

DESOTO GUN CLUB INC. MEMBER HANDBOOK

This is the most current edition of the Member Handbook available. The revised date was June 2022. Please discard any older DGC Member Handbooks and use this edition only.

CONTACT METHODS:

Physical street address: 2347 NW Hwy 70 Arcadia, Florida 34266

Mailing address: Desoto Gun Club Inc. PO Box 1923 Arcadia, Florida 34265

Web address: www.desotogunclub.com

Please note that on the club's web pages there are "links" that provide contact capability to the Membership Secretary, the Administrator, and the Range Safety Officer. Please use such for any contact requirements you may encounter.

CLUB MISSION:

To provide SAFE shooting ranges for its members, and guests, to enjoy the safe use of firearms, and the shooting sports in general. Desoto Gun Club Inc. is a private shooting facility open to members and their guests only. **SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT.**

MONTHLY MATCHES:

- It should be noted that Desoto Gun Club Inc. maintains a shooting schedule of regular monthly matches.
- These matches are open to the general public to participate in.
- Match waivers must be signed by all match participants.
- Please see the club calendar at www.desotogunclub.com for this schedule.
- Also please note that Desoto Gun Club Inc. may provide use of ranges to local law enforcement, and other community use groups for scheduled events. These events will be listed on the club's calendar on a monthly/weekly/daily basis to let all members know what events happen when, and on what ranges they can *expect range closures* due to these events. Members should pay attention to the club calendar to aid in avoiding scheduling conflicts.

RESTROOM:

The restroom is for member & guest use only. It is kept clean by volunteer efforts. Please help to keep it clean. The combination lock will open using **4590**. If you are the last member to leave DGC please check to see that restroom is locked before your departure.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CARD WILL NOT OPEN THE GATE:

- Do NOT attempt to gain access to the ranges by ANY other means. Trespassing with a firearm is a felony.
- Please be absolutely positive of your expiration date BEFORE you accuse Desoto Gun Club Inc. of any wrong doing.
- Please send an email to membership@desotogunclub.com and a *volunteer* will answer you within a reasonable amount of time. Written communication will be accepted as well. Please send to PO Box address shown in the above paragraphs.

Desoto Gun Club Inc. is operated with efforts of *dedicated volunteers*. Angry, derogatory, argumentative phone calls or emails will not be tolerated, and WILL jeopardize your membership.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Memberships generally run on an annual basis. Regular membership meetings are conducted four (4) times per year. Membership meetings ALWAYS occur on the third (3rd) Sunday of the last month of every quarter. **March, June, September, and December** will be the *ONLY* months available for new member sign up as well as member renewals. Range safety orientations will be conducted on the scheduled days for a membership meeting. There will be ONLY ONE (1) range safety orientation conducted each membership day at 10:30 AM. All new members are required to attend one of these. Sponsors MUST be present during the time they sponsor anyone to become a member. The responsibility of maintaining a *current* membership belongs to the individual member & NOT DGC. Each member should monitor their membership expiration date, renewal requirements, etc. Spaces are provided at the end of this handbook to record those dates.

Checks for renewal fees will not be processed until a membership day.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL MEMBERS & GUESTS MUST BE LAWFULLY ALLOWED TO OWN AND USE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. ANY PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY IN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT PERMITTED ON DESOTO GUN CLUB INC. PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF USING FIREARMS.

DESOTO GUN CLUB INC. RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE OR REVOKE MEMBERSHIPS.

GUESTS & GUEST WAIVERS:

A “guest” will be defined as ANYBODY not in possession of a CURRENT Desoto Gun Club Inc. membership. Due to lack of insurance coverage upon guests, every member must realize that they therefore assume/accept ALL responsibility for that guest, including any legal fees incurred. Member & guest **BOTH MUST** fill out the necessary waiver each time a range visit occurs in which a member has a guest with him/her. Members who don’t accept this responsibility will be at risk of a written safety violation. Blank waiver forms will always be available in the boxes on the 50 YARD action pistol range (tan building area) and MUST be completed immediately upon entry to DGC property and returned to the designated box (below blank form box).

