

WADSWORTH HUNT CLUB
GROUND OPERATING AND USE RULES
ADOPTED, JULY 18, 2023

PREAMBLE

The Wadsworth Hunt Club (WHC) has prepared this document in order to: 1) improve and maintain the safe and orderly operation and use of the Wadsworth District Conservation League (WDCL) property; 2) ensure that the WHC continues to be a good neighbor to nearby landowners; and 3) ensure that the community at large views the WHC positively.

The club facility offers a three-season club house, picnic area, a sheltered 25-50-100-yard rifle/pistol range, a sheltered handgun range, a 10-20-30-40-yard archery range, and a nine-station 3D archery range. All of these facilities are available to active members and their guests subject to the rules and regulation of the club.

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 The WDCL property (Grounds) is approximately 30 acres and located at 8445 Leatherman Road. The sole member club is the Wadsworth Hunt Club (WHC). The WHC Board of Directors has full control over all grounds operating and use rules. The use of the Grounds is a privilege extended to members in good standing of the WHC. All club facilities are available to members seven days per week, unless otherwise reserved. All requests to reserve club grounds require board approval and will be scheduled through the club vice president. Persons use the Grounds at their own risk. The WHC assumes no responsibility for accidents, injuries, or loss of equipment. Individuals failing to abide by the following rules and guidelines may forfeit the use of the Grounds for a minimum of six months. The Board may impose additional penalties including loss of membership.

1.2 The WHC will distribute or make available this document to each respective individual club member in good standing and will annually obtain a signed and dated receipt to the document titled Wadsworth District Conservation League and Wadsworth Hunt Club General Release and Wavier prior to having access to the Grounds. The WHC will also issue proper club identification, which shall be carried on the club member's person while on the Grounds and shown on demand. Persons lacking proper club identification will leave the Grounds immediately. Individuals on the Grounds illegally should be reported to a representative of the WHC (officer or board member).

2.0 FRONT GATE

2.1 The gate is to keep unauthorized people out so that our Grounds are safe and that we continue to be a good neighbor.

2.2 The gate is to be unlocked only by a club member in good standing. After the member's vehicle is through the gate, the member must immediately shut and lock the gate no matter how long he will be inside. (Note: The gate may be left open during scheduled group events only. The gate will be closed and locked when the event has concluded.) After the gate is closed and locked, scramble the combination so that it is not

left for an outsider to steal. (Note: It is recommended that the combination locks be set on "0-0-0" after use.) When you lock the gate, **MAKE SURE THAT ALL LOCKS ARE IN SERIES** or some authorized organization will not be able to open the gate. In other words, every single lock should be able to open the gate.

3.0 HUNTING

3.1 Club members and guests accompanied by club members are allowed to hunt on the Club Grounds during the appropriate hunting seasons. No hunting until opening of squirrel season each year and then only by bow and arrow or shotgun with #4 size shot or smaller (no rifle, slugs, slug gun, muzzleloader, or pistol). No tree stands are permitted anywhere on the Grounds.

3.1.1 Hunting guests are limited to one per club member and are limited to one hunting visit day per year to either club grounds or to member farms.

3.2 Training of hunting dogs is allowed only during the closed seasons. This is for the safety of the dog and his owner.

4.0 GROUND

4.1 Club members may use the Grounds west of Holmesbrook Creek for picnics anytime except when others have the Grounds reserved.

4.2 All construction, excavations, alterations, modifications, additions, removal, and installations of any buildings, equipment, living plants, roadways, or the Grounds in general must have prior written or verbal approval by the Board.

4.3 No motorcycles, mini-bikes, snowmobiles, ATV's or any other similar motorized recreational vehicle, or horses shall be operated or ridden upon the club Grounds. Vehicles can be used as a means of transportation to club meetings or functions provided the vehicles stay on roadways and parking areas. Board approved service vehicles are exempt from this regulation.

4.4 Other than Board sponsored activities, members, guests, and outside groups may not reserve club grounds for financial gain.

4.5 Gun and archery ranges may not be reserved by club members. On occasion the rifle/pistol range, handgun range, and/or archery ranges may be closed to member use for board sponsored activities.

4.6 Any person is allowed to carry their concealed firearm on club grounds in accordance with State of Ohio Concealed Carry regulations and sections included within this document.

4.6.1 Rules concerning use of concealed firearms on the range are addressed in the "Firearm Ranges" section 5.0.

5.0 FIREARM RANGES

5.1 The firearm ranges are located in the valley of Holmesbrook Creek at the end of the road. This is the only area designated for firearm target shooting. The **RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE** consists of 25, 50, and 100-yard backstops complete with target frames and a covered shooting bench. The **HANDGUN RANGE** consists of four (4) shooting stations. A pulley system will allow for a maximum shot distance of approximately 25 feet with targets properly attached to the pulley system frame.

