

**CHEROKEE ROD & GUN CLUB**  
**KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE**

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

**DUE TO FIRE HAZARD**

**TRACER ROUNDS, INCENDIARY ROUNDS OR ANY FORM OF EXPLOSIVE ammunition MAY NOT be used at any range.**

**Violation of this rule will cause loss of membership privileges and prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.**



**BASIC FIREARMS & RANGE SAFETY  
FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS**

REVISED FEBRUARY 2015

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**TO ALL MEMBERS & FAMILIES:**

Dear Cherokee Rod & gun Club Members,  
Here is your new Rules Book :

**"BASIC FIREARMS & RANGE SAFETY  
FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS"**

It is important that you read this entire document, as many older rules have been modified and former procedures clarified. ***Also, many entirely new rules have been added.*** Remember, just because "we used to do it this way", is no excuse for a rules violation. We must all follow the new procedures.

Cherokee is very fortunate to have many new members. As of the end of 2014, there were over 1200 total family memberships! With so many new Shooters, it is more important than ever for all of us to maintain strict safety procedures.

Safety is everybody's job, but the Board of Directors has also instituted a new procedure whereby certain Club members will be specially trained in the implementation of these rules. They will be designated as **"RANGE OFFICERS"** and will carry a special identification card. It is important that everyone respect the Range Officers and follow any advice they may offer. Remember, they are fellow Club members who are trying to help everyone be safe.

Have fun and shoot SAFELY,

Robert Camponovo  
President

# **CHEROKEE ROD & GUN CLUB**

## **BASIC FIREARMS & RANGE SAFETY FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

#### **2.0 Overall Authority**

#### **3.0 General Rules and Information**

- 3.1. Members & Guests
- 3.2. Range Access
- 3.3. Range Hours & Speed Limit
- 3.4. Behavior
- 3.5. Range Officers

#### **4.0 Overall Range Safety Rules**

- 4.1. General Rules for All Firing Ranges
- 4.2. Lower Rifle/Pistol Range
- 4.3. Upper Rifle/Pistol Range
- 4.4. Lower Trap Range – 5 Stand Shotgun
- 4.5. Upper Trap & Skeet Range
- 4.6. Lower Archery Range – Practice Range
- 4.7. Upper Archery range – Safari Range
- 4.8. Catfish Pond & Picnic Shelter

#### **5.0 Violation of Rules – Penalties**

Approved by the Cherokee Rod & Gun Club  
Board of Directors February 2011 and revised  
on February 2015

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

These rules govern the general use of all Club property by members and their authorized guests. They are applicable at all times the property is "open" to general use. When a particular range or portion of the Club property is "closed" to general use due to a Club-sanctioned activity, use of that area will be governed by the rules and procedures defined for that particular activity.

## **2.0 OVERALL AUTHORITY:**

In accordance with the Club's official by-laws, the Board of Directors has the power to manage all the affairs of the Club on any and all questions relating in any manner whatsoever thereto, and to make all contracts necessary for the proper transaction of all business. They have entire jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the care, control, supervision and management of the Club and its' finances and all appropriations shall be made by them. For the purposes of these Rules & Regulations, the immediate delegation of the Board of Directors authority for operations (between sanctioned Board of Directors meetings) is given to the President or subsequent officer-in-charge to fulfill the mandates of the Board of Directors, carry out daily operations, and act in the best interest of the Club.

## **3.0 GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION:**

### **3.1 MEMBERSHIP & GUESTS:**

- Membership includes the "immediate family", which for the purpose of these rules is defined as the member's spouse and dependent children that are not in the work force. Family members other than spouses who enter the work force must join separately and pay their own dues. A family member who is still in school is considered a member until such time as they are out of school and go into the work force.

- Dependent children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult family member. If a dependent is at least 16 years of age and has successfully completed an "Approved Hunter Safety Course," they will not have to be accompanied by an adult family member. However, they may not bring a guest.
- Adult members may bring guests to club facilities at any time, under the following circumstances:
- A member may bring the same guest out to the range only twice within a given calendar year. However, if a guest lives more than 500 miles away, they may come as a guest anytime they are in town. Members may bring youth guests under the age of 16 to the Club without limitation, as long as the guest is supervised while on Club property.
- Members are responsible for their invited guests, and must ensure that the guests practice safe conduct while at the Club.
- No member is allowed to bring more than one guest (or guest family) at a time to the range without express written approval by the Board of Directors.
- By all means, encourage your guest to become a full member of the Cherokee Rod and Gun Club.

