rifles are prohibited at the range.
- When more than one person is using the range, one person must act as range officer and supervise the firing line.
- Make sure your gun is unloaded and action opened when approaching the line.
- Never point or sweep a gun at people.
- Load the gun at the firing line when range is clear, red flag is raised, or told to do so by Range Officer.
- Keep muzzle of gun pointed downrange at all times when loaded (not up or down), to prevent overshoot in case of unintentional discharge.
- No cross firing. Shooter must not shoot out of their firing lane.
- Ensure your target holder is within the arc of fire of the backstop (i.e. the bullet will impact the backstop between the high points and not the forest behind or to the sides).
- If you do not have your current membership card with you while at the range, you may be asked to leave.
- Members may bring two guests per but must assume all responsibility for safety and conduct of their guests. Members must notify the MF&GA prior to the guest visit and must pay the \$5per guest fee.
- All members and guests must log-in by providing their membership number and date of visit in the logbook. Include the time of visit as well.
- In case of emergency, call 911.

SHOOTING AT TANNERITE, EXPLODING DISKS, GLASS, COMPUTERS, HARD SHATTERING PLASTICS, AND STEEL TARGETS IS PROHIBITED, AS IS SHOOTING AT ANY OF THE CLUB PROPERTY (SHELTERS, SIGNAGE, ETC).

Those causing intentional damage will be held financially responsible for said damage and will have range privileges suspended.

THE MONCTON FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION WANTS TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SHOOTING EXPERIENCE. ANYONE WHO DISREGARDS RANGE OFFICER DIRECTIONS, IS UNSAFE ON THE RANGE, OR IS ABUSIVE TO OTHER MEMBERS OR THE RANGE OFFICERS WILL BE REPORTED TO THE EXECUTIVE AND RANGE PRIVILEGES OR MEMBERSHIP MAY BE TERMINATED.

Rules Specific to the MF&GA Range

Road-Side Parking

- The driveway to the gate must be kept clear at all times so that members can enter and exit, and if needed, emergency vehicles have access.
- If parking on Victoria Road be mindful of the curve in the road and leave sufficient space for others.
- A good turn-around spot is a few hundred meters up the road at the natural gas pipeline driveway. That is safer than performing a three point turn on Victoria Road.

Inside the Gate Parking

- Vehicle owners/drivers use the lane at their own risk, and are responsible for any damage to their vehicles
- DRIVE SLOWLY there is a sharp turn on the lane to the range
- There is very limited parking behind the rifle and handgun firing lines
- There is an overflow parking area at the top of the hill just after the bow lane
- Park so that others can enter and exit easily and be mindful of the drainage ditches
- **DO NOT** drive vehicles on the range floor. You are responsible for all costs and range damages if you have to be towed out
- When wet, the range is soft so use caution

Locking the Gate

- The gate must be locked at all times as a safety measure to control access and for insurance purposes
- When your vehicle is past the gate, lock the gate behind you
- If in a "convoy", last vehicle in or out locks the gate
- **DO NOT** give the combination anyone or leave the gate unlocked for someone who is arriving later
- The lock is changed to summer access when the Range Manager and Chief Range Officer deem it is dry enough to allow vehicle access. During the winter a 'winter lock' is used but members may walk, snowshoe, or snowmobile into the range. We do not plough the road in the winter.
- Access may be restricted when range repairs are being made or events being held

Range-In-Use Sign

- Make sure the sign is set to “In Use” when you enter the range and set to “Not-In-Use” if you are the last out
- Remember you may not see someone on the pistol range when you enter
- When driving in and the “In Use” is showing, it is a good idea to give a quick honk of the horn to let users know a vehicle is entering

Log Book

- Sign-in with member number, date and time only.
- The log book is a requirement of the NB Chief Firearms Officer.
- Note if you have a guest the \$5 per guest fee covers their insurance
- If something at the range needs repair, make note of it in the log book as the Chief Range Officer checks the book weekly
- For convenience, there is a log book provided on each of handgun and rifle range

Red Flag

- The flag is stored in the Log Book box on the rifle range. Attach it to the lanyard and raise the flag before shooting on either range. Stow the flag upon completion.