5.2 First-come has the privilege of the range; however, that privilege will be relinquished no more than one hour after another member has requested use of the range.

5.3 The firearm ranges are open for firing only on Monday - Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until SUNSET and on Sunday from 12:00 p.m. until SUNSET. The United States Weather Service determines sunset on any day.

5.4 Youth under 18 years of age must have adult supervision to use the firearm ranges. (Note: per Ohio Revised code, anyone under age 21 is considered a minor with respect to HANDGUN possession and usage.)

5.5 All guests must be accompanied by an adult member.

5.5.1 All members and guests must sign the range sign-in sheet and all guests must sign a range waiver before using the range. Any member who does not sign the range sign-in sheet and any guests who do not sign the range sign-in sheet and range waiver is forbidden from participating in any shooting at the range. Minors must have the range waiver signed by their parent(s) or guardian, who must accompany the minor at all times while on the range. (Note: per Ohio Revised code, anyone under age 21 is considered a minor with respect to HANDGUN possession and usage.)

5.5.2 A member may only bring two (2) guests to the range at one time. If two (2) guests are present and shooting at the same time, then the member must directly supervise the guests and may not participate in any shooting. Members and their guest must be shooting on the same range.

5.5.3 Guests are allowed only two (2) visits per year to the range. The guest must become a member of the WHC if further visits are desired. Exceptions are granted to active-duty military personnel, individuals who live 120 miles away from Wadsworth, and persons attending approved training or other approved events.

5.6 When using the **RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE**, the path of all bullets and/or slugs is to be through the center of target frame and impacting in the dirt backstop. When using the **HANDGUN RANGE**, the path of all bullets is to be through the hanging target attached to the pulley system and impacting the dirt backstop. Only paper bulls-eye, paper game targets (no human silhouettes), balloons, or other soft reaction targets (no glass, cans, clay birds, etc.) are to be used. Metallic swinging type targets that deflect impacting rounds downward may be used **ONLY** on the **RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE** at the 50- and 100-yard backstops. **ALL** targets regardless of type are to be placed only on the flat panels and between the horizontal dimensioned boards that form the target frames. There shall be no shooting of targets lying on the ground, flying or thrown in the air or otherwise not properly mounted on a target frame and safely in front of the earthen backstop.

5.6.1 Intentionally shooting Grounds equipment, including placing targets such that bullets can strike the target frames or cross members, is reason for loss of Grounds privileges and possible prosecution.

5.7 When using a **SHOTGUN** with shot, shooters are **ONLY** allowed to pattern their shotguns. Shooters should use the shotgun patterning board located near the clubhouse. However, shooters may pattern their shotguns at the rifle range but must provide their own target frame. The WHC provided target holders are not to be used. Shooter's frame must be placed immediately in front of the earthen backstop.

5.8 **NO SUSTAINED RAPID FIRE!** You must have a safe sight picture. Rapid fire is described as two (2) or more shots fired in a row. There must be a 3 second delay between each shot. All shooting will be from the designated firing line and shots must be controlled.

5.8.1 On the handgun range only, there can be a three (3) second delay after every two shots; this will allow shooters to practice the self-defense technique, double tap.

5.8.2 When using the **RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE**, shooters are allowed to fire at targets closer than 25 yards, if and only if:
a) A safe temporary firing line is established at the

forward position

- b) No one handles a firearm behind the new temporary firing line
- c) The target is located immediately in front of the earthen backstop such that all bullets impact the earthen backstop and not the ground.

5.9 **RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE** firearm type limitations are:

- a) No fully automatic firearms (BAFT Class III) including bump-fire firearms.
- b) Centerfire rifles and pistols are limited to barrel bores less than 0.500" in bore diameter.
- c) Shotguns to 10 gauge or smaller.
- d) Black powder rifles and pistols to barrels less than 0.700" in bore diameter.

5.9.1 **HANDGUN RANGE** firearm type limitations are:

- a) No fully automatic firearms allowed (including bump-fire firearms).
- b) No bows, crossbows, rifles or shotguns of any type.
- c) Suppressors for pistols are not permitted unless the shooter possesses valid NFA paperwork.
- d) Pistol cartridges of 44 magnums and other larger calibers, and calibers larger than the 45ACP, must be shot at the rifle range. All other pistol calibers are permitted. (Note: .223/5.56 is a rifle cartridge and not considered a pistol cartridge)

5.9.2 The use of fire-starting or explosive ammunition or arms or other devices including but not limited to: accumulations of explosive powder, incendiary rounds, reactive metals, ignited arrows, flame throwers, and fireworks is strictly prohibited on club grounds. Violation of this rule is grounds for permanent removal from the club.