- New members in their 1st probationary year will bring **ONLY** a spouse or child during their first year of probationary membership. After the probation period (one year) ends, any member can bring guests that are not family members.
- Each member is limited to **no more than TWO guests per visit.**
- Every guest must be with a member at all times while on Desoto Gun Club Inc. property. **Example:** guests can NOT be shooting on a different range than the member they came with.
- Non members who participate in regular scheduled matches MUST sign a waiver and be in accompaniment of the match director during the match. This person (non-member) will NOT shoot at all after the match is over unless permitted to do so by that match director. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Please exercise extreme caution in the process of determining who you will bring as a guest. Remember, you the member hold total liability for all guests. Please do not abuse the guest “privilege”.
- **MATCH DIRECTORS ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY GUEST PARTICIPATING IN A MATCH**

SPONSORSHIP:

- Sponsorship is required for ANY new member. A “SPONSOR” is defined as a current member, in good standings with Desoto Gun Club Inc. who must be willing to assume full liability for the new member they choose to sponsor for a full one (1) year probationary period.
- **In order to become a sponsor you must have a current membership for a *minimum* one (1) year period without a written safety violation occurring over the previous twelve (12) months.**
- Special considerations may be required for members wanting to become a sponsor if this member has written safety violations recorded against them.

- **The sponsor MUST be present when a new member joins. There are no exceptions to this rule.** If you want to act as a sponsor, then accept the responsibility that goes with that privilege.
- In considering the duties associated with sponsorship, a member should have “shooting knowledge” of the person they are considering to sponsor, and must feel totally comfortable assuming responsibility for a person wishing to become a new member.
- Furthermore the member should ask themselves if they honestly feel that this person being considered to become a new member will be an asset or a liability to them as well as DGC.
- As a sponsor you may be contacted by an official from Desoto Gun Club Inc. if the new member you sponsor is not able to consistently exhibit safe firearms handling skills while on the ranges.

THINK ABOUT WHO YOU CHOOSE TO SPONSOR!

SAFETY VIOLATIONS:

Written safety violations may be issued as necessary against any member who was observed committing a safety infraction. Such violations will be sent via US Mail to that member, and a copy will also be placed in that member’s file. It should be noted that after the issuance of three (3) written violations a member will have their membership privileges revoked permanently and will not be eligible to rejoin Desoto Gun Club Inc. that person is forbidden to be on DGC property as well.

- Any Desoto Gun Club Inc. member may contact the range safety officer or other club officials in regards to a safety violation they witnessed or were a part thereof. All inquiries & complaints will be evaluated.
- Safety infractions of a serious nature may result in immediate revocation of membership privileges. This will be determined by club officials and the Board of Directors as need be.
- Safety infractions may be challenged in person, by means of attending the next regular scheduled Desoto Gun Club Board of Directors meeting.
- **1st** safety violation means the member **MUST** attend the next regular scheduled Range Safety Orientation (membership days) or their gate access code will be turned off until such time as a Range Safety Orientation is completed. If the member ignores the violation and does not attend a Range Safety Orientation, their presence on DGC will be considered a felony trespass. Member will also lose “guest privileges” and the privilege to “sponsorship” for a one (1) year period from the date of the violation.

- **2nd** safety violation requires the member in question to appear before the DGC Board of Directors to explain himself / herself, attend the next regular scheduled Range Safety Orientation, have their gate access code turned off for a ninety (90) day period form date of violation, and lose their “sponsorship privilege” and “guest privilege” permanently. If this member ignores these requirements and is found on DGC property their presence will be considered as a felony trespass.
- **3rd** safety violation, a member is banned from ANY & ALL DGC range use permanently.

