

Northern Rio Grande Sporting Club

Rule Book



Updated: February 10th, 2026

(Changes from September 1, 2025 are highlighted in yellow)

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Safety

- Four basic firearm rules are ALWAYS in effect on firearms ranges:
 - All guns are always loaded! Treat them that way!
 - Never let your muzzle cover anything you're not willing to destroy!
 - Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target!
 - Always be sure of your target – know what is beyond the target.
- Firearms shall be unloaded and either bagged or cased, as you enter or depart the range area. The use of empty chamber indicators is strongly encouraged.
- Firearms must be handled in a safe manner at all times.
- ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED DOWN RANGE!
- Eye and ear protection must be worn by everyone within 25 yards of any range where firearms are being discharged (unless you are inside of a building or vehicle).
- Always verify the presence (or confirm the absence) of other persons on a particular range, prior to shooting – don't rely on the range flag, or the presence/absence of vehicles.
- Keep your finger off of the trigger, outside of the trigger guard, until ready to fire.
- ANYONE observing any violation(s) of range rules are required to call CEASEFIRE. That range shall remain COLD until corrective actions are taken.
- Where the shooting of steel targets is allowed (see individual range rules), all shooters must ensure a minimum distance of 10 yards between the target and all other persons.
- Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs, will NOT be permitted anywhere on NRGSC property.
- If your firearm fails to fire when the trigger is pulled keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction for one minute, then carefully open the action. *A mechanical failure or broken part in the firearm may suddenly release the hammer or firing pin, causing the cartridge to fire without warning.* Enlist the aid of other shooters if needed to rectify the problem.
- All persons (including family members) under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult member.

Emergency Procedures

- In the event of an accident or injury requiring medical attention:
 - Provide first-aid to the injured person(s).
 - Trauma kits are located in the classroom building and the shotgun range building.
 - An AED is located in the classroom. Any qualified person is allowed to use it.
 - If a firearm is involved, it should be left alone until the police arrive. Assign someone to “guard” it.
 - Call 911 and tell them a shooting incident as occurred, briefly describe the injuries, and give them directions to the club:
 - **42 E. Arroyo Alamo, Espanola, NM 87532**
 - Assign someone to go to the main gate to admit the responders and direct them to the location of the incident. If no one else is present, the main gate has a release for fire/police responders. Remain with the victim if you are alone and communicate with 911 operators to guide responders to the correct location of the range.
 - All persons in the vicinity of the incident must remain at the scene until released by law enforcement.
 - Contact an NRGSC Board member (contact info on website, nrgsc.org) as soon as possible.

Hot/Cold Range Status

- A range is considered to be HOT (shooting allowed), unless it has been agreed by all shooters present that the range is COLD. Any person may initiate calling a range COLD.
- While the range is HOT:
 - Shooting may take place from designated shooting positions (see rules for each specific range).
 - Shooters may bring cased firearms to or from their shooting location.
 - All persons must be at, or behind, the designated shooting positions at all times.
 - The firing line at the rifle range is the front of the covered enclosures. No shooting is allowed past the firing line. Likewise, no shooting is allowed from the west side of the covered enclosures at the rifle range.
 - Any person may immediately call a range cold, if they spot any unsafe condition or activity, by shouting "CEASE FIRE".
- While the range is COLD:
 - All persons must:
 - immediately clear their firearms:
 - magazines removed,
 - and open actions
 - insert an empty chamber indicator (recommended),
 - either case and remove their firearm from the firing line, or place their firearm in a secure position on the firing bench, with the muzzle pointed downrange, but slightly angled to the left or right to avoid it pointing at persons who will be placing targets,
 - back away from the shooting position.
- While the range is COLD:
 - All persons must remain **behind** the shooting position for the duration of the COLD range.
 - **Firearms must not be handled under any circumstances.**
- Shooters must wait until the range is called HOT to place or retrieve firearms, ammunition, etc. from their shooting position.
- No one may collect brass forward of an active firing line but must wait until there is a halt in firing and the range is COLD.
- Calling a Range HOT: Generally, the person who initiated the COLD range, is responsible for ensuring that the range is safe for resumed shooting. All shooters should scan the area downrange to ensure that all persons have returned to behind their shooting positions.
- Upon getting concurrence from all shooters present, the range will be called HOT.
- Rifle Range Warning Light System. The warning light system compliments verbal "hot and cold" announcements.

