



Black Powder Range Rules

NO SMOKING ON THE FIRING RANGE

1. Always use Black Powder or Pyrodex substitute powder for loading muzzleloaders. **DO NOT** use smokeless powder intended for cartridges.
2. Once primed or capped, a loaded muzzle loader must be pointed down range and closely attended at all times and it must be held by the shooter until discharged.
3. When moving around with an unloaded muzzleloader it must be carried with the muzzle pointing up.
4. When leaving the firing line, put bulk powder and caps in your range box or bag.
5. Powder must always be in a closed container, horn or flask except when filling the powder measure or charging the muzzleloader.
6. Powder should be kept in the original factory container until put in a horn, flask, powder measure, charger, or cartridge. Use only unbreakable containers.
7. Percussion shooters are allowed a single container with a maximum of one pound of powder in a single horn or flask on the firing line. Flintlock shooters no more than two horns or flasks are allowed at any one time, ie: 1 - FFG and 1 - FFFFG. All other powder containers must be in a closed range box (or bag) and kept behind the firing line.
8. The filling of horns, flasks, multiple pre-measure devices, etc. must be done well behind the firing line.
9. **DO NOT** pour powder directly from a powder container directly into the muzzle or bore of any muzzleloader, **ALWAYS** using a powder measure.
10. **DO NOT** bring powder containers into the club house.
11. Percussion caps must always be kept in the original (unbreakable) factory containers. Shooters are allowed one tin of percussion caps on the firing line at a time. All other percussion cap containers must be in a closed range box (or bag) kept behind the firing line. until put in a capping device except when priming the firearm. No loose caps allowed – keep them covered.
12. It is recommended that percussion caps be dispensed from a capper or holder. If the shooter does not have one then use one cap from the container at a time then cover the rest before shooting.
13. Paper cartridges must be kept in a closed container or pouch until one is removed for use.
14. A powder measure shall always be used to charge the firearm. (Never load directly from a horn or flask into the bore.) Pre-measure individual chargers/cartridges meet this requirement.



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15. NEVER EXCEED THE MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED POWDER CHARGE AS CONTAINED IN YOUR INSTRUCTION BOOK. To do so could result in injury or death to the shooter or bystanders.
16. Ramrods and loading rods should be clearly marked for “empty” and “loaded”.
17. Only load when you are able to concentrate on what you are doing.
18. WHEN LOADING, BE CERTAIN POWDER, PATCHES AND PROJECTILES ARE IN THEIR PROPER SEQUENCE AND THAT THEY ARE COMPLETELY SEATED AGAINST ONE ANOTHER
“POWDER - PATCH - BALL”
19. Keep body parts well away from the muzzle while loading.
20. Be aware of your surroundings. Only expose powder if the adjacent shooter is not ready to fire. Also, only fire if the adjacent shooter does not have powder exposed or is otherwise unprepared.
21. Clean loading/firing benches of all spilled powder before continuing. Powder spilled on the ground must be well scattered before continuing.
22. Only prime or cap your muzzleloader when you are on the firing line and the firearm is pointed downrange.
23. Flintlock shooters must notify shooters on the touch hole side of the muzzleloader before firing. Calling out “Fire in the hole!” or “Flint” a few seconds before firing is encouraged. Give the other person a chance!
24. Flintlock shooters should never fire if adjacent shooters have powder exposed. Again, calling out “Fire in the hole!” or “Flint” a few seconds before firing is encouraged.
25. Flints must never be knapped in the cock when the muzzleloader is charged. It is recommended to change out the flint instead.
26. Do not try to beat the “one minute” cease fire warning. Don’t start loading after the “one minute” has been called.
27. If your muzzleloader is loaded and/or primed/capped when a cease-fire is called raise your hand and wait for the attention of the Range Safety Officer. You may only fire after the cease-fire has been called with specific permission from the Range Safety Officer. Keep the firearm pointed down range and follow the instructions of the Range Safety Officer.
28. If safety circumstances does not allow the Range Officer to allow you to discharge your muzzleloader, the cap must be removed and the hammer place at half cock, the frizzen emptied wiped and the cock placed down to the pan. You may then place the partially “loaded” muzzleloader in the gun rack or loading rack. As a reminder, place the ramrod in the bore on top of the charge to indicate that the muzzleloader has been charged.
29. Do not fire without specific permission from the Range Officer after the cease-fire is called!



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30. Keep the muzzleloader pointed down-range and follow the instructions of the range personnel.

31. If you have a misfire keep the muzzleloader safely pointed down range until it is made safe. Wait at least 3 minutes after the last attempt to fire the muzzleloader before moving away from the firing line.
32. Loads that need to be pulled must be brought to the attention of the Range Safety Officer and handled according to their instructions. If possible, loads that need to be pulled will be taken off the firing line while being worked on.
33. CO2 dischargers may be used to remove loads on the firing line.
34. Blowing down the barrel - There will be NO blowing down the barrel of any muzzleloader during matches in any manner that requires placing the head in front of the muzzle.
35. It is recommended that the bore be wiped between shots or a flexible blow tube may be used at the shooter's option providing that the shooter's head is not placed in front of the barrel.
36. Cap and Ball and single shot pistols may be loaded in loading stands on the loading behind the firing line.
37. Cap & ball cylinders SHALL be capped and flintlocks primed only on the firing line, pointed downrange. DO NOT carry any capped revolver/pistol/cylinder or primed pistols around!
38. Muzzleloaders are only to be transported to and from the range during the Live or Hot stage.
39. Muzzleloaders shall be unloaded and grounded (loading stand) or racked during cease fires. Pistols and revolvers may be left unloaded in loading racks on the loading bench and/or laid on the firing bench. Single shot pistols shall have the ram rod in the bore to show that it is unloaded. Percussion hammers to be at half cock to show that that there is no cap present and flint lock cocks shall be in the fired position.
40. All muzzleloaders rifles, pistols revolvers etc will be loaded with "ONE" ball, maxi, mine or bullet per bore or cylinder. There will be NO double balling.