

# **The Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association**



## **Malahat Outdoor Sports Facility**

Property Use Policy,  
Range Rules and  
Member Etiquette Guidelines

700 Holker Place, Malahat, BC

The Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association operates one of the most heavily used firearm ranges in British Columbia. The primary purpose of the range is to promote marksmanship among our members. Shooters of diverse backgrounds must shoot safely together, sometimes without benefit of a Range Officer. As you have been given the privilege of using our ranges, it is your duty to know, understand and practice the Malahat Outdoor Sports Facility rules, policies and guidelines.

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The General and Specific Range Rules contained in this document are for the purpose of general shooting at the property when no sanctioned event is taking place. If an official competition or match is held on any range and that Range is closed to general use, the official match rules apply and the Match Director assumes the responsibility of Range Safety Officer.

**Note:** The abbreviation VFGPA means Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association

These rules, policies and guidelines supersede all previous versions and were approved by the VFGPA Executive in August 2007

## **PROPERTY USE POLICY**

Everyone, without exception, **MUST** sign in and sign out at the Sign-In Shelter located near the property entrance when visiting the VFGPA Malahat Outdoor Centre

During all special events everyone **MUST** sign-in and sign-out at the Sign-In Shelter as well as register at the event headquarters if required

When on the property you must have your membership card or day pass on you at all times

The Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association has general range rules as well as rules specific to the individual ranges and other sections of the property. Members and non-members on the property must adhere to those rules

### **Member access to the property:**

Upon arrival at the property when signing in, you must write clearly your surname and initial, your membership card number, the date and the time of your arrival

When leaving the property you must sign out by entering the time of your departure

### **Non-member access to the property:**

Non-members may use the property provided they purchase a Day Pass

Day Passes **MUST BE** purchased upon arrival at the Sign-In Shelter

## **CAMPING POLICY**

1. Camping at the VFGPA Malahat Outdoor Facilities is a privilege extended to membership of the club and their guests
2. There is **NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE** for club members to camp but their non-member guests **MUST** each pay a \$10.00 per day Day Pass fee
3. Camping is **ONLY** permitted in the designated camping areas
4. Camping on the property is not permitted for more than 7 consecutive days
5. Water is at a premium so please use it sparingly
6. Campfires are only permitted in the fire rings provided at each campsite. Do **NOT** move the fire rings
7. During extreme dry periods there may well be **NO** fires permitted. Please check with the Caretaker before lighting a fire in the mid-summer. The property does get posted with fire restrictions as deemed necessary
8. The club provides firewood for campfires; **DO NOT** cut wood from the surrounding bush for your campfire or use chainsaws. Store only the amount of firewood needed for the day

9. Fires must be attended at all times and COMPLETELY extinguished when departing the property or retiring for the night. Please keep a suitable container of water or fire extinguisher available
10. Campsites must be cleaned up, fires must be completely extinguished and all garbage must be removed when leaving the property

**Special Event Camping (Non-members):**

1. Camping is ONLY free for non-members for the evening prior to a special event and the days and nights during the special event
2. Check in time the night before a special event is NOT BEFORE 4:30 p.m. If special event attendees wish to arrive prior to 4:00 pm the night before a special event in order to camp and be on the property, they must each purchase a day pass at \$20.00 per person
3. Complimentary special event camping is for the specific event only and does NOT include any additional use of the facilities; a day pass fee of \$20.00 will be charged to use additional facilities
4. Each person MUST SIGN IN upon arrival and MUST SIGN OUT at the sign-in shelter upon departure from the property to meet our strict range insurance policies
5. When on the property each person must abide by the VFGPA Property use policies, range rules and member etiquette
6. Campsites must be cleaned up, fires must be completely extinguished and all garbage must be removed when leaving the property
7. There is no RV hook up available and the club does NOT provide electricity.

**Please Note:** If you violate these rules you will be asked to leave the property.

**FISHING POLICY**

1. Only single barbless hooks are permitted
2. Earth worms and artificial scented bait (i.e. Berkley Power Bait) may be used but other kinds of live bait are not permitted
3. Provincial fishing regulations daily limits are in effect at all times
4. Any person wishing to take a fish home must have a valid Provincial Freshwater Fishing license
5. When cleaning fish do not throw the entrails in the pond
6. Delicate handling of trout and catch and release fishing are encouraged

**Please Note:** Frog Hollow Pond and the good trout fishing are a benefit for all of the VFGPA members, therefore please be conservative when fishing

## **MEMBER ETIQUETTE**

People come to the property for fun, relaxation and enjoyment; lets all make a commitment to keep it that way

When using the facilities be courteous and respectful to others

If you witness an infraction or an unsafe act please report it to the caretaker or range officer immediately

Accidents **MUST** be reported to the Caretaker

When you have finished using the facilities clean up after yourself

Abuse of the property or the VFGPA equipment is **NOT** acceptable

Dumping of garbage, which includes construction waste, old computer equipment and old appliances is **NOT** permitted.

