

CHEROKEE ROD & GUN CLUB

Kingsport, Tennessee



BASIC FIREARMS & RANGE SAFETY FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS

Revised December 7th, 2023

Cherokee Rod and Gun Club Board Approved November 3rd, 2022

Effective December 1st, 2022

SPECIAL NOTICE

DUE TO FIRE HAZARD TRACER ROUNDS, INCENDIARY ROUNDS OR ANY FORM OF EXPLOSIVE AMMUNITION MAY NOT be used at any range. IN ADDITION, TANNERITE OR OTHER TYPES OF EXPLODING TARGETS MAY NOT be used on any range.

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



JOE TRUJILLO

PRESIDENT | CHEROKEE ROD AND GUN

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

CHEROKEE ROD AND GUN CLUB

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS/MEMBER'S FAMILIES

Here is the most updated Rules Book

Basic Firearms and Range Safety for Members and Guest

Dear Cherokee Rod and Gun Club members,

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

Cherokee is very fortunate to have many loyal members. Each year we continue to grow with so many new members. As of the end of 2022, there are currently 1300 total members! With so many shooters and new shooters it is more important than ever for us to maintain strict safety procedures.

Safety is everyone's job but we also have specially trained Range Officers. These officers will carry a special identification card and are designated to implement all rules and safety procedures. Everyone must respect the Range Officers and follow any advice they may offer.

Above all else HAVE FUN and SHOOT SAFELY!

See you on the range,

Joe Trujillo

President

CHEROKEE ROD & GUN CLUB

BASIC FIREARMS & RANGE SAFETY FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS

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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.

Club rules may be changed by the board from time to time. Rule changes will be posted on the club's bulletin board, web site, social media pages, announced at the next club meeting and be emailed to the club's list of email addresses. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with current rules.

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. Dependent children are defined by the board as 23 or younger AND still living in the primary member's home AND not in the work force AND actively working on a college degree or trade license or trade certification or still in high school. Family members other than spouses who enter the work force must join separately and pay their own dues.
- 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 200 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 orientation, and to their invited guests. Members may not possess a gate key-card until they have completed the safety 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 they have attended and been documented attending a new member safety orientation. 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 Range, the Catfish Pond & Picnic Shelter, the Archery Field Practice Range and Pistol Bays during hours listed for each area/range for recreational shooting, except when certain ranges or areas are closed for Club-sanctioned events.
- Members are encouraged to check the Club Website, Web Calendar, our social media pages, 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

- Most 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 recreational 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 or open carry in holsters on their person, under the laws of the state of Tennessee.
- Loaded firearms in a closed case or bag 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. Vaping of any type is also prohibited.
- Full automatic weapons, “Hellfire trigger” devices, binary triggers 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 determined by the Board of Directors 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.. Spent casings, (all calibers brass, steel & aluminum) should either be picked up, or swept forward into the gravel area, in front of the firing line. Do not leave any spent casings or shells on the asphalt or concrete shooting area.

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.
- If an emergency happens on one range, **all ranges** are to be shut down until EMS/Police have left the property.
- There is no ‘show and tell’ of firearms except at the firing line of a firearms range while the range is hot. Firearms should be unloaded with actions open. The muzzle should always be kept pointed downrange.
- **TRACER ROUNDS, INCENDIARY ROUNDS OR ANY FORM OF EXPLOSIVE AMMUNITION MAY NOT be used at any range. In addition, Tannerite or other exploding targets may not be used on any range.**
- Firearms cannot be discharged on club property before noon and after 5:00pm on Sunday on any range. Allowable hours for each range are specified in the sections below.
- 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 concealed or open carry firearms in holsters. 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. Open carry or concealed firearms in holsters on your person may remain loaded.
- Members are REQUIRED to keep a brightly colored Empty Chamber Indicator/safety flag in the chamber when the firearm is not in use 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 except open and concealed carry firearms in holsters on your person.
- 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 and empty chamber indicator/safety flag inserted into the action.
- 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 Tannerite, etc.) is strictly prohibited on any range.
- Glass targets are prohibited on club property.
- 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/safety flag. 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.
- Any intentional firing at club property including but not limited to yardage markers, railroad ties, steel or wooden support posts with any type of ammunition or steel targets using armor piecing or API rounds is subject to disciplinary action up to and including permanent removal from the club.
- 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.