Bow Lane

- A 30 yard bow lane was created in 2016 for members who wish to practice. Users must bring their own targets and practice arrows must be used (no broadheads)
- Firearms are prohibited on the bow lane as there is no earthen backstop



Range Design

- Our range is considered a “general outdoor range”. You will note that the rifle range floor slopes towards the backstop so that the floor drains and any direct ricochets are directed into the backstop
- There is a berm that separates the pistol range from the rifle range. The berm is to reduce the likelihood of an errant ricochet from escaping to the adjacent range. The berm is not to be used as a backstop.

- The pistol and rifle backstops and side berm meet the prescribed height in the provincial range standards

Permitted Firearms

- Center-Fire and Rim-Fire Pistols and Rifles ONLY. (exceptions identified below)
- The Executive are authorized to restrict the calibres to standard hunting calibres as this was the original design intent of the range
- .50 calibre center fire rifles are prohibited due to backstop damage and potential overshoot risks
- All shotguns are prohibited from use on the Victoria Road Range. This measure was taken due to excessive and all too frequent damage to the target holders.
- **Black Powder**
 - Due to excessive smoke, please ask others if they object to use (There is a black powder club in Moncton on McLaughlin Road)

Targets

- Paper and cardboard targets are permitted and encouraged for use at all times
- Rubber flipper targets are encouraged for those wanting quick feedback
- **DO NOT** shoot at “steel”, glass, or hard plastics because of ricochet risks and secondary debris risk
- Balloons, paper plates, soft rubber are approved but clean up afterwards
- **DO NOT** shoot at the target holder supports
- Ensure your target is within the “arc of fire” for the range and your shooting lane
- Sporting clays may be used as rifle or pistol targets as long as large pieces of debris are picked up after shooting.
- Remove your target paper when done
- **DO NOT** shoot at rocks as this poses a severe ricochet hazard
- **DO NOT** shoot at birds, or other wildlife that may be present on the range. To do so is a NB Wildlife Act violation.

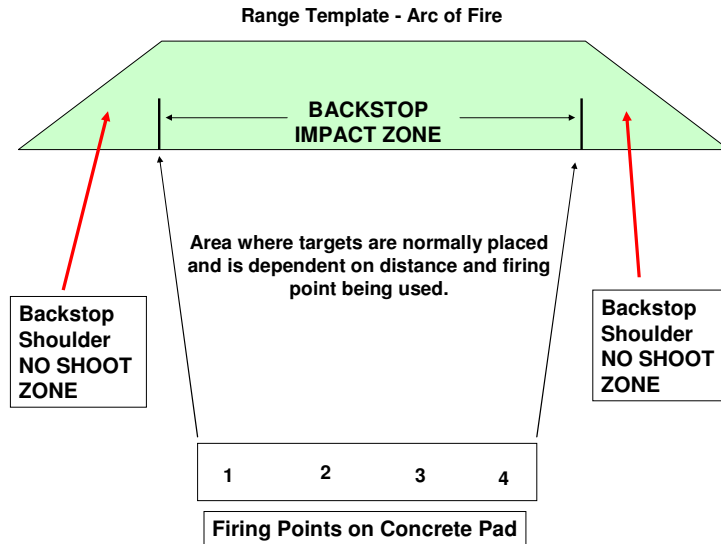
The use of Tannerite ©, other similar binary explosive mixtures or exploding target disks is strictly prohibited at the MF&GA range. Tannerite is highly explosive when impacted with a high velocity bullet. Shrapnel, loud audible explosive force and fire hazard are known results. Exploding target disks can ignite target holders. Anyone using or attempting to use Tannerite will have their range privileges terminated and will be reported.

A Word about Steel Targets

- Shooting at something that provides immediate feedback (ex; “gong”) is an excellent training technique but our range is not designed for “steel” targets. The side berms are not designed for steel, and the ricochet hazard is extreme. “Steel” requires a range designed for its use.
- The slope of the range floor directs projectiles into the earth backstop; this slope can cause a ricochet from a steel target to come back in the direction of the shooter (backsplash) and cause damage to parked vehicles, serious injury or potentially death.
- Size does not matter; all steel targets are prohibited irrespective of calibre of firearm.
- If you desire to have immediate feedback consider using soft plastic swinging targets, suspended hockey pucks, or plastic containers. Just clean up afterward.
- Anyone shooting steel will have their targets seized, will be asked to leave, and will be reported. Loss of range privileges could ensue.

