

Fin, Fur and Feather Club of Wellesley and Natick, Inc.



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<http://www.finfurandfeather.us>

Safety Rules and Operating Procedures

v2.8 - August 25, 2014

Revision History

The following table shows the revision history of this document.

Version	Date	Description
1.x		Versions for BOD review
2.0	11 September 2006	BOD approved version
2.0.1	14 October 2007	Corrected 4.3. Added 7.2h. Amended 1.1.b, 2.2, 5.3.22, 5.4.1, 5.4.4, 5.4.5, 5.5.2.b. Updated 5.4.7, 5.6.4.c and e, 7.1.7, 7.1.19. Deleted 6.12, 7.1.1, 7.1.4, 7.1.8, 7.1.9, 7.1.18.
2.1	5 October 2009	Deleted 2.2. Added 3.2.3. Amended 5.3.12.a. Updated 5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.5.4. Reorganized some sections of document.
2.2	10 April 2010	5.4.3 and 5.5.4 clarified. 5.3.12, 5.4.4 and 5.5.1 updated WRT allowed ammunition. Added 7.2.i. 9.8 updated to prohibit flammable solvents.
2.3	10 April 2011	2.5 added. 3.2.2 updated with age limitation. 4.3 clarified with sunset limit. 5.4.3 correction that uncased firearms may not be handled behind the yellow safety line (not the firing line)
2.4	10 January 2012	2.3 added. 4.3 clarified to specify Eastern Daylight Saving Time. 4.5 changed to include days following the pond being stocked. 5.3.4 retitled and rewritten for clarification. 5.4.17 added. 5.3.16 deleted. 5.5.5.b.1 added. 5.5.5.b.3 updated to specify fruit/food as prohibited targets.
2.5	1 March 2012	2.4 changed to private use. 4.4 hours corrected. 5.3.2 guest limit on S&T fields. 5.3.4 and 5.4.10 clarified. 5.3.20 speed limit added. 5.4.8, trash barrel to be left outside of range. 5.4.12 and 5.5.12, 50-ft/25-yd standard NRA range and firing line req. added. 5.6.1(a) and 5.6.1(n) added. 5.6.5 added.
2.6	4 May 2012	1.2(b) added. 2.2 – clarification of guest limitation. 5.4.13(b) updated to state “in position.” 5.4.12(d) added. 5.4.12(c) added. 5.5 updated to reflect new range rules following renovation. 9.1 smoking prohibition updated.
2.7	6 June 2013	2.3 edited. 5.5.5(b) updated to include .25 cal lead pellets. 9.1 smoking prohibition updated. 11.2 clarified. Appendix B added, Code of Conduct.
2.8	4 July 2014	Section 3.1 – fee code added to document. Sections 5.3.2, 5.4.3, 5.5.4 and 8.2 clarified to state that a Member may shoot at the same time as a guest. Section 2.7 added giving the speed limit on the access road. Section 5.3.15 changed to prohibit shooting from under the benches. Section 5.5.10 – all rounds must impact the berm is clarified, and that no target may be hung from a target or plinking stand.

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FIN, FUR AND FEATHER CLUB OF WELLESLEY AND NATICK SAFETY RULES and OPERATING PROCEDURES

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY FOR
ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS

SECTION 1. Introduction

1.1 Scope

- a. This document provides safety rules and operating procedures required for use of Club facilities, including the Indoor Pistol Range, the Outdoor Pistol Range, the Skeet and Trap Fields, the Game Preserve, and the Trout Pond. These procedures apply to all people participating in any activity occurring on Club property.
- b. Club membership constitutes an agreement on the part of the member to read, understand, and abide by these Club Safety Rules and Operating Procedures, and to ensure that their guests do so as well.***
- c. To ensure that the most current reference data is available, copies of this document are maintained in the Main Clubhouse, on the Indoor Pistol Range, in the Skeet & Trap House, and on the Club's website. (<http://www.finfurandfeather.us/safety.html>)

1.2 Member Responsibilities

- a. The Fin, Fur and Feather Club is a self-policing organization. It is the responsibility of every member to ensure that fellow members and guests adhere to all rules provided in this document.
- b. If you do not know every rule for the range that you intend to use, then you may not shoot on that range. The Club has a zero-tolerance policy. If you are caught violating any rule, your range privileges will be suspended and you must appear in front of the Board of Directors.***

1.3 Conduct

All members are required to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times on Club property. Courtesy and safety are to be practiced at all times.

SECTION 2. Use of Facilities

Club ranges and facilities are for the exclusive use of Club Members and their guests. Guests may be sponsored only in accordance with the rules provided in this document. Club membership is a privilege, and all Members must exercise adherence to these rules to ensure standardized and safe conduct. Any member who demonstrates a lack of discipline, safe conduct, professionalism, or regard for fellow members are subject to having their range privileges or membership revoked.

2.1 Member Use of Facilities

The Club's ranges and other facilities may be used by Club members subject to the rules and regulations described herein. Immediate family members who are not Club Members are considered guests.

2.2 Guest Use of Facilities

Members may bring a maximum of two guests to the Club at a time, and they are subject to the rules and regulations provided herein. Members are completely responsible for the actions of their guests at all times.

2.3 Group Events

The only group events allowed at the Club are those that are Club Sponsored. E.g., Game Dinner, Pasta Dinner, Women on Target, Mass Hunter Safety Program, Firearms Training. Special requests by Members will be limited to Family Events and Educational Programs for Seniors and Youths in support of the shooting sports.

All other events will not be allowed. E.g., political rallies, fund raisers, banquets, etc.

Members receiving Board Approval to use Club facilities must sign a Facility Usage Agreement.

Application for group events must be requested of the Board of Directors at least one month prior to the event. Requests made to the BOD less than one month in advance may or may not be considered. See Section 11 for more information on Club Sponsored events.

2.4 Public Use of Facilities

Non-Club members (general public) may not use any Club facility other than the Indoor Range during Pin Shoots. Every non-club member must fill out and sign the Club Release Agreement prior to use of facility.