Members who would like to donate materials or equipment to the VFGPA **MUST** first get approval from the Caretaker or the inventory control person on the Executive before bringing it on the property

Members are not permitted to remove materials or equipment from the property without receiving the prior approval of the caretaker or the inventory control person on the Executive

If you are unsure of the policies, rules or protocols at the VFGPA ask the Caretaker or an executive member for clarification, do not presume you know what is correct

## **GENERAL RANGE RULES**

Rule # 1 – When using any range the red flag at the entrance of that range must be up when the range is in use

The first shooter must put flag up when arriving at range before shooting commences and last shooter must take flag down when shooting is finished

Rule # 2- Firearms **MUST** be carried completely unloaded, actions open and muzzle pointing in a safe direction. (i.e. rifles pointing up, pistols pointing up unless holstered and shotguns pointing in safe direction)

Rule # 3 – All uncased firearms when not in use **MUST** be unloaded with actions open. Long guns must be placed barrel pointing up in the racks

Rule # 4 - Shooting is only permitted from the designated firing line

Rule # 5 – No handling of firearms during a cease-fire

Rule # 6 – **ONLY** paper targets or approved steel gongs may be used on the ranges

Rule # 7 – You MUST NOT shoot at target frames or range equipment

Rule # 8 – Prohibited, tracer or armour piercing ammunition is NOT permitted on any ranges

Rule # 9 – No reloading or re-manufacturing of ammunition on the range

Rule # 10 - No cross firing on other targets

Rule # 11 – Children must be under adult supervision at all times

Rule # 12 – All shooters are required to clean their shooting stations when they have finished

Rule # 13 – The consumption of alcohol is NOT permitted on an active range.

Rule # 14 – The use of illegal drugs is NOT permitted on the property.

Rule # 15 – Any person who appears to be “under the influence” is prohibited from shooting.

Rule # 16 – While shooting or attending an active range it is mandatory to wear hearing and eye protection

Rule # 17 – The sale of ammunition privately (from one shooter to another) on club property is prohibited at all times

### **Acting Range Officer**

The first VFGPA member to arrive at the range will assume the responsibility of Acting Range Officer or if mutually agreed the most experienced shooter who is a member may assume that task. The position of Acting Range Officer is to monitor safety procedures and ceasefires.

### **RULES SPECIFIC TO THE RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE**

**Please note:** These rules are in addition to the General Range Rules

The Range Safety Flag System – this procedure MUST be followed during all range use:

#### **RED FLAG**

Range is in use (HOT)

Red Flag is VISIBLE mounted in holder

It is safe to fire at targets down range

#### **GREEN FLAG**

Range is CLOSED

Guns are unloaded, actions open and placed in the racks

Targets on the range can be changed

Rapid fire is NOT permitted on this range. This means no more than one shot per second

All personal metal targets must be pre-approved by the Caretaker prior to use on this range

Approved metal targets MUST be a minimum of 25 yards (21 metres) for rifle shooting and 11 yards (10 metres) for pistol shooting from the designated firing line

### **Cease Fire Procedure**

Ceasefires are called to allow shooters to venture safely downrange to set up and change their targets. The timing of each ceasefire should be mutually decided between the shooters present. If the range is busy the 20/10-cessfire system is preferred (20 minutes of shooting followed by 10 minutes of ceasefire, then 20 minutes of shooting, followed by 10 minutes of ceasefire, etc.)

When a cease-fire is called ALL shooters will carry out the following actions:

1. All firearms will be completely unloaded, all ammo and magazines removed, actions open. Long guns must be placed in the rack and handguns must be either cased or holstered,
2. The handling of firearms is prohibited during a cease-fire,
3. The Range Safety Flag System:  
**RED FLAG:**  
Range is in use (HOT)  
Red Flag is VISIBLE mounted in holder  
It is safe to fire at targets down range  
**GREEN FLAG:**  
Range is CLOSED  
Guns are unloaded, actions open and placed in the racks  
Targets on the range can be changed
4. ONLY when a cease-fire is called, all firearms are racked and the Range Safety Flag System has been changed to GREEN, can shooters move forward of the designated firing line,
5. When moving forward, shooters MUST turn on the light switch that corresponds to their shooting station. On returning from being forward of the firing line shooters MUST ensure they turn off ONLY their light; and
6. The acting Range Officer will be the last person to turn off the cease-fire warning light, exchange the range safety flags and will ONLY do so having ensured that all required procedures have been adhered to.

### **RULES SPECIFIC TO THE SHOTGUN RANGE**

**Please Note:** These rules are in addition to the General Range Rules:

1. No discharge of firearms other than shotguns on the Shotgun Range (Except as part of a special VFGPA sanctioned event). This means NO rifles, pistols or cannons of any caliber or style

2. Firearms are NOT permitted in the clubhouse
3. No spectators forward of the designated firing line
4. No shot larger than No. 7½ shall be used
5. No gun shall be loaded until the shooter is on a shooting station
6. Any loaded gun MUST BE pointed in a safe direction
7. The loading of more than two shells in a gun is not allowed at any time
8. No “backing-up” shall be allowed while shooting Skeet
9. Following the use of trap or skeet facilities other than a VFGPA sanctioned event each shooter is required to clean up any spent shotgun hulls and all litter
10. Please ensure that broken clay target debris does not litter the shooting stands or the trap machine bunkers. It must be cleaned up

### **RULES SPECIFIC TO THE MULTI-PURPOSE RANGE**

**Please Note:** These rules are in addition to the General Range Rules:

1. All shooting must be inside the berms, towards rear (backstop) and down range
2. No shooting into the sides of the berms
3. NO large caliber rifles
4. All targets are to be paper or cardboard
5. Leave the range clean
6. Target stands on this range are your responsibility

### **VIOLATION OF THE VFGPA PROPERTY USE POLICY OR RANGE RULES**

The Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association wishes to maintain a safe environment for all its members and non-members at the Malahat Outdoor Sports Facility and have the obligation to operate the organization under strict insurance criteria. It is deemed unacceptable to break the rules.

Serious violation will be dealt with severely

Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse

If accused of violating any the VFGPA rules, members and non-members have the right to a hearing at the next official Executive Meeting

#### **Please Take Note:**

The Caretaker and the Range Officer may demand violators leave the property immediately  
The Executive has the right to remove membership privileges or suspend membership and  
The Executive also has the right to ban violators from future access to the property