

Cascade Shooting Facilities

*Promoting Firearm Safety and
Marksmanship Training Since 1947*

2 January, 2010

Dear Fellow Cascade Shooting Facilities members,

Folks, we have a big problem. And because of it, every Club member is receiving this letter and is required to sign and return the acknowledgement form. We hate to say it, but too many of you don't seem to understand the concept of placing your targets so that your bullets hit the impact berm, and not the range floor. The end result of this is that our club is experiencing recurring incidences in which some shooters are producing ricochets due to improperly placed targets on the outdoor range. These ricochets have been reported for some time now from our neighbors at Seattle Skeet and Trap, and on our own D-range. The ricochets appear to be coming from shooters using the B, C and E ranges. The Executive Board considers this to be a very dangerous situation, and it must be stopped!

The Executive Board began a multi-faceted campaign last year to eliminate the problem. We started with engineering solutions. We improved the impact areas of the E-range with more mulch, and with bowling pins now prohibited on the E-range.

We have begun the educational phase of the campaign. This letter is one of the steps in that phase. Those of you receiving Jim Aries' "Email Blast" will be getting repeated reminders. There is also added emphasis at New Member Orientation to explain correct target placement.

Then there is the enforcement phase. As of its February 2009 meeting, the Board has adopted a "zero tolerance" policy with regards to bullet ricochets due to improperly placed targets. Therefore, any member found with an improperly placed target, causing ricochets, will be suspended immediately, pending review at the next Executive Board meeting! We hate to ruin your day of shooting, but it would be far more tragic to ruin someone's life.

For reasons unknown, all previous offenders we've talked to seem oblivious as to what constitutes proper target placement. Since our previous approaches have failed, we would like to provide this pictorial guide to prevent future problems.

First and foremost, and as stated repeatedly in both your membership orientation and Club SOPs, "***All shots will be directed down range at proper targets in designated areas to impact directly into the berms***", **NOT THE RANGE FLOOR**. The berms have 3 feet of wood chips and mulch to stop the bullets. The floor has very little topsoil with lots of rocks, which will cause ricochets.

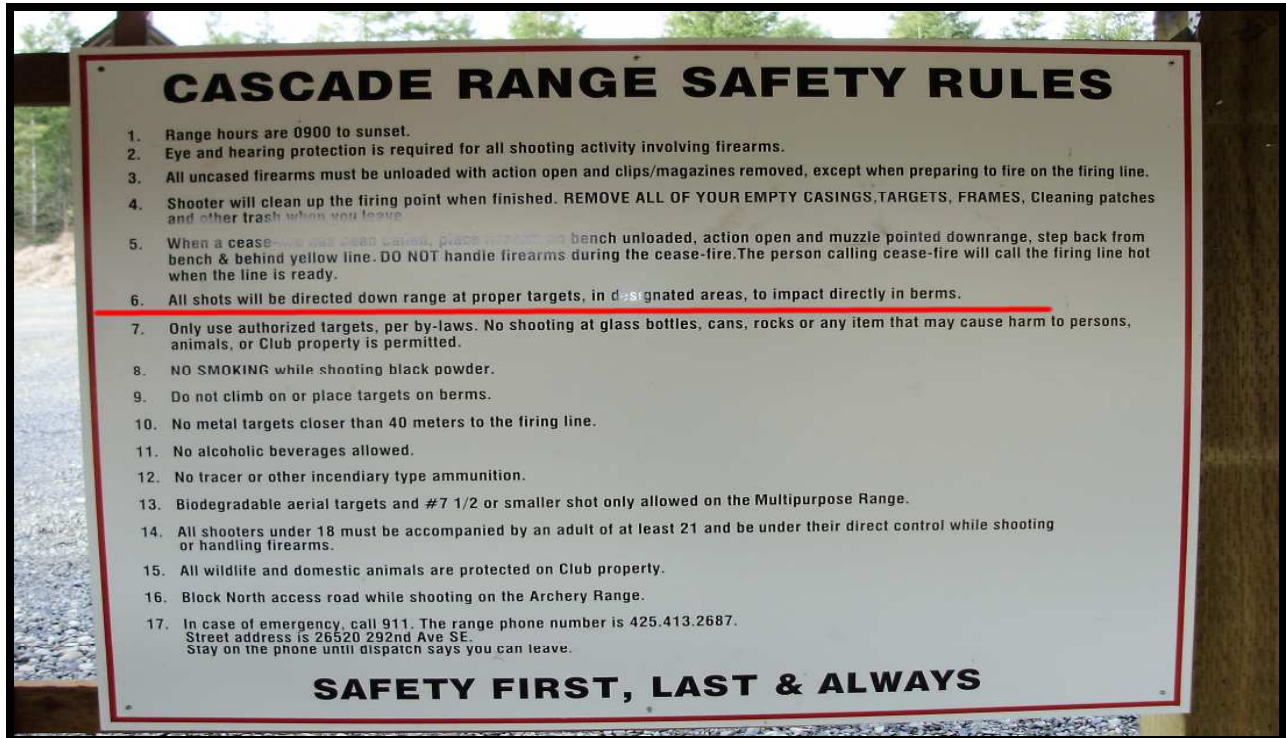


Figure 1. Rule boards appear on every range. This one is on the C-range. Please note number 6.



Figure 2. Red line represents approximate bullet trajectory.