2.5 Identification

Each Club members are required to wear a current Membership pin or freely identify him/herself when questioned by a Range Officer or any other Club Member. If a Club Member witnesses anyone using Club facilities whom they do not recognize as being a member, and who is unescorted, they should ask that individual for their membership identification. Club members questioning any individual should do so politely and those questioned should reply in kind.

2.6 Animals/Pets

Pets or other animals are not allowed in the Clubhouse, hall, or Indoor Range, with the exception of Service Dogs.

2.7 Speed Limit

The speed limit on the entire length of the Club’s access road, starting at the corner of Rt. 109 and Larch Road, is 15mph.

SECTION 3. Membership – Dues, Cards, Badges and Cardkeys

3.1 Membership Dues and Cardkey Fees

As of July 15, 2013. Subject to change.

One-Time Initiation Fee	\$150
Annual Membership Fee	\$160
One-Time Initiation Fee (Junior Membership)	\$10
Annual Membership Fee (Junior Membership)	\$10
Annual Pistol Range & Clubhouse Cardkey Fee (Issued only to members 18 and older)	\$20
One-Time Clubhouse Cardkey Fee	\$5
Replacement Fee for Lost or Damaged Cardkey	\$5

3.2 Membership Cards and Badges

All Club Members will be issued a membership ID card which is proof of membership. Members are not allowed to use any Club facility without a current membership card in their possession.

3.3 Cardkeys

3.3.1 Clubhouse Cardkeys

The Clubhouse is generally unlocked on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and during Club events. Members may purchase a Clubhouse cardkey for a one-time fee. This cardkey affords access to the Clubhouse from 7am to 10pm, 7 days per week.

3.3.2 Indoor Range Cardkeys

Only Indoor Range Cardkey holders may use the indoor range. An Indoor Range cardkey may be purchased on an annual fee basis. The Indoor Range cardkey also provides access to the Clubhouse. Indoor Range cardkeys are issued to members who are at least 18 years old.

3.3.3 Outdoor Range Cardkeys

A Clubhouse Cardkey or Indoor Range Cardkey will provide access to the Outdoor Range after the holder as attended a special Safety Meeting for use of that range. An Outdoor Range/Clubhouse cardkey may be purchased on a one-time non-recurring fee basis. Outdoor Range access can be provided to members who are at least 18 years.

3.3.4 Entering the Indoor and Outdoor Ranges

- a. All members entering the Indoor or Outdoor Ranges must activate the card reader with their cardkey, even if the door has been opened ahead of them by another person.
- b. All members and guests must sign in using the log provided

3.3.5 Transfer of Use

A Club Member may never transfer his cardkey for use by any other person. Such transfer will result in the cardkey being permanently deactivated.

SECTION 4. Hours of Operation

The Club is closed on Christmas and Easter. Otherwise, the hours of operation are as follows.

4.1 Clubhouse

Open 7 days per week from 7:00am to 10:00pm.

4.2 Indoor Pistol Range

Open 7 days per week from 7:00am to 10:00pm. Closed during scheduled range events.

4.3 Outdoor Pistol Range

- a. Open Monday through Saturday from sunrise to sunset.
- b. Open Sundays from 12:00 noon to 6:00pm during Eastern Daylight Saving Time, but no later than sunset.
- c. Open Sundays from 11:00am to 5:00pm during Eastern Standard Time, but no later than sunset.

4.4 Trap and Skeet Range, Including Practice Station

Open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon to 3:00pm. Subject to change during special events.

4.5 Trout Pond

Open 7 days per week from sunrise to sunset. Closed during special events and following the pond being stocked prior to special events. (See the Club Calendar.)

4.6 Game Preserve

Monday through Saturday, 7:00am to sunset. No hunting is allowed down range from the skeet and trap fields after 12:00 noon on Saturdays. No hunting on Sundays.

SECTION 5. Range Operation

5.1 Introduction

The Fin Fur and Feather Club requires compliance with the National Rifle Association Gun Safety Rules, the General Club Safety Rules, and with Safety and Operating Rules that apply to each of our shooting areas: the Indoor Pistol Range, the Outdoor Range, the Trap and Skeet Fields, and the Game Preserve.

5.2 NRA Gun Safety Rules

5.2.1 Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling

- a. Always keep the muzzle of a gun pointed in a safe direction
- b. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
- c. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use

5.2.2 Rules for Safe Use

- a. Know your target and what is beyond it
- b. Be sure the gun is safe to operate
- c. Know how to use the gun safely
- d. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun
- e. Always wear eye and ear protection
- f. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting

5.2.3 General Range Safety Rules

- a. Know and obey all range commands
- b. Know where others are at all times
- c. Shoot only at authorized targets
- d. Do not handle a firearm or stand at the firing line where firearms are present while others are down range
- e. Stop shooting immediately upon the command of "CEASE FIRE"

5.3 General Club Safety Rules

5.3.1 License Requirements - Members and Guests

- a. To be in sole possession (see definition, Appendix A) of a firearm of any type other than an air pistol or air rifle, a Club Member must possess a current and valid Commonwealth of Massachusetts firearms license. (LTC or FID card.)
- b. For an unlicensed member (either Junior or Senior) to use a firearm, he/she must be accompanied on the range by a sponsor who is responsible for that member. The sponsor is required to be a Club Member who is properly licensed to be in possession of the applicable firearm. This requirement also applies to any member or non-member under the age of 18, regardless of licensing status.
- c. For an unlicensed member (either Junior or Senior) to use a firearm during a Club event, there must be a Member present at the Club who is in constructive possession of that firearm (see definition, Appendix A), and there shall also be at least one Member on the range who is properly licensed to be in possession of the applicable firearm.

5.3.2 Guests

Members are allowed a maximum of two guests at a time. Members are completely responsible for the conduct of their guests at all times. If the guest violates any Club rule, the Member will be held responsible. Only one guest per Club Member may be shooting a firearm at any given time, whether they are licensed or not. (This is not meant to preclude the Member from shooting at the same time as one of the guests if the Member is satisfied that the shooting guest is qualified to shoot safely with a very minimum of supervision.) No guest may shoot unless the Member who is responsible for him/her is on the range and supervising that guest. On the Skeet and Trap Fields, specific guests are limited to three visits per year.