- Hours for the lower pistol and rifle range are sunrise to sunset Monday through Saturday and noon to 5pm on Sunday. This range is closed at 5:00pm on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December for the regular club meeting.
- No more than one round per second should be fired on this range. No mag dumps or rapid fire.
- Drawing from a holster is not permitted on this range.
- All firearms not in a bag/case or not concealed or open carry firearms in holsters on your person are REQUIRED to have a brightly colored empty chamber indicator/safety flag inserted into the action when someone is downrange. In the case of muzzle loading firearms where a chamber flag cannot be used, the firearm must be kept decapped and/or priming pan kept empty until ready to fire (see rules for black powder firearms Section 4.4).
- Do not under any circumstances use clay pigeons or glass for targets on the Lower Rifle/Pistol 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 and clubhouse, all targets on the Lower Range must be arranged in such a manner that the projectiles do not impact the ground any closer than twenty five (25) yards from the firing line. Target stands may be placed closer as long as the angle from the muzzle of the firearm through the targets to the ground does not impact the ground any closer than 25 yards even with a low shot.
- Metallic targets or 'spinners' may not be placed any closer than twenty-five (25) yards from the firing line.

- No .50 caliber BMG, 338 Lapua, Cheytacs, similar firearms or armor piecing ammunition may be fired on the Lower Range. The railroad tie wall in front of the club house must be able to stop the projectiles.
- 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.
- Do not place targets where bullets impact the cross ties or supports.
- Aim your firearms straight down the range, do not cross fire across lanes. All bullets should be aimed to stay on the range and not go into the woods on the left for upper range safety or too far to the right for shotgun range safety.
- Any person at the range should shout CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE if they see any unsafe condition. If a cease fire is called, everyone should immediately stop shooting and engage the firearm's safety. Find out why the cease fire was called. If needed, clear and unload the firearm, insert an empty chamber indicator and place it on the shooting bench with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction down range. Do not start shooting again until the unsafe condition is resolved.
- If the gun vise is used, the muzzle must pointed into a safe area to the left of the firing line where no person can walk in front of it. An empty chamber indicator/safety flag must be inserted into the open action of the firearm when being taken to the vise, at the vise and removed from the vise. In moving to or from the vise, the muzzle must be pointed up.
- When the range is declared cold or are people downrange, firearms are to be on the shooting bench with muzzle pointed downrange and if they are unbagged/uncased with an empty chamber indicator/safety flag inserted into the action or in the rifle rack with an empty chamber indicator/safety flag inserted into the action. Concealed and open carry firearms in holsters on your person are exempted from this rule. There is NO handling of firearms for any reason until the range is declared hot again. No handling includes, but is not limited to:
 - Bagging/Unbagging firearms.
 - Removing firearms from the shooting bench, back tables, gun vise or rack.
 - Bringing firearms to the shooting bench, back tables, gun vise or rack.
 - Transporting firearms to or from a vehicle.
 - If the red range light was not blinking and people are down range when you bring up a firearm, place the firearm, still in its case or bag on the back table with the muzzle pointing into the parking lot in the safest direction possible. Do not handle the firearm any further or bring more firearms to the line until the range is hot.
 - Adjusting or working on scopes, optics, iron sights, stocks, bolts or actions on a firearm. This also includes firearms in the gun vise.
- Gun Handling Rules when the range is hot:
 - Cherokee Rod and Gun Club follows NRA gun handling rules which are:
 - ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
 - ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
 - ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
 - Know your target and what is beyond.

- Know how to use the gun safely.
 - Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
 - Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
 - Never use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, illegal drug, intoxicant, depressant, or any medication that would impair judgment on club property.
- Only bagged/cased firearms may be moved to/from your vehicle to a shooting bench or the back table. In the case of a long gun, it may also be moved directly to/from the rack. When moving to or from your vehicle, the muzzle of a firearm must be pointed up, never horizontally. **Do NOT move firearms if the range is cold.**
 - Unbag/uncase/bag/case firearms **ONLY** at a shooting bench with the muzzle pointed down range.
 - Unbagged/uncased firearms are only allowed at the shooting bench or in the rack in the case of long guns.
 - Unbagged/uncased firearms can only be moved to the rack or to another shooting bench. In both cases, the firearm action should be open with a safety flag/empty chamber indicator inserted into the chamber. Rotate the muzzle to point up, move to the destination keeping the muzzle up and then rotate the muzzle to be down range at a shooting bench or placed upright in the rack. Never let the muzzle sweep the firing line, behind it or especially at people.
 - Firearms at a shooting bench are to be placed so the muzzle is pointing down range.
 - Long guns in the rack should be placed with the muzzle pointing up with an empty chamber indicator/safety flag inserted into the action.
 - Bagged/cased firearms on the back table should be placed with the muzzle pointed up range into the parking lot at the safest location possible. Do not let the muzzle be pointed down the firing line, sidewalks or down range. Only bagged/cased firearms are allowed on the back tables.
 - If a firearm on the shooting bench is not being actively used and is unbagged/uncased, it should have a safety flag/empty chamber indicator inserted. Remove the safety flag only when you are ready to load and begin shooting. Replace the safety flag back into the firearm when not shooting.

