

Practical Shooting Pit Rules

Safety

1. Use of alcoholic beverages or any controlled substances is positively forbidden in the pits.
2. Persons who are impaired by any substance (including prescribed substances) are not permitted to handle firearms.
3. Hearing and eye protection is required of ALL shooters and spectators.
4. 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 signed in and 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. See the BGSF Firearm Policy for further clarification on where loaded handguns are acceptable.
5. Grounded firearms shall be unloaded and have their actions open.
6. No firearm is to be handled or touched while anyone is downrange. No shooter can proceed down range until all firearms have been secured.
7. Be aware of shooters in other bays. Be aware of your muzzle direction at all times.
8. All shots must be aimed to impact the berm.
9. Rifles, regardless of caliber, are restricted to use in pit 1, bays 1,4,5 and 6. Rifles are not allowed in the baffled area of pit 2.
10. Shotguns are allowed in all areas of the practical shooting pits EXCEPT the baffled area of pit 2.
11. No firearms can be discharged from, into, or across a pit access area – the common areas used to approach bays.

General

12. BGSF members 18 years of age or older with a valid pit pass may shoot in the practical shooting pits. Orange passes are restricted to the baffled portion of pit 2. BGSF members 21 years of age and older, with a valid pit pass may bring up to 2 guests over the age of 7 into the baffled portion of pit 2 only to shoot. All BGSF guest pass rules and fees apply. The pit pass holder 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. The pit pass holder acknowledges responsibility for their guests by signing the pit pass sign off form.
13. Additionally, dependants of BGSF 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 (youth) to shoot in the practical shooting pits, when accompanied by an adult BGSF member (21 years of age or older,) who is in possession of a valid pit pass. The adult member will supervise the youth and will remain in the same bay with the youth at all times. The junior pit pass holder will have no further restrictions than an adult pit pass holder.
14. Baffles, barricades and props must not be shot or used to hang targets. Intentional destruction of these items will result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors. Props must be neatly returned to proper storage area.
15. Leave the range cleaner than you found it-pickup after yourself. Pick up all casings (brass, aluminum, steel hulls, and ammo boxes.
16. Per BGSF rules, ammunition up to (but not including) 50BMG allowed in the practical pits.
17. There is no lower limit on caliber/cartridge. Shotguns (shot shell and slug rounds) may be fired into the berm – DO NOT SHOOT THE PLATE RACK WITH A SHOTGUN OR SLUG.
18. Tracer or incendiary ammunition of any type is not allowed.
19. Shooters may not shoot outside of the maximum firing line when indicated by signs on the side berm of the bay. These lines are established by having an 8' berm height at 180 degrees to the shooter when facing the primary impact berm at the rear of the bay.

Target

20. Safety in target selection and placement must be a priority! 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. Do not shoot at the plate rack or steel targets from the prone position. 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.
21. There are designated non-impact areas of the berms; no projectiles are to impact these areas.
22. 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.
23. Shooters and spectators must be at least 30 feet away from steel targets while firing.
24. Ammunition limits for steel targets: Powerfactor (bullet weight in grains x velocity in fps) 200,000. Maximum Velocity 1,500fps. Minimum Velocity 500fps. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THAT YOUR AMMUNITION MEETS THESE REQUIREMENTS, DON'T FIRE IT AT STEEL! Examples of acceptable and un-acceptable cartridges are posted at the range.
25. Do NOT shoot the plate rack targets with shot shell ammunition.
26. Do NOT shoot at objects on the ground or non-approved targets on the berm.
27. Do NOT shoot target stands – exception is that clay pigeon holders can be shot with approved shotgun ammunition.
28. Only approved targets with proper placement may be used in the pits. Approved targets:
 - a) Cardboard and Paper - posted on sticks.
 - b) Frangible - used in provided holders or safely placed on berm. Examples are clay pigeons or balloons. Pick up the trash!!
 - c) Steel - Targets must have been specifically designed and manufactured as firearm targets and be in good condition. No scrap steel or other junk or trash (i.e. containers, cans, cups).
 - d) Polymer targets (i.e. Newbold type)

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

1. (5) Grounded firearms shall be unloaded and have their actions open.
2. (11)(19) 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 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.
3. (20) Prone shooting is allowed only in the baffled area of pit 2, and bay 1 of pit 1.
4. (23) Shooters and spectators must be at least 30 feet away from steel targets while firing