RANGE OFFICERS AND CLUB OFFICIALS HAVE FINAL SAY

ACCESS:

Each Desoto Gun Club Inc. member will be issued a *personal & individual* gate access card. A personal code will be embedded into a DGC proximity card. This card will have the individual member’s picture on it and **MUST be worn while on DGC ranges/property in a manner so it can be easily seen by club officers, or other DGC members.** This proximity card is NOT to be used by anybody other than the DGC member. If any DGC member has not maintained an active membership (expired), or they have committed safety violations their access card may be deactivated/inactive. ***DGC members encountering another person at the gate claiming entry difficulties should not grant them access.*** If any member has a guest arrive after the member’s arrival time, the member must drive/walk to the post located to the left side of the gate and use the “green open button” located thereon as a means of opening the gate for guests. Gate data is stored and can be examined for misuse & attendance. Any gate access card suspected of misuse will be examined further.

* **Shooting may take place during daylight hours ONLY** (daylight hours). No exceptions!

* Gate may be locked open on various match days or membership days.

* Any Desoto Gun Club Inc. member caught in the misuse of their personal gate access will be in danger of revocation of DGC membership.

* Gate access issues should be reported to Desoto Gun Club Inc. immediately for examination & possible correction by means of volunteer efforts.

* Any DGC member who misplaces or damages their gate access card will be subject to a \$25.00 card replacement fee.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE RANGES:

- As a member of Desoto Gun Club Inc. you are responsible to bring any and all the items necessary for a safe shooting experience. Typically, the following items may be needed:
- Firearms & magazines, speed loaders, etc. (Firearms to be “cold” until on the firing lines)
- Correct caliber ammunition, and enough of it. DGC does NOT sell anything. **Absolutely no “tracer” ammo. The use of “tracer” ammo will be grounds for immediate membership revocation. NO EXPLOSIVE TARGETS OF ANY KIND MAY BE USED.**
- Eye and ear protection for everyone attending, this includes spectators as well.
- Target stands and sticks for targets that are *long enough to keep targets high enough so shots penetrate the rear berms only*, cardboard target backers, staple gun & staples or tape, targets.
- Many DGC members have built a target stands, some that are weighted to prevent the wind from blowing targets stands over. The use of club property in the way of benches, etc. as weights to hold target stands down is prohibited. Any member doing so will be issued a safety violation.
- Many DGC members like to bring along snacks and possibly a lunch. Eating foods is permitted on club property, but we should remind everybody to PLEASE wash your hands before doing so. This will include drinking of any soft drinks as well. Lead contamination is very hazardous and should be avoided (by washing hands) at all cost.
- **Alcohol & Drugs,,,,,, NEVER,,,, ever.** ANYBODY caught in possession of, under the influence of, or consuming alcoholic beverages or drugs (including recreational/medicinal marijuana) while on DGC property will have their membership revoked on the spot! Desoto Gun Club Inc. will prosecute such individuals to the fullest extent of the law.

RANGE CLEANLINESS:

Generally the ranges are left in a “clean condition” by previous members. On occasion, you may arrive at the range only to find that another DGC member has left his / her mess for others to take care of. We ask that you take a few moments and clean up shell casings, lunch bags, soda cans and whatever else can be seen BEFORE you leave the property. Generally, all members & their guests should leave the ranges in a cleaner condition than you found it. Trash receptacles are placed about and available for trash and discarded ammo, ammo boxes, etc. Each member is responsible to clean up “downrange” as well. **PLEASE LEAVE THE RANGES CLEAN!**

TARGETS & RANGE RULES:

- The use of paper, cardboard targets, tin/aluminum cans, plastic soda/water bottles is permitted. Steel targets are also permitted on some ranges.
- However, these “targets” MUST be positioned on the berm to insure ALL shots impact the rear berm and do NOT skip off the ground. **Remember to always check your target height BEFORE firing the first shot to make sure ALL shots will directly impact the rear berm.**
- The use of steel targets is permitted on SOME ranges. Steel targets MUST be placed in a manner to avoid any “splatter” or fragmentation from injuring any shooters, guests or observers on the ranges. Please follow the chart included in this handbook regarding the use of steel targets.
- Aerial targets are ONLY allowed on Match Days under Match Directors supervision. Clay birds can be placed on the back berms and used as targets.
- Targets that have “movement” are acceptable. No “moving targets” under the power of engines, or radio controlled devices, drones, etc. Remember, shots must impact rear berms only.
- NO glass targets of any type. Glass, concrete, perishable foods “targets” are **strictly prohibited.**
- No empty propane cylinders may be used as targets. An empty propane cylinder which contains “fumes” can harbor explosive powers equal to five (5) sticks of dynamite.
- Computers, TV, microwaves, etc. (no glass) may NOT be used as targets.
- Use EXTREME CAUTION if an “empty” aerosol can is to be used as a target. If shot at close ranges, these can propel shrapnel and metal pieces violently thus causing injury. Generally, this may not be a good idea.
- **NO EXPLODING TARGETS** of ANY kinds (including other live ammo),,,,,, NEVER. The use of such will be considered grounds for immediate membership revocation.
- In general, we ask DGC members to exercise extreme caution when choosing targets to shoot at. If in doubt, it is better to error on the side of caution. Please clean up used targets before exiting the ranges.

STEEL TARGETS: DGC does allow steel targets to be used. ALL steel targets MUST be engaged ONLY at a rate of fire that assures that ALL shots hit the steel plate in a manner as to assure that no ricochets occur at any time. DGC officials may require steel target placement to be adjusted as they see fit in order to maintain range safety. Please refer to attached steel target chart for minimal safe shooting distances.

Choosing a steel thickness and material:

1/4" AR400 Designed to handle center fire handguns up to 45ACP. The 1/4" AR400 works with 38sp, 9mm, 40S&W and similar cartridges. Great for shooters looking for economic handgun targets and rim fire targets.

For more durable and training use, please use 3/8" AR500.

3/8" AR550 Designed to handle magnum handguns and rifles up to 308, also great for 223/5.56, 5.45x39, 7.62x39 and similar. These targets will handle rugged everyday handgun use associated with clubs and training.

1/2" AR550 Designed for rugged daily rifle use, including 300 and 338 magnum rifles

3/4" AR500 Designed for 50BMG, also works with large 375, 416 and 408 cartridges.

Gong vs. Static:

The static targets are perfect for handguns and short action rifle cartridges. They offer easy setup when compared to a gong target. They work great when hung from a shepherd's hook (we don't recommend this for targets larger than 12"). The statics also allow for faster follow up shots as the target stops swinging much faster than a gong target. When mounted using a 1/2" carriage bolt the target may be shot repeatedly without waiting. This is particularly beneficial when practicing double taps. The static targets also work well for 223/5.56 when hung from a shepherds hook. The static targets are not designed to handle more than a .308 Win rifle. If using larger rifles gongs are a better & safer option.

The gong style (typical chain hung) targets work well for long action and magnum cartridge rifles. The targets also work well for magnum handguns. The stand on which the target is hung must be designed to withstand heavy use.

Caution: Bullet fragments may come towards the shooter and spectators. All persons in the area must have ear and eye protection. Bullet fragments may cause harm to shooters, spectators and objects near the target.

Use steel targets at your own risk. Shooting at steel targets can be dangerous and caution must be taken to ensure safety.

Glossary of Terms

PCC – Pistol Caliber Carbine

Rim fire – Small rimmed cartridges such as .22 LR and .17 HMR

Short Action – Small Frame rifle cartridges – Cartridges upto .308 Win

Long Action – Large Frame non-magnum cartridges

Magnum Cartridges – Large bore or high energy cartridges including pistol and rifle variants

Pistol – Handgun with a barrel under 16”

Rifle – Shoulder Fired, Barrel 16” or longer (including SBR)

