

ROSS COUNTY CONSERVATION LEAGUE

PLEDGE

I Give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the Natural Resources of my country - It's soil and minerals, It's forests, waters and wildlife.

ROSS COUNTY CONSERVATION LEAGUE, INC.

HISTORY

The Ross County Conservation League got Its start in the fall of 1929 as the Ross County Fox and Coon Hunters Association. The first Officers were Dave Dennewitz, President; Art Sheets, Vice – President; and Jim Vincent, Secretary and Treasurer. The Association was incorporated with 26 members and yearly dues of one dollar. They met once a week in the garage of Nauner Wisehart, and once a month held a dinner.

The big discussion at the meetings in those days centered on coon dogs and the wily fox. With money from the sale of licenses the club would buy coon and pheasants. Over 300 coons were purchased by the club. During those early years the club would invite speakers to talk to them – such worthwhile men as Larry Woodall, Don Waters, Buck Rider and Senator Atwood, all Conservation Commissioners. In 1932 the Association built a one-room building on the farm of Phil Dunlap, located on Pennyroyal Road. The building, 12 X 12 was heated by a stove that at one time had been used at Camp Sherman. As part of the agreement between the Association and Phil Dunlap for the use of the land, the building and grounds were to be available to children and churches. The Association held many family day picnics.

Field trials were held on the Dunlap farm and hounds from as many as eleven States were represented. Sam Woodridge from Kentucky, one of the well known field judges of his day, would do the judging. The Borland farm pond was leased and fifty dollars a year was spent to stock the pond with bass, both large and small mouthed.

In 1944 the Association changed Its name to the Ross County Conservation League. The first President was Arthur Sheets, the first

Vice-President was Harold Barber, The first Secretary was Chester Vincent, and the first Treasurer was Robert Bennett, Arthur Sheets held the job as President for ten years.

In 1948 the League bought the farm of C.D. Fromm, consisting of 140.28 acres, for \$1,400.00. In 1949 the building we now occupy and the pond in front of the lodge were built. In 1956 the upper and larger pond was built and stocked with minnows and large mouthed bass. The pond by the lodge has been stocked at various times with bass, bluegills, walleyes, perch and catfish. In 1963 the club built the shelter house beside the lodge and in 1965 the stone fireplace, podium and bar were built in the lodge.

PREAMBLE

Whereas; experience has shown that better sportsmanship can be attained through a co-ordination of effort than singly we have agreed to follow and further the principles set up June 2, 1930 by the Ross County Fox, Coon and Rabbit Hunter's Association, and hereby establishes the following constitution:

Revised Jan. 1, 1987.

Revised Sept, 2004

Revised April, 2016

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Ross County Conservation League, Inc.

ARTICLE 2 – OBJECTIVE

The objective of this organization shall be to promote better sportsmanship among its members, respect and observe the Game and Fishing Laws, protect and propagate Wildlife, conserve and urge by word and deed the wise use of our Natural Resources, oppose anti-conservation legislation, respect the property rights of landowners, acquire and maintain lands, buildings, and personal property or lease of same.

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

Any person over 18 years of age, who is interested in conservation principles, nature, shooting sports, archery, fishing, and the outdoors, and promises to abide by the laws of this organization is entitled to submit a petition for membership, such petition to be sponsored and signed by a member in good standing, this to be passed upon by the Board of Directors and if favorable action is taken, the petition is to be presented to the general membership for discussion and vote. The petitioner shall not be present for the general discussion and vote on the petition. If the petition is favorably acted upon by the general membership the petitioner shall be invited to attend the next regularly

scheduled meeting at which time the petitioner shall take the Ross County Conservation League pledge and, after payment of the initiation fee, be welcomed as a member thereafter.

Membership is limited to 500.

ARTICLE 4 – DUES

The dues shall be established by the Board of Directors, at a rate per year, payable on July 1st of each Year.

- A. Along with the annual dues a **WORK FEE** of \$100.00 has been established requiring each Member to provide five (5) hours of volunteer activity per year in support of club activities. The **WORK FEE** shall be reduced by \$20.00 per certified hours contributed toward RCCL approved activities. It shall be the responsibility of the supervisor assigned to each RCCL approved activity to maintain a record of the members present and the number of hours each member expends on the activity. Members sixty-five (65) years of age or older by January 1 of each year, Trustees, and Directors, have a fixed annual membership fee. However, such members are encouraged to offer their experience and maturity to assist the RCCL in lieu of activity hours.
- B. Dues Notices will be sent out June 1st. and be due by the July Membership Meeting; Failure to receive payment of the Dues by that date will result in a final notice reminder being sent on August 1st. Failure to pay dues 90 days from the first Notice will result in the Member losing their Membership and all League Privileges.
- C. Any new member joining after July 1st will be billed at a prorated monthly basis for the remaining months of that fiscal year.
- D. Upon payment of a reinstatement fee of \$5.00 plus membership dues an individual shall be restored to membership, if approved by the Board of Directors and providing the membership quota is not

filled.