5.3.3 Club Safety Program

No Club Member may shoot on any of the ranges, or allow one of his guests to shoot on these ranges, unless the Club Member has completed the Club's Safety Program.

- 5.3.4 **Holster Use Restrictions**
- a. Firearms being used at the firing line may never be holstered.
 - b. Firearms that are being transported for use downrange may only be holstered if they are cleared - no round in chamber and no magazine inserted, including an empty magazine. A loaded firearm may never be holstered.
 - c. Drawing and firing from a holster is strictly prohibited.
 - d. Holster use must comply with the rules that require strict muzzle control. This precludes the use of cross-draw and shoulder holsters. These holster types may not be used at any time.
- 5.3.5 **Eye and Ear Protection**
Shooters on all ranges, and spectators on the Indoor and Outdoor Pistol ranges, must wear eye and ear protection.
- 5.3.6 **Routine Inspections**
When walking into/onto an empty range (no one present), visually inspect the range facility for damage or signs of vandalism. Report unsatisfactory inspection results to a Range Safety Officer or a member of the Board of Directors.
- 5.3.7 **COLD Range Rule**
The Club utilizes a COLD range rule, which means all firearms on the ranges are UNLOADED at all times until it is to be fired.
- 5.3.8 **Requirement To Make Guns Safe**
All firearms on the range, unless holstered or cased, or the shooter is in the immediate act of firing, must be made safe in accordance with Section 5.3.9. Holstered or cased firearms may not be loaded.
- 5.3.9 **Making a Gun Safe**
A firearm is made safe by performing the following actions:
- a. Remove the magazine, if present.
 - b. Remove all ammunition from the firearm.
 - c. Double check that the chamber is empty.
 - d. Open the bolt or cylinder, or lock the slide open.
 - e. Place an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) in semi-automatic pistols whose slides cannot be locked open.
 - f. Place the firearm on the bench (Pistol Ranges), or hold the firearm with the muzzle pointing in a safe direction and finger off the trigger.
- 5.3.10 **Muzzle Control**
At all times the muzzle of the firearm, either loaded or unloaded, shall be pointed down range or in a safe direction. A safe direction means that even if the firearm were to discharge, it would not cause injury to any person. On the Pistol Ranges, covering any person with the muzzle of a firearm at any time is a Major Violation, whether the firearm is loaded or not. Firing across lanes is prohibited.
- 5.3.11 **Finger Off Trigger**
On the pistol ranges, all shooters shall keep their finger off the trigger until the firearm is aimed at the backstop/berm.
- 5.3.12 **Prohibited Firearms/Ammunition**
The following firearms/ammunition are prohibited on Club ranges.
- a. Ammunition not specifically posted on the Indoor and Outdoor range as being allowed.
 - b. Steel or steel jacketed ammunition - prohibited on the Indoor Pistol Range, allowed as posted on the Outdoor Pistol Range.
 - c. Shotguns not equipped with a shoulder stock (pistol grip shotguns) or any other firearm that is not equipped with adequate aiming/sighting apparatus.
 - d. Paint ball guns of any type.
 - e. Fully automatic firearms of any type.
 - f. Incendiary, tracer, armor piercing, or explosive ammunition of any type.
 - g. On the Skeet and Trap fields, only non-toxic shot may be used. Lead shot is prohibited.

- 5.3.13 Loading Limitation
No more than ten (10) rounds of ammunition may be loaded into any firearm for any reason.
- 5.3.14 Prohibitions Against Indiscriminate Fire
Un-aimed or rapid, indiscriminate fire has a high probability of impacting range or target structures, or leaving the range complex. It is considered negligent and is prohibited.
- 5.3.15 Shooting Positions
On the Indoor Range, shooters may shoot standing, sitting, kneeling or prone, but not supine (lying on back), also known as the “Creedmoor position.”
- On the Outdoor Range, shooters may shoot standing or sitting, but not kneeling or prone. Shooting from under the benches is prohibited as the baffle system will not provide “no blue sky.”
- 5.3.16 Malfunctions
- a. When a firearm malfunctions (misfire, hang fire or squib load), the muzzle shall be kept pointed down range at all times until the problem is resolved.
 - b. If a firearm has malfunctioned in such a way that it cannot be cleared, the shooter is to request assistance from a fellow shooter or a Range Safety Officer. The firearm may not leave the firing line until every effort has been made to clear it. If all attempts to clear the firearm have failed, it is incumbent upon the owner to transport it from the Club in a safe manner.
- 5.3.17 Cease Fire
Whenever a Range Officer or any shooter states “CEASE FIRE”, each shooter shall stop shooting immediately, remain in place, keep his firearm pointed in a safe direction, finger off the trigger, and await further instructions. In addition, it is the responsibility of anyone who encounters or observes a potentially unsafe condition or action to immediately give the command “CEASE FIRE”.
- 5.3.18 Clubhouse and Safety Zone
- a. The Club safety zone consists of the parking areas, the area between the parking areas and the clubhouse, the area of land occupied by the pheasant pens and archery ranges, and the area around the trout pond. Within the safety zone, all firearms are to remain either
 - 1) holstered, or
 - 2) unloaded and in the immediate possession of its owner, or
 - 3) unloaded and either cased or locked.“Cased” means that the firearm is stored in a locked case and/or in a locked vehicle.
“Locked” means that the firearm has a trigger or cable lock installed such as to render the firearm inoperable.
 - b. Firearms may not be handled in the Clubhouse, porches, or the main hall. Within these areas, all firearms are to remain either
 - 1) holstered, or
 - 2) unloaded and cased.
 - c. Shooting from any part of the safety zone, or in the direction of the safety zone, is strictly prohibited.
- 5.3.19 Emergencies
In the event of an emergency, call 911 to report the problem and summon help. There is a phone in the clubhouse, located in the storage closet at the base of the stairs leading up to the apartment.
- 5.3.20 Public Relations
The Club values its relations with our neighbors and with the town of Millis. Excessive noise at unreasonable hours, or rapid, indiscriminate fire which could give an impression of less than due respect for safety, is not in the best interest of the Club and is not allowed. When entering/leaving the Club, the speed limit in the residential area is 15 mph.

