

Moncton Fish and Game Association

Range Safety Handbook & Range Policies



**Rifle and Handgun Range
466 Victoria Road**

Revised September 2021

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 identifies rules and policies of the range that members must follow.

History

- **The MF&GA (formed in 1924) is not a gun club**, but operates an approved shooting range for the use of its **members**. We are a **not-for-profit organization** that supports several community projects.
- The range was originally constructed (early 1990s) on Crown Land in cooperation with the NB Department of Natural Resources to support local hunters who wished to sight-in their hunting rifles and has evolved to the facility it is today.
- We primarily focus on serving a niche market of members for sighting-in, plinking and handgun target shooting. Other clubs in SE New Brunswick serve the black powder, sporting clay, long distance and IPSC aficionados.
- The MF&GA leases the land on a not-for-profit basis and is considered by the NB CFO as the owner and operator of the range.

Range Membership Benefits and Obligations

- The shooting membership includes all club rights and voting privileges, and provides access to the range.
- **All range users must have a valid shooting membership** and have their membership card in their possession at the range at all times.
- Members are covered by the Association's NFA insurance policy.
- Membership includes membership to the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation
- Any youth member or any guest under the age of 18 must be supervised at the range by an adult member of the MF&GA who has range privileges.
- The gate combination will be provided only to members who can then drive in during summer months.
- Hours of operation are dawn to dusk.
- The shooting membership includes a 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 range in order to receive an ATT for restricted firearms. We are such a range.
- Your shooting membership card covers you for the transport of your long guns to and from your home and the club range during both hunting and closed 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, or any member, may ask to see your membership card. You may be asked to leave if you do not have your shooting membership card with you.
- No person or member shall undertake a commercial/for profit activity of any type on range property without the express written permission of the MF&GA executive.

Your MF&GA Range (Shooting) Membership Card

- Shows that you are a member in good standing of the MF&GA and that you are authorized to use the range. Your card is accepted by Public Safety Conservation Enforcement to transport your long gun(s) from your residence to the range, or any other approved range, and return any time of year.
- May be required by another range if you are a guest at that range.
- Will be required by the NBCFO and outfitter if buying a restricted firearm.

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

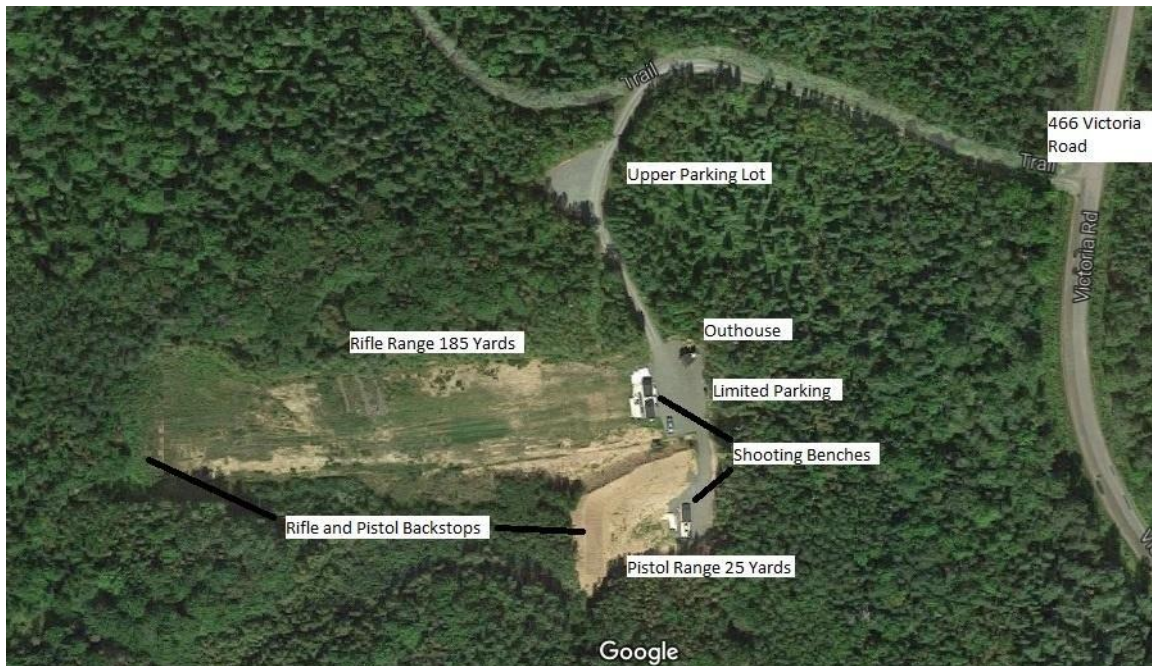
- **follow range rules;**
- **maintain safe firearm handling at all times;**
 - **follow safe range procedures;**
 - **report unsafe activities;**
 - **respect Range Officers' instructions;**
- **be considerate to every other person who uses the range; and**
 - **be a good club member.**

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 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's 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 material and are designates of the Chief Range Officer.