Arc of Fire

Target holders are placed such that when the projectile passes through the target it will impact the earthen backstop in the impact zone as described below. Be mindful of where you place your target holder.



Target Holders

- Are provided by the MF&GA through your range fee
- Target holders must be placed so that the bullet that passes through the target will impact the backstop within the "arc of fire"
- Each holder costs the club \$50 and they can be re-faced and repaired many times if the supports are not damaged extensively
- Place your paper targets in the centre of the holder and NOT on the edge where the supports are
- Do not shoot at items (spent shot gun shells, pop cans, etc.) placed on the top of the target holder support
- Staple balloons to the center of the target holder
- New holders are put out on an occasional basis.

BYOT (Bring Your Own Targets)

- Some members have their own target holders
- This is allowed as long as the construction does not pose a ricochet hazard
- Wood construction with nails or screws in the corners are acceptable
- Small metal frames used to hold paper targets are acceptable
- Large steel/iron target holders or metallic flip targets are *PROHIBITED*
- ****Tannerite or exploding target disks are strictly prohibited for use****

Pistol and Rifle

- The pistol range is intended for pistol users and rifle range for rifles.
- Pistol shooters who wish to shoot beyond the current 25 meters allowed on the pistol range may use the rifle range for beyond 25 meters if there is no one using the rifle range. If a pistol shooter wants to shoot at 100 yards they must stand 100 yards from the backstop.

- The pistol range may be used for 25m .22LR calibre rim-fire rifle only if no pistol shooters are present.
- Pellet rifles may be used by members on either range
- No long gun other than a .22LR is allowed on the pistol range at any time.

Guests

- Members may bring two guests per visit and must assume all responsibility for the safety and conduct of that guest
- An 'observer' is a guest and the \$5 fee must be paid for insurance purposes.
- Anyone bringing a minor or child must ensure the minor or child behaves, and does not disturb other users, or pose a safety concern
- Members **MUST** give the guest a safety briefing using the posted range rules as a guide
- Members are to remit the \$5/guest(s) insurance fee and guest name to the MF&GA
- The member and their guest(s) may only occupy one shooting bench as priority always goes to MF&GA members.
- The member must provide the name of the guest to the MF&GA in advance so that insurance can be assured. The member is responsible to remit the \$5 for each guest to the MF&GA. We have a contact form on our website to advise us of guests.
- The Dept of Energy and Resource Development issues permits for sighting in which are valid on Monday and Wednesdays and Saturday afternoons only

Special Events

- During the year "friendly shoots", training sessions and "family range days" may be organized to promote sport shooting and firearms safety.
- MF&GA volunteers coordinate these events so all are welcome to help out at events.
- Range access may be limited on event days or during training events
- In a few cases the range may be rented out to a third party such as enforcement agencies for training. This will be done so as to minimize impact on members
- If you want to hold a special event you must consult with the Range Manager and Chief Range Officer prior to holding an event.

Law Enforcement Agencies

- The terms of the MF&GA lease allows for the rental of the range to RCMP, DNR, DFO or other Peace Officers for official practice or training
- Some Peace Officers are MF&GA members and have range access so official vehicles may occasionally be present
- Usually, agency practice sessions are coordinated through the Chief Range Officer or Range Manager
- Peace Officers shooting as civilians must follow MF&GA range rules
- Peace Officers on official training usually have their own Range Officer and follow prescribed shooting protocols of their agency
- A Peace Officer may at any time request to see the required firearms documentation of any person using the range.