- Red light indicates that the range is HOT, and green light indicates that it is COLD.
- There are labeled light switches in front of each pair of shooting benches.
 - ALL (6) switches must be UP in the HOT Range position to turn the lights red indicating that all shooters are ready and no one is downrange.
 - ANY switch moved DOWN to the COLD Range position will turn the system to green indicating a COLD range for any reason.
- If the lights won't change to red light condition, verify that all switches are in the HOT Range position (UP) - then a single shooter can operate the entire system from their switch.
- The system must be used whether you are there alone or not.

Range Flags

- Range flags are used to indicate the presence of other members on the property. All members are obligated to observe the following rules regarding their use:
 - Main Range Flag. Upon arrival at the property, check to see if the main range flag is raised. If it is not, raise it. When you leave the property, lower the main range flag if you are certain that no one else is on the property. Check the pistol flag position if you are leaving the rifle range.
 - Individual Range Flags. Upon arrival at a shooting range, check to see if the flag for that range is raised. If it is, be aware that there is likely another shooter somewhere on the range. If it is not raised, raise it. When you leave that range, lower its range flag if no one else is on that range. *Note that an individual range flag is used to determine whether or not one or more persons is on that range. It is not meant to be an indication of whether the range is hot or cold.*

Range Operations

- Only members in good standing, and their guests, are allowed on club property at any time.
- Annual dues are payable as of July 1st each year.
- The range is normally open 365 days per year, from 7:00am to sunset. Shooting before 7:00am or after sunset is not allowed unless specifically authorized by the board of directors.
- Range closures occur intermittently for maintenance. Please check the [NRGSC website calendar](#) before coming to the range.
- All members must take and pass the current online safety quiz prior to membership renewal each year.
- Park only in provided parking areas.
- All members must wear their Membership Identification Card at or above the waist at ALL times when they are on the club property.
- Some ranges may be reserved by authorized groups for matches or training. Please consult the [NRGSC website calendar](#) before coming to the range to shoot or for any other changes in operations schedule. A range is closed to general use when an organized match or training is taking place.

- Training is periodically held by local law enforcement agencies and 4H instructors. Such agencies and instructors must be approved by the Board, abide by any additional rules applicable to them, and be current on any additional fees owed to the club.
- Do not allow anyone else to use your gate card or allow any other vehicles to draft in behind you unless they are YOUR guests.
- Smoking is allowed. Please be sure to safely dispose of your butts and be considerate of other persons present.
- Report any potentially dangerous situation or activity, or any maintenance needs, to a NRGSC Board member as soon as possible. [Links to the NRGSC Board members are on the website.](#)
- Firearms and ammunition are subject to inspection by any NRGSC Board member, at any time.

Guests and Children

- Members are responsible for the conduct of their shooting and non-shooting guest(s). The Member **MUST** accompany and be in direct control of their guests.
- There is no fee for guests.
- Members must ensure that their guests are familiar with club rules.
- Each member in good standing (the badge holder) may have up to two (2) guests on club property per day.
- Guests must be 8 years of age or older (shooting or non-shooting).
- Both shooting and non-shooting guests must watch the safety video and take/pass the safety test at least once during each membership year (July-June) before coming to the range. Guests must carry with them a printed successful completion certificate while on club property.
- Persons who are not a member, or guest of a member, may from time to time be allowed on club property for participation in authorized matches. They will be informed of necessary steps for safety test passage as part of the match or event requirements.

Range Care & Maintenance

- Place all trash in one of the provided containers. This is your range – let it be cleaner when you leave than when you arrived. Please empty any full trash cans in the dumpster and replace the garbage bag. There is usually a spare in the bottom of the container and more are available in the target sheds.
- Please discard cardboard targets in the dumpster especially from the pistol range. They overfill the trash cans quickly and make the bags hard to remove.
- Members who damage or destroy range property are liable for the cost of repair or replacement of damaged or destroyed property. Hosting members are responsible for any damage caused by their guest(s).
- Shooters must police their brass before leaving the range. If you do not wish to keep your brass, place it in one of the yellow designated containers. Steel and aluminum cases should be disposed of in the trash cans.
- Any “dud” rounds should be placed **ONLY** in the marked red container next to the rifle range target shed. Do not place these in the brass or trash containers.