Any Range Officer has the authority at any time to:

- *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.*



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 floor impact 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. All shooting is directed toward the backstops.

Range Guests

The MFGA range is 'members only' but we also support the promotion of recreational target shooting and encourage family and youth participation. We welcome members' guests to the range, but there are some specific conditions that apply for guests:

- For **2021 and 2022** we are waiving the guest fee on a trial basis.
- All guests **must be registered on-line 24 hours in advance** (minimum the day before) for insurance purposes;
- A member can bring IMMEDIATE FAMILY members as many times as they wish at no cost as long as the guest is registered on-line;
- IMMEDIATE FAMILY means spouse/partner, parent, grandparents, offspring, grandchild;
- During a membership year, a member can register no more than three other range guests who are non-immediate family members;
- Unregistered guests will be instructed to leave the range;
- **Members cannot bring guests for the purposes of sighting-in the guest's rifles;**
- Those who wish to sight-in must obtain a sighting permit and pay the required \$25 to the MFGA.
- MFGA members may bring up to two guests per visit.
- The member must assume all responsibility for the safety and conduct of their guest.
- **An 'observer' or 'non-shooter' is considered as a guest** and must be registered;
- **Anyone bringing a minor or child must ensure the minor or child does not disturb other users, or pose a safety concern to themselves or others.** Minors or children must be either youth members of the MFGA or registered as a guest.
- **Members must give the guest a safety briefing** using the posted range rules as a guide before allowing them to shoot.
- The member and their guest(s) **may only occupy one shooting bench as priority always goes to MF&GA members.**
- The MF&GA Guest Form **will be the only form accepted by the MFGA** to register a guest and the form must be submitted in advance of taking any guest(s). Form at <https://www.monctonfishandgame.com/becoming-a-member>
- The MFGA is a not-for-profit organization. **Any member found to be using the MFGA guest privilege for personal profit or falsifying guest records or forms will be suspended for a calendar year and upon a second occurrence suspended permanently.**
- Members must sign-in the range logbook with date, time, membership # and indicate "plus guest". (no names required)
- As a lease condition to have public access, the Department of Energy and Resource Development refers individuals to our range for "sighting in" activities. This is available at a cost of \$25 per day, per person (see link above). Sighting-in permits are issued for Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons only and have their own rules attached.

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. Remember ACTS and PROVE!!!
- Respect the red firing line; it is there to keep you and others safe.
- 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 and handguns as detailed further.
- Hunting is NOT allowed on the leased property.
- **All Shotguns including slugs and .50cal centerfire 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 a Range Officer.
- Keep the muzzle pointed downrange at all times when loaded (not up or down),
- No cross firing. Shooters must shoot within 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 will be asked to leave.
- No walking down range while carrying a firearm.
- Members must assume all responsibility for safety and conduct of their guests. Members must notify the MF&GA prior to the guest visit. The Member and guest have access to one shooting bench only.
- 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. Do Not write names, numbers only.
- In case of emergency, call 911.

Procedures and Policies 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.

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.
- 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

Locking the Gate

- The gate must be locked at all times for insurance purposes so as to control access.
- If in a “convoy”, the last vehicle in or out locks the gate.
- **DO NOT** give the combination to anyone or leave the gate unlocked for someone who is arriving later.
- During the winter a ‘winter lock’ is used but members may walk, snowshoe, or snowmobile into the range. We do not plow the road for vehicle access in the winter.
- The lock is changed to summer access when it is dry enough to allow vehicle access.
- 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.

Log Book

- The log book is a legal requirement of the NB Chief Firearms Officer. Sign-in with member number, date and time only. 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 both the handgun and rifle range. Sign in using either one.

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.

Permitted Firearms

- **Center-Fire and Rim-Fire Pistols and Rifles ONLY.** (Exceptions identified below)
- The range is restricted to standard handgun and hunting calibres
- **.50 calibre center fire rifles are prohibited** due to backstop damage, report and potential overshoot risks.
- **All shotguns are prohibited** including slugs from use on the Victoria Road Range. This measure was taken due to excessive and all too frequent destruction of 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)

- **Bows/Archery** – Bows may be used on the Bow Lane and the other ranges if firearms users do not object. No targets are provided so bring your own target blocks.

Targets

- Paper and cardboard targets are 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 and place in trash 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 and can result in prosecution.