Cartridge	Recommended Thickness/Grade	Minimum Distance
.22 LR (Pistol)	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
.22 LR (Rifle)	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
.22 Magnum (Pistol)	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
.22 Magnum (Rifle)	1/4” AR400	25 Yards
.17 HMR (Pistol)	1/4” AR400	50 Yards
.17 HMR (Rifle)	1/4” AR400	100 Yards
.380 ACP	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
9mm (Pistol)	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
9mm (PCC)	1/4” AR400	25 Yards
.40 S&W (Pistol)	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
.40 S&W (PCC)	1/4” AR400	25 Yards
.45 ACP (Pistol)	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
.45 ACP (PCC)	1/4” AR400	25 Yards
10mm (Pistol)	3/8” AR550	25 Yards
10mm (PCC)	3/8” AR550	25 Yards
.45 GAP	1/4” AR400	25 Yards
.357 Sig	3/8” AR550	25 Yards
.38 Special	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
.357 Magnum (Pistol)	3/8” AR550	25 Yards
.357 Magnum (Rifle)	3/8” AR550	50 Yards
.44 Special	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
.44 Magnum (Pistol)	3/8” AR550	25 Yards
.44 Magnum (Rifle)	3/8” AR550	50 Yards
.45 Long Colt	1/4” AR400	10 Yards
.454 Casull	1/2” AR550	25 Yards
.460 S&W (Pistol)	1/2” AR550	50 Yards

Cartridge	Recommended Thickness/Grade	Minimum Distance
.460 S&W (Rifle)	1/2" AR550	100 Yards
500 S&W (Pistol)	1/2" AR550	50 Yards
500 S&W (Rifle)	1/2" AR550	100 Yards
50 AE	1/2" AR550	25 Yards

SHORT ACTION RIFLE CARTRIDGES

Cartridge	Recommended Thickness/Grade	Minimum Distance
17 Remington	3/8" AR550	200 Yards
204 Ruger	3/8" AR550	300 Yards
20 PPC	3/8" AR550	200 Yards
22 Hornet	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
218 Bee	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
221 Remington Fireball	3/8" AR550	150-200 Yards
222 Remington	3/8" AR550	200 Yards
223 Remington	3/8" AR550	100 Yards (16" Barrel)
222 Remington Magnum	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
22 PPC	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
219 Zipper	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
22 Bench Rest (BR)	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
224 Valkyrie	3/8" AR550	200 Yards
224 Weatherby Magnum	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
22-250 Remington	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
220 Swift	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
6mm PPC	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
6mm BR	3/8" AR550	200 Yards
243 Winchester	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
6mm Creedmoor	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
6mm Remington	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards

6mm-284 Winchester	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
250 Savage	3/8" AR550	200 Yards
6.5mm Creedmoor	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
260 Remington	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
6.8 Remington SPC	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
270 Winchester Short Magnum(WSM)	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
7mm-08	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
7mm Remington Short Action Ultra Magnum (SAUM)	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
30 M1 Carbine	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
30 BR	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
30-30 Winchester	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
300 Remington SAUM	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
300 WSM	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
308 Winchester	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
32 Winchester Special	3/8" AR550	100 Yards
325 WSM	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
338 Federal	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
35 Remington	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
44-40 Winchester	3/8" AR550	100 Yards

LONG ACTION/MAGNUM RIFLE CARTRIDGES

CARTRIDGE	Recommended Thickness/Grade	Minimum Distance
240 Weatherby Magnum	1/2" AR550	200+ Yards
6mm-284 Winchester	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
257 Roberts	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
25-06 Remington	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
6.5 x 55 Swedish Mauser	3/8" AR550	200 + Yards
6.5-06 A-Square	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
264 Winchester Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
270 Winchester	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
280 Remington	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
30-40 Krag	1/2" AR550	100 + Yards

30-06 Springfield	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
7.62x54r	1/2" AR550	100+ Yards
303 British	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
8x57 Mauser	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
35 Whelen	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
350 Remington Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
45-70 Government	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
257 Weatherby Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
270 Weatherby Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
300 Winchester Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
300 Weatherby Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
30-378 Weatherby Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
.338 Lapua Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
338-378 Weatherby Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
7mm Shooting Times Western (STW)	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
7mm Remington Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
7mm Weatherby Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
340 Weatherby Magnum	1/2" AR550	200 + Yards
223 WSSM	3/8" AR550	200+ Yards
243 WSSM	1/2" AR550	300 + Yards
25 WSSM	3/8" AR550	200+ Yards