ARTICLE 5 – MEETING

- A. Regular meetings shall be held on the second (2nd) Wednesday of each month at the place designated by notice. A notice of such meetings shall be mailed or emailed to each member in good standing and to petitioners for membership whose petition has been approved by the membership committee.

- B. A non-member shall be permitted to attend a general meeting in the company of a member, unless said meeting is designated a **closed meeting**. Meetings during which elections of officers are held are hereby designated as **closed meetings**. A member accorded the privilege of sponsoring a guest is held responsible for the actions of his guest. Any member can bring guests but not the same guest more than once in any one year, without the consent of the President.

- C. Special general meetings may be called at any time by the President, or on written demand to the President by ten (10) percent of the membership.

- D. The order of business at regular meetings shall be conducted on a parliamentary basis with the following procedure:
 - I. Call to order by presiding officer.
 - II. Pledge to the flag.
 - III. Silent Prayer for deceased members.
 - IV. Recognition of kitchen committee.
 - V. Introduction of guests and initiation of new members.
 - VI. Reading of the minutes of previous meetings.
 - VII. Unfinished Business
 - VIII. New Business
 - IX. Treasurer’s report.

- X. Financial Secretary's report.
- XI. For the good of the club.
- XII. Adjourn

ARTICLE 6 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. In the month of May each year, the twelve Directors shall select two (2) nominees each for a total of twenty-four (24). The Directors shall contact the people they nominate to see if they accept the nomination and if elected to the Board of Directors **will further accept the office.**
- B. The names of the twenty-four nominees shall be given to the club Secretary for the preparation of a ballot listing all nominees alphabetically, to be voted upon by the membership at the June meeting each year. This list will be furnished to the President no later than the May Directors meeting to enable the President to prepare ballots for this meeting. The six nominees receiving the greatest number of votes each year shall be declared Directors to serve for a period of one (1) term of two (2) years. No Director shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms of office. At the end of two (2) consecutive terms the Director must sit off the Board for one (1) year then may be re-elected.
- C. When a vacancy in the Board of Directors occurs the alternate receiving the highest number of votes in the past election shall fill such vacancy. The alternate shall fill the remainder of the retiring Board member's term.
- D. From and by the twelve (12) Directors will be selected for a period of one (1) year the President, Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer.
- E. Installation of Officers shall be made at the commencement of the July meeting with proper ceremony, charging each officer with his responsibility.

ARTICLE 7 – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the organization, enforce a rigid observance of the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, appoint special Committees and to perform all the duties usually enjoined upon a presiding officer by the rules of Parliamentary law. It shall be the Presidents duty to appoint an auditing committee of four (4) members in good standing. The Auditing Committee will perform an Audit of the League books including all finances and will be done two (2) times per year.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to preside in the absence of the President and perform all duties of the President. The Vice President shall be responsible for collecting dinner monies each month.
- C. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to issue notices of meetings to the printer, maintain a record of all meetings, club activities, amendments, resolutions and reports of Committees and the Board of Directors. The Recording Secretary shall handle all correspondence and communications pertaining to organization affairs.
- D. It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to receive all monies for recording before their transmittal to the Treasurer. The financial Secretary shall maintain a complete record of all bills, segregating and listing them in such a manner so as to determine if chargeable to dinner expense. The Financial Secretary shall maintain an individual record of dinner, dues and miscellaneous receipts. All bills approved on the floor shall be initiated by him/her before transmittal to the Treasurer for payment.
- E. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to act as banker, keep a complete financial record of receipts and disbursements; deposit all

monies transmitted to him/her by the Financial Secretary and issue checks in payment of expenses incurred.

F. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to control, supervise the property of the organization, and transact all business necessary to carry on club activities. The Board of Directors shall be required to conduct a meeting on the fourth (4th) Wednesday of each month to conduct business necessary to carry on League activities. Any Director's or Trustee's office will be declared vacant if the director fails to attend three (3) Directors meetings without just cause. The next alternate will be called to serve as Director.

