

Wildlife Committee of Washington Rifle Range Special Use Procedures

Operating Procedures

Wildlife Committee of Washington operates under two general sets of rules for its rifle ranges.

Supervised - For the general public, rifle shooting is done from the benchrest position, slow fire. This is done because we don't know the training or skill levels of the general public who use our range. This shooting is done under the supervision and control of our rangemasters. Matches, training, and other events are also conducted under supervision.

Unsupervised - For our members, we have a Special Use process for those who wish to use a range without a dedicated rangemaster, shoot from other than a benchrest position, or at other than 50 or 100 yards distance. These different positions include off-hand, kneeling, sitting, prone, from shooting sticks, or other support. We also allow shooting with slug shotguns, muzzleloading rifles, highpower pistols, and chronograph use.

Intent - The Special Use process is in place to insure that members have enough skill to be safe in their particular use, to keep bullets within the limits of our ranges, and to avoid damage to our ranges. This process also allows members to safely practice and improve their skills at their chosen type of rifle shooting.

Rifle Special Use Training

Members will take Rifle Special Use training when they wish to be able to use Range #1 at any open time or Range #2 during member hours. To get the training, find the Rifle/Pistol Special Use class on the club calendar, click on it, and sign up using the process shown. Special Use training will be scheduled regularly on the club calendar, up to several times a month. In addition to the class, members will need to sign up and attend the Rifle Special Use range session, to learn and demonstrate range procedures and shooting safety. This Range session is also shown on the calendar, once a month.

When this Special Use training is complete, the member will then apply for a Rifle endorsement to their membership badge. This authorizes them to use the rifle ranges unsupervised, within the design limits of the range and within the operating limits of club restrictions. This is for any approved position, any distance, slow fire only. This is for up to 300 yards from prone or the benchrest, up to 100 yards with rimfire and muzzleloading, all other shooting at 100 yards.

Members who complete this training will have their membership card updated with a blue square on the front of the card, indicating Rifle Special Use. The blue field on the back of the card will state, "Complete Rifle Special Use" to distinguish it from earlier qualifications.

Rifle Special Use will be renewed by taking the training again after 7 years, to make sure that members are aware of changed conditions or procedures on the ranges. Members may choose to take the special use training and renew their special use sooner than 7 years.

General Limitations

Range design - The design of our range requires that the 200 and 300 yard targets on Range #1 can only be engaged from the benches or from the prone position on the firing platform. The 50 yard

targets can only be engaged from the benches, from the prone, sitting, or kneeling positions on the platform, or from standing next to the benches. All other shooting is at the 100 yard targets.

Rifle Range specific limitations

Range #1

Bench rest - Shooting from the bench can be done at 50 or 100 yards with rimfire rifles, 50, 100, 200, or 300 yards with centerfire rifles, 50 or 100 yards with highpower pistols, and 50 or 100 yards with blackpowder or muzzleloading rifles. Bench rest shooting is generally done from the east or center shooting bays.

Off-hand rifle - Shooting from the off-hand position will be done from either between the benches, with the forward foot touching the bulkhead at either 50 or 100 yards, or from the forward platform at only 100 yards.

Highpower pistol - Shooting highpower pistols will be limited to pistols using rifle cartridges, or pistol cartridges larger than 9mm and will be shot from a rest or a bipod on the shooting bench. There is a test and separate endorsement for highpower pistol fired from offhand.

Pistol-caliber carbines - These carbines can be used like other rifles. All shots must be on the paper at 100 yards.

Chronograph - Chronographs will be arranged so that bullets passing over the chronograph will hit the 100 yard impact area without damaging the target frames. Setup of chronographs should not unduly delay or impede the ability of other shooters to use the range.

Muzzleloaders - Muzzleloading rifles will be fired at 50 or 100 yards. They will be loaded from a powder measure or with propellant pellets, and powder and cap containers will be closed when firing.

Position shooting - Position shooting is generally done from the west or center shooting bays, from the forward platform. This will be done at 50 to 100 yards, and includes prone, sitting, kneeling, and off-hand. This may be done with either rimfire or centerfire rifles.

Long-range prone - Long-range prone will be done at 100, 200 or 300 yards from the forward platform, with centerfire rifles.

Shooting sticks - Shooting sticks will be used at 100 yards from the forward platform, from either the standing, kneeling, or sitting positions. The member may use a single stick, a bipod or a tripod. Other approved supports are allowed.

Magazines - Magazines may be loaded to capacity.

Range #2

Bench rest - Shooting will only be done from the bench, at 50 yards for rimfire rifles and shotguns with slugs, at 50 or 100 yards for muzzleloading rifles, or 100 yards for centerfire rifles.

All ranges

Member hours - No shots will be fired on any range before 9:01 or after the closing of the Range Office. All members with Special Use endorsement will have a gate key and wear their membership card.

Multiple shots - Shooting will be done at a pace to ensure that all shots hit the target.

Caliber limitations - Ranges #1 and #2 are limited to rifle calibers below .338 Lapua. .50 Browning, .416 Chey-Tac and similar cartridges with muzzle energies above 8000 foot-pounds are not allowed. (460 Wby Mag, 8000 ft-lbs) Baffles have been tested with .338 Lapua.

Targets - Members will only use targets attached to the existing target frames. Use of target hangers or backers is allowed. Club-supplied steel targets may be used, and will be taken down and returned to storage when the member is done shooting. Aiming points will be kept away from support frames. Pictures of people or human shapes will not be used as targets. Members will only hang one target per shooting bench, from the target frame that matches their shooting position. Members may hang targets from 50 or 100 yard frames at the same time as they have targets on the 200 to 300 yard frames. Targets will be removed when the shooter is done.

Cleanup - Members will clean up after themselves, to include targets, muzzleloader patches, cleaning materials, and cartridges and cartridge boxes.

Related policies

Members will take Rifle Special Use training when they wish to be able to use Range #1 at any time or Range #2 during member hours.

Rifle Special Use training will be scheduled regularly on the club calendar. Members who complete this training will have their membership card updated with a blue square on the front of the card, indicating Rifle Special Use. The blue field on the back of the card will state, "Complete Rifle Special Use" to distinguish it from earlier qualifications.

Rifle Special Use will be renewed by taking the training again after 7 years, to make sure that members are aware of changed conditions or procedures on the ranges. Members may choose to take the special use training and renew their special use sooner than 7 years.

Members who violate these policies or act in an unsafe manner may have their special use and gate key suspended. Restoral of special use privileges may require that the member retake the Special Use training.

Members with current Rifle Special Use qualification do not need to take the new Special Use training until their current Special Use qualification next expires.

When this Special Use training is complete, the member will then apply for an overall Rifle Range endorsement to their membership badge. This authorizes them to use the rifle ranges unsupervised, within the design limits of the range and within the operating limits of club restrictions. This is for any approved position, any distance, controlled fire only. This is for up to 300 yards from prone or the benchrest, up to 100 yards with rimfire and muzzleloading, all other shooting at 100 yards. If approved, off-hand highpower pistol qualification will be noted on the back of the member's badge.