5.10 Persons using the range are responsible to ensure that no one is down range. No firearms shall be handled while anyone is down range.

5.11 Take home everything you brought. Do not leave live cartridges, empty brass, boxes, targets on the target frames, food and beverage containers, etc.

5.11.1 All expended center fire and rim fire cartridge cases and hulls and live or "dud" discarded cartridges are to be picked up and either placed in the "EXPENDED CARTRIDGE BUCKET" or taken home by the shooter.

5.11.2 Under no circumstances are cartridges (live, "dud", or expended) to be placed in any trash barrel.

5.12 "Cease Fire" may be called by anyone on the range due to an unsafe condition. When "Cease Fire" is called, all shooters will immediately open the action and make their

firearm safe until the unsafe condition is rectified to the satisfaction of all present.

5.13 When the range is declared closed for firing and/or people are down range of the firing line (target changing, clean up, etc.) all firearms will be made safe with actions open.

5.13.1 **NO ONE WILL HANDLE A FIREARM WHILE ANYONE IS IN FRONT OF THE FIRING LINE.**

5.14 Shooters and those near the firing line shall wear proper eye and ear protection.

5.15 Safety, common sense, and courtesy must be exercised at all times. Violations should be reported to a WHC representative immediately with the name and/or car license number of the violator and a description of the infraction.

5.16 Training and practice with holstered concealed carry firearms shall not occur on any range except as noted in 5.16.2. There shall be no draw from holster shooting on any of the WHC ranges.

5.16.1 If a person desires to practice with their concealed carry firearm, the firearm must be carefully removed from holster and made ready at the firing line. No draw and fire practice except as noted in **5.16.2**.

5.16.2 No draw and fire on any range unless participation are in a board approved advance training course with a WHC approved instructor.

6.0 **SAFE GUN HANDLING RULES**

6.1 **KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.** A safe direction is a direction so that in the event of an accidental discharge, no one will be hurt. At the range this is generally down range towards the backstops or stored UNLOADED in a gun case or on the bench.

6.2 **KEEP THE ACTION OPEN AND UNLOADED UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO USE THE FIREARM.** Actions are open all the time except when you are actually ready to use that firearm. Auto loading firearms that will not lock open on their own will have action blocked open. Fixed magazines are emptied, and removable magazines are removed from the action. Revolver cylinders shall be empty and open. Muzzleloaders are to be uncapped or deprimed as applicable.

6.3 **KEEP THE SAFETY ON AND YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO FIRE.**

6.4 **DO NOT HANDLE FIREARMS WHILE ANYONE IS DOWN RANGE.** This includes "unloaded" firearms, removing or inserting firearms into gun cases and/or holsters.

7.0 ARCHERY RANGES

7.1 The static archery range is located to the west of the clubhouse; the 3D archery range is located south of the entrance road.

7.2 Both ranges are open to all WHC members and guests provided posted rules are followed. All guests must be accompanied by an adult member. Youth under 18 years of age must have adult supervision to use the archery ranges.

7.3 Operating hours are daily, sunrise to sunset as determined by the National Weather Service.

7.4 No firearms, air guns, BB guns, ignited arrows are permitted on the archery range.

7.5 Archers must shoot at the designated targets only. Paper targets may be hung but must be removed and properly disposed. Absolutely NO BROADHEADS may be used on targets provided by the WHC; field tips/target points only. Personal targets may be used (for broadheads/other) but must be placed directly beside the targets provided by WHC.

7.6 Leave bows on racks when retrieving arrows. Do not carry cocked crossbows on the club grounds. Never retrieve arrows, hang targets, or approach target area while others are shooting.

7.7 Be courteous and use common sense, and report all violations to a WHC representative.

7.8 All members and guests must sign the range sign-in sheet and all guests must sign a range waiver before using the range. Any member who does not sign the range sign-in sheet and any guests who do not sign the range sign-in sheet and range waiver ~~is~~ are forbidden from participating in any shooting at the range. Minors must have the range waiver signed by their parent(s) or guardian, who must accompany the minor at all times while on the range.

8.0 RESERVING CLUB GROUNDS

8.1 Club members may use the Grounds west of Holmesbrook Creek for picnics anytime except when others have the Grounds reserved. Camping and use of clubhouse shall be by reservation through a detailed written request to the WHC Board of Directors on a first-come first-served basis. Any person reserving Grounds must remove all garbage and rubbish within 48 hours and leave the area clean. Fires are permitted only in the designated areas, or in proper containers. All organizations must provide their own firewood. There will be NO cutting of live trees for firewood on club Grounds.

