

Leominster Sportsmen's Association

Rifle Range Safety Briefing



Leominster Sportsmen's Association

Current NRA Certified – LSA Rifle Range Safety Officers

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Who may use the Rifle Range and what are the hours?

Members -Range Certified:

- Any day except when the range is closed, 8AM to Sunset. White Flags will be displayed in the flag holders and range closure indicated on the range gate. Typically the ranges are closed Saturday mornings Mid-October-to-after Thanksgiving for Pheasant Hunting stocked birds, on a work weekend, or for a special event.

Members -Non-Range Certified:

- May use the range only when an LSA RSO is on duty. You must attend a briefing before you may purchase a key and range badge and have your gate fob key activated.

Rifle range is not open to Non-Members, unless a guest of a Range Certified Member, or attending an organized event or training .

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Who may use the Rifle Range and what are the hours?

Guests:

- 1 shooting guest per LSA Member that has been Range Certified. I.e. while a member may bring their family, or up to 3 guests without prior authorization from the range chairman, only one can be shooting while the member is also shooting (see below).
- Larger groups for trainings or events as approved by BOD
- If your guest has little experience handling a firearm, we suggest that you closely supervise them while handling and shooting all firearms. Safe handling and discharge of firearms by your guests is your responsibility as the Range Certified host.
- No more than two benches may be used at any given time, by LSA Members with shooting guests. (No more than one shooter per bench at a time.)

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Range Certified Members: **How do I get certified?**

- Must be paid up for their current annual dues or they must be LSA Life Members and they must have attended a mandatory LSA Rifle Range safety briefing.
- Upon attending the range briefing, you must present your current membership card or a receipt (if you haven't received your card yet) to receive your new key, range badge, and have your gate key fob activated.
- Once you have completed the briefing you will receive your LSA Rifle Range Badge. A key fob for the range gate may then be purchased from the Club Secretary for \$45.00
- Your badge must be visible at all times for easy identification by the RSOs on duty. The badge will come with a special LSA lanyard so that you can easily display it while at the range.
- **If you are caught using someone else's badge or key fob, including a family member's, and have not attended a briefing, your membership will be brought before the board for review**

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Do I have to attend a briefing every year?

NO:

You will not have to attend another LSA Rifle Range Safety briefing after your initial certification.

NOTE: Range badges are good forever and will not need to be repurchased annually as long as your membership stays current.

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Do I need this badge at other LSA ranges?

NOT at this time:

- **Trap and Skeet Range**

Is open to the public, but is only open on posted hours (see Trap and Skeet on our website) and there will always be a Range Officer on duty. Check with the Trap & Skeet Committee chairman for more details.

- **Black Powder**

Shooters must be accompanied by a black powder range officer or a member of the Black Powder Committee (see our website). Check with the Black Powder Committee chairman for more details.

- **Indoor Pistol**

The Pistol Range does their own safety briefing which involves live fire – you need to bring your own 22 pistol to the briefing to qualify, then 24/7 access is programmed onto your clubhouse keycard. Check with the Indoor Pistol Committee chairman for more details.

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Rifle Range Operating Rules

- The Range Safety Officer on duty has full authority over the range while he/she is on duty. What they ask you to do is in the best interest of safety for all shooters on the range. Please follow their instructions!
- No illegal firearms are allowed on the property and those in possession of such will be reported to proper authorities. I.e. firearms with silencers installed.
- Shooters will conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times and are also responsible for the conduct of their guests.

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Rifle Range Operating Rules

- Any shooter without a Firearms Identification card (FID) or a License to Carry (LTC) must be accompanied by a member who is licensed for the type of firearm they will be using. An FID or LTC is required for long guns, an LTC is required for handguns.
- Children under 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult and **THAT ADULT IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE** for that child's safety. You will be asked to leave the range if your child is not under your close supervision, as determined by a Range Safety Officer.
- Children under 18 with an **FID** card may not use the range without adult supervision.

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Range Operating Procedures

Voluntary Donations:

There is a voluntary donation box in the Range House for anyone who would like to contribute to the development and maintenance of the range. Most of the range work is done by individuals who volunteer their time. However, materials still cost money and every little bit helps.

Anything you can offer will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

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Range Operating Procedures -Facilities for Use

Range House:

The range house is primarily designed for competitions (especially winter rifle matches) and range overflow as determined by an RSO. Currently the range house shooting positions are only to be used for the 100 yard backstop, the 75 yard frame holders, or the 50 foot backstop directly in front of the range house. Use the rifle rack for long guns, not the window shelf.

THE RANGE HOUSE IS NOT FOR STORING MEMBER TARGET FRAMES or DISPOSAL OF RUBBISH !!!! KEEP IT CLEAN AT ALL TIMES!!!

Storage Shed:

The storage shed is divided into two sections. One side for the storage of range equipment and the other side for the general membership to use to store their target frames or other equipment (at your own risk) if you wish.

It is not the responsibility of the Range Committee to keep this section for the general membership, clean. The LSA is not responsible for stolen, lost, or destroyed items that are left in the shed. Your range key opens the range house and this side of the shed only.

