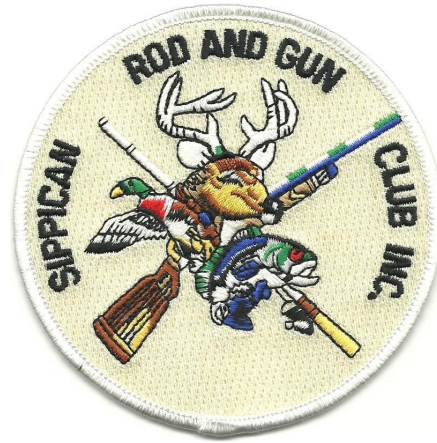




**RULES AND REGULATIONS  
SUPPLEMENTING THE  
CORPORATION BY-LAWS**

FIREARMS SAFETY  
RANGE CONDUCT  
ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

SIPPICAN ROD & GUN CLUB, INC.  
215 DEXTER LANE  
PO BOX 182  
ROCHESTER, MA 02770  
(508) 763-3777



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## INTRODUCTION

Safety with firearms (all guns), as with any other potentially hazardous machine, comes through learning and practicing safe procedures until they become a habit. With proper knowledge, skill, and a respect for firearms (all guns), “accidents” will not occur. Firearms (all guns) are dangerous only when people make them so. When handled improperly they can become instruments of danger to people and property; when handled correctly there is no danger. Obedience to the rules of safety and to range commands makes target shooting a safe sport. Accidents don’t just happen. They are caused by ignorance or disregard for safety rules. The rules of safety and proper handling of firearms (all guns) should be practiced until they are never out of mind. They should be observed at all times. Always remember, SAFETY FIRST, SAFETY LAST, SAFETY ALWAYS !!!

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#### ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this corporation shall be to promote the interest of legitimate sport with rod and gun, to encourage organized rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun and archery shooting, with adherence to the rules and regulations of the fish and game laws of the state of Massachusetts . With a view toward a better knowledge on the part of each member for safe handling and proper care of firearms, and improved marksmanship. It will be the organization's further objective and purpose to promote characteristics of honesty, fellowship, self-discipline, team play, and self-reliance, which are the essentials of good sportsmanship and the foundation of true patriotism

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**I - GENERAL NRA GUN SAFETY**  
**RULES**  
**WHEN HANDLING A FIREARM**  
**(ALL GUNS)**

**1. ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE IN A SAFE DIRECTION.** Whether you are shooting or simply handling your gun, never point the muzzle at yourself or others. Common sense should dictate which direction is safest depending on your location and other conditions. When on the range, **ALWAYS** point your gun down range.

**2. A SAFE DIRECTION IS:** a direction in which if the gun does discharge it will not cause injury, death, or property damage by a **Direct Hit, Ricochet, or Over-penetration**

**3. KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER (PLACE IT ON THE FRAME)** until you are ready to shoot.

**4. KEEP THE ACTION OPEN AND GUN UNLOADED** until you are ready to shoot. Whenever you pick up any gun, immediately open the action and check visually and physically to see that the chamber is unloaded. If the gun has a magazine, remove it and make sure it is empty. If you do not know how to open the gun's action, leave it alone and get help from someone who does.

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## **WHEN SHOOTING A GUN:**

### **5. KNOW HOW THE GUN OPERATES.**

Before handling any gun, learn how it operates. Know the basic parts, how to open and close the action (the moving parts that allow you to load, shoot, and unload the empty casings or bullets) safely and how to safely remove ammunition from the gun and magazine or clip. Always remember, a gun's safety is a mechanical device that may fail. Nothing can replace safe gun handling.

