

St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club Inc.

Affiliated With the Michigan United Conservation Clubs

23640 Featherstone Road, P.O. Box 339 Sturgis, MI 49091

(269) 467-7128

WWW.conservationsclub.us

Dear New Member,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I would like to welcome you as a member of the St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club.

We hope that you will value your membership. We are looking forward to meeting you and working with you in the future. **Remember, your membership is worth only what you choose to put in it.** Our club is a volunteer organization and we ask that you donate some of your time each year to assist the club in our many activities. Without every members help, the club will cease to exist in its present form.

We are pleased to present you with this "New Member Packet". Enclosed please find your membership card. We ask that you carry it on your person and show it on request by a club official or member. You will also find a copy of the St. Joe. County Conservation & Sportsman Club Constitution, By-laws, and ground rules. Please read them carefully. If you have any questions you can contact any board member for clarification.

On the bottom of your membership card, you will find the combination to the gate lock. Please do not give this to your friends, relatives or acquaintances, as it is for your use only. I have also included an additional membership application for you to give to a friend. If you need additional applications contact me at 269-503-3036 and I will send more out to you.

Again welcome to our club and we hope to see you at our membership meetings held the second Monday of each Month.

Sincerely,

Tim Charles

Tim Charles (Executive Secretary)

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Ground Rules

AUTHORITY: The Board of Directors

PURPOSE: The following rules and regulations are established to insure the safety of our members and their guest, as well as the safety of your neighbors and the surrounding community.

ENFORCEMENT: All members are required to enforce these rules. All members in good standing are expected to politely point out to anyone in violation of these rules, the nature of the violation, and request that they stop. They shall report the incident along with the violator's name to an Activity Director or Board Member for review.

PENALTY: The Board of Directors will review all reports of violations and after meeting with the member or members in question, will take one of the following actions:

1. No Action
2. Written Reprimand
3. Temporary Suspension of membership
4. Expulsion from the club

RANGE USAGE: Eye and ear protection mandatory

Trap, Skeet & Sporting Clay: **Shotguns (no slug or shot larger than 6)** Cowboy Ranges no shot larger than 7 ½.

Lower Range: Center fire and Rim fire rifles and handguns, Black powder rifles and handguns, and shotguns

Indoor Range (clubhouse): 22 cal. Rim fire rifles and handguns **NO MAGNUMS**

Archery Range: No firearms

Note: No full auto firearms permitted on any range

RULES:

1. A member in good standing can use the club's ranges during daylight hours.
2. A member may invite a reasonable number of guests to shoot with them. He/She will be responsible for their actions.
3. A member must supervise their guest and/or relative under the age of 18 years.
4. A member shall abide by the rules of gun safety and co-operate with Range Officers.
5. A member or group wanting to use the club facilities for any special events must clear it with the Board Of Directors
6. A member may rent the club facilities for family gathering, etc. after one year of membership.
7. Everyone is expected to clean up.
8. No hunting or trapping on club grounds. Or malicious killing of non-threatening wildlife
9. The control of our club grounds is the gate. Lock it behind you, in and out. On days of schedule events the event coordinator will be responsible for the gate. Do not leave the lock set on the combination.
10. No alcohol and/or drugs shall be used during shooting events or while handling guns.
11. On the days of sanctioned matches, other events or work bees, there will be no shooting except for match competitors. All scheduled use of any range shall take precedence over individual or personal activities.
12. A member must politely and positively respond when corrected concerning a violation of club rules.
13. Members/Shooter must follow the rules and safety precautions of their regulatory sanctioning body (such as ATA for trap, NSSA for skeet, IHMSA, IDPA, SASS for cowboy action shooting NRA, etc). A copy of these can be obtained from an Activity Director or the Executive Secretary.
14. Members must carry their membership card on their person, and be prepared to show it on request by a club official or member.
15. While on club grounds, all guns shall be unloaded, magazines out and pointed in a safe direction, especially while behind the firing line or in the clubhouse. Handguns may be holstered if unloaded.
Exemption: Persons holding a valid Concealed Carry Permit may carry a handgun in accordance with their permit, concealed on or about their body while on club grounds. No loaded handgun will be removed from its place of concealment unless that person is on the Lower Range firing line facing down range.
16. Load gun on firing line only and keep them pointed safely down range. Guns shall not be loaded with people down range.
17. No one shall go down range until all guns are unloaded and the line is called safe.
18. While using the lower range raise flag while shooting, lower when finished. Flag is located at the entrance to the lower range (on top of the hill).

St. Joseph County Conservation and Sportsman Club accepts no liability for injury, theft or property damage

involving members, guest, competitors or spectators at the outdoor or indoor ranges.