Recommendations for shooting ANY steel targets

- Never use armor piercing (AP), steel core, steel jacket, 100% copper, or other hardened bullets. They can damage the target and may cause injury.
- Shoot steel targets straight on as possible. Avoid shooting swinging chain hanging targets while the plates are moving. WAIT until the plate comes to rest before firing any shots.
- **50 BMG may NOT be used to shoot steel targets. It has been determined that the minimal safe distance for such is 400 yards.**
- BBs, pellets, or air soft may bounce back as they may not have the force to splatter.
- Be aware that the bullet (splatter) may be hot. To reduce risk of fire, do not use in dry grass or vegetation. If you do, make sure there are no hot spots before you leave!

- Minimum pistol distance of 10 yards, (see charts).
- Suggested minimum rifle distances (see charts).
- If target becomes bent, cracked, or damaged in any way including damage in the face of the plate, replace it.
- Do not weld or modify any steel plate.

Use Steel Targets at your own risk, shooting steel targets can be dangerous.

RANGES AND THEIR USE:

200 meter range:

- All shooting activities that take place here DEMAND that ANY & ALL targets be placed at the rear berm ONLY.
- ANYBODY found to be placing targets at any distance less than the rear berm (200 meters) will be issued a written safety violation, and may have their membership revoked entirely, as per the decision of club officials.
- Please exercise extreme caution should any vehicles and or people enter the property located directly adjoining the left side of the 200 meter range. It would be suggested that the 200 meter range be declared “cold” if people are observed on the property to the left side of that range until they vacate entirely.
- Steel targets are permitted.
- “Prone” shooting from a mat used under/between the shooting benches or to the sides is permitted as long as all shooters are safe.
- Shooting from bench area ONLY. No moving “downrange” to shoot.
- No side berm shot penetration.

SHORT LINE RANGE (7 yards) :

- The use of this range for handguns, rifles and shotguns.
- **Steel targets are NOT permissible.**
- Shooters wishing to shoot from “downrange” may do so.
- No ” prone” shooting from the ground/shooting mats.
- No side berm penetration

CONTAINMENT RANGE: This area is for the members who are pre qualified to use full automatic firearms. To be qualified a member MUST have a minimum of one (1) full year of SAFE membership, and *prove by demonstration* to DGC full automatic safety committee that they can SAFELY handle full automatic firearms. This will involve being “qualified” with each individual full automatic firearm you wish to use. NOBODY but the qualified member can shoot ANY full automatic firearm,,,,, no guests, no friends, NOBODY. Qualified members MUST be in possession of, and display a special DGC badge and all necessary federal paperwork to use the full automatic area (containment range) for the purpose of firing full automatic weapons.

- Bump-fire type stocks & binary triggers, have been determined illegal (Florida) and not permitted at DGC.
- Other special devices or methods of firing that act to simulate a full auto rate of fire will be considered as full automatic in the eyes of DGC.

DGC asks its members to refrain from using the containment area for normal shooting applications. This range was very costly to initially erect, and has been the victim of abuse, whether intentionally or not, the containment range has taken a beating.

50 YARD RANGES (2):

- Both of these ranges are to be used with caution for the purpose of shooting handguns, rifles, and shotguns.
- ALL rounds must directly impact rear berms ONLY (no side berm penetration).
- Steel targets are permitted. See attached charts for minimal safe shooting distance.
- “Prone” shooting is permitted.
- Shooting from “downrange” is permitted.

SHORT RANGE (10 YARD):

- This range some of you might remember as the old “Bowling Pin Range”.
- This range is to be used with handguns, rifles or shotguns.
- All normal range safety rules apply.
- No sideberm shot penetration.
- No “prone” shooting.
- Shooting from “downrange” is permitted.
- ***Shoot steel targets here at your own risk.*** Handguns ONLY! Please see attached steel target charts for minimal safe shooting distance.

