CHATUGE GUN CLUB RANGE RULES

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Club's range rules is to enhance the safety of its members and their guests. The best way to ensure gun safety is a strict adherence to the Basic Principles of Gun Safety ("Principles") as set out below. If everyone, without exception, followed these Principles, safety would be ensured; thus, additional rules would not be necessary. However, because not all of our members have the same level of experience and because even those with significant experience can have momentary lapses, the Club has established uniform procedures to assist members and their guests in adhering to the principles. These Rules may be viewed as a checklist to a safe and enjoyable range experience.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF GUN SAFETY

There are three (3) Principles that Club members must understand and observe at all times. These are:

1. Always be aware of where a gun is pointing, and keep all guns pointed in the safest possible direction. At our range the only safe directions for the muzzle to point are either straight up or downrange;

2. Always keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to take the shot;

3. Do not load a gun until you are ready to shoot and unload the gun immediately when you finish shooting. Remember, these Principles must be adhered to each time, every time. In this regard, always assume that every gun is loaded, and treat the gun accordingly. This is true even if you "know" that the gun is unloaded. Many people have been shot by "unloaded" guns.

RANGE RULES

1. Cold Range. The Chatuge Gun Club operates a Cold Range. A Cold Range means that, with two (2) exceptions, all firearms anywhere on range property, including the Firing Line, shall at all times be and remain "Unloaded".

Unloaded means that (A) all chambers, internal magazines and revolver cylinders are empty and (B) detachable magazines have been removed. Note that this rule requires that all firearms brought to the range must be Unloaded before passing through the gate. The only exceptions to the above are as expressly set forth in these rules. The primary exception is for firearms properly present on the Firing Line during such time as the line is Hot (see Rule 5).

See also Rule 7. THERE ARE NO OTHER EXCEPTIONS.

2. Transport of Firearms from and to Vehicles. For both safety and convenience, all shooters coming to the range are required to place their firearms in a closed case. In this regard, firearms in a closed case may be moved from and to vehicles regardless of whether the Firing Line is Cold or Hot. Remember, all such firearms, must be Unloaded, and note that gun cases may not be opened while the Firing Line is Cold. All guns must be removed from the case and replaced in the case on a shooting bench/table with the muzzle pointed down range when Firing Line is Hot. Do not remove or replace guns in a case on a bench seat behind the yellow line.

3. Firing Line Area Generally. The Firing Line (defined as the area between the red line at the front of the concrete and the yellow safety line) may be either Hot or Cold, and it is the responsibility of the member to determine its status. The status of the Firing Line may be changed from Hot to Cold or from Cold to Hot by the range officer in charge or, if no range officer is present, by the express agreement of all persons on and around the Firing Line. In this regard:

A. At no time shall any firearm be loaded unless (i) that firearm is properly on the Firing Line and (ii) the Firing Line has been declared Hot;

B. No firearm, unless in a closed case, may be moved from or to a vehicle unless the Firing Line is Hot;

C. Firearms in a case shall be Unloaded at all times;

D. A case shall not be opened unless the Firing Line is Hot;

E. Only one (1) firearm shall be on a bench at a time unless in a closed case; and,

F. No person shall go downrange or move in front of the Firing Line for any reason unless and until the firing line is declared Cold as provided in Rule 4 below.

4. Cold Firing Line: No firearm may be touched for any reason while the Firing Line is Cold; this means, but is not limited to, no sight adjustments, no cleaning and no moving uncased firearms to and from the Firing Line or Firing Line Area. Further, the following conditions must be met before any person may go downrange or move in front of the Firing Line:

A. All people on and around the Firing Line have acknowledged that the line is Cold;

B. All firearms present on or around the Firing Line have been either (i) Unloaded and placed in a closed case or (ii) (a) Unloaded with (b) their actions open and (iii) an Empty Chamber Indicator in place (“Rendered Safe”);

C. All such firearms are either in a rack, on a bench with muzzles pointed downrange or in a closed case;

D. All persons not going downrange have moved behind the yellow safety line; and,

E. The Warning Lights have been activated (see Rule 6 below);

5. Hot Firing Line. When the Firing Line is Hot and the Warning Lights are off, the following conditions apply:

A. Eye and ear protection must be in place for all persons under the age of eighteen (18) while on or around the Firing Line. Eye and ear protection is strongly recommended for all other people.

B. Firearms properly on the Firing Line may be loaded and firing commenced; however, only one (1) firearm per shooter shall be loaded at any one time.

C. All firing shall be done either from the side of the bench or from a position on the concrete just behind the red firing line. The only exception is for scheduled matches where other positions are part of the course of fire. In no event shall the muzzle of any firearm be positioned behind any other person regardless of their position on the line.

D. No loaded firearm shall be left unattended or moved from a firing position.

E. All firearms which are not actually being used shall be (i) Rendered Safe and in a rack or (ii) Unloaded and in a closed case; only one (1) firearm may be considered in use at any one time; and,

F. All firearms shall be Rendered Safe before being removed from the Firing Line.

6. Warning Lights: The Warning Lights at the Firing Line shall be activated before any person goes downrange. Before activating or deactivating the Warning Lights, the member desiring to change the status of the Firing Line from Hot to Cold or vice versa must personally obtain consent from all individuals on or around the line. The lights may not be activated or deactivated without obtaining such consent. While the Warning Lights are an indication of the status of the Firing Line, it is the responsibility of each member to always independently verify that status.