5.3.21 Deviation From the Safety Rules

Authorized Range Safety Officers may amend these safety rules only for Club sponsored events that are under the direct supervision of a qualified, Club-designated RSO, and only if needed to comply with the requirements of the event. Permanent amendment of these safety rules may only be made by the Board of Directors.

5.4 Indoor Pistol Range Rules

5.4.1 Age Limitation

No one under the age of 11 years is permitted in the Indoor Range. Members under the age of 18 may only use the indoor range when supervised by a Club Member who is at least 21 years of age, is properly licensed to be in possession of the firearm(s) being used, and has an Indoor Range Cardkey.

5.4.2 Cardkey Requirement and Access

- a. Only INDOOR RANGE CARDHOLDERS and their guests may use the indoor range. All members entering the Indoor Range must activate the card reader with their cardkey, even if the door has been opened ahead of them by another person.
- b. All members and guests must sign in on the log in the Ready Room, and log their time out when leaving.

5.4.3 Guests

Members are allowed only two guests in the range, and only one of them may be shooting at any one time, even if one or both of them are licensed. (This is not meant to preclude the Member from shooting at the same time as one of the guests if the Member is satisfied that the shooting guest is qualified to shoot safely with a very minimum of supervision.) Guests are the sole responsibility of the member. Under no circumstances is a guest to remain in the range without his or her sponsor.

5.4.4 Casing and Uncasing Firearms

Uncased firearms are not allowed behind the Yellow Safety Line. Firearms may be uncased and re-cased only at the shooting bench, and only when the range is HOT. They may not be uncased, re-cased, or otherwise handled behind the Yellow Safety Line. No firearm may be removed from the firing line at any time unless it has been cleared of all ammunition and magazine removed.

5.4.5 Ammunition and Firearms

The only handgun ammunition allowed on the Indoor Range is posted in the Ready Room. Calibers not listed are strictly prohibited. No magnum or +P loads are allowed. No steel or steel jacketed ammunition is allowed, including BB's. (Un-jacketed and copper-jacketed ammunition is allowed.) The only rifles and carbines allowed on the Indoor Range are those firing .22 caliber short, long, and long rifle cartridges, standard velocity only.

5.4.6 Targets

Only paper targets are permitted. All targets shall be placed at the 50-foot backstop. (33 foot distance allowed when firing an air pistol) The only exception is at special events where a Club Range Safety Officer is in charge. Firing at the knee wall is prohibited, and constitutes destruction of Club property.

5.4.7 Muzzle Control

- a. Loaded or not, no firearm shall ever be pointed in any direction other than down range. Do not elevate the muzzle of any gun higher than eye level against the range backstop.
- b. If a firearm is being moved from one station to another, it shall be unloaded, have its action open, magazines removed, no finger on the trigger, and pointed in a safe direction at all times.

5.4.8 Eye and Ear Protection

Eye and ear protection is required on the range at any time that the range is HOT. (Live fire is allowed.) Before starting to shoot, a shooter should verify (visually) that all other people on the range have their eye and ear protection in place.

- 5.4.9 Ventilation
- a. The ventilation system shall remain on while shooting. Turn it off if you are the last person leaving the range.
 - b. Note that the trash barrel is located in the Ready Room, just outside the door to the range. This is so it will not interfere with the laminar airflow coming from the plenum wall at the back of the range. Do not move the trash barrel into the range.
- 5.4.10 Knee Wall
- Firing at the knee wall is prohibited, and constitutes destruction of Club property.
- 5.4.11 Holster Use
- a. Firearms being used at the firing line may never be holstered.
 - b. While on a range, firearms that are being transported for use downrange may only be holstered if they are cleared - no round in chamber and no magazine inserted, including an empty magazine. A loaded firearm may never be holstered.
 - c. Drawing and firing from a holster is strictly prohibited.
 - d. Holster use must comply with the rules that require strict muzzle control. This precludes the use of cross-draw and shoulder holsters. These holster types may not be used at any time.
- 5.4.12 Line SAFE
- a. When any person is forward of the firing line, the line must remain SAFE. I.e., no equipment, including firearms, magazines, or ammunition, may be handled, and all personnel must stand behind the Yellow Safety Line
 - b. Before going forward of the firing line for any reason, be sure that everyone on the range knows that you are going forward, that their guns are safe and on the bench, and that they are standing behind the Yellow Safety Line.
- 5.4.13 Moving Downrange To Shoot
- a. The Indoor Range is a standard NRA 50-foot range, and intended to be used as such. Shooters may move downrange to shoot at closer distances only if there are no other shooters present who desire to shoot from the 50-foot firing line.
 - b. If you are going down range to shoot, your firearm must be unloaded (even if holstered), magazine removed, finger off trigger, and either holstered or muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Your firearm may not be loaded until you are in position and ready to shoot. When finished shooting and returning to the bench, guns must be handled in exactly the same manner.
 - c. If going downrange to shoot, and then returning to the bench to reload magazines, etc., you may not stand at the downrange side of the bench. You must return to the firing line side of the bench.
- 5.4.14 Cleaning Up
- a. Clean up after shooting. Duds and brass casings in the containers provided. Targets and steel casings in the trash. Steel casings are not recyclable and must be disposed of in the trash.
 - b. Your own casings may be retained for reloading purposes. However, it is prohibited to remove brass from the container provided for its collection.
- 5.4.15 Leaving The Range
- The last person exiting the range is required to turn off the ventilation system, all range lights, the furnace (switch located in the Ready Room), the Ready Room lights, and verify that the door is closed and locked.
- 5.4.16 Enforcement
- Any infraction of these rules and regulations will result in suspension of range privileges. Violations will be reported to the Board of Directors for disciplinary action up to and including termination of Club membership. All members are required to report any infraction of these rules and regulations that they observe to the Rifle and Pistol Committee or to a BOD member.

