



**ALDER BROOK SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. BOX 22, LITTLETON, NH 03561**

<https://alder-brook.org/>

**ACTION BAY SHOOTING RANGE RULES**

March 7, 2024

The Action Bay area is designed to be used as shooting ranges that can operate independently. Each area/bay being used by a group of shooters should elect a Safety Officer or agree to work together for the safety of all users in that area/bay. Multiple areas/bays operating close together may be giving range commands at the same time as adjacent bays.

**The principles of safe gun handling must always apply:**

- 1) Always keep the muzzle in a safe direction.**
- 2) Keep your finger off the trigger until the sights are on the target.**
- 3) Be aware of your target and what is behind it.**
- 4) Treat all firearms as though they are loaded. Eye and ear protection are required on the Range.**

**Safety Area/Table** is located outside the Action Bays and should be used for **working on unloaded firearms**. It is NOT permitted to load firearms or magazines in the **SAFETY AREA/TABLE**.

**LOADING AND UNLOADING FIREARMS must be done within a bay with the muzzle pointed at the bay backstop/berm or other safe direction.**

Within the Action Bays "the firing line" will be designated by participants based on the Course of Fire agreed upon for that bay.

When using the Action Bays **without holsters for pistols, or tactically slung Carbine or Shotgun**, participants should use available tables to set up a "**standard range firing line**", setting firearms on table between shooters and the targets, pointing directly down range.

**All firearms not on the firing line** must be holstered; or unloaded with their action open or chamber flag inserted, and the magazine removed; or unloaded and encased.

**A command issued by Safety Officers or any person utilizing the firing bay shall be obeyed immediately without question. If the safety of the area requires it, make sure all shooters using the Action Bay area understand the command.**

**Action Bays can be run as Cold Ranges or Hot Ranges. Each group of shooters must agree whether the range will be run "Cold" or "Hot".**

A "**Cold Range**" is defined as a range where all firearms must be unloaded unless the shooter is in position at the firing line to start a Course of Fire and the bay has been called "Hot". This may also be done under the direct supervision of the person designated as Safety Officer for the Bay.

A "**Hot Range**" is defined as a range where each shooter may carry a loaded firearm at any time. Loaded or unloaded firearms may only be handled while on the firing line and under the direct supervision of the person designated as Safety Officer.

When the command **CEASE FIRE** or **STOP** is given:

- **STOP shooting immediately!**
- Remove your finger from the trigger.
- Keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- **Wait for further instructions!**

When the line is declared **CLEAR-COLD**:

- All firearms must be holstered; or unloaded and benched or grounded with the muzzle pointed down range and the action open, ejection port or cylinder up, and the magazine removed.

- **Handling of firearms is prohibited when the range is CLEAR-COLD.**

When the range is declared **HOT**:

- **Check that all shooters have required ear and eye protection.**
- Shooting may resume.

**Pistol caliber ammunition** may be used in all areas in the Action Bays. It is unsafe to shoot steel targets any closer than 8 yards.

**Shotgun ammunition** may be used only on Paper/Cardboard Targets in the 4 short action bays, and on steel targets on the 100-yard lane with steel targets more than 75 yards from the shooter position.

**Rifle Ammunition** may only be used in the 100-yard shooting lane with Paper/Cardboard targets.

**Tracer and armor piercing ammunition is prohibited.**

Use the appropriate size target, placed at a level to ensure that your shots strike the backstop. For the safety of others, careless/unsafe firearms handling will result in your

removal from the range. Willful damage or destruction of club property shall result in disciplinary action and/or membership termination.

**You are responsible for policing (cleaning up after yourself) your targets, holders, brass, hulls, etc. when you are finished using the range. Use brass and trash buckets or, if full, take your waste to the dumpster.**

**UNSAFE FIREARM HANDLING.** Below are examples of unsafe firearm handling:

Endangering any person, including yourself. This includes sweeping oneself or anyone else with a loaded or unloaded firearm. Sweeping is defined as allowing the muzzle of the firearm (loaded or unloaded) to cross or cover any portion of a person.

Intentionally engaging (discharging the firearm) at anything other than a target.

Any accidental or negligent discharge of a firearm:

in the holster.

striking up range of the shooter.

into the ground downrange closer to the shooter than 2 yards, unless engaging a low target that is within 2 yards.

over the berm.

while loading or unloading a firearm or during the clearing of a malfunction.

The above list is not all-encompassing. Shooters are encouraged to join an action shooting league such as IDPA or USPSA and take formal classes on advanced firearms handling for self or home defense.

**FAILURE to abide by the Range Rules and/or safety instructions may result in a reprimand, removal, and/or membership termination.**

All range rules are subject to review & modification without notice.