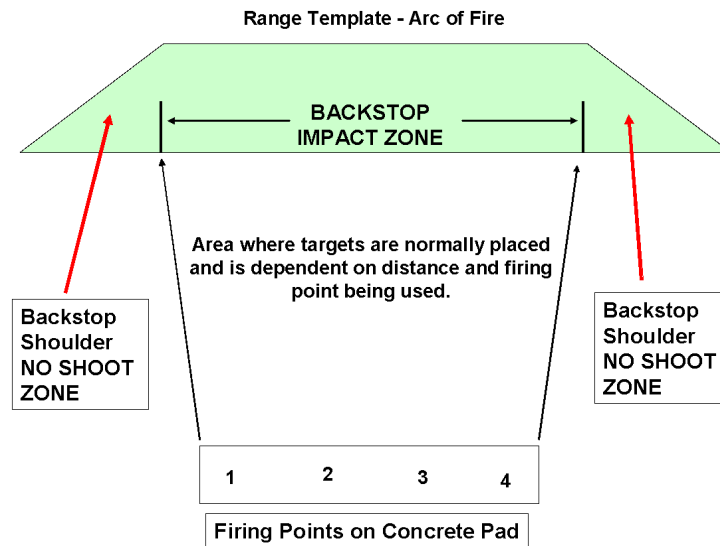
The use of Tannerite ©, other similar binary explosive mixtures or exploding target disks (Firebirds) is strictly prohibited at the MF&GA range. Tannerite is highly explosive when impacted with a high velocity bullet. Shrapnel, loud audible explosive force and fire hazard are known results. Exploding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

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 ricochet hazard is extreme with steel. “Steel” requires a designed range and trained safety officers.
- 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 soft plastic containers. Just clean up afterward.
- **Anyone shooting steel will be asked to leave, and will be reported. Loss of range privileges could ensue.**

Arc of Fire

Target holders are to be 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”.
- 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 shotgun shells, pop cans, etc.) placed on the top of the target holder.
- Staple balloons to the center of the target holder, not the supports.
- New holders are put out on an occasional basis. (A true marksman does not worry about the look of a target holder ☺)

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 or rubber disk targets are acceptable
- Large steel/iron target holders or metallic flip targets are **prohibited**.

Pistol and Rifle Ranges

- The pistol range is intended for pistol users and the 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 .22LR calibre rim-fire rifles only as long as no pistol shooters are present or if they agree.
- 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.

Special Events

- During the year “friendly shoots”, training sessions and “family range days” may be organized by the MFGA to promote sport shooting and firearms safety. Range access may be limited on event days or during training events.
- Rentals are only made to recognized law enforcement agencies and are scheduled on weekdays to have minimal impact on weekends.

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.
- Agency practice sessions are coordinated through the Range Manager.
- Peace Officers shooting as civilian MFGA members must follow MF&GA range rules.
- A Peace Officer may at any time request to see the required firearms documentation of any person using the range.

Safe Operating Practices

Safety Checks

- Ensure the “Range In-Use” sign is set.
- Ensure the 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
- A small personal first-aid kit is useful for minor cuts, blisters etc.

Buddy System

- 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 Reminders

- Do not cross the red firing line if the range is “live”.
- 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.
- A Range Officer may designate a "loading station" if needed.
- Rifles must be left on the shooting bench or rack unloaded when going downrange.
- 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/or wait one minute before ejecting.

Typical Range Officer Firing Line Commands

Rifle and Handgun Range Commands (or something similar)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The range is hot (live) • 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

Range Etiquette and Being a Good Member

- **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.
- **Before checking targets make your intention to go downrange is known and ensure others are “clear”.**
- 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.

Emergency Procedures

- Call 911 (cell coverage may be spotty).
- Identify yourself.
- Identify location as 466 Victoria Road (5 km North off Indian Mountain Road).
- Identify the specific nature of the emergency (medical, firearms, forest fire etc).
- 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, ask for the RCMP to attend, and secure the area so that nothing is disturbed for the RCMP. The RCMP will want to interview all witnesses and persons at the range.
- Make notes if possible and notify the MFGA Executive as soon as practical.
- The MF&GA is required to report any emergencies involving firearms to the NB Firearms Officer.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

- FALSIFYING INFORMATION ON THE CLUB APPLICATION FORM, GUEST FORM OR UNDERTAKING UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITY AT THE RANGE CAN RESULT IN IMMEDIATE AND POTENTIALLY PERMANENT SUSPENSION.
- 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 AND MAY HAVE RANGE PRIVILEGES PERMANENTLY 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.
- IN THE CASE OF GROSS SAFETY NEGLIGENCE, THE EXECUTIVE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE MEMBERSHIP AND INFORM LAW ENFORCEMENT AND/OR THE NEW BRUNSWICK CHIEF FIREARMS OFFICER.

SAFE SHOOTING