Figures 2 and 3 represent targets at an improper distance and height. The trajectory of the bullet will strike the range floor with a strong probability of ricochet. Figures 2 and 3. are the **WRONG** placement!



Figure 3. Red lines represent bullet trajectory, and probable ricochets.

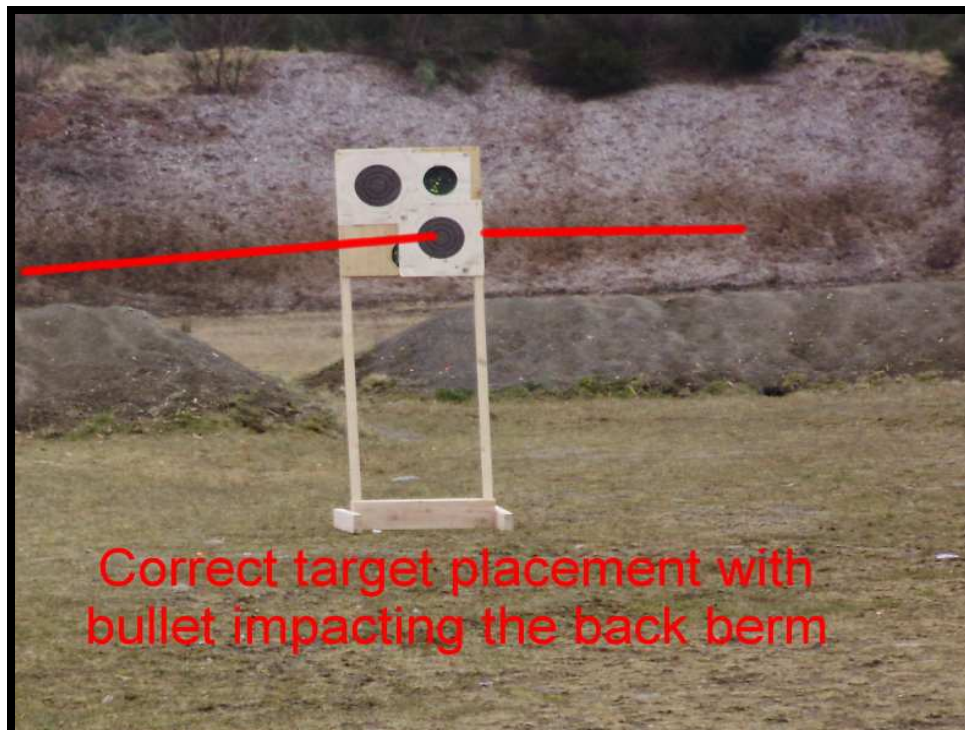


Figure 4. Red line represents approximate bullet trajectory.

Figure 4 depicts a properly placed target for use with centerfire and muzzleloading arms, with the bullet trajectory terminating into the impact berm. In reality, the trajectory would be an arc of course, and not a straight line. Notice that you can see the berm above and beneath the target board. Lots of room for bullet drop. Figure 4, depicts the CORRECT location!



Figure 5. Red line represents approximate bullet trajectory and a ricochet.

Figure 5 represents an incorrectly placed target for .22s on the C-range. Bear in mind that the shooting bench in the photo is well ahead of the shooting shed. This is simply for the purposes of illustration. One can clearly see that if shooting in this situation, the bullet will strike the floor and most likely result in a ricochet. This is the **WRONG** target location.

Figure 6 represents a properly placed target for .22 rimfire on the C-range. Again, the bench is forward of the shed simply for illustrative purposes. This is the **CORRECT** target location.



Figure 6. Red line represents approximate bullet trajectory.

The short targets are only to be used for rimfire (.22) arms and only on the C-range. Short targets are not suitable for use on the B, D and E ranges. Only the short targets and rimfire .22 are to be used in conjunction with the low berms on the C-range (Figure 6).

Targets on the D-range (600 yd rifle) are to be placed in the target carriers only (Figures 7 and 8)! Nowhere else! There will be NO targets on the D-range floor in front of 200 yard shed, no targets on the 300 and 500 yard shooting positions, and no targets between the 600 yard shed and the 500 yard shooting position. All members must successfully complete a shooting test in order to use the 500-600 yd shooting positions on the D-range, or possess a NRA Highpower Rifle, or NRA Blackpowder Cartridge classification card.



Figure 7. Target in a target carrier on the D-range.



Figure 8. Targets in the target carriers, and number boards as viewed from the 200 yard firing line shed on the D-range.

Safety has to be the primary focus on any shooting range. Safety is everyone's job here at Cascade Shooting Facilities. We don't want to become "range Nazis", so it is incumbent upon everyone to follow the rules. This is not television. This is not paintball. This is not a video game. There is no "replay" if you catch a bullet. If you need a refresher on the rules, there are copies of the SOPs in the kitchen cupboard in the Clubhouse. There is also a board with range specific rules at each shooting shed (Figure 1.), and a list of authorized firearms for that shed on the reverse side (outside). If you witness an unsafe act, call a ceasefire and correct the situation. To those of you that are doing it right, thank you very much.

Remember... Safety First, Last & Always!

Your Executive Board.

Jerry Bentler, President

Jim Aries, Vice President

Terry Meyer, Secretary

Christine Ritchey, Treasurer

Mike Ritchey, Chief Instructor

Dave Bailie, Master at Arms

Dennis Astell, Executive (Chief) Range Officer