Range Safe Operating Practices

Safety Checks

- Ensure the "Range In-Use" sign is set
- Ensure Red Flag is raised
- Ensure you have signed the log book (# date and time)
- Loading of firearms is performed *ONLY* at the firing line when the range is clear or under command of a Range Officer
- Eye and ear protection is compulsory

- You are responsible for every shot you fire. Verify your target, backstop positioning, ricochet potential, and arc of fire before you commence firing
- During hunting seasons, blaze orange is highly recommended on the property

Buddy System

- Shooting with a friend is always more enjoyable
- Alternate taking turns with one shooting and the other serving as a Range Officer for safety
- If you go to the range alone, perform a check-in/check-out phone call with someone
- Make sure someone knows where you are and when you are expected to return

Firing Line

- Follow Range Officer commands
- Everyone on the line should think like a safety officer
- Anyone can call a “Cease Fire!” at any time if something does not appear right
- Before going down range to check targets all firearms on the line must be unloaded, magazine removed, and the action left open
- Individuals must ‘stand back’ from firearms when people are down range
- For maximum safety, magazines should NOT be loaded while people are down range.
- The Range Officer may designate a “loading station” if needed
- Rifles must be left on the shooting bench or rack unloaded
- Pistols must be holstered unloaded or on the shooting bench pointed down range, unloaded with action open. Semi-auto pistols should have action open and ejection port UP. Revolvers – cylinder/gate open
- Magazines must not be in holstered handguns if off the firing line. Only load a handgun on the firing line. A handgun is considered loaded if the magazine is in even if empty.
- NEVER handle any firearm while people are down range
- Entry to check targets will be from the middle of the firing line and not from the sides of the shooting pad
- Let the Range Officer know if you have a problem with your firearm
- Hang fire ...Inform Range Officer and wait one minute before ejecting

Typical Range Officer Firing Line Commands (or something similar)

Rifle Range	Pistol Range or Police Commands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The range is hot • Are the shooters ready? • Ready on the left, ready on the right • Commence firing • Cease-fire! Stop Stop Stop • Unload firearm make it safe • Place your rifle in the rack • Range is safe • Advance to targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the line ready? • The line is ready! • Fire! • Cease Fire! Stop Stop Stop • Holster and secure your firearm • The line is safe • Advance to targets

Range Etiquette

- Pick up your garbage, old targets etc. and put them in the garbage can.
- Waste food items can attract varmints so please carry out waste food items.
- Take a few minutes and **pick up spent brass** and clean off your shooting bench.
- Put spent brass in the plastic pails that are provided
- **DO NOT** put live ammunition in the garbage there is a marked bucket for that
- **DO NOT** become a “bench hog”; take turns when the range is busy
- When the range is busy, the shooting bench is NOT the place to make extensive repairs or perform firearms stripping and cleaning
- If you must field strip, do so in a safe area with all ammunition secured. Range Officers may identify an area.
- Be mindful of people arriving or leaving who may not have put on ear defenders. Remind them you are “hot”.
- Be helpful to new members and make them feel welcome.
- If a new member or a guest seems unsure how to proceed, offer to guide them through range procedures.
- If you see something unsafe, immediately say something; leave a note in the log book if appropriate
- Be a good example of a responsible range user
- The Range Safety Officers are members like you who want to enjoy a safe range experience. They are there to keep everyone safe. Respect what they are trying to do.
- Take turns being the Range Officer. That way everyone gets a chance to shoot.
- Some on the line may be shooting 50m and others 100m or 150m; be patient and respectful if it takes someone a little longer to check their target. Stand back from your firearm while others are down range and do not handle any firearm or ammo while someone is down range.
- Make sure your gear is not obstructing others from moving around
- Never handle another person’s gear/firearm unless they give you permission to do so.

You and the Law

Criminal Code of Canada

●86. (1) Every person commits an offence who, without lawful excuse, uses, carries, handles, ships, transports or stores a firearm, a prohibited weapon, a restricted weapon, a prohibited device or any ammunition or prohibited ammunition in a careless manner or without reasonable precautions for the safety of other persons.

●87.(1) Every person commits an offence who, without lawful excuse, points a firearm at another person, whether the firearm is loaded or unloaded.

Emergency

- Call 911 (cell coverage may be limited)
- Identify as 466 Victoria Road (off Indian Mountain Road)
- Identify the nature of the emergency
- Render first aid if required
- Have someone unlock the gate and wait on Victoria Road for first responders
- If the emergency involves a firearm discharge, inform 911, secure the area so that nothing is disturbed for the RCMP. The RCMP will want to interview all witnesses.
- The MF&GA is required to report any emergencies involving firearms to the NB Firearms Officer.

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