

Range Access & Day-Pass Policy; Practical Application (2009/May)

Guiding Principles

1. The Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association (VF&GPA) recognizes a requirement to support guest access to its range and grounds facilities across a spectrum of activities. These activities include but are not limited to the following examples:
 - a. in the most simple form, a member bringing a friend or relative to enjoy a day of shooting or fishing;
 - b. a non-member using the range for a day of target practice or to sight in his/her rifle prior to hunting season;
 - c. participants, volunteers and spectators attending one of the numerous organized shooting events held throughout the year;
 - d. not-for-profit community groups (schools groups, cubs/scouts/rovers) where the association has a desire to support the community or encourage interest in the outdoor activities and facilities that the association promotes;
 - e. organizations that wish to rent ranges or other facilities for their activities that have no direct connection to Association objectives and where our facilities are simply a commodity.

2. Ultimately the association's guest policy must be flexible in order to accommodate the dissimilar aforementioned circumstances. At one end of the spectrum we want to support the enjoyment of our membership without the requirement to generate revenue. At the other end, there is no benefit to the membership beyond the real requirement for the association to use its facility to generate revenue that assists with the operation and maintenance costs of the property. In the latter circumstances, cost for the use must also cover wear and tear (potential damage) that this added traffic will generate in addition to merely generating revenue. Therefore the schedule of fees for each of these circumstances must be different and reflect the desired benefit to the members of the association. This is the guiding principle that forms the rate structure for guest policy that follows below.

Range Access & Day-Pass Policy; Practical Application

- Non-Member Unsupervised Use
- Member Guest
- Preferred Customer
- Junior Guest Policy
- Non-Profit and Community Groups
- Non Member Volunteer/Spectator; non-shooting
- Sanctioned/Discipline Sponsored Event Non-Member Policy

Non-Members;

Non-Members may use the various ranges at their own risk. This use may be in an unescorted, unsupervised manner during approved hours provided that they purchase a one time use only 'Non-Member Range-Use Day-pass' at the gate (currently \$50), sign-in on the register, follow all posted range rules and safety protocols, and sign-out when they leave. The ranges available for non-member day-pass use are the Shotgun range (clay thrower rental is available from the Caretaker) and the Rifle/Pistol Range (Multi-Purpose range is not available for unescorted non-member day pass use.) The value of a single Day pass may be put towards a membership fee as a credit, within one month of purchase, during the year in which they are purchased; receipts must be provided. Violation of range rules or safety protocols will result in revocation of the pass without refund, and the user will be required to vacate the range property immediately. All facility use is 'At your own risk'.

Members who bring guests;

Members who bring guests to shoot or use the various ranges are required to purchase a one-time-use-only 'Guest Range-Use Day-pass' from the Caretaker (Currently \$20) for each guest. These may ONLY be purchased by the member. The Guest name and the Member name or membership number will be on the pass. The member MUST accompany the guests when the Guest passes are in use. The member will be responsible to ensure that all safety protocols and range rules are followed. Use of a 'Guest day-pass' without a member present and supervising will result in revocation of the pass without refund, and the user will be required to vacate the range property immediately. Note; arrangements may be made with the Range Officer or Caretaker in extraneous circumstances. Pre-arranging a convenient time to meet the Caretaker (for purchase) may be necessary. Breach of policy by the member may result in disciplinary action by VFGPA. Members are expected to follow the spirit of all Association policies, as well as correctly inform those who may not be following policy in the proper manner. Members are expected to encourage repeat Guest-pass users to become a member of the VFGPA. All facilities are available, and all facility use is 'At your own risk'.

Preferred Customer rates;

A 'Preferred Customer' day-pass rate is given to repeat range-rental Government or Justice Institute agencies involved in security; This rate is \$20 per day-pass, and must be purchased from the Caretaker. Examples of agencies who qualify are Local area Police Departments, Sheriff Services, and active Military personnel (Active Military must produce ID card.) All facilities are available, and all facility use is 'At your own risk'.