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.

- Hours for the upper pistol and rifle range are sunrise to sunset Monday through Saturday and noon to 5:00pm on Sunday.
- Aimed rapid fire is permitted as long as the bullet travels 50 yards down range before striking the ground. The projectile may strike the ground closer during slow fire (at least 2 seconds between shots.) Mag dumps are not permitted.
- Drawing from a holster is not permitted on this range.

- All shooting on the Upper Rifle/Pistol Range must be done from the designated firing line unless otherwise authorized during certain club sanctioned events.
- All firearms not in a bag/case or not concealed or open carry firearms in holsters on your person are REQUIRED to have a brightly colored empty chamber indicator/safety flag inserted into the action when someone is downrange. In the case of muzzle loading firearms where a chamber flag cannot be used, the firearm must be kept decapped and/or priming pan kept empty until ready to fire (see rules for black powder firearms Section 4.4).
- 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 caution tape across all firing positions and place the warning sign(s) in a prominent place forward of the firing line. The tape is located on the front left hand roof support column and should be stretched the whole way across 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 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. No closer than 10 yards if using lead ammunition. Recommendations of the target manufacturers should be followed.
- Use only metal targets that are in good condition and not cupped, chipped, spalled or with any other defect than could cause the bullet fragments to come back at the shooter or towards the firing line. If anyone notices fragments coming back, please tell the target owner to move their target further down range.
- Do not place targets where bullets impact the cross ties or supports.
- Aim your firearms straight down the range, do not cross fire across lanes. All bullets should be aimed to stay on the range and not go into the woods on the left for upper range safety or too far to the right for shotgun range safety.
- Any person at the range should shout CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE if they see any unsafe condition. If a cease fire is called, everyone should immediately stop shooting and engage the firearm's safety. Find out why the cease fire was called. If needed, clear and unload the firearm, insert an empty chamber indicator and place it on the shooting bench with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction down range. Do not start shooting again until the unsafe condition is resolved.
- If the gun vise is used, the muzzle must pointed into a safe area to the left of the firing line where no person can walk in front of it. An empty chamber indicator/safety flag must be inserted into the open action of the firearm when being taken to the vise, at the vise and removed from the vise. In moving to or from the vise, the muzzle must be pointed up.
- When the range is declared cold or are people downrange, firearms are to be on the shooting bench with muzzle pointed downrange and if they are unbagged/uncased with an empty chamber indicator/safety flag inserted into the action or in the rifle rack with an empty chamber indicator/safety flag inserted into the action. Concealed and open carry firearms in holsters on

your person are exempted from this rule. There is NO handling of firearms for any reason until the range is declared hot again. No handling includes, but is not limited to:

- Bagging/Unbagging firearms.
- Removing firearms from the shooting bench, back tables, gun vise or rack.
- Bringing firearms to the shooting bench, back tables, gun vise or rack.
- Transporting firearms to or from a vehicle.
 - If the red range light was not blinking and people are down range when you bring up a firearm, place the firearm, still in its case or bag on the back table with the muzzle pointing into the parking lot in the safest direction possible. Do not handle the firearm any further or bring more firearms to the line until the range is hot.
- Adjusting or working on scopes, optics, iron sights, stocks, bolts or actions on a firearm. This also includes firearms in the gun vise.
- Gun Handling Rules when the range is hot:
 - Cherokee Rod and Gun Club follows NRA gun handling rules which are:
 - ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
 - ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
 - ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
 - Know your target and what is beyond.
 - Know how to use the gun safely.
 - Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
 - Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
 - Never use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, illegal drug, intoxicant, depressant, or any medication that would impair judgment on club property.
 - Only bagged/cased firearms may be moved to/from your vehicle to a shooting bench or the back table. In the case of a long gun, it may also be moved directly to/from the rack. When moving to or from your vehicle, the muzzle of a firearm must be pointed up, never horizontally. **Do NOT move firearms if the range is cold.**
 - Unbag/uncase/bag/case firearms **ONLY** at a shooting bench with the muzzle pointed down range.
 - Unbagged/uncased firearms are only allowed at the shooting bench or in the rack in the case of long guns.
 - Unbagged/uncased firearms can only be moved to the rack or to another shooting bench. In both cases, the firearm action should be open with a safety flag/empty chamber indicator inserted into the chamber. Rotate the muzzle to point up, move to the destination keeping the muzzle up and then rotate the muzzle to be down range at a shooting bench or placed upright in the rack. Never let the muzzle sweep the firing line, behind it or especially at people.
 - Firearms at a shooting bench are to be placed so the muzzle is pointing down range.
 - Long guns in the rack should be placed with the muzzle pointing up with an empty chamber indicator/safety flag inserted into the action.
 - Bagged/cased firearms on the back table should be placed with the muzzle pointed up range into the parking lot at the safest location possible. Do not let the muzzle be