5.5 Outdoor Pistol Range Rules

5.5.1 Age Limitation

Members under the age of 18 must be supervised by a Club Member who is at least 21 years of age and is properly licensed to be in possession of the firearm(s) being used.

5.5.2 Access

All members must swipe in with their cardkey, even if another member has opened the door ahead of them.

5.5.3 Sign In Requirements

All members and guests must sign in on the sheet provided, and log out when leaving.

5.5.4 Guests

Members are allowed only two guests on the range, and only one of them may be shooting at any one time, even if one or both of them are licensed. (This is not meant to preclude the Member from shooting at the same time as one of the guests if the Member is satisfied that the shooting guest is qualified to shoot safely with a very minimum of supervision.) Under no circumstances is a guest to remain on the range without his or her sponsor.

5.5.5 Ammunition and Firearms

- a. The only handgun calibers allowed are posted on the Range. Calibers not listed are strictly prohibited.
- b. The only rifle and carbine calibers allowed are .22 short, long, long rifle, Mini-Mag, and .177, .22 and .25 caliber lead pellets.
- c. Un-jacketed, copper-jacketed and steel-jacketed ammunition is allowed.
- d. Black powder firearms are allowed. Percussion and flintlock firearms may be capped or primed only on the firing line just prior to discharging.
- e. The following are prohibited: All centerfire rifles and carbines; 22 Magnum ammunition; tracer and armor piercing ammunition; BB's.
- f. Shotguns may only be used to fire a small number of rounds (5 or less) solely for the purpose of chronographing or patterning.

5.5.6 Targets

- a. The only targets allowed on the Outdoor Pistol Range are:
 1. Paper or cardboard targets, which must be placed on the target frames provided.
 2. Empty soda cans and plastic bottles which must be placed on top of a plinking stand.
- b. All other targets are prohibited, including, but not limited to:
 1. Glass targets of any kind
 2. Metal targets of any kind, including swinging metal targets.
 3. Beer cans or any other alcoholic beverage container
 4. Rocks, stones, cement, or any other object that could cause a ricochet hazard or fly apart.
 5. Any type of object that can shatter and/or break up and make cleanup of the area difficult. Anything that turns into garbage, such as pumpkins, fruit, or any other food.
 6. Explosive targets of any kind.
- c. Target stands may be placed at any distance from the firing line. Targets may not be placed on the ground or on the berm. (Placing a target on the ground can result in a skipped round which may travel over the berm.)
- d. Firing into the target frames is prohibited. If you cannot keep all of your shots on target, move your stand closer to the firing line.
- e. Anyone intentionally shooting at the target frames will lose their range privileges.

5.5.7 Casing and Uncasing Firearms

Uncased firearms are not allowed behind the Yellow Safety Line. Firearms may be uncased and re-cased only at the shooting bench, and only when the range is HOT. They may not be uncased, re-cased, or otherwise handled behind the Yellow Safety Line. No firearm may be removed from the firing line at any time unless it has been cleared of all ammunition and magazine removed.

- 5.5.8 Eye and Ear Protection
Eye and ear protection is required on the range at any time that the range is HOT. (Live fire is allowed.) Before starting to shoot, a shooter should verify (visually) that all other people on the range have their eye and ear protection in place.
- 5.5.9 Muzzle Control
Loaded or not, no firearm shall ever be pointed in any direction other than down range. Do not elevate the muzzle of any gun higher than eye level against the target.
- 5.5.10 All Rounds Must Impact Berm
- a. Each shooter must ensure that all rounds impact the berm, and without first striking the ground or any other object that could cause a ricochet or skip. A skipped round may travel over the berm. A ricochet may travel in any direction, including towards the Safety Zone or the Trap and Skeet Range.
 - b. No round may impact any part of the baffle system, nor may any round impact the steel target support bases. Both of these constitutes the destruction of Club property. Target stands must be positioned such that rounds strike the berm only. Firing across lanes is prohibited. Firing up into a target such that the round impacts the baffle system or downward into a target or plinking stand such that the round impacts the ground or any part of the baffle system is prohibited. Hanging any target by string or any other means below the intended target area of a target stand or the top shelf of a plinking stand is prohibited.
- 5.5.11 Line SAFE
- a. No equipment, including firearms, magazines, or ammunition may be handled when anyone is forward of the firing line and/or the flashing red Safety Lights are on. In addition, all personnel must stand behind the Yellow Safety Line.
 - b. Before going forward of the firing line for any reason, be sure that everyone on the range knows that you are going forward, that their guns are safe and on the bench, that they are standing behind the Yellow Safety Line, and that the flashing red Safety Lights are on.
 - c. If arriving on the range while the line is SAFE, cased firearms may be placed on the bench, but they may not be uncased. As soon as placing the case on the bench, you must then stand back behind the yellow safety line.
- 5.5.12 Downrange Shooting Prohibited
Shooters may only fire from the covered firing line. It is prohibited to move forward of the firing line to shoot. If your target is too far away, move the target stand closer to the firing line.
- 5.5.13 Holster Use Prohibited
Holster use is prohibited on the Outdoor Range.
- 5.5.14 Safety Lights
When going down range to post targets, or for any other reason, the Red Safety Lights must be turned on.
- 5.5.15 Cleaning Up
All shooters are required to clean up after shooting.
- a. Bring your target stand back to the storage area under the covered shed.
 - b. Sweep the concrete pad clean.
 - c. Place duds and brass casings in the containers provided. Place targets and steel casings in the trash. Steel casings are not recyclable and must be disposed of in the trash.
 - d. Your own casings may be retained for reloading purposes. However, it is prohibited to remove brass from the container provided for its collection.
- 5.5.16 Enforcement
Any infraction of these rules and regulations will result in suspension of range privileges. Violations will be reported to the Board of Directors for disciplinary action up to and including termination of Club membership. All members are required to report any infraction of these rules and regulations that they observe to the Rifle and Pistol Committee or to a BOD member.