### **6. BE SURE YOUR GUN AND**

**AMMUNITION ARE COMPATIBLE.** Only ammunition (i.e. cartridges, shells, pellets, BBs) specifically designed for a particular gun can be fired safely in that gun. Most guns have the ammunition type to be used stamped on the barrel, slide or other location. Refer to the owner's manual. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and most times stamped on each cartridge. Do not shoot the gun if there is any question about the compatibility of the gun and ammunition. If the bullet is not easily accepted by the gun, magazine, clip, or chamber do not force it in

### **7. CARRY ONLY ONE CALIBER/GAUGE OF AMMUNITION WHEN SHOOTING**

Smaller ammunition can be accidentally placed in a gun chamber designed for larger ammunition creating an obstruction and hazard. Remove unfired ammunition from clothing when your finished shooting, place it in its original container, in order to avoid accidentally mixing different ammunition the next time you shoot.

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**8. BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND.** Be positive you have identified your target beyond all doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target (cranberry bogs, workers, homes, people etc.). This means observe your area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap. **THINK FIRST – SHOOT SECOND!**

**9. WEAR EYE AND EAR PROTECTION AS APPROPRIATE.** Even those wearing eyeglasses and those standing nearby. Guns are loud. They can also emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. Safety glasses and ear protectors are **MANDATORY**. A little precaution may save your sight and hearing.

**10. DO NOT MIX ALCOHOL OR DRUGS WITH SHOOTING.** Alcohol and/or drugs are likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions and must not be used before or while handling or shooting guns.

**11. BE AWARE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL RULES UNIQUE TO A PARTICULAR SITUATION.** The basic rules as listed above for safe handling and shooting of guns may need to be supplemented with other rules. For example, different types of ranges such as pistol, rifle, shotgun trap, and archery ranges may have specific rules that must be learned and followed. Remember, whether in the home, at the range, or in the field, **YOU** are the person that is responsible for gun safety.

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### **CLEANING**

The cleaning of guns in the clubhouse is prohibited. Before cleaning your gun, make absolutely sure that it is unloaded. All ammunition should be stored away from the cleaning area. The gun's action should be open during the cleaning process. Regular cleaning is important. Your gun should be cleaned after each use. A gun brought out of prolonged storage should be cleaned before shooting. Accumulated moisture, dirt or grease can interfere with the gun's safe operation.

### **STORAGE**

Several factors should be considered when you decide on where and how you intend to store your guns. Your particular needs will be a major part of the consideration. Safe and secure storage requires that all untrained and/or not properly licensed individuals (especially children) be denied access to your guns. Massachusetts Law (M.G.L. c. 140 s. 131L) requires that all guns not under your direct control be stored in a locked container or equipped with a tamper resistant lock.

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## **II. GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR USE OF THE CLUB**

**1.** All members are required to wear membership identification in a visible manner while on club property.

**2.** Members are responsible for signing guests in the logbook upon arriving at the club.

**3.** All doors and gates are to remain locked, unless otherwise posted, to prevent unauthorized use of club property. Individuals authorized by the Board of Directors may suspend this rule during certain activities.

**4.** All persons on ranges must wear hearing protection.

**5.** All persons on the ranges must wear eye protection

**6.** You must properly holster or have cased all guns upon exiting your vehicle and/or guns that are carried onto club property.

**7.** Cross draw holsters are not allowed for active fire on ranges.

**8.** When guns are uncased or un-holstered, all actions must be open and the gun unloaded, except when ready to shoot.

**9.** All guns are assumed to be loaded and should be treated as such.

**10.** All loading and/or unloading of guns must be done on a designated range firing line only. Absolutely no loading or unloading of guns in the clubhouse.

**11.** No alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed on club property at any time, or any person under the influence of same. Violation of this rule will be cause for immediate dismissal. (The Board of Directors may suspend this rule for a specific scheduled organized function when all ranges are closed).

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13. All ranges are to be kept policed (cleaned up of debris and casings) in a reasonable decent manner. Trash receptacles are provided for your convenience.

14. All members are responsible for reading signs posted on ranges and adherence to same.

15. Obey all firing line commands immediately. Persons shooting in organized club events take preference over individual shooters.

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17. Any member observing a safety violation is required to report same to The Board of Directors with date, time and vehicle registration number if possible.

