

# MUZZLELOADER RANGE USE POLICY

The Muzzleloader Range is intended primarily for the use of traditional muzzleloading firearms firing a single projectile.

## SCOPE

This document enumerates what firearms, etc., may or may not be used on the Muzzleloader Range and the manner of their use as well as other relevant conditions on range use. All division and general members are expected to be familiar with these rules before using the range and are bound by these rules, other applicable safety rules and any decision of a BGSL range officer when present.

## SIGN-IN

At the time of this document, no sign-in is required for individual use by division or BGSL members. Check-in with RO's at GP range is recommended.

*As a courtesy, general members should feel free to leave a note with their usage of range and/or their contact information if they are interested in joining division or participating in open matches held at the range.*

## NOTE ON APPROVED SUBSTITUTES FOR BLACKPOWDER

Only blackpowder or an approved substitute are allowed to be used on the Muzzleloader Range or Woodswalk. Approved substitutes include: Pyrodex, Triple Se7en, Blackhorn, White Hot, and American Pioneer. No type of smokeless powder is a safe alternative to blackpowder.

## FIREARMS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED

- Any cartridge loaded gun, regardless of whether black powder or modern smokeless powder is used. NO EXCEPTIONS unless in course of officially declared special match approved by division and with course of fire cleared by Range Master.
- Matchlocks
- *Muzzleloading Shotguns or smoothbores loaded with shot as the target frames are not suitable for patterning. Please check with the RangeMaster regarding alternate location for patterning these types of firearms.*

## FIREARMS THAT ARE ALLOWED

- Muzzleloading snaphaunce, flintlock, wheellock, and percussion long guns and pistols firing patched round ball
- Cap and ball revolvers
- Ferguson breech loading rifles (no cartridge) loaded with round ball
- Muzzleloading Shotguns or smoothbores loaded with single round ball

The above may be fired either offhand or from provided tables and benches placed at firing line, not from loading tables. There is no limit on caliber used offhand for targets as long as the firearm can be held and fired comfortably and safely by one person.

The use of loading stands for pistols is strongly recommended.

## **FIREARMS THAT ARE ALLOWED (CONTINUED)**

The following are allowed, but have limitations, or additional caution is required in their use:

- Inline muzzleloaders firing sabots or bare conical bullets using blackpowder or approved substitute (no smokeless)
- Traditional muzzleloaders firing sabots or bare conical using blackpowder or approved substitute (no smokeless, ever, in these guns)

Because of the increased range and energy of conicals over round balls, it is suggested that they be fired as much as possible from benches placed at firing line only, especially when sighting in, and, of course, range safety rules must be followed at all times. The loading tables must not be used as benches! If you are sighting in for the first time (e.g. a new gun), please begin the process with a 25 yard target, not 50 or 100. These types of firearms are also allowed at the GP range where the baffling and berms are better suited to them.

## **EXCEPTIONS AND ODDITIES (ALLOWED WITH LIMITATIONS)**

- Though not firearms, small scale model artillery pieces, such as canons and mortars (1" and under in caliber) are allowed as long as they are well constructed, intended for actual use, and loaded only with wadding and black powder (or approved substitute, no smokeless); **no projectiles**. These must be used safely and without disruption to other users of range. Do not load or fire under shed. Use the area in front of the firing line, only when other shooters are not using the range.
- Muzzleloading air rifles firing round balls. As many are traditional in design, they are welcome to take advantage of loading tables.
- Other: There may be exceptions not noted. In case such is suspected, please seek approval of muzzleloader division and notification of Range Master before using on range.

## **MUZZLELOADER RANGE RULES**

All applicable rules of firearm safety apply equally at Muzzleloader range. Range specific rules are posted at entrance to range area and printed here for convenience:

- No smoking under the shooting shed
- No alcoholic beverages permitted
- Black Powder or equivalent only
- Eye and ear protection required
- Mount targets on celotex/cardboard only
- Keep muzzles up to/from firing line
- Cap and prime on firing line only
- Keep muzzles pointed down range and ALWAYS pointed below top of berm
- Be sure down range is clear before firing
- Bench all rifles when the range is closed
- No blowing down the barrel
- Please pick up your trash
- Keep your range safe and clean

## **GOOD MANNERS**

- Do not shoot at target frames, posts, target numbers or any other piece of structure on range
- Do not staple targets directly to target frames or posts
- Use Cardboard or other material provided to affix target and place in target frame
- Flintlock shooters should use flint shields when necessary and always be considerate of people within range of the touch hole's discharge. Shooters who do not shoot flintlocks need to be aware of the discharge from the touch hole and wait for the flintlock shooter to finish his shot before going beside him.

## **WOODSWALK RANGE**

Woodswalk Range may only be used during official matches when offhand range is closed, unless in case of exception granted by division.

Any muzzleloading long gun shooting roundball loaded with black powder and equipped with open sights may be used during woodswalk matches. No variations during regular matches, although special matches might allow, for example, muzzleloading pistols or muzzleloading shotguns with division approval. There is no limit to caliber, but .54 and below are preferred as larger balls can be tough on targets.