### **3.2 RANGE ACCESS:**

- Apart from organized, Club-sponsored events which are open to the public, access to the ranges of Cherokee Rod and Gun Club is limited to members who have completed the safety walk-through, and to their invited guests. Members may not possess a gate key-card until they have completed the Safety Walk-Through orientation. The safety training course will review the facilities available at the Club and the safety practices which should be observed while on Club grounds.

- When on Club property, all members are required to wear or display their membership key card in a clearly visible manner. If you notice another member on Club property not wearing their membership key card, please remind them of this requirement. Any member must be prepared to show their card to any Range Officer upon request.
- It is a violation of Club rules to give your gate card (Key Card) to anyone, except the adult members of your immediate family (e.g. spouse, or qualified dependent children). If you happen to lose your membership key card, you can obtain another one from the Club Membership office for a nominal fee.
- Members have free use of the Upper Rifle/Pistol Range, the Lower Rifle/Pistol Range, the Upper Trap & Skeet Range, the Lower Trap & Skeet Range, the Catfish Pond & Picnic Shelter, the Lower Archery Field Practice Range and the Upper Archery Safari Range during daylight hours for fun shooting, except when certain ranges or areas are closed for Club-sanctioned events. Members are encouraged to check the Club Website, Bulletin Board or Newsletter, to see when such Club-sanctioned events are scheduled to take place.
- Except for the Catfish Pond, access to the club facilities is controlled by an automatic closing gate. When using the Catfish Pond, members must always close and lock the gate behind them. An exception to this practice is during Club-sanctioned events which are open to the public. During these times, the gate will be locked open and a sign will be posted indicating such, by those in charge of the event. The gate will be closed by those in charge when the event is over. At all other times both gates are to remain closed.

### **3.3 RANGE HOURS and SPEED LIMIT:**

- All club facilities are open from sunrise to sunset on Monday through Saturday, and from 12:00 Noon until 5:00 pm on Sundays, except as modified by Club-sanctioned events or stated otherwise under the rules for a specific range area.
- At times, individual ranges may be closed to unorganized "fun shooting" during certain scheduled Club-sanctioned events. It is the intent of the Club that, in so far as is possible, no more than one range will be closed to general use at any given time.
- The Lower Rifle/Pistol range is closed at 5:00 pm on the first Thursday of every month, which is the regularly scheduled Club meeting night.
- There is a speed limit of 15 mph everywhere on Club property. This speed limit is strictly enforced.

### **3.4 BEHAVIOR:**

- No Club member, guest or any other person is allowed to bring any loaded firearm into the Clubhouse building except those authorized for concealed carry on their person, under the laws of the state of Tennessee. Loaded firearms in open carry or in a closed case are prohibited. Other than the above, live ammunition is only allowed in the Clubhouse building under controlled circumstances for education classes or seminars.
- Within the Clubhouse building there is NO SMOKING of cigarettes, cigars, or pipes.
- Full automatic weapons, "Hellfire trigger" devices or any other mechanical device that simulates full automatic firing is prohibited on all Club firing Ranges.
- Any firearms, which are "unlawful" to possess, may not be brought onto Club property.

- The use of or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, illegal drug, intoxicant, depressant, or any medication that would impair judgment, on any portion of the Club property is prohibited.
- Hunting is not permitted anywhere on Club Property.
- Any person(s) trespassing, hunting, poaching on, or vandalizing Club property will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The Club will pay a reward of \$3000 to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of trespassers, poachers, or vandals on Club property.
- It is the responsibility of each member to help keep the property free and clean of any litter. Do not leave target material on range. If you shoot plastic bottles and/or jugs, or any other disintegrating material, pick up the pieces after you finish shooting. Leave the range clean and looking well for the next shooter, even if it means picking up something someone else left behind.
- Members are also responsible for removing their empty shell casings from the shooting area. At the Rifle/Pistol Ranges, small caliber casings (.22 caliber or less), may be swept into the gravel area in front of the firing line as long as they do not go into the lawn area where they can interfere with the lawnmower.

### **3.5 RANGE OFFICERS:**

- Range Officers are volunteers at the Club. The purpose of the Range Officer is to ensure that any activity on the Club property is conducted safely and in accordance with Club Rules.
- Range Officers will report any observed infraction or violation of Club Rules to a Club Officer or other member of the Board of Directors, as soon as possible.

