

Trap Range Policies and Safety Considerations
Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Chapter,
Izaak Walton League of America

Each shooter is required to observe and comply with all range policies. If in doubt, ask the range officer. As a firearms owner/user, you are responsible for your actions.

1. Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction. This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off, it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed AT ALL TIMES. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.
2. Never assume a gun is unloaded. Always check the chambers for live ammunition when picking up a gun.
3. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
4. Keep your shotgun unloaded with the action open until you are on a firing position and the trap house is clear.
5. Keep action open and gun unloaded when moving between the gun rack and the trap station.
6. Eye and ear protection are required while on the trap field.
7. When on the trap line, keep your gun pointed down range at all times.
8. Never load your gun until you are on post and ready to shoot.
9. Never move from a station with a loaded gun.
10. Never walk in front of another shooter when changing posts.
11. Load only one shell for singles. Load only two shells for doubles.
12. Always check the barrel with a ram-rod after any abnormal discharge.
13. All duds and misfired shells must be removed from club grounds by the owner.
14. Pick up only your empties and only after your squad's shooting is completed.
15. If an emergency cease fire is called, all firearms must be immediately unloaded and placed in a gun rack. Do not handle firearms during an emergency cease fire.
16. Only individuals that are shooting are permitted on the trap field unless they have the permission of the range officer before the round begins.

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17. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to shoot on the trap fields without the supervision of a parent, guardian, or designated adult. The range officer cannot be that designee.
18. No one shall discharge a firearm that they are not knowledgeable about or capable of operating. This does not preclude assistance while tutoring. The range officer has full discretion in such matters.
19. Only authorized personnel are permitted forward of the 16 yard line.
20. Only authorized personnel are allowed to load trap machines and pull targets for shooters.
21. Do not shoot mixed handicap squads more than 2 yards apart and there should be no more than a total difference of 3 yards in a squad. If 18, 19, or 20 yard shooters are in a squad, it is strongly suggested that there be no more than 1 yard difference between adjacent shooters in the squad, however there shall be no more than a total difference of 2 yards in these squads.
22. Individuals that have never shot trap before will be required to shoot their first round on a squad with other experienced shooters or under the supervision of an experienced individual authorized by the range officer.
23. Never use alcohol or drugs while or before shooting. No one may operate a firearm if they have consumed any alcohol or drugs that impair judgment.
24. Be courteous to other shooters and helpers.
25. If there are rifle and pistol shooters occupying the upper shooting benches, be sure to communicate with them prior to shooting or moving forward of the 16 yard line.
26. Burn bins are for cardboard boxes and other wood waste only. Do not put plastic items, non-combustibles, spent hulls, or live ammo in the burn bins.
27. Never shoot at any of the facilities including the trap house, the club house, chairs, benches, etc.