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Rules The Basics

- 1 Always keep the Gun Pointed in a Safe Direction (even if unloaded)
- 2 Always keep your Finger off the Trigger until Ready to Shoot
- 3 Always keep the Gun unloaded until Ready to Use

When using or storing a gun, always follow these NRA rules:

- . Know your target and what is beyond
- . Be sure the gun is safe to operate
- . Know how to use the gun safely
- . Use only the correct ammunition for your gun
- . Wear eye and ear protection, as appropriate
- . Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting
- . Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons
- . Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions

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Trap Range Safety Precautions

1 All trap help must have a flag or a other warning device to warn of the trap boys exit from the trap house.

2 Trap personnel should be totally instructed in the potential danger of the trap (particularly the throwing arm).

3 Movement and exposure on adjacent traps should be kept to the minimum.

4 The practice of tracking targets behind a shooting squad is unsafe, disconcerting to the shooter, and is not permitted.

5 Avoid alcohol and drugs. Handling firearms while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs constitutes a criminal disregard for the safety of others. This rule shall be strictly complied with and shall apply to practice shooting as well as regular events.

6 In handicap there shall be no more than two yards difference between adjacent shooters in the squad, and no more than a total difference of three yards in a squad.

7 A gun which for any reason fails to fire as intended must be promptly opened without any determination by the referee of the cause of the failure to fire.

8 All guns must have the action opened and contain no live shell or empty shell at any time, except while the shooter is on the firing line. The gun's action may be closed when it is in a gun rack but it shall not contain a live shell or empty shell.

9 As a safety precaution test shots will not be permitted, without permission of the puller, referee.

10 A contestant shall place a live shell in his / hers gun only when at a firing point facing the traps. In singles shooting he / she may place only one live shell in his / her gun at a time and must remove it or the empty shell(s) before moving from one position to another. In doubles shooting he / she may place two live shells in his / her gun at a time and must remove both live shells and the empty shells before moving from one position to another. In changing from one position to another, the shooter shall not walk in front of the other competitors.

11 Snap caps or recoil reduction devices may be excluded from the above only if colored a safety orange as to permanently identify them as not being a live shell or empty shell.

12 All guns used by contestants must be so equipped and so used as not eject shells in a manner to substantially disturb or interfere with other contestants.

13 It is the shooter's responsibility and the club's responsibility to conduct a shoot in a safe manner.

14 It is the club's responsibility to remove any competitor who is conducting himself / herself in a unsafe manner.

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Skeet Range Safety Precautions

The safety of competitors, field personnel and spectators is of primary importance and requires continuous attention and self-discipline. On any part of club grounds, as well as on the shooting field, particular attention must be given to the safety procedures outlined in the following paragraphs and to other safe gun handling techniques. Caution must also be used in moving about the field and club grounds. Where self discipline and attention to safety procedures is lacking, it is the duty of all club members and guest to enforce them.

1. Eye and Ear Protection.
2. No gun shall be loaded until the shooter is on the shooting station.
3. As a safety precaution, test shots will not be permitted without permission of the field referee.
4. The loaded gun shall be kept pointed in a direction that will not endanger the lives of shooters, field personnel or spectators.
5. When not on the shooting station, the gun shall be carried with breech open and empty. Pumps and automatics will have the bolt open. Fixed breech (double barrels including over-and-under's and side-by-sides) will be broken open.
6. When the shooter is on the shooting station and ready to shoot and a delay occurs, such as a equipment breakdown, the gun shall be opened and all shells extracted.
7. During the shooting of single targets, management may permit the loading of two shells. However, no one will be allowed to load two shells to shoot their last singles target on any station.
8. The loading of more than two shells in the gun shall not be allowed at anytime.
9. A gun may not be used that will accept more than one gauge of shell at the same time.
10. A shooter will not be permitted to use a gun with a release-type trigger unless the referee and other members of the squad are notified.
11. Any shooter whose gun accidentally discharges twice within one round for mechanical reasons shall required to change guns or , if time permits, have his/her gun repaired, before continuing to shoot the round or subsequent rounds.
12. When a shooter intentionally fires a second time at the same target, he/she shall be warned by the referee. The second time the shooter intentionally fires a second shot at the same target in any event, the penalty shall be automatic disqualification from the event.
13. The placement of markers other than those specified in the NSSA rulebook shall be deemed illegal.
14. No spectator shall be allowed on the skeet fields without the referee permission.