18. Every member is authorized to act as a Range Officer in order to enforce the range safety rules.

19. All members are requested to help novice shooters, or new members, to explain the use of guns, club range rules and advise and instruct when appropriate.

20. When a Range Officer is present he/she will be responsible for coordination of the cease-fire procedures and the enforcement of all rules and regulations to the best of their abilities

21. Targets are to be placed on designated target holders only. The target shall be centered on the backing so as to minimize frame damage. Target is not to overlap the target frame. When target frames are no longer useful, member is to remove the debris and replace with an undamaged frame. Remove used targets from backings and dispose of properly.

22. Do not raise gun above the target line. Always be certain that bullets hit the designated target impact area Shoot only at target directly in front of shooting position. Cross firing not allowed.

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23. When moving from one shooting station to another, the gun must be unloaded and the action open. The gun must be pointed in a safe direction.

24. Do not bend over to pick up items on the ground during a course of fire.

25. No incendiary, tracer or armor piercing ammunition is to be used on any range.

26. All targets are to be placed close to the backstop (impact area) If no side berm place target at least 3 feet in from the edge of backstop.

27. Extreme care must be taken when rapid firing. The placing of objects or walking on or disruption of any dirt berm or range backstop is prohibited.

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29. No vehicles are to be driven on any range. Vehicles are to be parked in designated areas only. Except authorized vehicles.

30. Be courteous to assure that spent casings do not interfere with other shooters.

31. The shooting of any wildlife on club property is strictly prohibited.

32. When arriving at a range and you appear to be alone, be certain that no other person is down range before firing.

33. If you are down range and someone arrives to shoot, make your presence known.

34. In the event a malfunction prevents you from clearing and/or unloading your gun, do not remove the gun from the firing line. Seek assistance from a knowledgeable source.

35. Paid instructors must request permission and be approved by The Board of Directors.

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### **III. CEASE FIRE PROCEDURE**

- 1.** Any member observing an unsafe situation should immediately call a “cease fire”.
- 2.** When the command “cease fire” is heard, immediately stop shooting, apply safety, place gun on bench with muzzle pointed down range, step back behind the yellow line and await further instructions. If the cease-fire is not for an unsafe situation e.g. for hanging targets you may proceed to step 3 without command.
- 3.** Upon command, render your gun safe by removing all ammunition/magazines/clips. (decap / remove primer or any source of ignition on black powder guns.
- 4.** Place gun on shooting bench with muzzle pointed down range with action open.
- 5.** Once your gun is rendered safe, step back away from shooting station, behind the yellow line.
- 6.** Do not handle any gun or ammunition during a cease-fire.
- 7.** No person is to go forward of any firing line until all guns are determined to be in a safe mode.
- 8.** No shooting is to recommence until the cease fire is concluded with a clear command stating such.
- 9.** Whereas this club allows shooting at various distances on the range no guns are to be handled behind the shooters. The shooters will not ready their guns until in their elected shooting position. Walk to position with gun holstered or unloaded with action open and muzzle pointed towards the ground. If a cease-fire is called for an unsafe condition apply safety, place gun on ground with muzzle pointed down range or holster then follow rule 2 above.
- 10.** When a cease-fire is called shooters on the other ranges may continue shooting unless the situation dictates otherwise. See use of Trap Range, 200-yard Range, 100-yard range and 50-yard range.

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11. For target change, the cease-fire command should be coordinated with shooters on the line.

12. When a target change is requested, shooters may continue normal course of shooting. Do not reload.

13. If a Range Officer is present, he/she will be responsible for the coordination of the cease-fire and target change procedures on the range.

14. Once all shooters are certain that all firing lines are clear and safe, you may proceed down range to hang targets.

15. You may use the target change procedure to retrieve spent casings (brass) in front of the shooting bench and any items dropped on the ground.

16. No one is allowed to touch or place anything on the bench during a cease-fire after step 5 above and before the cease-fire has concluded.

17. Targets and staple guns should be kept behind the yellow line.

18. You are not permitted to pack up your benched gun and equipment and leave or unpack your gun to prepare to shoot, during a cease-fire or target change procedure.