General Range Rules

- Fully automatic fire is prohibited on all ranges.
- **Aimed and controlled** semi-automatic rapid fire is permitted on the rifle and pistol ranges, with all bullets staying on your respective target. Spraying targets or berms, or shooting from the hip, with semi-auto rapid fire is not permitted and is grounds for termination of membership.
- Bump-fire stocks, binary triggers, forced reset triggers (FRT), or any other "work-around" to emulate full auto fire is not allowed on any of the ranges.
- The original "hillbilly bump-fire" firing method is also not allowed.
- Always make sure that the top of your target is well below the top of the berm.
- The largest rifle caliber allowed is .338 Lapua. The use of .50 BMG is expressly prohibited on all ranges. Large caliber low velocity rifle rounds for dangerous game hunting are allowed with approval from the President, Vice-President, or Rifle Range Manager.
- Some ranges have specific restrictions on caliber. These are addressed in the Rifle and Pistol Range sections.
- Any AR or AK-style rifle platform is considered to be a rifle, regardless of stock configuration.
- A summary table of what types of firearms and ammo are allowed on each range is attached at the end of this document.
- Tracer, armor piercing, green tip, white phosphorus, incendiary, or any other excessively destructive ammunition is prohibited.
- Steel targets are only allowed where specified in each ranges' individual rules.
- Steel targets are provided on the rifle range and no additional steel targets are allowed.
- Any targets deemed as offensive or unsafe are prohibited.
- The shooting of other objects, including but not limited to, glass, vegetables, clays (except on the shotgun range), pyrotechnic, or animals is not allowed.
- No bikes, motorcycles, or ATVs are allowed on club property unless used for maintenance by range personnel.
- No hiking or hunting is allowed on club property.

Archery Range Rules

- NO BROADHEADS may be used on any club owned target. You may bring your own target if you wish to test your broadheads.
- Shooting is only permitted from behind the firing line.
- Never "sky draw" your bow. Only draw when it is pointing downrange.
- Personally owned 3D targets are permissible but must be placed in alignment with the range. Never shoot cross range or towards the main entrance road.
- If shooting with more than one other person, treat the range the same as any other. Make sure all are aware of hot or cold status of the range.

Shotgun Range Rules

- The shotgun range may be used anytime the range is open by members and their guests, except during scheduled matches.
- The club-owned clay throwers may only be used by the Shotgun Range Director(s), or their approved designates during authorized matches or training sessions.
- Only shotguns with calibers of 12 gauge or smaller (e.g. 12, 16, 20, 410, etc.) may be used on the shotgun range. No rifles or pistols of any type are allowed.
- Members who wish to shoot on their own may bring their own hand-operated or mechanical throwers and their own clays. These must throw in alignment with the range, ie: west to east.
- On all shotgun positions only shotshells loaded with birdshot number #7 ½ or smaller (e.g. #8, or # 9 are allowed. No slugs or buckshot are allowed anywhere on the shotgun range. Lead and steel shot are allowed.
- On the patterning target(s), the use of any size birdshot may be used.
- Do not load your shotgun until you are at the shooting station/platform, with the barrel pointing downrange. Load only two (2) shot shells at a time, and do NOT step away from the firing position until your gun is unloaded, and the action is open.
- While shooting on any shotgun range, empty shot shells and trash must be picked up and disposed of properly.

Pistol Range Rules

- Allowable calibers.
 - Any pistol caliber may be used, except:
 - Dueling trees.
 - No heavy magnum rounds allowed to be used on the dueling trees.
 - Limit dueling trees to .22, 9mm, 45 ACP, and comparable.
 - The center tree is for .22 rimfire only.
 - All shooting must be done behind the provided table and RR tie at 10 yards.
 - Shotguns with bird shot, buckshot or slugs, may only be fired at the designated target in Pistol Bay 3, or a personally supplied target.
- Allowable targets.
 - Target stands are available in the target shack. Shooters may bring their own target stands if desired.
 - All targets must be paper or cardboard, except as noted below, or in board of directors approved matches.
 - Steel targets may only be shot if and where such steel targets have been approved and placed by the board of directors. Steel shooting on the pistol range is restricted to:
 - The Dueling Trees in Pistol Bay 2.
 - Pistol Bay 3, if and when steel targets are provided.
 - No personal steel targets are allowed due to ricochet concerns.
- Except for **the currently active shooter**, all firearms on a Pistol Bay must be made safe by being either:
 - holstered,
 - cased or bagged, or
 - grounded – meaning the firearm is on the ground or a table, unloaded, magazines removed, actions/slides/cylinders open, and pointing downrange.
- Do not walk around with an unbagged firearm in-hand or pointed in any direction other than toward the target berm.
- When the range is cleared for shooters to go down range, all firearms must be in one of the aforementioned “safe” states.
- The “active firing line” is the imaginary line running perpendicular to downrange that is being used/shot from at that time. There can be only one active firing line at a time. The position of the firing line is determined by the shooter, or by consent of multiple shooters in that Pistol Bay.
- No one may shoot at any time at an angle that exceeds 45 degrees left or right of directly downrange.
- Shooters may shoot on the move from side-to-side along the firing line on Pistol Bays 1 and 3, with care to keep muzzles pointed downrange at all times.
- Holster draw is allowed, but the shooter must be facing downrange at the time of the draw.