G. Any time that the Directors wish to spend more than \$1,000.00 on any one project; the project must be passed by the majority of the membership at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE 8 – TRUSTEES

A. The Board of Trustees shall consist of five (5) active League members. It shall be their responsibility to supervise all buildings, lands and properties.

1. The Board of Trustees shall meet with the Board of Directors each month.
2. The members of the Trustees will be elected by the Board of Directors and are to operate by majority vote on issues, but not on election of officers, since they are in charge of all properties.
3. The nominee receiving the largest number of votes is to serve five (5) years – 2nd highest is to serve four years and so on until all five (5) offices are filled.
4. The term of office for a Trustee shall be for a period of five (5) years unless removed by a majority vote of the Directors for inactivity or other just cause or by formal request or resignation. A Trustee shall hold no other office.

5. Whenever a vacancy on the Board of Trustees occurs, the Directors shall fill such vacancy by the same method used to establish the original Board. They may return the same or a new Trustee to the vacant office for a five (5) year term.
6. Any member that has been nominated as an Honorary Trustee by the Board of Directors shall receive a **FREE** lifetime membership at the League. They must be a twenty-five (25) year member and a Trustee for Fifteen (15) years.

ARTICLE 9 – RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. The clubhouse and grounds under control of the organization shall not be used without the authority of the governing Rental Chairman.
- B. No property of the club may be removed from the premises, clubhouse or storage places without a majority vote of the Trustees.
- C. Profane language, boisterous, abusive, or quarrelsome conduct, possession of illegal drugs, violations of club fishing and hunting regulations, or intoxication on the premises is just cause for expulsion. This conduct will be reviewed by the Board of Directors to determine whether a member accused of such conduct shall be expelled from the organization.
- D. Any member convicted of violating a Game or Fishing Law of the State of Ohio or of the United States is automatically expelled from the organization for a period of two (2) years and shall be reinstated only by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and payment of dues and reinstatement fees.
- E. Any member charged with a violation of this Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations shall be advised of such charge in writing. The member will be required to write a full explanation or appear in person before the Board of Directors to explain such violation. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to

determine whether the member shall be expelled from the organization.

- F. Any willful destruction of property belonging to the organization by any person or persons using same shall be replaced or full restitution made for same.
- G. The rental fees for the lodge and or grounds shall be set by the Board of Directors and Trustees.
- H. Every member and any new member will be furnished a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws, and Range Rules.
- I. No unauthorized motor-vehicles are allowed on the property other than in the parking lot area at the Lodge.

SPECIAL EVENTS

It has been the custom of the League to hold Family Day during the summer in conjunction with the children's fishing contest. As part of the League conservation program, the League will sponsor Hunter Education classes several times a year as well as contribute monies to conservation camps and youth fishing programs.

Family in the Outdoors is a hands-on event is open to the public and promotes outdoor, shooting, archery, and fishing skills. Club instructors cover the basics of angling, archery, and shooting firearms in an effort to spread the outdoor and conservation ethic.

The League also sponsors a scholarship of \$500.00 to a Ross County Youth whose college degree will be in a conservation- related field. The money for this scholarship is separate from the general fund and is used for this scholarship only.

FISHING RULES AND USE OF THE PONDS

- A. No live minnows are to be used at any time.

B. During the Children’s Fishing Contest, which is to be held at the Lodge Pond during “Family Day”, the children are allowed to keep all the fish they catch. When the contest closes the following fishing rule applies to all members and guests. **Fishing at the Lodge Pond is only on a catch and release basis.** When fishing from the Upper Pond no more than two (2) fish per day are to be taken by a member of the club. A guest fishing with a member at the Upper Pond is also allowed no more than two (2) fish. Bluegills may be taken in any number. **Failure to comply with these fishing rules may result in the loss of Membership in the League.** Boats can be used on the ponds for fishing or work only. No gasoline engines are permitted on either pond. Boats are not to be left on or around the ponds. **Swimming is not permitted** in the ponds by members or non-members.

USE OF SHOOTING RANGE

See Range Rules attached in Appendix I

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- Any member may serve on any of the committees. Just contact the President or any of the Directors and make them aware of such a desire to serve.
- Fishing is allowed without a license, but members fishing; must have a valid membership card.
- Hunting is allowed, but members hunting must have a valid Ohio Hunting license.
- No card playing during meetings.
- Bar is closed during meetings.
- The last ex-President, if an outgoing Director, may voluntarily attend Board of Director meetings.

- If two (2) nominees are nominated for the same office, The Board of Directors will vote by secret ballot. (**Six (6) outgoing Directors cannot vote**)
- Any active Committee Chairman may voluntarily attend the Board of Directors meetings.
- There are to be no open fires except in the designated fire pits or fire rings on the League property.
- Camping is allowed. Area must be policed and left as it was found.