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**IV. SPECIFIC RULES FROM  
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**ARTICLE XIV: RULES AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section I: Member Responsibilities**

*Guests*

All members in good standing may during any of the prescribed operating hours and at anyone time bring up to two (2) guests to the Corporation ranges or club house and there will be no fee charged for the guest's use of Corporation property.

Such guest shall remain with the club member, further the club member shall be responsible for all actions or omissions of his or her guests and indemnify the corporation for any and all losses suffered caused or associated with the presence of their guests on corporation property. All club rules apply to all guests. When any guest is shooting the member must be present and acting as coach. No member shall allow more than one guest to shoot at a time. No guest is to be left unsupervised at any time when on club property. A member and their guest are allowed use of one shooting station only.

- Control their children. Children are not permitted on active ranges without proper supervision, proper supervision for this article will require a minimum of one parent or guardian for each child under 16 years of age, any person 16 years and up are considered as a guest, see art IX sect VII
- Remove all live ammo from ranges. Do not deposit misfired or unwanted ammo in trashcans, place duds in dud boxes supplied on each range

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- Support your club in its efforts to preserve our right to keep and bear arms and to support a full line of shooting sports.
- Maintain the strictest of safety standards while on club grounds.
- Adhere strictly to established range hours. Our ranges are open 7 days a week from 10:00 A.M. to times posted
- Members are permitted to utilize the Archery range from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, as stated by the local paper, with the understanding that noise levels are to be kept to a minimum.

**V. RANGE USE RULES**

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE 50 YARD RANGE ONLY CLUB SUPPLIED TARGETS ARE PERMITTED, AND MUST BE SHOT FROM THE BENCH.

**Note:** Range officers and Board Members may stop any activity or use of any target they deem unsafe. All targets must be within four feet of the berm.

**25 YARD PISTOL(HANDGUN)  
RANGE #4**

Pistol, Revolver, and .22 caliber rifle only. Paper targets only. NO shotguns. NO high power rifles. No Fully Automatic guns.

**50 YARD PLINKING RANGE #3**

**Sundays when trap range is in use coordinate  
cease fires to safely go down range**

Any legal gun EXCEPT Restricted firearms (see section III A). Any safe target. E.g. Plastic Bottles, jugs etc. or tin/aluminum cans. To be placed between the target frames not on or in front of the frames.

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RANGE #4**

Pistol, Revolver, and .22 caliber rifle only. Paper targets only. NO shotguns. NO high power rifles. No Fully Automatic guns.

**50 YARD PLINKING RANGE #3**

**Sundays when trap range is in use coordinate  
cease fires to safely go down range**

Any legal gun EXCEPT Restricted firearms (see section III A). Any safe target. E.g. Plastic Bottles, jugs etc. or tin/aluminum cans. To be placed between the target frames not on or in front of the frames.



Ideally placed on a shooter supplied shelf or bench, all items used as targets MUST be cleaned up by member when finished, failure to do so may result in loss of membership.

**NO** Glass, Food, Hazardous materials (e.g. paint cans, batteries, aerosol cans etc.) are allowed, Only commercially manufactured steel (gun) targets are allowed

**Shotgun patterning is permitted only on this range. Member to bring their own target frame.**

### **100 YARD RIFLE RANGE #2**

**Sundays when trap range is in use coordinate  
cease fires to safely go down range**

Paper targets and commercially manufactured steel (gun) target only (steel target may only be used from shooting bench). Permitted: rifles, shotguns with slugs only, handguns chambered for rifle caliber cartridges, No other handguns are allowed.

### **200 YARD RANGE #6**

**Sundays when trap range is in use coordinate  
cease fires to safely go down range**

Use restricted to qualified members only. Member must demonstrate proficiency on the 100- yard range to the President or his/her designee. High powered rifles only. The red range in use flag must be raised prior to any shooting and lowered when finished shooting. Anyone going down range must activate the red strobe light. All shooting must be done from the shooting station in the bench rest position.

