

# Pistol Division – Practical Shooting Pit Rules

## The Practical Shooting Pits allow the use of rifles, pistols and shotguns with free form target placement, in a move and shoot setting – Restricted Access Area/Range

Only Members with a Pistol Pit Pass and their guests may use this area.  
Contact RSO at the BGS� General Purpose Range to obtain a Pistol Pit Pass.

### Pistol Pit Area & Firearm Conditions

- **Hot Range:** the only place a firearm should be “in-hand” or “handled” (loaded or un-loaded) is at a Firing Line facing down-range. Loaded Firearms may be carried in holsters carried by the shooters.
  - **Cold Range:** Most matches and some training classes will operate as a “Cold Range”. The only time a firearm is loaded is when the shooter is at a firing line under the supervision of a match official or with a training staff member. The firearm will be “Made Safe” or “Cleared” before the shooters leave the firing line.
  - **Making a Firearm “Safe” or “Cleared”:** unloaded, magazine/clip removed, or cylinder empty, and holstered, bagged, or cased. On a “Hot Range” a loaded firearm is considered “Safe” if holstered.
- Detail explanation of Pistol Pit Rules and Policies are available at the BGS� General Purpose Range. See the GP RSO.

**Pistol Pits Availability** – parts of this area are periodically scheduled for Matches, and Training

“Cease Fire” or “STOP” can be called by anyone in the Pistol Pits for any safety concern. **ALL SHOOTING MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY!** After the safety concern has been resolved, shooting may resume.

### Pistol Pit Access

1. Pistol Pits are open only during posted hours under the supervision of a BGS� Range Safety Officer. The BGS� RSO may be present in the Pistol Pits or stop by periodically to observe.
2. Members (18 years age or older) must have a Pistol Pit Pass to use this area of BGS�. When BGS� RSOs are not present, BGS� Members will be required to operate according to all established Pistol Pit Rules and Policies.
3. Orange Pistol Pit Passes are restricted to the baffled portions of Pistol Pit #2.
4. Red Pistol Pit Passes may use all areas of Pistol Pits #1, #2, #3, and Bullseye. Note: Bullseye is used at times as a “Rimfire Range”.
5. Members (who have a Pistol Pit Pass, 21 years of age or older) may bring guests (with a guest pass) to the Pistol Pits. The Sponsoring Member will be responsible for supervising the guest any time the guest are handling a firearm. Members may bring up to 2 guests over the age of 7. The Sponsoring Member must remain in direct proximity of the guest and be able to take control of the shooter and/or firearm if warranted. Only one guest may be shooting or handling a firearm at a time.
6. Participants must sign in at the BGS� General Purpose Range, show Membership Card, Pistol Pit Pass, or Guest Pass prior to going to the Pistol Pits. Before leaving the Pistol Pits, shooters should pick up their casings, and return props and target bases to the appropriate areas.
7. Shooters should return to the BGS� GP Range, sign out and provide number and caliber of rounds fired when finished.
8. Any shooter whose behavior is, in the opinion of the BGS� Range Safety Officer, unsafe or disruptive will be asked to leave.

### Safety

9. Hearing and eye protection is required of ALL shooters and spectators.
10. Handguns may be brought to the practical shooting pits loaded as long as they are secured in a holster. Loaded firearms are not to be removed from the holster until the shooter is on the firing line. When not actively engaged in shooting, firearms shall be secured in a holster, grounded on a table / bench or unloaded and secured in a case. Grounded firearms shall be unloaded and have their actions open.
11. No firearm is to be handled or touched while anyone is downrange. No shooter can proceed down range until all firearms have been secured in a holster or made safe.
12. Be aware of shooters in other bays. Be aware of your muzzle direction at all times.
13. All shots must be aimed to impact the berm.
14. Signs are posted in all Pistol Pits/Bays identifying the types of firearms allow in that area of the Pistol Pits.
15. Shotguns are allowed in all areas of the practical shooting pits EXCEPT the baffled area of pit 2.
16. No firearms can be discharged from, into, or across a pit access area – the common areas used to approach bays.

### General

17. Dependants of BGS� members may be issued a junior pit pass under the same requirements as an adult pit pass. This junior pit pass will entitle the junior pit pass holder (youth) to shoot in the practical shooting pits, when accompanied by an adult BGS� member (21 years of age or older,) who is in possession of a valid pit pass. The adult member will supervise the youth and will remain in the same bay with the youth at all times.
18. Baffles, barricades and props must not be shot or used to hang targets. Props must be neatly returned to proper storage area.
19. Leave the Pistol Pits/Bays cleaner than you found it. Pick up all casings, hulls, ammo boxes, etc.
20. Per BGS� rules, ammunition up to (but not including) 50BMG allowed in the practical pits.
21. There is no lower limit on caliber/cartridge. Shotguns (shot shell and slug rounds) may be fired into the berm – DO NOT SHOOT THE PLATE RACK WITH A SHOTGUN OR SLUG.
22. Tracer or incendiary ammunition of any type is not allowed.
23. Shooters may not shoot outside of the maximum firing line when indicated by signs on the side berm of the bay.
24. Target height must insure that bullets passing through, by, below, or above the targets will safely strike the backstop. This is especially important when firing from the kneeling or prone position. Prone shooting is allowed only in bay 1 of pit 1, and the baffled area of bay 2. Do not shoot at the plate rack or steel targets from the prone position. Targets must be placed close enough to the backstop so that possible misses will not strike the ground and ricochet over the backstop, or pass directly over the backstop.
25. There are designated non-impact areas of the berms; no projectiles are to impact these areas.
26. When setting targets, the areas of expected impact must be inspected and free from debris such as rocks larger than 3 inches or other hard objects.
27. Shooters and spectators must be at least 30 feet away from steel targets while firing.

28. Ammunition limits for steel targets: Powerfactor (bullet weight in grains x velocity in fps) 200,000. Maximum Velocity 1,500fps. Minimum Velocity 500fps. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THAT YOUR AMMUNITION MEETS THESE REQUIREMENTS, DON'T FIRE IT AT STEEL! Do NOT shoot the plate rack targets with shot shell ammunition.
29. Do NOT shoot at objects on the ground or non-approved targets on the berm.
30. Do NOT shoot target stands – exception is that clay pigeon holders can be shot with approved shotgun ammunition.
31. Only approved targets with proper placement may be used in the Pistol Pits. Approved targets:
  - a) Cardboard and Paper - posted on sticks.
  - b) Frangible - used in provided holders or safely placed on berm. Examples are clay pigeons.
  - c) Steel - Targets must have been specifically designed and manufactured as firearm targets and be in good condition.
  - d) Polymer targets (i.e. Newbold type)

The following rules may be temporarily modified during events supervised by designated instructors or Pistol Division Match Directors.

1. Grounded firearms shall be unloaded and have their actions open.
2. No firearms can be discharged from, into, or across a pit access area - the common areas used to approach bays. The only area that it is permissible to modify this is in pit 1, shooting from bay 3 into bay 4. Due diligence must be exercised so that projectiles do not impact the canopy. If shooting beyond the stakes indicating the maximum firing line in bay 4, someone shall remain at the base of the entrance to bays 3 and 4, to ensure access to the bays is prevented.
3. Prone shooting is allowed only in the baffled area of pit 2, and bay 1 of pit 1.
4. Shooters and spectators must be at least 30 feet away from steel targets while firing
5. Access may not be limited to BGSL Members and their guests for matches and training events