5.6 Trap and Skeet Range Rules (Including Practice Station)

5.6.1 General

- a. Loaded guns must be pointed downrange at all times.
- b. Eye and ear protection is required for all shooters and score keepers. It is highly recommended that spectators located outside the Skeet & Trap House also wear eye protection.
- c. All firearms on the range, unless cased or the shooter is on station and in the immediate act of firing, shall have actions open and no ammunition loaded. Hinge action shotguns may be placed in standing racks with actions closed after they have been verified to be unloaded. When removing such a shotgun from a standing rack, the hinge shall be opened immediately and the firearm verified to be unloaded.
- d. Only non-toxic shot may be used. Lead shot is specifically prohibited.
- e. Shotshell loads are restricted to target loads.
- f. All guns on the range shall remain unloaded when an orange safety cone is placed on top of the trap house or beside a skeet house. This is an indication that there are people down range who may not be visible. E.g., inside a skeet or trap house.
- g. Shooters shall keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. When the shooter's turn is over, he/she shall make the gun safe before moving off station. Under no circumstance may a gun be loaded unless the shooter is standing on station. Loaded is considered as any part of a loaded shell being in any part of the gun.
- h. Shoot from designated stations only.
- i. When a shooter is on station and ready to shoot, and a delay occurs in the round such as from equipment breakdown, his gun shall be opened and all shells extracted.
- j. Any shooter whose gun accidentally discharges twice within one round for mechanical reasons is required to change guns or, if time permits, have the gun repaired before continuing to shoot.
- k. No shells may be picked up from the ground until the squad has finished shooting.
- l. The Score Keeper is the Range Officer for the squad they are scoring. In the absence of a Score Keeper the number one shooter is the Range Officer.
- m. RSO's on the Skeet and Trap Field have the authority to invoke modified range protocol procedures as may be required to allow the conduct of non-standard NSSA or ATA matches, events, or classes.
- n. New or inexperienced shooters are required to shoot on the practice field first.

5.6.2 Trap

- a. No more than one shell will be loaded in a gun at any time, except that a maximum of two shells may be loaded in doubles events.
- b. No more than 5 shooters on the firing line at a time.
- c. Guns must be open and empty when moving to a new station or leaving the shooting field. When moving from station 5 to station 1, point gun down and away from shooters, turn to your right, and walk behind the other shooters - never in front.
- d. Only authorized Club Members may fill or work on the launchers.

5.6.3 Skeet

- a. Two shells may be loaded in auto-loaders only when about to shoot doubles.
- b. The loading of more than two shells at any time is prohibited unless full use of the gun is authorized by the Range Officer.
- c. Always stay behind the current shooter. No picking up empties until the round is complete.

- d. Members of a squad will keep their eyes trained on every bird, even when not shooting. Fragments of a clay pigeon can be sharp and can cause serious injury.
- e. Station 8 singles must be taken before the center stake.

5.6.4 Practice Station

- a. The practice station may be used whenever the Skeet and Trap Fields are open, but not during hunting hours.
- b. No person may use the practice station without first checking with the Range Officer on Duty.
- c. Only biodegradable clays and non-toxic shot may be used.
- d. If there is any question as to how to operate the launcher in a safe manner, check with the Range Officer on duty.
- e. The shooter must stand on station, to the side of the launcher.
- f. Before leaving the Practice Station, remove all trash: paper, cardboard boxes, etc. Replace the tarpaulin on top of the launcher and secure it as it was found.

5.6.5 Guests

With the exception of formal competition open to the public, any guest that uses the range in excess of three (3) times per year must apply for club membership.

SECTION 6. Range Commands

The following range commands are normal commands for conducting routine live fire operations. Additional commands may be used when they do not violate safety rules or cause safety hazards.

- a. "CLEAR THE RANGE"
All shooters will visually clear the impact area and verbally agree there are no people down range.
- b. "THE RANGE IS HOT" (or, "THE RANGE IS NO LONGER SAFE")
Shooters may move forward of the Yellow Safety Line, to the Firing Line, handle firearms and ammunition, and fire. Cased/holstered firearms may be uncased/unholstered (but only at the firing line). Shooters who are leaving may pack up their firearms and equipment (but only at the firing line).
- c. "CEASE FIRE"
All shooters shall stop firing, keep their firearms pointed in a safe direction (usually down range), stay in position with finger off the trigger, and wait for further instructions. Shooters should NOT attempt to make their guns safe following a CEASE FIRE command unless the reason for the CEASE FIRE is obvious and it is safe to handle the gun to the extent necessary to make it safe. In general, the immediate concern is to stop firing and keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction with finger off the trigger.
- d. "MAKE THE LINE SAFE"
All uncased firearms shall be made safe, benched, trained down range, and visible to others with the:
 1. Magazines: REMOVED
 2. Chamber: EMPTY
 3. Actions/cylinders: OPEN (Actions that do not lock open by factory design shall be blocked open or out of battery.)
 4. Black powder firearms: DISCHARGED/EMPTY, NOT CAPPED OR PRIMED
 5. A mandatory clearing check will be made on every firearm on the firing line before the line is declared safe. Additionally, each shooter should check the shooters on both sides of their position to ensure all firearms are safe prior to declaring the line SAFE.

In addition to making all firearms safe, all shooters must stand back behind the Yellow Safety Line.

Firearms being brought onto the range shall remain cased, and may not be uncased until the line goes HOT. Firearms may be removed from the range only if they have already been cased.

e. "THE LINE IS SAFE"

The line has been made SAFE. Shooters are cleared to go down range. It is advisable to keep one person on the firing line to ensure safety. Whenever the line is SAFE, all persons not going down range shall remain behind the Yellow Safety Line. Anyone arriving on the range while the line is SAFE may not advance forward of the Yellow Safety Line except to place cased firearms on the bench, in which case they must then step back behind the Yellow Safety Line. They may not uncase, unholster, or otherwise handle any equipment.

SECTION 7. Game Preserve and Trout Pond Rules and Regulations

7.1 Game Preserve Rules and Regulations

7.1.1 Firearms

Only shotguns are allowed on the Game Preserve. Rifles are specifically prohibited.

7.1.2 Hunting Licenses

Every Game Preserve Program member and Button Program member shall possess a current and valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license. The license number shall be recorded in the Game Preserve records at the beginning of each hunting season.