Juniors;

Juniors (18 years and under) who are brought to the range as guests are eligible for a preferred rate. VFGPA recognizes that youth is the future of our sports and identifies youth as a special target group for involvement in the outdoors activities that our facilities promote. With this policy in mind, a single special nominal fee of \$5.00 per youth/day is applicable. This pass must be purchased from the Caretaker. All Juniors must be escorted and supervised as per Canadian Firearms Laws. Facility use is restricted to the same access as the 'escorter'. All facility use is 'At your own risk'.

Non-Profit and Community service groups;

Non-Profit and Community service groups (Scouts, Cadets, school groups, etc.) may have access to the range with a preferred rate under specific circumstances;

- Bookings must be made at least 30 days in advance (extenuating circumstances excepted). The total number of people expected to participate in the group must be supplied at this time (non-club-members only).
- There must be adequate supervision supplied by the sponsor (VFGPA will not normally supply supervision or Range Officers. If arranged in advance, volunteer Range Officers and/or coaches may be supplied by the VFGPA, but no liability will be accepted by VFGPA or the volunteers). A ratio of a maximum 3 students to one coach is recommended.
- Equipment and supplies must be supplied by the sponsor (VFGPA will not normally supply equipment or supplies. If arranged in advance, a limited amount of equipment or supplies may be available for certain disciplines).
- The sponsor must ensure that some amount of safety training is given to the students BEFORE they arrive at the range. This training should include range protocol and etiquette, as well as safety and familiarization training for the specific activity undertaken. VFGPA has a range manual that will assist with Range Rules.
- The sponsoring group should have liability and release forms signed beforehand.

VFGPA is a volunteer non-profit Association, and expects that all use of the facilities will not result in a cost to the club. VFGPA also recognizes that youth is the future of our sports and identifies youth as a special target group for involvement in the outdoors activities that our facilities promote. With this policy in mind, a single special nominal fee of \$5.00 per youth/per day is applicable when a sponsored youth group requests use of the facilities.

If required, (and advance notice is given) VFGPA may acquire Third-party liability insurance for the event. All facility use is 'At your own risk'.

Volunteers and Event Spectators;

Spectators and Non-Members who volunteer (in a non-shooting capacity) to help at various range events or work parties are required to sign-in at the gate, but are not required to purchase a day-pass. They must follow all posted range rules and safety protocols. The Match Director/Coordinator has discretion to allow token participation as a policy of appreciation. All facility use is 'At your own risk'.

Sanctioned events and Discipline Sponsored Training courses;

Non-Members who are attending a sanctioned event are not required to sign-in at the front gate or purchase a day-pass PROVIDED;

- The event has its own sign-in procedure and is recorded.
- The event has its own match fee (as in an organized Club User-Group event), or fees-per-round (as in trap or skeet)

Discipline Sponsored Training courses are considered to be treated as a sanctioned event with the same considerations PROVIDED;

- It is not a commercial enterprise and any fees charged are to cover expenses and promotions only; i.e., Instructors, Range Officers, coaches, etc. are volunteers and are not paid for services.
- The event is used as a promotional tool for the sport, as well as a sales tool to encourage membership in the VFGPA.

Expectations;

Note that if range time involving a closure is booked by a discipline, then it is expected that the discipline will provide a contribution to the Association that is commensurate with the attendance and participation at the event (while still being generally accepted standard rates for the discipline involved).

Exceptions;

Specific exceptions to this policy exist in other policies such as 'Outdoor Discovery Day', Corporate & Group Range Rentals, and other policies as the Board of Directors may determine from time to time.

Member Responsibility;

Members are expected to follow the spirit of all Association policies, as well as correctly inform those who may not be following policy in the proper manner. Members are expected to encourage repeat Guest-pass users to become a member of the VFGPA.