

Mountain State Sportsmen's Association - MSSA Information and Rules

FIREARM INFORMATION - Mountain State Sportsmen's Association club has two firearm shooting ranges, an indoor range located inside the clubhouse and a sheltered bench outdoor range. The outdoor 100yd range has 14 concrete top benches with some permanent target holder frames and backers. Personal target frames may be used but must be removed, prior to the user leaving the range. Any caliber pellet, rimfire, centerfire, muzzleloader handguns, rifles and shotguns may be used. The indoor range has portable shooting benches and the bullet traps are located behind the plywood doors directly beneath the archery targets. The indoor range is limited to the use of 17 and 22 caliber pellet guns and 22 rim fire handguns and rifles. Both ranges are open for personal use on a first come basis, except for those times that club meetings and events are scheduled. If you plan to use the facilities, check the club website at mstate.org and local bulletin boards for scheduled events. Any event that uses club facilities must have prior approval by the club membership. The outdoor range is open for use as posted at the range.

Firearm Range/Safety Rules - It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with all current range and safety rules. You and your guests are responsible for following all rules at all times while using club facilities.

- No drugs or controlled substances are allowed on MSSA property.
- No person may handle any firearm or bow while under the influence of any drug or alcohol.
- No fully automatic or selective fire weapons.
- No military training of any kind except for DNR or other law enforcement agency when approved by the Board of Directors.
- Eye and ear protection should be worn at all times while on or near the firing line on the outdoor range or inside the clubhouse during the use of firearms - applies to shooters, instructors & observers.
- No glass objects are to be used as targets on any range, rifle or bow.
- Both the indoor and outdoor range target frames use wood (2x4's) for attaching target backers. When placing your target on a framed target backer place targets far enough away from the wood frame to prevent shooting through the wood. Do not shoot archery targets, wood doors or frame work around the indoor range.

- No targets with "people like" features (face, eyes, or head) are allowed. Standard silhouette targets (NRA, IDPA and etc.) only are allowed.
- Bolts and actions must be open at all times during transit and upon arrival on club property and never bring loaded firearms to the range. Never leave the firing line unless your firearm is clear and the action is open.
- If you or another shooter has a need to go down range, it is the responsibility of that shooter to make sure everyone on the firing line is aware and has made their firearm safe before anyone proceeds down range, all ammunition must be removed from the firearms, this includes chambers, clips, magazines and tubes on tube fed firearms.
- No one shall handle or have a firearm on the firing line while someone is down range.
- Never load a firearm until you are ready to commence shooting from the firing line/bench.
- Always treat all firearms as though they are loaded. Inserting bolts, closing actions, loading, unloading and reloading of ammunition must be done on the firing line, with muzzle pointed down range.
- Never shoot across or at angle on outdoor range (example from bench 10 to target for bench 2).

- When using the outdoor range, always place your target so the bullet will hit in a safe area down range around the 100yd target zone or closer. Never shoot into the hill above the level of the 100yd target area or along the right side embankment or left side tree line of the range.

- When you are finished shooting and before you leave the range, clean up any debris, such as cardboard, targets, cleaning materials, ammo boxes, empty casings you used and place them in the proper containers. Never leave unfired ammunition on the range, pick it up and safely dispose.

GENERAL INFORMATION - The Mountain State Sportsmen's Association (MSSA) started with a meeting in the fall of 1940 held in the old YMCA building on 8th Street. From this meeting the group incorporated on March 28, 1946 as a non-profit corporation. The club finally ended up at our Hoagland Run Road location in the 60's and a fund drive for a new clubhouse in 1966. On Sunday, September 22, 1968 we dedicated the new clubhouse.

Membership in MSSA includes spouses and children under 18. New members are required to wear their membership card for the first year. Members must be 21 years old or older to have guests.

Guests are limited to a two visits and should consider joining the club if they want to participate on a regular basis. To join, bring a completed MSSA application to a regular meeting (1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm [come a little early]). You must attend 2 meetings and be voted on at your 2nd meeting.

Facilities - The club grounds are approximately 40 acres and are bounded by airport property and neighboring property. The clubhouse has an indoor archery/.22 rim fire range. We have an outdoor 100 yd. gun range, two field archery ranges, including hunting by members. Except for scheduled events and reserved times, the facilities are available for use on a first come basis. Do not use the kitchen to work on or store equip. - It is for cooking. Please pick up trash and keep club property neat and clean. From time to time, the club has work parties that offer a good opportunity to meet others and improve our facilities.

Clubhouse use - The clubhouse is used for meetings, dinners, scheduled events and indoor programs in the winter (Jan, Feb & Mar). Check the web site (mstate.org) for indoor programs and other events.

ARCHERY INFORMATION - All club archery targets are to be shot only with field tip arrows, do not shoot broad head arrows into any club target. Broad head arrows are to be shot into the sand pit near the creek or at your own target set in front of the sand pit. Crossbow bolts are to only be shot at your own target set up on the 100 yd. gun range (must follow gun safety rules).

We have a 20 yd. indoor archery range with up to eight shooting positions. The indoor range is dual use with targets for archery and bullet traps for .22 rim fire. By agreement, archers and firearm shooters may shoot at the same time; they must shoot from the same distance and hearing protection is recommended when firearms are being shot. If there is not agreement, the first user has use of facilities until they (the first user) stops. All firearms must be shot from behind the red line (15 yds.) for safety reasons. The archery targets set on top of a plywood platform. The bullet traps are located in the plywood platform and are accessed by lifting the three center swing-out doors using the rope pulls. Prop the doors in a safe manner and post your target on the cardboard in front of the traps. Thank You! See the posters and picture posted on the plywood doors for more information.

There are two NFAA approved field archery ranges on club property (field tip arrows only). The first range starts behind left side of the clubhouse and works over to and up the access road. There are signs leading to the second range and it finishes on the hill with access paths back to the clubhouse. The club uses the bottom land to put on America Round shoots and the bottom may be used for archery practice in a safe manner. We often have a spring or fall 3-D shoot and place 3-D targets throughout the field ranges for a short time. The archery committee may set up a practice 3-D range with old targets through the warmer months.