

**WADSWORTH DISTRICT CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
GROUNDS OPERATING AND USE RULES  
Enacted January 20, 2014**

**PREAMBLE**

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

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 The WDCL property (Grounds) is approximately 30 acres and located at 8445 Leatherman Road. Sole member clubs (MC) of the WDCL are the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), the Wadsworth Hunt Club (WHC) and the Wadsworth Boys and Girls 4-H Clubs (4-H). The use of the Grounds is a privilege extended to members in good standing of these clubs. Persons use the Grounds at their own risk. WDCL assumes no responsibility for accidents, injuries, or loss of equipment. Individuals failing to abide by the following rules and guidelines will forfeit the use of the Grounds for a minimum of six months. WDCL may impose additional penalties.

1.2 Each MC will distribute this document annually to each respective individual club member in good standing and will obtain a signed and dated receipt to the document titled Wadsworth District Conservation League General Release and Waiver prior to having access to the Grounds. Each MC 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 WDCL.

1.3 All groups (defined as a formal organization with written bylaws and constitution) must have at least one member of a MC present at all times during their use of the Grounds. Individual club members are responsible for the actions of their guests and their children. Alcoholic beverages, stimulants, or depressants are prohibited anywhere on the Grounds. Additionally, individuals under the influence of the alcoholic beverages, stimulants, or depressants are prohibited anywhere on the Grounds

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. Each MC will maintain and police their own lock; however, in no case will individual club members receive access to the club Grounds without complying with section 1.2.

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. When you lock the gate, **MAKE SURE THAT ALL LOCKS ARE IN SERIES** or some MC 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 Grounds during the appropriate hunting seasons. No hunting until opening of squirrel season each year and then only by bow and arrow or shotgun (no rifle, slug gun, or pistol). No tree stands or blinds 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 WDCL property 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 GROUNDS AND CLUBHOUSE

4.1 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 the WDCL on a first-come first-served basis. Any person reserving Grounds must remove all garbage and rubbish and leave the area clean. Fires are permitted only in the fireplace, 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 WDCL Grounds.

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 approval by the WDCL.

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. Service vehicles are exempt from this regulation.

4.4 Anyone violating these rules will forfeit the privilege to the use of the Grounds again.

4.5 Any person with a current official Concealed Carry Permit is allowed to carry their firearm on WDCL property in accordance with State of Ohio Concealed Carry regulations.

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

## 5.0 FIREARM RANGE

5.1 The firearm range is 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.

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.

5.2.1 A group (as defined in section 1.3) may reserve the range on a first-come basis. However, the group must be approved in advance by the WDCL and submit a copy of the group's valid Liability Insurance policy. This Liability Insurance Policy must be of at least \$1,000,000 in amount and turned into the WDCL no later than 7 days prior to the date the group is intending to reserve the range. The group must, in addition, supply contact information so verification of the group's Liability Insurance policy can be validated. If the WDCL is unable to validate the group's Liability Insurance policy, the group will not be permitted to utilize 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.

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.

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, then the member must directly supervise the guests and may not participate in any shooting.

5.5.3 Guests are allowed only two (2) visits per year to the range. The guest must become a member of one of the MC's 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. 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 silhouette targets may be used only at the 50 and 100 yard backstop. 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 backstop.

5.6.1 Intentionally shooting Grounds equipment, including placing targets such that bullets can strike the target frames, 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 must provide their own target frame, which shall be placed immediately in front of the backstop.

5.8 All firing must be single, aimed shots only. Absolutely no rapid fire. All shooting will be from the designated firing line.

5.8.1 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 backstop such that all bullets impact the backstop and not the ground.

5.9 Firearm type limitations are:

- a) No fully automatic firearms (BAFT Class III).
- 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.

5.10 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 rimfire cartridge cases and hulls and live or "dud" discarded cartridges are to be picked up and either placed in the "BRASS BUCKET" or taken home by the shooter.

5.11.2 Under no circumstances are any 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 If the clubhouse/Grounds are reserved through the WDCL, the firearm range is closed to other persons unless the person reserving the club house/Grounds gives explicit permission.

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

5.17 Training and practice with holstered concealed carry firearms shall not occur on the range at any time. There shall be no draw from holster shooting on the WDCL range.

5.17.1 If a person desires to practice with their concealed carry firearm, the firearm must be unloaded, un-holstered, and made safe PRIOR to approaching the firing line at the range.

## 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, etc.

## 7.0 ARCHERY RANGE

7.1 The archery range is located to the west of the clubhouse. The Range is open to all MC provided posted rules are followed. Operating hours are daily, sunrise to sunset as determined by the National Weather Service. No firearms, air guns, BB guns are permitted on the archery range. 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 WDCL, field tips/target points only. Personal targets may be used (for broadheads/other) but must be placed directly in front of the targets provided by WDCL. Leave bows on racks when retrieving arrows on the field course. Do not carry cocked crossbows on the club grounds. Never retrieve arrows, hang targets or approach target area while others are shooting. Be courteous and use common sense, and report all violations to a club officer.

7.2 If the clubhouse/Grounds are reserved through the WDCL, the archery range is closed to others unless the person reserving the clubhouse/Grounds gives explicit permission.

Wadsworth District Conservation League  
Revised: January 20, 2014

Bud Freeman, President

John Kachmar, Secretary & Treasurer

Wadsworth District Conservation League General Release and Waiver

Whereas, in consideration of being permitted to attend a course for instruction in firearms, for the instruction in firearms, for use of premises, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, Undersigned agrees to the following:

Undersigned agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Wadsworth District Conservation League (hereinafter referred to as "WDCL"), 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 by Undersigned, Undersigned's presence on or use of the range, buildings, land and premises ("Premises"); and any and all acts or omissions of Undersigned.

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 WDCL (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 property) which may, in any way whatsoever, arise out of, be related to or be connected with: the pursue of instruction, the premises; Undersigned's property (whether or not entrusted to WDCL.); and, the discharge of firearms. WDCL shall not be liable for, and 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 WDCL from any and all such claims and liabilities.

Undersigned hereby expressly assumes the risk of taking part in the course for instruction in firearms and taking part in the activities on the Premises, which include, but are not limited to, instruction in the use of firearms, the discharge of firearms and the firing of live ammunition.

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 Ground Operating and Use Rules, and any other rules and procedures stated by the WDCL.

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 shall not constitute any waiver of WDCL's right to pursue other available remedies. This instrument binds Undersigned and his/her executors, personal representatives, administrators, assignees, heirs and next of kin.

Members Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Members Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_