pointed down the firing line, sidewalks or down range. Only bagged/cased firearms are allowed on the back tables.

- If a firearm on the shooting bench is not being actively used and is unbagged/uncased, it should have a safety flag/empty chamber indicator inserted. Remove the safety flag only when you are ready to load and begin shooting. Replace the safety flag back into the firearm when not shooting.

4.4 UPPER AND LOWER RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE RULES FOR BLACK POWDER / BLACK POWDER SUBSTITUTE / MUZZLE LOADERS

- IF THE FIREARM FAILS TO FIRE, BE PREPARED FOR A HANGFIRE. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and wait no less than one full minute. Let the rest of the firing line know you have a potential hangfire as soon as possible.
- RENDER YOUR FIREARM INOPERABLE WHENEVER YOU ARE NOT SHOOTING. Never place the percussion cap on the nipple or prime the pan until just before firing and remove the primer or priming powder immediately if you do not fire.
- When capping or priming, always make sure the muzzle stays pointed down range.
- Loading directly from a horn or flask is prohibited, a measurer must be used.
- Open containers of black powder or percussion caps are not to be left on the firing line or loading benches.
- Never carry a loaded muzzle loading firearm away from the shooting bench. Unload it by firing it into a suitable backstop before removing the firearm from the shooting bench. Black powder firearms may also be unloaded without firing by the use of a CO₂ pneumatic discharger while the muzzle is kept pointing downrange.
- There will be no smoking/vaping or any other open flame or ignition source at a shooting bench or other location where black powder or black powder substitute is being used or kept.
- There will be NO blowing down the barrel of any firearm in any manner that requires placing the head in front of the muzzle. A flexible blow tube may be used at the shooter's option, provided that the shooter's head is not placed in front of the muzzle.
- All flintlock firearms must be loaded with the frizzen and hammer in the forward position. All capped firearms must be loaded without a cap in place and the hammer in the forward position.

4.5 LOWER TRAP RANGE – FIVE STAND SHOTGUN

All of the above "General Rules for all Firing Ranges" (as they may be applicable), apply to the Lower Trap and Five Stand Range and are required of all users of this range unless specifically superseded or augmented by the rules and procedures of Club sanctioned events.

- Hours for the lower trap and five stand range are sunrise to sunset (10:00pm if the lights are on) Monday through Saturday and noon to 5:00pm on Sunday.
- No slugs, buckshot, steel shot, or any loads of lead shot larger than #7½, are permitted on this range. Only lead shot of #7½ to #12 is authorized on this range. Use of non-authorized ammunition is subject to disciplinary action up to and including temporary or permanent suspension from the club.

- Non-tungsten #4 through #12 shot-is allowed to be used on the patterning board ONLY.
- All shooting on the Lower Trap Range must be done from the designated firing line unless otherwise authorized during certain club sanctioned events.
- Firing of rifles or handguns 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.
- When people are down range to reload the trap machine, the orange cone should be placed on the trap house and the throwing machine disabled. There should be no firearms handling until everyone returns to behind the firing line.
- Firearm actions should be opened when being transported to/from vehicles to the firearms rack or firing line.

4.6 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.

- Hours for the upper trap and skeet range are sunrise to sunset (10pm if the lights are on) Monday through Saturday and noon to 5pm on Sunday.
- No slugs, buckshot, steel shot, or any loads of lead shot larger than #7½, are permitted on this range. Only lead shot of #7½ to #12 is authorized on this range. Use of non-authorized ammunition is subject to disciplinary action up to and including temporary or permanent suspension from the club.
- Non-tungsten #4 through #12 shot-is allowed to be used on the patterning board ONLY.
- All shooting on the Upper Trap & Skeet Range must be done from the designated firing line unless otherwise authorized during certain club sanctioned events.
- When people are down range to reload the trap machine, the orange cone should be placed on the trap house and the throwing machine disabled. There should be no firearms handling until everyone returns to behind the firing line.
- Firing of rifles or handguns 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.