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Range Operating Procedures - **Facilities for Use**

Storage Shed (continued):

- 1.Storage in the member-side shed is limited to LSA-authorized wooden target frames (as published on the LSA website rifle page).
- 2.All frames must be stored upright, with both legs touching the floor. The owner's name must be clearly visible as viewed from the door of the shed.
- 3.Any frame not meeting the above criteria, and any other items and materials will be removed from the shed by LSA RSO's on a regular basis and discarded.

Leominster Sportsmen's Association Range Operating Procedures

Facilities for use:

Upper and Lower Ranges operate as two separate ranges (currently)

Upper range is on your left as you drive in;
Lower range is on your right as you drive in.

Upper range is for any handgun, rimfire rifles, centerfire rifles (**designed for handgun ammunition**), Muzzle Loading firearms, and shotguns only. Hand trapping is allowed on the far left side. (You can put your skeet launcher up front or off to the side. There is a sandbox there for slugs/turkey loads too)

NO HIGH POWER RIFLES ie. no centerfire rifle cartridges with velocities exceeding 1600 fps!!!

Lower range is for any LSA authorized firearm, (handguns, rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders) rimfire or centerfire up to and including .50 BMG caliber.
There is a special, longer bench on the left for .50 BMG firearms.

Leominster Sportsmen's Association Range Operating Procedures

Range Layout and Limits:

- **Red painted area** is the firing line. You may handle your firearm, load it and fire it down range at a target only when you're in the RED area and the RED flag is displayed. There should only be one shooter per firing point on the firing line. Coaches or parents are allowed on the line, but not shooting at the same time.
- **Yellow painted area** is the staging area. Do not handle your firearm in this area other than to store them in the range gun racks. Your firearm must be visibly unloaded with chamber open (if possible; hinge action firearms are the only exception) in this area. Please use an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) if you have one. An RSO may offer you one if we have them available.
- **Green painted area** (upper range) is the observation area. No firearms should be uncased in the green area.
- You **MAY** have a holstered firearm that is on your person and in your immediate control anywhere on the range.

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Range Operating Procedures

**Authorized Targets:
Paper**

All targets must be placed in such a way as to ensure that a projectile(s) passing through the target goes into the backstop immediately behind it.

Target frames constructed from 2"x3"s the long way will fit into the frameholders behind the railroad ties. Target frames may be purchased, for a fee of \$20, from the RSO on duty. You can also build your own - there are plans on the LSA website under Rifle Range Committee

Steel

Steel must be angled in such a way as to deflect projectiles towards the ground directly below the target. All steel targets must be at a minimum distance of 50 ft. for handgun cartridges (centerfire/rimfire) and rimfire rifles and 100 yds for centerfire rifles. **Lead bullets only**, no copper plated or jacketed bullets for plain steel.

The Centerfire Plate Racks and Texas Stars are AR-500 steel and are rated for jacketed, non-magnum pistol rounds. The "T" shaped little plate-racks are for 22s (S,L,LR) only. The Texas Star plates are kept in the "mailboxes" on the posts next to the benches when not in use

Leominster Sportsmen's Association Range Operating Procedures

Authorized Targets:

Polymer

Polymer (rubbery plastic) targets that are designed to be used on a rifle range are OK to use as long as they are secured (can't bounce around the range) and directly in front of a backstop.

ALL OTHER TARGETS MUST BE APPROVED BY AN LSA RANGE SAFETY OFFICER AND IT IS SOLELY AT THEIR DISCRETION!

Bottles and cans are not permitted.

Tannerite (exploding targets) are not permitted per the State Fire Marshall.

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Site Specific Safety Rules -**Flags and Range Commands**

White Flag means the range is **CLOSED**. Only an RSO or a club official is permitted to remove a **White Flag!!!**

Range Commands:

“Cease Fire”

- 1. Stop shooting immediately!**
- 2. Await further instructions from an RSO or the person who has called a Cease Fire.**

Site Specific Safety Rules -**Flags and Range Commands**

- **RED flag** means the range is **HOT**, **do not cross the firing line**.

Command : “Range is HOT”

You must ensure that no one is down range or that no condition exists that would endanger someone's safety or create an unsafe condition before declaring that the **“Range is HOT”**.

- **GREEN flag** means the range is **CLEAR**, it is safe to cross the firing line.

Command : “Range is Clear”

ALL firearms must be “benched” with the action open, magazines removed, safeties on and facing up for all to see that the chamber is empty, before issuing a **“Range is Clear”** command. Please use an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) if you have one. Step away and remain clear of benches.

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General Safety Rules

- **Treat every firearm as if it were loaded!**
- **Always** keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction!
- **Always** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot!
- **Always** keep the firearm unloaded until you are ready to use it!
- **Never** handle a firearm or anything else on the firing line during a green flag!

Leominster Sportsmen's Association
General Safety Rules

- Use of drugs or alcohol, before or during shooting is strictly prohibited. Alcoholic beverages or drugs are not allowed on the range at anytime.
- **NO SMOKING** on the firing line or in the staging area!