100 YARD RANGE:

- This range is to be used for predominately rifle shooting.
- Any shooter feeling they possess the skills necessary to safely shoot handguns on this firing line may do so as long as ALL shots impact the rear berm ONLY.
- Side berm penetration is ***strictly prohibited***.
- Some members who have physical conditions that limit their mobility may drive their vehicles downrange to set up targets, ONLY if it is safe to do so. We ask all others to refrain from such *unless you have physical limitations that require you to do so*.
- Please do NOT use this range as a range to shoot close distance by going “downrange” in order to get close to the berm. There are short lines as well as both 50 yard ranges for this purpose.

- Shooters on the 100 yard line must exercise caution and remember that other members may be coming & going from the restroom nearby.
- The use of steel targets is permitted. Please see attached charts for safe distances.
- “Prone” shooting is permitted. However please exercise caution regarding muzzle sweeps and the safety of all others on the firing line.

BASIC RANGE RULES & GUIDELINES:

Generally, there is to be NO shooting anywhere other than the ranges described previously. On specified “match days” the Desoto Airgunners may be shooting at pre approved locations on DGC property. DGC also host various matches on some days. Please monitor the DGC club calendar for such dates.

All firearms are to be carried to and from the firing lines in a safe manner. Firearms are to be loaded ONLY on firing lines. Please exercise EXTREME CAUTION when bringing firearms from your vehicle to the firing lines. Do NOT carry the firearm in any manner as to “sweep” other members with your muzzle. Firearms are NOT to be loaded and handled at vehicles.

All firearms are to be uncased & unpacked from range bags at the firing lines ONLY. Do NOT uncase/re-case ANY firearm behind other members. The benches & racks (behind firing lines) are for storage ONLY. When leaving the firing lines please place all firearms in cases and bags at the firing lines ONLY, not at the benches BEHIND the firing lines. Arrive and exit the firing lines safely. If you can't do this, you don't belong at DGC!

Firearms may be carried in any holster as long as they are carried in a “safe” condition. This means chamber EMPTY, hammer down (if applicable), magazine removed (if applicable). Any member who wishes to *draw from a holster or any other methods of conceal carry*, **MUST** do so “downrange” as to avoid the possibility of “muzzle sweeping” other members & shooters. In other words, take your target(s) and yourself “downrange” to shoot at close, safe, distances. DO NOT draw from holsters while alongside other shooters on the firing lines.

** The use of single point slings wherein a rifle would hang pointed toward the shooter's feet are NOT permitted. **Muzzles can ONLY be pointed “downrange”.**

All firearms must remain pointed down range at all times whether they are loaded or unloaded. When loading and unloading DO NOT point the firearm in the air to insert magazines (AR type rifles especially).

All members, their guests, and ANY non shooter on the firing line while in a “hot” condition **MUST** have proper eye & are protection. The **ONLY** time these may be safely removed is during a “cold” line. Before shooting begins, EVERYBODY has to have on eye & ear protection.

When ANY member/shooter requests a “cold line” the answer by all others present is to be a *clearly audible* YES. If for some reason (e.g. loaded black powder weapon, or other extenuating conditions) the shooter can NOT create a safe condition (cold firing line) with their firearm, the shooter should issue the command “standby not cold” audible to everyone on that firing line. Cold lines must be established to allow shooters to go downrange to replace/ repair targets. To establish a “cold line” all firearms must first be safe. This means actions open, chambers empty, magazines removed, and laid on the table in such a position that the muzzle is pointed in a downrange direction. During the “cold line” all members and their guests must stay BEHIND the lines of fire. Only after everyone present is sure that all shooters are accounted for, and have returned from “downrange”, and **everyone** has on eye & ear protection, may shooting begin.

Any firearms stored on the shooting tables must be in a closed case, or if a firearm is removed from it’s case, the actions open, magazines removed, chambers empty, and muzzles pointed downrange ONLY. DO NOT lay out all the guns you brought at one time in an unsafe manner just because you may shoot that gun at some point in the day.

Shooters are NOT permitted to walk away from their position on the firing lines and leave “hot” firearms lying about. The ONLY condition you lay down ANY unattended firearm in is SAFE condition.