Standard Operating Procedures

Rifle and Pistol range

Ross County Conservation League

428 Brown Hollow Road

Chillicothe, OH. 45601

740-775-8285

The conservation League is governed by its Bylaws, (to which this document is attached), it's officers, directors, and trustees.

The range operations will be overseen by the Chief Range Safety Officer. CRSO will train and supervise Range Safety Officers (back of their membership card will be stamped with RSO). Write and review Standard Operating Procedures, and Range rules. Review range operations with the range committee, and report to the Board of Directors. RSO's will supervise range activities to ensure safety, and range rules are followed.

Range capabilities

A 150-yard rifle range and a pistol "pit" are available for use by members and guests.

The range is bounded by warning signs alerting persons that they are approaching/entering a range area.

Any legal firearm in safe operating condition may be used on the range, except

- No fully automatic firearms (machine guns)
- No burst fire guns (fires more than one round per trigger pull, but not continuously).
- No destructive devices. See NFA and ATF rulings for identification guidance.

The use of suppressors, moderators, or silencers is approved. Provided the user has in their possession the ATF paperwork for that device.

Any legal, safe, cartridge, shot shell, ball /propellant/ primer cup is approved for use.

Approved targets.

Any paper target, properly mounted on a target frame is approved for use at any distance, with any approved cartridge.

Steel targets.

- Owned by The League,
Small diameter plate rack.

Limited to rimfire and low-velocity handguns (less than 1100 feet per second) with a distance of at least 15 yards.

Large diameter plate rack.

Same restrictions as small diameter plate rack when the targets are less than 25 yards
25 to 50 yards, any rimfire, and handguns with muzzle velocity below 1500 fps.

50 yards and beyond, any high-velocity soft point handgun round.

No ultra high velocity, high energy rounds eg 454 Casull, 460 S&W mag, or commercial or wildcat rifle/handgun rounds.

No shotgun slugs on steel plates.

- Personally owned steel targets are approved for use. Provided they are properly mounted.

15 yards to 100 yards, handgun or rimfire rifle use only.

100 yards and further, rifle or handgun.

Novelty Targets are approved provided they are properly mounted, hung, or placed on a frame or holder that will position the targets such that bullets fired at the target will impact the target berm.

Examples of novelty targets include but are not limited to; bowling pins, plastic jugs, soda cans, wooden blocks, fruits, vegetables, candies, clay pigeons.

Prohibited targets.

Not limited to the list below.

Exploding targets (even if you have a permit), propane tanks, bricks, concrete blocks, pieces of cement, appliances, electrical equipment, glass objects.

Range Activities

Primary range use will be unsupervised individual or small group target shooting.

Special event use will be organized and supervised.

By the Ross County Conservation League (RCCL).

By other organizations, by arrangement with the RCCL.

Range Operations

Range hours of operation, 10:00 AM until 30(thirty) minutes before sunset. Seven days per week.

Range closures.

- Any scheduled event(that does not include range activity)

- Rental of the Lodge and grounds
- All Deer gun seasons. Consult ODNR hunting regulations for schedule.
- Fall turkey season for the first week.
- Spring Turkey season, until 12:00 noon

Range opening procedures.

- Confirm if the Red Range in use Flag is displayed. If is, Sign in at the screened-in kitchen at the lodge. Then introduce yourself and join those already using the range.
- If the flag is not being displayed, sound your horn for a 3(three) second “blast”. Check the time.
- Sign in at the screened-in kitchen, any guests must also sign in and complete and sign a waiver/release form.
- Sound your horn 3(three) second “blast” again when 10(ten) minutes has elapsed.
- Sound your horn again 3(three) second “blast” when another 10(ten) minutes has elapsed.
- You may begin shooting, after the third 3(three) second horn blowing (20 minutes total time)
- During this time, you may park your car on the upper-level lot, unload and carry your shooting equipment to the shooting platform, and prepare for shooting to begin.

Range Closing Procedures.

- Call cease-fire, ensure all guns are unloaded, actions opened, safeties engaged, and benched/grounded.
- Go down range to retrieve all targets and target frames. Collect all trash that may be down range as well.
- Pick up your brass/shells, and trash. Put trash and unwanted brass into the trash can. If the can is full, then it is your turn to take the trash to the dumpster. Put a new bag into the trash can as well.
- Sign out at the screened-in kitchen.
- Remove Red Range Flag from the holder and place it in the screened-in kitchen.