- Range Officers have the authority to restrict any activities, which in their judgment might present a hazard to the shooter or to others. All members and their guests must at all times comply with the Range Officer's requests.
- Range Officers are authorized to check Membership Cards, Driver's Licenses, or other identification necessary to verify membership credentials.
- For the purpose of these Rules & Regulations, a "Range Officer" is defined as a member of the Club that has been trained in the implementation of these rules, and has been officially appointed to the position, by the Board of Directors. A Club Range Officer must carry an identification card issued by the Board of Directors.
- Every Club member whether they are a Range Officer or not, is responsible for reporting any observed violations of these rules to a Club Officer or other member of the Board of Directors as soon as possible.
- Any report of violations must include as much information as possible, including a description of the alleged infraction, positive identification of the person or persons involved (name, membership number, vehicle tag number, etc.), date and time of the infraction and when possible pictures of the incident, and any other pertinent information necessary to investigate the incident.

### **4.0 OVERALL RANGE SAFETY RULES:**

#### **4.1 GENERAL RULES FOR ALL FIRING RANGES:**

- Members are required to practice gun safety at all times, as outlined specifically in these rules and as supplemented in other standard publications. Members are encouraged to obtain and make themselves familiar with NRA publications, which provide excellent material on the safety & handling of all firearms.

- All members & guests should be completely knowledgeable about each and every firearm brought onto the Club property. This includes all operating & safety features, ammunition used, and how to load, unload and make safe these firearms. This rule is waived for students attending basic firearms classes that are under the supervision of a trained instructor.
- **TRACER ROUNDS, INCENDIARY ROUNDS OR ANY FORM OF EXPLOSIVE ammunition MAY NOT be used at any range.**
- Hearing protection is REQUIRED while on any range during “live firing”. The Club prefers that shooters and spectators wear commercially manufactured earplugs or muff type protectors, the higher the noise attenuation the better. It is also a standard courtesy to look around and make sure everyone has their hearing protection on before you begin firing.
- Eye protection is REQUIRED on any range while shooting or while on the firing line during any “live firing”. Regular prescription lens glasses will meet this requirement, but contact lens will not. Commercially manufactured shooting safety glasses are preferred, and can usually be worn over regular prescription glasses for additional safety protection.
- Firearms must remain unloaded at all times until you are on the firing line. The only exception to this rule is in the case of “concealed carry” firearms, firearms in holsters (open carry), or firearms in closed cases. In the event such a firearm must be drawn or removed, it must be taken to the firing line, pointed safely down range and properly cleared of any loaded ammunition.
- When leaving the firing line, or when commanded to MAKE SAFE your firearm, remove or empty any magazines, open the breech, and make sure the chamber is open and empty.

- Members are strongly encouraged to keep a loud colored “Empty Chamber Indicator” available to place in the chamber so that Range Officers and others can easily see that your firearm is safely cleared.
- Always keep your firearm’s muzzle pointed in a safe direction (either downrange, or up), whether the gun is loaded or unloaded.
- Loaded firearms MUST be pointed downrange at all times.
- Any firearm shall always be pointed down range while on the firing line, but shall be pointed upward when being carried from the firing line, always with the action open.
- Unload and safely clear all firearms when not in use. Unused or uncased rifles and shotguns may not be stood on their butts leaning against any structure or appliance. They must be properly cleared and stored in the rifle or shotgun rack provided, or left on the firing line pointed down range.
- NEVER point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.
- In the event of a malfunction, misfire, or other problem with your firearm, keep the muzzle pointed downrange and at a “low ready” position until the situation is resolved. If a Range Officer is present, they will assist you if necessary.
- Live ammunition should be disposed of ONLY by placing it in one of the designated containers at the range. Do not throw it on the ground or in the trash can. Do not attempt to fire “found” live ammunition picked up from the ground.
- The use of any type of explosive target material (such as Tanerite, etc.) is strictly prohibited on any range.

- Anyone who observes an unsafe condition at the range, such as a person or an animal (e.g. deer, or turkey) downrange, or any other unsafe condition should immediately call for a CEASE FIRE. One does NOT need to be a Range Officer to issue this command. All shooters on the range are required to obey the cease fire command immediately, no argument is permitted.
- Whenever someone is forward of the firing line or a CEASE FIRE command is given, all shooting must cease immediately. Make your firearm safe by removing any magazine, opening the action and emptying the chamber. Place your firearm on the table, with the action open and insert an “Empty Chamber Indicator” if available. Do not handle or reload it until everyone has returned from downrange and the ALL CLEAR signal is given. Never handle any firearm for ANY reason while a human being is forward of the firing line.
- Always check before beginning any shooting that everyone present is behind the firing line.
- If a Range Officer is present, be sure that they have declared the line "hot" and that it is safe to fire before shooting.
- Before going forward of the firing line for any reason, always check with everyone present on the firing line to be sure that they have ceased firing and are aware of your intentions.
- If a range officer is present, be sure they have declared a cease fire before going forward.
- Report any unsafe or dangerous acts to a Club Officer, member of the Board of Directors, or a Range Officer if present. Be sure to get a positive identification of the person or persons involved (name, membership number, vehicle tag number, etc.), but do not enter into a potentially violent confrontation with any offender.