Ideally placed on a shooter supplied shelf or bench, all items used as targets MUST be cleaned up by member when finished, failure to do so may result in loss of membership.

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## **SHOOTING TRAP**

### **Coordinate cease fires with the 50,100, and 200 yard ranges**

Shotguns only. Ammunition restricted to 7 1/2, 8, 9 shot. Clay targets only.

The hours of operation are determined by the Board of Directors.

When on the firing line shotguns will have no more than one round in the gun at anyone time. The loading of more than one round at a time is prohibited unless the course of fire dictates otherwise.

Actions must remain open until it is your turn to shoot.

When changing positions, shotgun must be unloaded, actions open and muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

**EXCEPTION:** The mid range area (AKA Professional Range) is designated for law enforcement training. Law enforcement training and will not be conducted on the other ranges. The local law enforcement agencies approved to use this range have written rules for its use. Permission is granted by the President or his designee. This range is off limits to all other club members when scheduled law enforcement training is present.

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**PROFESSIONAL RANGE**

All use of this range must be scheduled with the President or his designee.  
The priority for use of this range is as follows:  
Weekends Trap  
Law enforcement  
Professional training groups  
Club Members using “restricted firearms”

**Section III Restrictions:**

**MACHINE GUN AND OTHER  
RESTRICTED FIREARM USE  
AND POSSESSION**

A,) Machine Gun Use and Possession shall be restricted to club members possessing a valid current “ License to Posses a Machine Gun” issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a copy of which must on file with the Board. The member shall submit a written request to the Board of Directors for each membership period. Use of restricted firearms shall be restricted to the Trap / Law enforcement range only. The maximum distance from the target shall not exceed 25 yards.  
All restricted firearms use must be scheduled in advance with the Board of Directors and / or the President as is done with all law enforcement agencies. Members using restricted firearms shall not have guests when these firearms are present. An exception shall be made for active duty law enforcement military and homeland security who may use agency authorized guns during agency authorized training. These members must notify the Board of Directors prior to such use.

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**B)** Binary trigger guns and any other that simulates a fully automatic firearms shall be restricted in the same manner as Machine Guns ( see A. above ) .

**C)** Members using restricted must carry current written permission (from the president or the Board of Directors) when said firearm is in use.

**D)** Restricted firearms may only be used on the trap / law enforcement range.

**E)** All members, law enforcement, and military using restricted firearms shall follow the scheduling, use and all other protocols set by the Board of Directors and the President.

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### **ARCHERY RANGE #5 RULES**

1. All type bows are allowed. No restriction is placed on the draw/pull weight.
2. Field Points ONLY are allowed to be shot at hay bales.
3. Broad heads and Razor points are allowed to be shot at specifically designed targets to handle the use of same ONLY. DO NOT shoot Broad heads or Razor points at hay bales.
4. Tarpaulin must be removed prior to using the range and then replaced when finished shooting.
5. Targets are to be placed as low as possible on or against the backstop.
6. The use of firearms on the archery range is PROHIBITED. The use of same will be cause for IMMEDIATE dismissal from the club.
7. Exploding targets are prohibited.
8. NO Cross shooting.
9. NO Tree stands.
10. Use the "Common Shooting Line" at all times.
11. Club owned 3D Targets shall be used ONLY under the direction of the Chairperson of The Archery Committee or designee or The President of The Sippican Rod & Gun Club.

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**V. RULE CHANGES**

The Board of Directors shall administer and oversee the management of the club. The Board of Directors shall promulgate, modify and / or change , as they deem necessary, the rules and regulations of the club to fulfill their obligations as set forth in the Corporation By-Laws.

**APPROVED BY THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SIPPICAN ROD & GUN CLUB:  
September 9, 2021**

Andrew Daniel                      Scott Coelho  
President                              Vice President  
  
Marcy Haaland                      Margaret Gonsalves  
Treasurer                              Secretary

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

John Striscio                      Frank Coelho  
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