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Site Specific Safety Rules

- Eye and Ear protection is required for any and all personnel on the LSA rifle range.
- Absolutely no pets are allowed on the LSA rifle range unless the range is closed.
- All shooters are responsible for their own firearms, equipment and ammunition while on the rifle range. Firearms on the firing line, that are out of their case and not being fired must be **benched**. I.e. Actions open and facing up, chambers empty, magazines removed, muzzles pointing downrange and safeties on (if applicable).
- You are responsible to issue a cease-fire command if you believe an unsafe condition exists or a safety infraction has occurred.
- Once the condition is resolved, you are then also responsible for issuing a “commence firing” command, in order to return to normal range operations.

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Site Specific Safety Rules

- Muzzles should be **all the way forward on the firing line**, not behind other shooters on the line.
- Do not shoot diagonally across shooting lanes.
- Be sure that muzzles remain pointed in a safe direction and do not sweep anyone when unholstering
- Tracer and incendiary ammunition is not permitted at any time.
- **Don't shoot at low targets** where bullets will glance off of the ground and fly out of the range area. (RSOs demonstrate the proper use of the target frames!!!)
Don't place clay targets or other targets on the railroad ties, you will eventually destroy the railroad ties and we'll have to replace it.
- Don't shoot into the woods. I.e. Don't shoot over the 50 yard backstop on the upper range or 100 yard backstop on the lower range.
- Don't shoot animals that happen on to the range!

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Range Operating Procedures

Hangfires

- In the event of a “hangfire” (firing mechanism worked but cartridge or load doesn't fire) keep the muzzle pointed down range for 30 seconds for modern cartridges and 2 minutes for black powder firearms.

Squib Loads

- If you hear a “pop” instead of a “bang,” it could be a reduced {“squib”} load, without enough push for the bullet to exit the barrel. Stop firing and remove the cartridge & check to be sure there is no barrel obstruction (remove the bolt or use a cleaning rod)

Malfunctions/Stoppages

- In the event of a malfunction or stoppage where your firearm is loaded but not operating properly, keep the muzzle pointed down range, raise your hand and ask for assistance from an RSO. You should never leave the range with a loaded firearm, so you must do everything possible to get the firearm safely unloaded

Leominster Sportsmen's Association Range Operating Procedures

- **Range/Safety Infractions or Violations:**
- In the event that a safety infraction or violation occurs, an RSO (or recognizing member) will call for a “Cease Fire” and let the person or party involved know about the problem and explain the rules that apply, in an effort to ensure that it’s not repeated. If the same violation is repeated by the same individual or party, the RSO will politely ask that individual or party to leave the range. In the event that the offender is uncooperative, the RSO will close the range until the issue is resolved and report the issue to the Rifle Chairman who will in turn notify the Board of Directors for further action.
- The RSO may involve the Leominster Police if in his/her judgment the situation requires their assistance.

Clean Up! “Leave No Trace”

- Pick up your empty brass and take it with you or deposit them in the “Empty Brass” container. Please pick up your empty shotshell hulls and dispose of them at HOME.
- Pick up any unfired rounds and take them home or put them in the “Dud” bucket.
- Take home any used targets, ammo boxes, coffee cups, or other trash etc. that you may have brought with you. DO NOT ROLL UP YOUR RUBBISH AND STICK IT IN THE BRASS BUCKETS! PLEASE!
- Do not leave your target stands or used targets on the range.
- Storage space is tight and we cannot guarantee the condition of your target frame or equipment upon your return to the range.

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Emergency Procedure!

Someone gets hurt!

- The RSO will take charge of the situation by calling a "Cease Fire", "Unload" and request everyone to "Bench" their firearms immediately.
- In the event that an RSO is not on duty, work together to put someone in charge.
- Assess/determine the seriousness of the injury. There is little First Aid kit atop the AED Box in the Range House. There is a larger First Aid Kit in the Gray Conex Box on the target shelf.
- If the injury is of a serious nature, requiring professional medical and supervisory assistance, CLOSE the range until the situation is resolved and under control.
- If an RSO is on duty, he/she shall make the decision to call 911, not the injured party.
- If supervisory help is required, follow 911 procedure, call and stay on the phone; wait for the EMS to hang up first. Post someone on the road to assist the emergency vehicles with where to go.
- Keep the area clear for emergency people to resolve the situation.
- RSO or identified person in charge should follow up with an Emergency Report sheet. (Available on the Bulletin Board)

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Wrap Up!

We've spent thousands of dollars over the last two years and we have much more to come. With your help the LSA Rifle Range can be the pride of Massachusetts' shooting ranges; if you think something should be cleaned up, take a minute to help us out and keep the range clean.

If you accidentally damage any of the buildings or other LSA assets, please let us know immediately so we can repair them before additional damage occurs.

If you have ideas that will make the range safer, more fun, and a great place to share with your fellow members, your family and your friends, let us know and let's work together!

Safety and Safe Shooting are no Accidents!

Carelessness and Ignorance are the top two reasons for accidents with firearms!

BE SMART, BE SAFE, BE CLEAN, and HAVE FUN!