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Black Powder Muzzleloader

(LOWER RANGE) Pistol on Pistols Rifle on Rifle

Safety Precautions

- 1 Never smoke while handling black powder or any type of gun powder.
- 2 Store powder in its original container. Never put powder or primers in a glass container.
- 3 Keep percussion caps away from powder.
- 4 Do not use steel spoons, measures, or funnels with black powder or its substitutes.
- 5 Avoid distractions when loading black powder guns.
- 6 Never load a muzzleloader directly from a power source; always use a separate power measure.
- 7 Always seat the ball or bullet firmly atop the powder when loading a muzzleloader.
- 8 Do not blow down the barrel of a black powder firearm.
- 9 Do not place a cap or prime the pan until ready to fire.

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING SAFETY PRACTICES

Saint Joseph County Conservation Club

An expansion of SASS® safety practices dated April 2010

Our sport, by its very nature, has the potential to be dangerous and a serious accident can occur. Every participant in a Cowboy Action Shooting match is expected to be a safety officer. Each shooter's first responsibility is for his or her safe conduct, but all shooters are expected to remain alert for actions by others that are unsafe.

Any Range Officer or shooter may confront any participant about an observed unsafe situation, and it is expected the matter will quickly be corrected and not repeated. Any argument concerning the correction of a safety related matter can be expected to result in that shooter being ejected from the range.

Shooters shall adhere to the following safety guidelines:

1. Treat and respect every firearm at all times as if it were loaded.
2. Muzzle direction is important between, before, during, and after shooting a stage. A muzzle must not be allowed to "sweep" the other participants at any time. **Long guns will have their actions open with chambers and magazines empty and muzzles pointed in a safe direction when transported at a match.** Failure to manage safe muzzle direction is grounds for disqualification from the stage, and for repeated offenses, from the match.
3. All firearms will remain unloaded except when under the direct observation of a Range Officer on the firing line or in the loading area.
4. All loading and unloading will be conducted only in the designated areas. **NOTE:** Percussion revolver shooters must exercise care to ensure they maintain safe muzzle direction during loading and have fired or cleared all capped chambers prior to leaving the unloading area.
5. Six-guns are always loaded with only five rounds (five shooters with four), the hammer lowered and left resting on the empty chamber.
6. No cocked revolver may ever leave a shooter's hand.
7. Once a live round is placed under the hammer, the round must be expended. If the firearm is shot out of sequence, the shooter will receive a single procedural penalty. The shooter has the option of making the gun safe and moving to the correct position or restaging it. Shotguns may be opened and rounds removed or replaced without penalty.
8. The shooter shall not cock his revolver until the firearm is pointed safely down range. Any accidental or premature discharge of any firearm impacting within ten-feet of the shooter is unsafe and will result in disqualification from the stage or, if less than five-feet, from the match. Any accidental or premature discharge of any firearm resulting in a round leaving the range will result in a stage disqualification; second offense will result in a match disqualification. A second stage disqualification on the same day for either of the above violations shall result in the shooter's ejection from the match. A safe practice is to develop the habit of cocking handguns with the "weak" or off-hand after the gun has cleared leather and is pointed safely down range.
9. Rifles may be staged down range from the shooter with the magazine loaded, action closed, hammer down, and **chamber empty.**