7.1.3 Hunter Safety Program

All members hunting on Club property are required to complete the Club's hunter safety course on an annual basis. "Buttons" will not be issued to members who have not completed this course.

7.1.4 Hunter Orange

All hunters are required to wear a "hunter orange" cap as specified by Commonwealth of Massachusetts law. Hunter orange vests or jackets are strongly recommended.

7.1.5 Hunting Boundaries

A map of the boundaries is issued to every member of the Game Preserve and Button programs. It is the sole responsibility of all hunters to know these boundaries and to hunt only within them.

7.1.6 Tagging

Pheasants bagged may not be transported off Club property in the feather unless they are properly "tagged" per Commonwealth of Massachusetts Law. Tags are available in the main clubhouse.

7.1.7 Licensed Game Preserve Daily Record

All hunters in either program are required by law to complete the "Game Preserve Daily Record" at the end of the day's hunt.

7.1.8 Guests

Only Game Preserve Program members are permitted a guest. Button Program members are not allowed a guest. A guest, licensed or not, may only hunt accompanied by the host member. Only one guest is permitted to each member of the Game Preserve Program at one time. The member's bag limit shall be shared between the Club Member and his guest. A guest is not permitted to hunt on Saturdays or holidays. A guest is permitted only two hunts. Each member is personally responsible for the conduct of his/her guest on Club property.

7.1.9 Sportsmanlike Conduct / Firearm Handling

All hunters are required to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times on Club property. Each hunter is expected to respect another hunter's "space" and distance him/herself accordingly. Shooting birds on the ground is not permitted for safety reasons. Firearms are to be handled and carried in a safe manner at all times, with the safety on.

7.1.10 Hunting Other Species (Non-Pheasant)

With the exception of Deer, the hunting of any game species is allowed in accordance with all Massachusetts Fish and Game Laws. The hunting of Deer is prohibited.

- 7.1.11 **Hunter Identification**
All members are required to wear their Game Preserve Permit or hunting Button at all times while hunting on Club property. Anyone hunting without appropriate identification is to be questioned.
- 7.1.12 **Restricted Hunting Areas**
No hunting is allowed down range from the skeet and trap fields after 12:00 noon on Saturdays.
- 7.1.13 **Hunting Hours / Days**
Hunting hours are from 7:00am until sunset. Hunting is permitted on each day of the week except for Sundays. No hunting on Sundays or Christmas Day.
- 7.1.14 **Fish and Game Committee**
The Fish and Game Committee members serve as Range Officers who are responsible for enforcing the Game Preserve Rules and Regulations. Any infraction of these rules and regulations will allow the Game Committee to suspend or terminate the violator's hunting privileges. Serious violations of these rules and regulations will be reported to the Board of Directors of the Fin, Fur and Feather Club for disciplinary action. All members are required to report any infraction of these rules and regulations to the Fish and Game Committee.

7.2 Trout Pond Rules and Regulations

The following rules and regulations apply to the use of the Trout Pond.

- a. The daily limit is 3 fish per member.
- b. No night fishing is allowed.
- c. Only fishing from the shore is allowed.
- d. Guests outside of a Club member's immediate family are not allowed except at special events.
- e. A current and valid Massachusetts fishing license is required.
- f. Place all trash in the barrels provided and ensure that all barbecue fires are completely extinguished before leaving the Pond area.
- g. Empty full barrels in the dumpster.
- h. All non-trout species of fish caught in the trout pond must be either taken home or deposited back into the Charles River. (These non trout species compete for the same food supply as the stocked trout.) Also, any trout that are caught and show signs of stress, bleeding or have swallowed the hook must not be put back in the pond as they will not survive.
- i. Walking on the ice in the wintertime is prohibited at all times due to the constantly shifting level of the water under the ice.

SECTION 8. Guest Sponsorship and Control Procedures

8.1 Universal Guest Requirements

- a. Members may bring a maximum of two guests to the club.
- b. Sponsored guests shall sign a Release Agreement prior to engaging in any activities at the Club.
- c. Members are completely responsible for the conduct of their guests at all times. If the guest violates any Club rule, the member will be held responsible. Each member escorting a guest is responsible for instructing the guest on all safety rules applicable to the activity to be participated in.
- d. Junior Members do not have guest privileges.

8.2 Indoor and Outdoor Pistol Ranges

- a. Members are allowed a maximum of two guests on the Indoor and Outdoor Ranges. However, only one guest per Club member may be shooting at any one time, even if one or both of them are licensed. (This is not meant to preclude the Member from shooting at the same time as one of the guests if the Member is satisfied that the shooting guest is qualified to shoot safely with a very minimum of supervision.)
- b. If the member is not absolutely certain that the guest has the knowledge and experience to shoot safely at his own station, then the member and the guest must share a station with only one of them shooting at a time. The member shall closely supervise the guest while he/she is shooting.
- c. Under no circumstances is a guest to remain on the range without his or her sponsor.

8.3 Skeet and Trap Ranges

On the Skeet and Trap Fields, specific guests are limited to three visits per year.

8.4 Hunting

See Section 7.1.8.

8.5 Fishing

Guests outside of a Club member's immediate family are not allowed except at special events.

SECTION 9. General Policy, Restrictions, and Prohibitions

9.1 Smoking Prohibition

- a. Smoking is prohibited on the Indoor and Outdoor Ranges.
- b. Smoking is prohibited in the Clubhouse, i.e., in the kitchen, bar area, living room, and hall.

9.2 Climbing On Berms

Climbing on the berms is prohibited except for maintenance purposes.

9.3 Lead Mining

Mining (collecting) lead from either the Indoor backstop or the Outdoor berm may only be performed by qualified individuals during maintenance procedures.

9.4 Disposal of Ammunition

"Dud" ammunition may be placed in the marked/locked red cans located on each range.

9.5 Alcohol/Drug Prohibition

Alcoholic beverages and persons under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol are not permitted on the range complex or in the parking lots.