7. Concealed and Open Carry:

A. Although discouraged, concealed carry (notwithstanding any provision of Rules 1 through 5 above to the contrary) is permitted by those Members possessing a valid Georgia Weapons Carry License or other valid carry license/permit recognized by the state of Georgia. Concealed carry by guests is not permitted.

B. Members who carry concealed do so subject to the condition that the weapon must be completely concealed at all times which means that the carry weapon may not be used for practice or competition during that range session.

C. Open carry by either members or guests, including off-duty law enforcement officers, is not permitted; and,

D. The host member has the responsibility of ensuring that his or her guests comply with this rule.

8. Cease Fire Commands. "Cease-Fire" or a similar command shall be made by anyone present who observes an unsafe condition, and such command shall be obeyed by immediately ceasing fire and pointing muzzles in a safe direction. If the unsafe condition is not resolved promptly, then all firearms shall be Rendered Safe and placed on a bench.

9. Guests. No guest shall be permitted on Club property unless accompanied by a member. With respect to such guests:

A. The host member shall review the safety Principles and Rules with each guest before arriving at the range and be satisfied that each guest fully understands and will abide by the Principles and the Rules.

B. The host member shall monitor and ensure that guests always obey each Principle and Rule while at the range.

C. The host member shall ensure that other members have priority over guests in the use of range facilities, including shooting positions and targets.

D. To ensure proper supervision, the host member and guest(s) shall shoot from no more than two (2) benches or shooting positions.

E. No member shall bring, at any one range session, more than three (3) guests who intend to or who actually do shoot; and,

F. The host member shall be responsible for his or her guests and may be subject to sanctions, including revocation of Club membership, as the result of any improper action or omission of such guests.

10. Behavior. The Golden Rule for behavior at the range is to treat other shooters as you would want to be treated.

A. Rule infractions generally may be of two orders of magnitude. The first presents a real and imminent danger (e.g. someone picking up a firearm while others are downrange) and must be addressed as firmly as necessary to resolve the situation but taking care not to exacerbate the danger. The second, while a rule infraction, does not present a real and imminent danger (e.g. someone bringing an uncased firearm from a vehicle while the Firing Line is Cold, but who is otherwise acting in a safe manner). This latter type of violation should be addressed, but always in a calm and courteous manner. In most cases, the offending Member has done so due to a lack of experience or a momentary lapse. In no case should a member be embarrassed unnecessarily.

B. More specific rules are that no one is permitted to pick up or otherwise touch anyone else’s firearm or equipment without the owner’s express permission. No one shall engage in loud conversations or any behavior that may distract other shooters or disturb their concentration. While the range is in use, the gate to the range shall be kept closed; however, the gate may be left open during scheduled matches. The last person leaving the range shall ensure that the Warning Lights are off and that the gate is locked.

11. Ammunition. No tracer or incendiary ammunition shall be used on the range.

12. Targets. All targets must be comprised of (A) paper, metal or polymer or (B) material found in such commonly used targets as clay birds and bowling pins. Examples of acceptable targets include standard bullseye paper targets, traditional action shooting targets, humanoid type silhouette targets, animal targets and generic images of characters such as zombies, thugs and bad guys. No glass, glass bottles, cans, explosives or incendiary

materials (including Tannerite) or similar items may be used as targets. Imagery, photos or pictures that depict a commonly identifiable person such as a political figure are not allowed. All metal targets must be sufficiently downrange to prevent ricochets or metal splashing that might endanger other shooters. Target boards are not to be used for shotgun patterning. At the end of each range session, all targets shall be removed from target boards, all target boards returned to the sides of the range and any target debris cleaned up.

13. Alcoholic Beverage. No alcoholic beverages of any type are permitted on range property, and no one under the influence of alcohol or other mind-altering substance shall enter upon range property.

14. Scheduled Matches: During the hours listed in the newsletter (“Event Calendar”) for scheduled matches, such matches shall have priority over all other range usage; thus, members should plan their range time accordingly. With respect to scheduled matches, the Match Directors may modify the procedures set forth in these Rules to the extent appropriate for the shooting activity involved. All such modifications shall be consistent with our safety Principles, as well as good general safety practices, and shall be subject to review by the Executive and Safety Officers.

15. Membership Badges. Members are encouraged to wear or otherwise display their membership badges.

16. Litter. All food and food-related litter shall be removed from the range. All non food litter shall be collected and placed in the available trash barrels or dumpsters. All brass shall be removed from the Firing Line and the concrete area. Reloadable brass not wanted should be placed in the brass bucket. Each member shall assist in keeping the range property clean.

17. Range Access Cards. The Range Access Cards are for members’ use only and may not be loaned to or otherwise used by non-members. This restriction applies to spouses and other family members.

18. Minors. No person under the age of eighteen (18) may be on the range, whether shooting or otherwise, unless under the direct supervision of a parent or other adult acting with the parents’ express permission.

19. Removal for Safety Violations. Any officer may remove anyone engaging in a dangerous practice from the range property.

(Revised April 2025)