- Fire only at targets directly in front of your shooting station. Do not fire at targets (diagonally) across the range.
- Always make certain your targets are in front of a suitable backstop or berm (such as the mountain slope on the rifle/pistol ranges). Never shoot at targets in the air with a handgun or rifle. Bullets fired in this manner can travel very long distances. "Know your target and what is beyond."

#### **4.2 LOWER RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE RULES:**

- All of the above “General Rules for all Firing Ranges” apply to the Lower Rifle/Pistol Range and are required of all users of the this range unless specifically superseded or augmented by the rules and procedures of Club sanctioned events.
- Do not under any circumstances use clay pigeons or glass for targets on the Lower Rifle/Pistol Range. These materials present a hazard to those who mow the grass on the range.
- All shooting on the Lower Rifle/Pistol Range must be done from the designated firing line unless otherwise authorized during certain club sanctioned events
- Because of the danger of ricochets into the adjacent buildings, all targets on the Lower Range must be arranged in such a manner that expended rounds do not impact the ground any closer than twenty-five (25) yards from the designated firing line. For the same reasons, “spinners” or metallic targets may not be placed any closer than twenty-five (25 ) yards from the designated firing line.
- No .50 caliber BMG may be fired on the Lower Range.



- The purpose of the cross-ties on the Lower Range is to protect the silhouette target raising devices. Do not shoot at the cross-ties, the steel rails, or the animal silhouette targets with high power rifles. High power rifles inflict extreme damage to these targets. The silhouette targets are for use in Club sanctioned events and are not for general plinking use.

#### **4.3 UPPER RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE RULES:**

- All of the above “General Rules for all Firing Ranges” apply to the Upper Rifle/Pistol Range and are required of all users of this range unless specifically superseded or augmented by the rules and procedures of Club sanctioned events.
- All shooting on the Upper Rifle/Pistol Range must be done from the designated firing line unless otherwise authorized during certain club sanctioned events.
- Do not under any circumstances use glass for targets on the Upper Rifle/Pistol Range. These materials present a hazard to those who mow the grass on the range.
- Before going more than 200 yards downrange to place or examine targets, you MUST put up the yellow caution tape across all firing positions and place the warning sign(s) in a prominent place forward of the firing line. This is because if someone is farther than 200 yards downrange, they may not be visible to those on the firing line.
- The yellow tape and warning sign indicate that someone is downrange and NO SHOOTING or handling of firearms is allowed.
- Metal targets such as "spinners" may be used on the upper range if used in a safe manner.

- In general, metal targets of any type may not be placed any closer than twenty-five (25) yards from the designated firing line when using center fire ammunition with jacketed bullets. Recommendations of the target manufacturers should be followed.

#### **4.4 LOWER TRAP & SKEET RANGE – FIVE STAND SHOTGUN:**

- All of the above “General Rules for all Firing Ranges” (as they may be applicable), apply to the Lower Trap & Skeet Range and are required of all users of this range unless specifically superseded or augmented by the rules and procedures of Club sanctioned events.
- All shooting on the Lower Trap & Skeet Range must be done from the designated firing line unless otherwise authorized during certain club sanctioned events.
- Firing of rifles or pistols anywhere on the Trap & Skeet ranges is strictly prohibited.
- Firing at glass or metal targets other than pattern board on the Trap & Skeet ranges is strictly prohibited.

#### **4.5 UPPER TRAP & SKEET RANGE:**

- All of the above “General Rules for all Firing Ranges” (as they may be applicable), apply to the Upper Trap & Skeet Range and are required of all users of this range unless specifically superseded or augmented by the rules and procedures of Club sanctioned events.
- All shooting on the Upper Trap & Skeet Range must be done from the designated firing line unless otherwise authorized during certain club sanctioned events.
- Firing of rifles or pistols anywhere on the Trap & Skeet ranges is strictly prohibited.
- Firing at glass or metal targets anywhere on the Trap & Skeet ranges is strictly prohibited.