- All pistol shooters are encouraged to have and use a strong-side belt holster that orients the firearm in a muzzle down position.
- Pistols shooting centerfire rifle ammo (e.g. Thompson Contenders, SBRs) are not allowed on the pistol range. These must be limited to the rifle range.
- Carbines chambered for pistol ammunition (.22, 9mm, etc) are allowed in bays 1 and 3 but are never allowed for steel shooting (and bay 2 dueling trees) in any pistol bay.

Rifle Range Rules

- Only rifles and/or hunting-style handguns may be fired on the rifle range.
- Shotguns are prohibited on the rifle range. Shotguns may be patterned in Pistol Bay #3 using slugs, buckshot, and/or birdshot. See Pistol Range section for target and bay restrictions.
- Target stands, for shooting at fixed positions of 25/50/75 yards, are available in the range storage shed.
- Do not shoot at anything other than:
 - paper targets mounted to a club provided shooting frame (movable or stationary), or
 - steel targets provided by the club.
- NEVER shoot at anything beyond the 560-yard targets.
- Shoot only at targets directly downrange from your shooting position.
- Shooting from any NRA prescribed shooting position (sitting at bench, standing, kneeling, prone, or sitting on the ground is allowed. Shooters not shooting from a bench must stand, be prone, kneel, or sit on the concrete directly next to a shooting bench.
- After finishing at the rifle range, return any moveable target holders to rifle storage shed, and dispose of your trash and unwanted brass in the marked, yellow containers. Do not dispose of brass in the trash. Steel and aluminum cases should be put in the trash.
- Never dispose of live ammunition in the brass receptacles or trash. There is a red receptacle next to the rifle range target shed for live/unfired/misfire ammunition.
- Paper targets are usually available for purchase in the rifle shed (honor system).

Annual Dues

- Only members in good standing and current on their dues payment (and their guests) may use the range facilities.
- The membership year runs from July 1 - June 30 annually.
- Members who have not paid their dues by June 30th will have their access cards deactivated until payment is received and processed. If paying by check, note that it can take up to 3 weeks to process your renewal, so send your payment early to avoid access deactivation.
- If your gate card will not activate the main gate, generally this is because your dues are not paid, and your card is deactivated. Contact the membership secretary by email to rectify the situation. Secretary@NRGSC.org
- Tailgating “drafting” other members when your card will not work is expressly prohibited.
- All persons entering the property must enter properly through the electronic gate. Walking around the gate when your card doesn’t open it is also expressly prohibited.
- Opening the gate for members whose card doesn’t work is also expressly prohibited.

Disciplinary Actions

- Any violation of NRGSC rules, unsafe and/or destructive behavior is subject to review by the Board of Directors.
- Physical and/or verbal abuse of other members, NRGSC personnel, or board members will not be tolerated and is also subject to review by the Board of Directors.
- Severity of disciplinary action will be commensurate with the violation up to and including, loss of membership privileges either temporarily or permanently.
- Membership dues will not be refunded upon ruling of “loss of membership privilege”.
- All rulings by the Board of Directors are final.

NRGSC Approved Firearm and Ammo by Range

Range	Firearm(s) Allowed	Calibers Allowed	Targets Allowed
Shotgun	Shotgun	#7-1/2 shot (and smaller)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clay targets • Paper (on club provided patterning board)
Rifle	Rifle, Hunting Pistols	Any club allowed rifle or pistol caliber. Pistols other than hunting pistols are not allowed on the rifle range.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper (on club provided stands) • Steel (on club provided arrays)
Pistol Bay #1	Pistol, Pistol Caliber Carbine	Any club allowed pistol caliber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper (on club provided or personal stands) • No Steel
Pistol Bay #2	Pistol	Any club allowed non-magnum pistol caliber up to .45 ACP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dueling trees only
Pistol Bay #3	Pistol, Pistol Caliber Carbine, Shotgun	Any club allowed pistol caliber, birdshot, buckshot, slugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper (on club provided or personal stands) • Shotgun only on provided patterning frame
Archery	Any bow	Only target arrowheads may be shot on club provided targets	Club provided or personal targets

This summary is provided for convenience only. Refer to the appropriate section in this document for specific restrictions which may exist.