

Pistol Division – Practical Shooting Pit Rules

Restricted Access Area/Range

The Practical Shooting Pits allow the use of rifles, pistols and shotguns with free form target placement, in a move and shoot setting

Only Members with a Pistol Pit Pass and their guests may use this area

Contact an RSO at the BGSL General Purpose Range for Rules and Pistol Pit Pass assistance

Safety is the primary responsibility when using the Pits.

Pistol Pit Area & Firearm Conditions

- **Hot Range:** the only place a loaded or un-loaded firearm should be “in-hand” or “handled” 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.
- **“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.

Safety

- Any shooter whose behavior is, in the opinion of the BGSL Range Safety Officer, unsafe or disruptive will be required to leave. In some cases the Member’s Pit Pass may be revoked after a review of the circumstances.
- Hearing and eye protection is required of ALL shooters and spectators.
- 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.
- 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.
- Be aware of shooters in other bays. Be aware of your muzzle direction at all times.
- All shots must be aimed to impact the berm.
- No firearms can be discharged from, into, or across a pit access area – the common areas used to approach bays.

Pistol Pits Availability

- Pistol Pits are open only during posted hours under the supervision of a BGSL Range Safety Officer. The BGSL RSO may be present in the Pistol Pits or stop by periodically to observe.
- Pits are available on a first come basis. Portions of this area are periodically scheduled for matches and training. Consult the BGSL calendar for current match and training schedules.

Pistol Pit Access

- Members who are at least 18 years of age must have a Pistol Pit Pass to use the Practical Pistol Pits.
- BGSL Members and guests are required to operate according to all established Pistol Pit Rules and Policies.
- Orange Pistol Pit Pass holders and their guests are restricted to the baffled portions of Pistol Pit #2.
- Red Pistol Pit Pass holders and their guests may use all areas of Pistol Pits #1, #2, #3, and #4.
- Dependents of BGSL 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 to shoot in the practical shooting pits when accompanied by an adult BGSL member 21 years of age or older who is in possession of a valid pit pass. The adult member must supervise the youth and must remain in the same bay with the youth at all times.
- Members who are at least 21 years of age may bring guests to the Pistol Pits.
 - The hosting Member is responsible for supervising the guest at all times and especially any time the guest is handling a firearm.
 - Members may bring up to 2 guests over the age of 7.

- The hosting 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.
- Members and guests must sign in at the BGSL General Purpose Range and show Membership Card, Pistol Pit Pass, or Guest Pass prior to going to the Pistol Pits. Members and guests must return to the BGSL GP Range, sign out and provide number and caliber of rounds fired when finished.

General

- Ammunition up to (but not including) 50BMG is allowed in the practical pits.
- There is no lower limit on caliber/cartridge. Shotguns (shot shell and slug rounds) may be fired into the berm –
- Tracer or incendiary ammunition of any type is not allowed.
- Shotguns are allowed in all areas of the practical shooting pits EXCEPT the baffled area of pit 2.
- Only approved targets with proper placement may be used in the Pistol Pits. Approved targets are:
 - Cardboard and Paper - posted on sticks.
 - Frangible - used in provided holders or safely placed on berm. Example is clay pigeons.
 - Polymer targets (i.e. Newbold type)
 - Steel - Targets must have been specifically designed and manufactured as firearm targets and be in good condition.
 - DO NOT SHOOT THE PLATE RACK WITH A SHOTGUN OR SLUG.
 - Do not shoot at the plate rack or steel targets from the prone position.
 - Ammunition limits for steel targets: Power factor (bullet weight in grains x velocity in fps) 200,000. Maximum Velocity 1,500 fps. Minimum Velocity 500fps. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THAT YOUR AMMUNITION MEETS THESE REQUIREMENTS, DON'T FIRE IT AT STEEL!
 - Shooters and spectators must be at least 30 feet away from steel targets while firing.
- Do NOT shoot at objects on the ground or non-approved targets on the berm.
- Do NOT shoot target stands – except that clay pigeon holders can be shot with approved shotgun ammunition. Baffles, barricades and props must not be shot or used to hang targets. Props must be neatly returned to proper storage area.
- Leave the Pistol Pit/Bay cleaner than you found it. Pick up all trash.
- Shooters may not shoot outside of the maximum firing line when indicated by signs on the side berm of the bay.
- 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.
 - 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.
- No projectiles are to impact designated non-impact areas of the berms.
- 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.

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

- Grounded firearms shall be unloaded and have their actions open.
- 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 rule 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.
- Prone shooting is allowed only in the baffled area of pit 2, and bay 1 of pit 1.
- Shooters and spectators must be at least 30 feet away from steel targets while firing.
- Access will not be limited to BGSL Members and their guests for many matches and training events. These matches are often governed by rules that allow anyone qualified to enter. Official training events provide both income to BGSL and visibility to potential new members.