

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The range hours available for live fire are limited, no shooting shall occur before 9am, or after 4pm. Only Colonial Williamsburg issued firearms are allowed on the range. These firearms have been proofed and chronographed specifically for our range, and no other ammunition or loading charges shall be used in the provided firearms.

Persons at the Musket Range:

1. Range Safety Officer (RSO)– The RSO is in overall charge of that days shooting operations and is the final authority for persons utilizing the Musket Range. It is the RSO's responsibility to ensure safety and proper conduct on the range.
2. Instructor – The persons conducting a shooting session, for no more than two students at time. It is the Instructor's responsibility to teach firearm safety, the proper use of flintlock firearms, their history, load their students firearms, and deal with any malfunction of those firearms.
3. Participant – A student or observer at the Musket Range. It is the responsibility of the student and observer to listen attentively and adhere to instruction and safety protocol to ensure an enjoyable experience.

Approved Range Commands and Definitions:

- A. **"Hot"** – Command given by the RSO to the instructors and participants to indicate that firing may occur on the range.
- B. **"Cold"** – Command given by the range master to the instructors and participants to indicate that all firearms have been discharged and are safe.
- C. **"Cease fire"** – Command given by any staff member or participant at any time a perceived safety violation occurs or a situation which may hamper shooting or compromise the safety of participants and staff, and shall immediately be obeyed by ceasing fire and securing all firearms until further command is given by the RSO.

General Rules:

1. All participants using the Musket Range must successfully complete the range safety briefing.
2. Personal firearms or ammunition of any kind are prohibited, only Colonial Williamsburg provided equipment and ammunition shall be used.
3. No one under the age of 14 is allowed on the Musket Range. Shooters under the age of 18 must have a responsible parent or guardian present.
4. All students using the range must have a valid ticket, students 14-17 years of age must have only one legally responsible adult accompany them as an observer which will not require a ticket. The legally responsible accompanying adult may also be a student, requiring a ticket for their participation. Tickets shall be shown before students and their accompanying adult observers are transported to the Musket Range.
5. All persons using the Musket Range shall sign a waiver and a copy of range safety rules.
6. Use of alcohol or drugs on or before shooting on the Musket Range is prohibited. Participants deemed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall be prohibited from shooting at the range.
7. It is not recommended that pregnant women, or women who think they are pregnant, participate at the Musket Range.
8. If a participant feels they are unable to safely shoot a firearm standing, they will notify their instructor, and if so, a shooting bench with stool and rest shall be made available as needed.
9. A flag system will be utilized to indicate "Hot" or "Cold" status. A red flag indicates the range is "Hot" and firing is free to take place. No one shall progress forward of the firing line when the range is "Hot." A green flag indicates the range is "Cold." While the range is "Cold" firing is prohibited and all firearms shall remain in the musket rack.

Safety Rules:

1. Always keep muzzle of firearms pointed in a safe direction. Firearms shall remain pointed down range at all times when not being loaded or in the musket rack. Instructors shall load with the muzzle pointed in a downrange direction, even when not horizontal in attitude.
2. Treat all firearms as if they were loaded.
3. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and indexed along the lock until ready to shoot.
4. Firearms will remain unloaded until your instructor readies you to shoot.
5. Dry firing is prohibited without your instructor's permission.
6. Only one firearm shall be in use at a time per instructor.
7. Firearms will be loaded by an instructor, and only primed by a participant.
8. Do not pass a loaded firearm from one shooting lane to another.
9. If the firearm misfires, or in any other way malfunctions, remain in your shooting lane and notify your instructor for assistance.
10. Do not leave the firing line with a loaded weapon.
11. Report any unintended discharges or damaged equipment immediately to your instructor or the RSO.
12. If anyone steps forward of the firing line with a hot range, it is the responsibility of participants, instructors or the RSO who witness it, to immediately call for a range cease fire.
13. If a cease fire is called, you shall immediately cease fire, hand your firearm to your instructor in a safe manner with the muzzle pointed downrange unless directed otherwise by them.
14. Never move forward of the firing line until the RSO declares the range "Cold" and it is safe to do.
15. Firing on the range shall not commence until the RSO is in place and has declared the range "Hot."
16. Eye and Ear protection shall be provided and worn at all times while the range is hot.
17. Do not shoot at targets in a lane other than your own.
18. All shooting shall be directed at the paper target, attempting to shoot anything other than your paper target shall result in immediate termination of your shooting session.
19. Because of hygiene and safety reasons, smoking, eating and drinking are prohibited on the firing line or in the shooting area. This includes e-cigarettes. Smoking may be in the designated area, which is in the driveway.
20. Anyone on the range displaying unsafe actions be either verbally warned, if a minor issue, or have their session immediately terminated for serious safety breaches or failure to comply with warnings. The RSO shall terminate that students' session and have the participant returned to the Williamsburg Lodge at their discretion for a major safety infraction or failure to follow instruction.
21. Colonial Williamsburg reserves the right to refuse use of the Musket Range to any person for any reason.
22. The RSO shall be present in the shooting area before shooting can commence. There shall be only one RSO in charge while shooting, and all participants and instructors must abide by their decisions.
23. Blowing down the barrel of a firearm is prohibited, or any other action which puts anyone in front of the muzzle of a firearm.
24. Malfunctioning firearms shall be given to an instructor to clear. The removal of a ball must be done in a manner ensuring as little danger as possible to any persons at the range, or property. CO2 dischargers are available for instructor use and are highly recommended as the safest method of ball extraction. If this method is unsuccessful, deactivating powder with water both in the vent and down the barrel shall be performed before attempting bullet extraction with a ball puller.
25. Loud or abusive language on the Musket Range is prohibited.
26. It is recommended that every person who enters the shooting area will wear close-toed shoes and non-synthetic long sleeved shirts, with closed collars. These may be available at the Musket Range for participant use upon request.
27. Service animals are permitted and must be leashed or secured at all times.
28. All cell phones shall be muted. Photography is permitted with approval of the RSO, but will only be performed by another student with their consent, instructors shall not take pictures of students while the range is hot.

29. Any unauthorized persons on site shall be asked to leave by a member of range staff. Security will be notified of the incident. Regular operating procedures will continue only after the trespassers are removed from the range site.