10. Shotguns are always staged open with magazine and chambers empty and are loaded on the clock unless the stage begins with the shotgun in the shooter's hands. Mule-eared shotguns can be cocked at the beginning of a scenario, whether staged or in the shooter's hands. Long guns are never staged with their muzzles on the ground.
11. Long guns will be left open with magazines and chambers empty at the conclusion of each shooting string (i.e., whenever the gun leaves the shooter's hands during or at the end of a stage). This does not apply to "restaged" guns.
12. A live round left in the chamber constitutes a stage disqualification. Any other rounds, live or empty, left anywhere in a long gun is a ten-second minor safety violation. Broken guns still containing rounds will not warrant penalties so long as the malfunction is declared and the gun made safe.
13. All shooters must demonstrate rudimentary familiarity and proficiency with the firearms being used. Shooters are expected to perform within their capabilities at all times. SASS matches are not the forum in which to learn basic firearms handling.
14. SASS matches **are not** fast draw competitions. Any unsafe gun handling in the course of a draw from the holster or any "fanning" will result in the shooter's disqualification from that stage. "Slip-hammering" is not the same as fanning and is legal.
15. Extreme care must be exercised when drawing a pistol from a cross-draw or shoulder holster or returning the pistol to leather. The user must "twist" their body, if necessary, to ensure the muzzle never breaks the 170 degree safety rule during the process. Failure to ensure the muzzle is always down range is grounds for an immediate stage disqualification. A second infraction during the same match is grounds for match disqualification. (Note: The 170 degree safety rule means the muzzle of the firearm must always be straight down range +/-85 degrees. If a competitor "comes close" to breaking the 180 degree safety plane, the 170 degree safety rule has been violated, and the competitor is at fault.)
16. When changing location during a stage, all firearms being carried must either have the hammer down on an empty chamber or spent case, or have the action open.
17. A dropped unloaded gun results in the shooter's disqualification from the stage. A dropped loaded firearm results in a match disqualification. A shooter may not pick up a dropped gun. The Range Officer will recover the gun, examine it, clear it, and return it to the shooter.
18. Ammunition dropped by a shooter in the course of reloading any firearm during a stage or "ejected" from any firearm is considered "dead" and may not be recovered until the shooter completes the course of fire. For example, if a round of shotgun ammo is dropped while reloading, the round must be replaced from the shooter's person or counted as a missed shot. No attempt may be made by the shooter to pick-up the dropped round, as to do so prompts muzzle direction loss of control. Staged ammunition dropped back where it was staged is not considered "dead."
19. The unloading officer or Range Officer **MUST** inspect all firearms before they leave the shooting stage. All rifles and pump or lever action shotguns must have their action cycled for the inspecting official. All pistols, whether used or not in the stage, must also be inspected.
20. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the range area for all shooters, guest, range officers, and others, until shooting is done for the day. No shooter will consume any alcoholic beverage until he or she has completed all of their shooting for the day and stored their firearms.
21. No shooter may ingest any substance that will affect his or her ability to participate with a maximum state of awareness and in a completely safe manner. Both prescription and non prescription pharmaceuticals that may cause drowsiness or any other physical or mental impairment must be avoided.
22. Eye and hearing protection is mandatory for everyone in and around the shooting areas. While small, period glasses look great, full protection, high impact glasses with side shields are strongly recommended.
23. Only registered competitors may wear firearms.

24. The maximum size shot for any shotgun target is No. 7 ½ shot or smaller. Only lead shot may be used. Magnum and high-velocity loads are not allowed.

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Rifle Range Safety Rules

1. There is no shooting before 8:00 AM or after dark.
2. Only rifles, long range and hunting handguns, shotguns with slugs or buckshot, allowed.
3. Ear & Eye protection mandatory.
4. No drugs or alcohol on range.
5. Uncased guns will be unloaded, actions open, magazine out and muzzles up while behind the firing line.
6. Load on the firing line only and keep loaded guns pointed down range. Make sure your bullets will impact into berms.
7. Do not go down range until all guns are unloaded and the range is called "safe". **DO NOT HANDLE GUNS WITH PEOPLE DOWN RANGE.**
8. No shooting at glass, cans, rocks, buildings, clay birds, concrete or wooden non-traditional targets. No aerial targets allowed.
9. No deliberate shooting at target legs or cross members. Place targets in center of target frames.
10. Clean up old targets, spent cases, ammo boxes, food and beverage containers, put them in trash barrels.
11. Put spent brass that you don't want in the brass bucket. Plastic, steel and aluminum cases go in the trash barrels.
12. Raise red flag at the top of the drive while shooting. Lower flag when finished, if there are no other shooters on lower ranges.
13. All general club ground rules apply.

WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OF RANGE PROPERTY OR FAILURE TO OBSERVE THESE SAFETY RULES WILL RESULT IN YOUR LOSS OF RANGE PRIVILEGES AND MAY ALSO **BRING ABOUT YOUR EVICTION FROM THE CLUB.**

SHOOT SAFELY, AND ENJOY YOUR RANGE

St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club Inc.

HANDGUN RANGE RULES

1. There is no shooting before 8:00 AM or after dark.
2. **NO RIFLES**, except for rifles in pistol calibers, using only lead bullets.
3. **Ear & Eye protection mandatory.**
4. No drugs or alcohol on range.
5. No shooting at glass, cans, rocks, concrete or wooden non-traditional targets. No aerial targets allowed.
6. Moving of targets or target frames allowed,
7. Fixed firing line, except for Club sanctioned events.
8. Load at the firing line only and keep loaded guns pointed down range.
9. All guns shall be unloaded, when not on firing line.
10. Make sure your bullets will impact into berms.
11. No deliberate shooting at target legs or cross members.
Place targets in center of target frames.
12. Clean up old targets, spent cases, ammo boxes, food and beverage containers, put them in trash barrels.
13. Put spent brass that you don't want in the brass bucket.
Steel and aluminum cases go in the trash barrels.
14. Raise red flag at the top of drive while shooting, Lower flag when finished, if there are no other shooters on lower ranges.
15. All general club ground rules apply.
16. 223/5.56 or 7.62X 39 pistols are to us the rifle range.

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