9.6 Deviations For Club Sponsored Events

Only an RSO may authorize deviation from these Safety Rules for any Club sponsored match, event, or class. In authorizing a deviation, the RSO may also stipulate that an RSO shall be present during such match, event, or class.

9.7 Target House Access

The "target house" buildings (trap houses, skeet high and low houses) and storage garage may be accessed only by authorized personnel.

9.8 Cleaning of Firearms

The cleaning of firearms on the range complex is discouraged. No flammable solvents may be used.

SECTION 10. Enforcement of Rules and Penalties

10.1 Individual Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every member to follow all of the Club Safety Rules, and to ensure that all other Club Members and guests do the same. If any Member observes a violation of any safety rule, that Member shall immediately bring it to the offender's attention so that further violations can be avoided. Most violations can be handled by simple reminders. However, if the violation is serious enough or it occurs again, a Range Safety Officer or a member of the Board of Directors is to be notified as soon as possible.

10.2 Safety Violations Committed By Club Members

Club members discovered violating a safety rule are subject to disciplinary action, including termination of Club membership. Action taken against the member by the BOD will be determined by the nature of the violation, and whether or not the member has a history of safety violations.

10.3 Safety Violations Committed By Guests

Guests discovered violating a safety rule are subject to being immediately barred from the range. Action taken against the guest’s sponsor will be determined by the BOD.

10.4 Abuse of Facilities

Anyone discovered intentionally damaging Club property shall be immediately reported to an RSO or a member of the BOD. Willful destruction of Club property will result in expulsion from the Club for a period of time to be determined by the BOD.

SECTION 11. Club Sponsored Programs/Events

11.1 Club Sponsored Events

All Club-sponsored events will normally be posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen and on the calendar on the Club's website (<http://www.finfurandfeather.us>) at least two weeks prior to the event. People participating in Club sponsored competitions or classes may include guests. However, if the guest’s sponsor is to fire simultaneously during the class/competition, then a Range Officer or Range Safety Officer shall observe and control the firing line. All members of the general public participating in Club-sponsored events shall remain under direct supervision of event organizers at all times.

11.2 Conduct of Organized Events

Participants of Club sponsored classes or competitions shall be pre-briefed on range operations and safety procedures and other Club facility rules as outlined in the Facility Usage Agreement prior to conducting group activities, and prior to any live fire. All guests shall be sponsored and escorted by a current Club member. All events/classes shall have at least one current regular member present to supervise all classes or competitions held on Club ranges.

These Safety Rules were approved by the Board of Directors on 11 September 2006, and became effective 17 September 2006. Questions or comments concerning these Safety Rules should be directed to Bruce Tycks, Club President and Chief Range Safety Officer, either directly or via one of the Club’s Range Safety Officers.

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Appendix A - Definitions

Hang fire	A hang fire is a perceptible delay in the ignition of a cartridge after the primer has been struck by the firing pin.
Misfire	A misfire is when a cartridge does not fire after the primer has been struck by the firing pin.
Line SAFE	All firearms are on the bench, unloaded, actions open, and magazines removed. Muzzle loaders have hammers forward and are not capped or primed. All personnel are either behind the Yellow Safety Line with no equipment or ammunition being handled, or downrange setting up or recovering targets, policing their brass, or performing other such activities.
Range HOT	A range is HOT when shooting is permitted or in progress.
Range COLD	Shooting is not in progress, nor allowed. No firearms may be loaded.

Squib Load A squib load is when there is less than normal pressure or bullet velocity after ignition of the cartridge. The bullet may or may not exit the barrel. (Squib loads are identified by a difference in recoil or noise.)

Possession (in the context of firearm possession)

a. **Actual Possession**

A person is in actual possession of a firearm when he/she has it on his/her person at a given time.

b. **Constructive Possession**

Constructive possession means possession in which the possessor does not physically have the firearm on his or her person but is aware that it is present and is able to exercise intentional control or dominion over it. Someone who has both the power and the intention at a given time to exercise control over a firearm, either directly or through another person or persons, is in constructive possession of that firearm.

c. **Sole Possession**

Possession may be sole or joint. If one person alone has actual and constructive possession of a firearm, possession is sole.

d. **Joint Possession**

If two or more persons share actual or constructive possession of a firearm, possession is joint.

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Appendix B - Code of Conduct

**FIN, FUR AND FEATHER CLUB
CODE OF CONDUCT**

Membership in the Fin, Fur and Feather Club (FFF) imposes a responsibility to uphold and further the Club's purposes and objectives as set forth in, and pursuant to the Bylaws and the resolutions and decisions of its Board of Directors.

All Members, including Officers and Directors, at all times shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects credit upon and enhances the reputation of FFF.

The Board of Directors vest the President with the power to enforce these membership obligations by removing from membership, with concurrence of the Board, any member who in their judgment gives cause for dismissal. Such causes include but are not limited to:

Any material misrepresentation of service, employment, or any other credentials in application for membership, during the duration of membership, or when serving in any office in the FFF.

Any act intended to disrupt the existence or unity of the FFF.

Any act that violates the Club's Bylaws, such as using one's position in the Club to suggest or promote business, personal, political, policy, religious, or social agendas.

Any act that misrepresents the Club's non-profit, non-political incorporation, including any act that brings public disrepute or embarrassment upon the Club or seeks to undermine the purposes or programs of the Club.

Any defamation, vilification, or deceitful act, false accusation, or slander or libel against the Club, its Officers, or its Members.

Any misrepresentation or use for purposes other than the stated purposes of:

- The Club's name, symbols, icons, logo, certificates, purposes, or activities.
- The Club's membership or member data of the Club including any act, assertion, or implication of affiliation with sponsorship not permitted by the FFF.

Any act in violation of a fiduciary or other trust exercised on behalf of the Club.

Any violent or felonious violations of U.S. federal, state, or local laws or any prosecutable or indictable act, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, whether or not related to the FFF.

Any conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest with the Club's Bylaws, charter, purposes, neutrality, or objectives if not resolved immediately and satisfactorily upon notification and concurrence of the President.

Failure to comply with the Club's safety, range, and all other rules and regulations.

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