4.7 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 archery range is open sunrise to sunset seven days a week.
- Enter the archery range only by the pedestrian walkway, NOT at the gravel driveway beside the dumpster.
- The shooting of bows and crossbows is allowed on the Archery range only.

- Shoot at targets designed for archery only.
- If bringing your own targets, they must be placed on the same shooting line as the club's targets. NEVER shoot towards the fish pond.
- 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.
- Always draw the bow pointed toward the target, with or without arrows.
- If you see a hazard, yell **"Cease Fire"** three times to stop all shooting. Resume shooting when given the ALL-CLEAR.
- Never shoot arrows up in the air.
- Wait behind the shooting line until all archers are finished shooting and the signal to collect arrows is given.
- When someone goes down range, bows/crossbows must be in the bow rack or bow stands.
- Never handle another archer's equipment without permission.
- If the Archery range has more than one shooter, limit shooting to six arrows at a time.
- If you find lost arrows that are not yours, stick them in the ground by the hanging bow rack.
- Pick up any broken arrows/trash and place them in the garbage can.
- The use of any firearm on the Archery range is strictly prohibited.
- The use of broad heads on the Archery range is strictly prohibited.
- Only target tips or field points are permitted.

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.
- The use of any firearm, bow or crossbow at the catfish pond and picnic shelter is strictly prohibited.
- 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 twelve and under, two catfish per day.
 - No limit on blue gill for children or adults.
 - All others catch & release only.
- Regular fishing licenses are required and may be checked by TWRA.

4.9 PISTOL BAYS

All of the above general safety rules for all ranges apply to all users of the Pistol Bays (as they may be applicable), unless specifically superseded or augmented by the rules and procedures of Club sanctioned events.

- Hours for the pistol bays are 8am to sunset Monday through Saturday and noon to 5:00pm on Sunday.
- Shotguns, rifles and carbines are NOT permitted to be used in the bays.
- Defense Handguns, Target Handguns, Muzzle Loading Handguns, rifles chambered for 22 short, long and long rifle, other rim fire rifles such as .17 HMR and black powder cartridge handguns are allowed in the first 3 bays for general member practice.
- Common pistol caliber carbines (PCCs) chambered in calibers such as .380 ACP, 9mm Luger, 40 S&W, 10mm and 45 ACP are permitted in the first three bays on this range in order to practice for shooting sports such as IDPA and USPSA as long as everyone in the bay agrees.
- The 4th bay (furthest from the range entrance) is .22 caliber or smaller **RIMFIRE ONLY**.
- The first member to occupy a specific bay “owns” that bay until they leave. They may choose to share the specific bay with others or not, and other members and guests may not share the bay with the member who occupied it first without their permission.
- Aimed double taps and failure drills are permitted on this range in order to practice shooting sports such as IDPA and USPSA.
- Drawing from a holster is permitted inside the bays in front of the sheds as long as everyone in the bay agrees.
- Do not carry firearms between the parking lot and the range in holsters except for holstered open or concealed carry handguns on your person. All firearms being transported to and from the parking area must be unloaded and contained in a case, box, or gun rug except for holstered concealed and open carry handguns on your person.
- Do not load or unload concealed carry or open carry firearms outside of one of the bays.
- Handguns carried in a holster within the bay area must have the magazine removed and leave the chamber empty until you are in firing position. Revolvers must also be carried unloaded. Open or concealed carry firearms in holsters on your person are exempt from this rule.
- No firing is permitted from behind the sheds or designated firing line on any of the Pistol Bays.
- Any member using their own steel targets must set them at the base of the rear berm. Steel targets shall not be engaged closer than the minimum safe distance of 12 yards.
- Shooters during a firing string may proceed downrange of the sheds, but may NOT move behind or through the sheds.
- If the shooter proceeds downrange during a firing string, they may NOT break the 180 degree rule. All shots must be aimed downrange forward of the shooter and never behind the shooter.
- Under no circumstances should any target be situated so that the bullets fired at it hit the side berms or the bay ‘floor.’ All targets should be arranged so that bullets passing through or missing targets will impact the back berm. DO NOT shoot the side berms or bay floor.
- Put used targets and backers in the trash containers provided, and place wooden stands and barrels against the side berms when you are finished shooting.

- Barrels are to be used to simulate cover to shoot around, NOT as target stands. Do not purposely shoot barrels.
- Accidental damage to any permanent prop must be immediately reported to the Club Manager or RO and the shooter is responsible for repairing the damage and is subject to disciplinary action.

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.

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!