Any rifles stored in the rifle racks provided are to be stored “SAFE”. Actions open, magazines removed, chambers empty, muzzles UP. If you have a rifle such as an AK47 9or other that does not have a “lock open” feature, please use an empty shotgun hull, an empty shell case, ECI, or other device to hold the action *visibly open*.

All targets must be placed at correct height to assure that ALL shots impact the rear berms ONLY.

All members with guests must have properly completed the DGC waiver **BEFORE** any other activity begins. DGC members shall not bring more than **two (2)** guests on any visit. All guests must remain with the DGC member during the entire duration of the visit to DGC,,, NO EXCEPTIONS!

If any DGC member has guests arrive at DGC after the member in inside of the gate, that member will have to use the “open button” located on post, to the left side of the gate (inside) to allow the guests to enter DGC property. ANY member caught issuing their personal gate code out to unauthorized users will have their membership immediately revoked.

Any member or guest caught tampering in any manner with any of the fire extinguishing & prevention equipment located on DGC property will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Range use is basically on a first come first serve basis. We are asking every member to work together and be courteous to one another. NO member has the right to try and force another member to move to a different range or shoot together if they don't want to. Some members don't feel comfortable shooting with other members. Harassing behavior, aggressive behavior, or threatening behavior towards other members will not be tolerated. If it is determined by the Executive Committee that you as a member have demonstrated harassing behavior, aggressive behavior, or threatening behavior towards another member, your membership will be immediately suspended or revoked.

WHAT TO DO WHEN BRINGING GUESTS:

- If any DGC member accepts the responsibility of guests we ask that you FIRST review all range & firearm safety rules with each guest BEFORE any shooting begins. Remember they are your responsibility.
- When taking a new shooter to the range there are a variety of items that should be covered *before* they handle any firearms & ammunition. At the range it is a good idea to try to start every new shooter off with a safety discussion using a blue plastic “training handgun” or a “safe gun” meaning it is unloaded, before taking them onto a “hot” range with live firearms.

The first thing new shooters need to hear is the four rules of gun safety, and how the four rules apply to the range they are about to be on.

Rule 1: Assume all guns are always loaded. This means we don't want anyone behind the firing line with an “unloaded” gun. Keep it on the firing line unless it's in the case, because trust me, it's loaded, and no one wants anyone with a gun wandering around behind them. Approach & leave the firing lines with all firearms “safe”. If a gun is NOT cased, it is to be carried, muzzle up, action open, and chamber empty, until it is placed safely into the shooter's vehicle. If you arrive at a firing line with a gun bag, please remove & replace all guns in the bag on the firing line, and not behind the firing line.

Rule 2: Don't point your gun at anything you're not willing to destroy. That means keep it pointed down range. No matter what happens the firearm should not be pointed at the floor, the roof, the shooting tables & benches, or anything besides the dirt berm. Keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction also applies to uncasing/casing any firearm.

Rule 3: Keep your finger off the trigger until the sights are on the target. Keep your finger indexed, parallel to the barrel, until the gun is up, sighted on a target, and you are ready to break the shot. This will also include times during loading & unloading. Generally speaking, fingers do NOT go on the trigger until we want the gun to go bang.

Rule 4: Know your target and what is beyond it. Paper doesn't stop bullets. Your bullet will travel beyond the target and *hopefully* hit the dirt berm. Keep an eye on your angle of trajectory and keep your aim aligned so the bullet will impact the REAR BERM. Shots that “skip” off the ground are NOT acceptable.

SAFETY IS NOT AN OPTION, BUT RATHER A NECESSITY

MY MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES ON:

_____/_____/_____ Paid by:_____

_____/_____/_____ Paid by:_____

_____/_____/_____ Paid by:_____

PERSONAL NOTES:

All members who receive this DGC Member Handbook swears that he/she has currently in their possession, a copy of the *current* Desoto Gun Club Inc. Member Handbook, has read such, and fully understands the contents, and agrees to strictly follow the range safety rules therein.

**MANY JUST TALK GUN SAFETY. WE ASK YOU
TO BE A SAFE SHOOTER AS WELL.**