#### **4.6 LOWER ARCHERY RANGE – PRACTICE RANGE:**

- All of the above general safety rules for all ranges apply to all users of this range (as they may be applicable to archery), unless specifically superseded or augmented by the rules and procedures of Club sanctioned events.
- The shooting of bows is allowed on the Archery ranges only.
- Shoot at approved targets only.
- All shooting must stop when someone is down range from a shooting position. Shooting may not begin again until an ALL CLEAR signal is given.
- The use of any firearm on the Archery ranges is strictly prohibited.
- The use of broadheads on the Archery ranges is strictly prohibited.

#### **4.7 UPPER ARCHERY RANGE – SAFARI RANGE:**

- All of the above general safety rules for all ranges apply to all users of this range (as they may be applicable to archery), unless specifically superseded or augmented by the rules and procedures of Club sanctioned events.
- The shooting of bows is allowed on the Archery ranges only.
- Shoot at approved targets only.
- All shooting must stop when someone is down range from a shooting position. Shooting may not begin again until an ALL CLEAR signal is given.
- The use of any firearm on the Archery ranges is strictly prohibited.
- The use of broadheads on the Archery ranges is strictly prohibited.
- Always stay on the designated course trail.
- Do not cut, trim, or remove any type of foliage on the Safari Range.

#### **4.8 CATFISH POND & PICNIC SHELTER:**

- All of the above general safety rules for all ranges apply to all users of the Catfish Pond & Picnic Shelter (as they may be applicable), unless specifically superseded or augmented by the rules and procedures of Club sanctioned events.
- The Catfish Pond hours are from Daylight to Dark, seven days of the week.
- Children under twelve must be accompanied by a supervising adult Club member.
- There is no swimming or wading in the pond.
- Climbing or standing on the dock railing or picnic tables is prohibited.
- There is absolutely no unauthorized releasing of fish or minnows into the pond. Un-approved fish could have diseases and kill the stocked fish.
- Only conventional rod & reel equipment is permitted.
- No Bow & arrow fishing is permitted.
- Explosives of any kind are prohibited in the Pond area.
- There is no unauthorized seining of fish or minnows.
- Fishing limits are: Children under twelve two per day, all others catch & release only.
- Regular fishing licenses are required.

#### **5.0 VIOLATION OF RULES – PENALTIES:**

Any violation or disregard of these rules and regulations may result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

- Any report of a rules violation or disregard of safety procedures reported to Officers or Directors will be immediately turned over to the Club's Investigative Committee.

- The Investigative Committee will research and investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident, interview witnesses, and gather any other pertinent information necessary to determine the facts. Failure to cooperate with any investigation may, at the discretion of the Board, be considered an admission of guilt or grounds for disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.
- The Investigative Committee will compile a written report of the incident to be submitted to the Board of Directors, at their next regularly scheduled meeting or sooner in the case of a serious infraction.
- A serious infraction, such as any action that causes or has the potential to cause serious harm to members, guests or Club Property, will be immediately reported to the Board of Directors. In such a case, the Board of Directors, an Investigative Committee member, or the President, has the authority to temporarily suspend the membership privileges of the person or persons involved in the incident until such time as the Board of Directors can hear all of the evidence regarding the situation.
- The Board of Directors will review the Investigative Committee report and determine the appropriate action to be taken. In such cases a member may be called upon to appear before the Board during the proceedings. Failure to appear before the Board when called upon may be considered as an admission of guilt.
- The Board of Directors has complete authority in any such proceedings and may take any action it deems appropriate, up to and including permanent expulsion from the club with associated loss of dues and club benefits.

**Approved by the Cherokee Rod & Gun Club Board of Directors on October 02, 2014.**

PLEASE NOTE:

The rules & regulations set forth in this document represent only minimum standards of conduct. Every Club member is personally responsible for holding themselves and their guests to the highest possible level of safe conduct.

Every member and every guest should remain aware of their surroundings and carefully consider everything that they do. We are a club of family members, so treat yourself and your fellow members, as you would want someone to treat you and your family members.

Please be safe and enjoy yourself,

Board of Directors,  
CHEROKEE ROD & GUN CLUB

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

In the case of an accident or emergency: DIAL 911

There is a land line telephone on the wall near the front door to the Clubhouse.

1. Address is 4280 Reservoir Road, Sullivan County
2. Request that the call be transferred to the Sullivan County EMS, they are the official responder to our site.
3. The Club telephone number is 423-348-8004.
4. If it is an accidental shooting, carefully explain that otherwise the Swat team may show up.

Someone must meet the EMS at the gate to let them in. If you are by yourself tell them a steady push on the gate will break the arm open.

Be careful in all things, Safety, Safety, Safety!