8.2 The firearm ranges and archery ranges cannot be reserved by club members and are closed to all persons during

the reservation period. Ranges may be reserved for board-sponsored activities only.

8.3 Individual club members reserving the club house and club grounds will be held liable and are responsible for the actions of their guests and their children. Individuals under the influence of alcoholic beverages, stimulants, or depressants are prohibited anywhere on the Grounds. Any exceptions or other special requests requires board approval.

8.4 The following fees shall apply:
Security Deposit (all persons)- \$50.00
Clubhouse reservation by club member- \$25.00
Grounds only reservation by club member-No Charge

Security deposit will be forfeited if the grounds are not cleaned within 48 hours of use and for any damage to club facilities. Additional charges may be applied for damage.

8.5 Anyone violating these rules and/or State and Federal firearms laws & regulations may forfeit the privilege to the use of the Grounds again.

**Wadsworth Hunt Club Board
Enacted: July 18, 2023**

WADSWORTH DISTRICT CONSERVATION LEAGUE and WADSWORTH HUNT CLUB
GENERAL RELEASE AND WAIVER
Enacted November 15, 2022

Whereas, in consideration of being permitted to attend a course involving firearms/archery, for the instruction in the use and safety of firearms/archery, and for the use of the owned, leased and/or borrowed land/properties (hereinafter the "Premises") for the above purposes and including, but not limited to, range practice and hunting, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Undersigned agrees as follows:

Undersigned agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Wadsworth District Conservation League ("WDCL") and the Wadsworth Hunt Club ("WHC"), and the respective directors, officers, volunteers, employees, agents and affiliates from any and all fault, liabilities, cost, expenses, claims, demands or lawsuits arising out of, related to or connected with: Undersigned's presence at and/or participation in the course of instruction; the discharge of firearms or use of archery equipment by the Undersigned, the Undersigned's presence on or use of the ranges, buildings, and/or Premises for any purpose; for any and all acts or omissions of Undersigned, and any damages arising from the Undersigned's presence at and/or participation, including injuries to property, personal injuries or death to others caused by the Undersigned, whether or not as a result of the participation and use of firearms or archery equipment, the facilities and Premises, and regardless of whether such injuries result, in whole or in part, from the negligence of the League.

Undersigned furthermore waives for himself/herself and for his/her guests, executors, personal representatives, administrators, assignees, heirs and next of kin, any and all rights and claims for damages, losses, demands and any other actions or claims whatsoever, which he/she may have or which may arise against the League, including but not limited to, the death of the Undersigned and/or any and all injuries, damages or illnesses suffered by Undersigned or Undersigned's personal property (whether or not entrusted to the League); which may, in any way whatsoever, arise out of, be related to or connected with: the pursuit of firearms/archery instruction, range practice, hunting or other use of the Premises; and/or the discharge of firearms/archery products. The League shall not be liable for, and the Undersigned, on behalf of himself/herself and on behalf of his/her executors, personal representatives, administrators, assignees, heirs, and next of kin, hereby expressly releases the League from any and all such claims and liabilities regardless of whether such injuries result, in whole or in part, from the negligence of the League.

Undersigned understands and acknowledges that the handling and discharge of firearms and use of archery equipment is inherently dangerous activity and hereby expressly assumes the risk of taking part in the course for instruction in use and safety of firearms/archery equipment and taking part in the activities on the Premises, which include, but are not limited to, instruction in the use of firearms/archery equipment, the discharge of firearms/archery equipment, the firing of live ammunition/arrows/bolts, and hunting therewith.

Undersigned hereby acknowledges and agrees that Undersigned has read this instrument and understands its terms and is executing this instrument voluntarily. Undersigned, furthermore, hereby acknowledges and agrees that he/she has read, understands and will at all times abide by all range rules and procedures including the WDCL and WHC Ground Operating and Use Rules, and any other rules and procedures established both orally or in writing by the WDCL and WHC, as well as, the laws of the State of Ohio, and that their membership may be suspended or terminated for violations pending board review.

Undersigned expressly agrees that this instrument is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by law, and that if any provision of this instrument is held invalid or otherwise unenforceable, the enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not be impaired thereby. No remedy conferred by any of the specific provisions of this instrument is intended to be exclusive of any other remedy, and each and every remedy shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to every other remedy now or hereafter existing at law or in equity or by statute or otherwise. The election of any one or more remedies hereunder by the WDCL and/or WHC shall not constitute any waiver of WDCL or WHC's right to pursue other available remedies. This instrument is binding upon the Undersigned and his/her executors, personal representatives, administrators, assignees, heirs and next of kin.

Member's Name: _____
(Please print)

Member's Signature: _____ **Date:** ___/___/___

Guest's Name: _____
(Please print)

Guest's Signature: _____ **Date:** ___/___/___