Informal Target Shooting Procedures.

- Observe range opening procedures.
- Appoint one of the group to be the RSO if none is present.
- Ensure that all Range and RCCL rules are followed.
- Observe range closure procedures.

Organized events

- Range use will be exclusive for the scheduled event.
- RCCL Standard Operating Procedures will be followed, and modified as needed to safely conduct the event.
- RSO(s) will be present to assist with the event.

Range use education and liability waiver completion.

All RCCL members who wish to use the range must attend a range use and rules seminar, and complete a liability waiver and release. The seminar will be conducted annually during a regular meeting, scheduled in consultation with the league President, Membership Chairperson, and the CRSO. The seminar will also be offered periodically after a regular meeting, as needed. When a member has attended a seminar and completed a waiver, a pistol silhouette will be stamped on the reverse side of their membership card. This Procedure must be completed once annually to maintain "Active Range Status".

The Membership Secretary and Chief Range Safety Officer will both keep a list of members who have Active Range Status.

Range Rules & Regulations

Gun Safety Rules

- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction
- Always keep the gun unloaded and the action open until ready to shoot
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until aiming at your target.
- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Be sure your gun is safe to operate
- Know how to use your gun safely
- Use only the correct ammunition for that gun
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting
- Store guns so that unauthorized persons do not have access
- Wear eye and hearing protection as appropriate
- Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions

General range safety rules

- Know and obey all range rules
- Know where others are at all times
- Shoot only at authorized targets
- Use only authorized firearms
- Do not handle guns or stand at the firing line while others may be down range
- Stop shooting immediately when CEASE FIRE is called
- If you have a gun or ammunition malfunction, Keep the muzzle down range, Finger off the trigger, clear the stoppage/malfunction yourself, if you can do so safely. Raise your support/nonshooting hand for assistance if needed. An RSO will help, you clear the gun.
- Know the difference between a misfire, hangfire, and a squib load and how to resolve each. Wait for 30 seconds (two minutes for muzzleloader) before you open the action for a misfire vs

Hang fire. A squib load requires the shooter to stop, unload, open the action and ensure there is no barrel obstruction before returning that gun to service.

- Never ground or bench a loaded gun. If you have to put it down you are not ready to shoot! Unload and open the action, then ground/bench the gun!
- NEVER remove a loaded gun from the firing line! Ask an RSO for assistance in unloading. If for some reason the gun cannot be unloaded, the gun must remain on the firing line until all others have left the range. The gun must be transported in the owners car to a gunsmith for removal of the live round in as safe manner as possible. Be sure to call the gunsmith and tell them what your problem is before you take a loaded gun to their shop.

RCCL Range specific rules

- No full auto(with one trigger pull will continue to fire until out of ammunition or release the trigger).
- No burst fire(fires two or more rounds in succession with one pull of the trigger, but not until the gun is out of ammunition)
- No destructive devices
- No tracer ammunition
- No armor piercing ammunition at steel targets
- Only approved targets are to be used, (see listing of approved and excluded targets above)
- Targets are to be mounted, hung, high enough to ensure that bullets will strike the impact berm
- Dry firing is allowed only on the firing line
- All guns must remain unloaded and actions opened except on the firing line.

Firing line commands

- **Load**
- **Commence firing**
- **Cease Fire**
- **The range is safe** (cold). Only given when it is confirmed that all guns are unloaded, actions open, and grounded/benched and everyone stand back/away from the guns. After this command is given, you will be told, you may go down range. Only after you have been told you may go down range, you may move down range.
- **The range is no longer safe** (the range is hot). This command is only given after everyone has returned from down range, (count heads if necessary). Only after the RSO is certain everyone is accounted for, and not down range, will shooting resume.
- **Other Commands may be necessary for special events**

Hygiene Guidelines

- Refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, or placing your hands near your mouth or eyes while shooting or cleaning your gun(s).
- When you are done shooting or cleaning guns, wash your hands in cold water with soap.

- Change and wash your clothes when you finish shooting or cleaning your guns.

Special events may require additional rules or regulations regarding, firearms, ammunition, targets, or activities.

Administrative Rules

Parking is to be either in the lower or upper graveled lot. You are to carry your shooting equipment up to the shooting platform.

- Exceptions, (Ground conditions permitting).
- Seniors (65 years and older)
- Members with an infirmity (hardship walking, carrying)
- Special events where a large amount of equipment must be moved to and from the range.

Drive up to the shooting platform, parking behind or alongside the platform.

Scheduled Activities are posted on the RCCL website (rossccl.com), events page. On Facebook, and on the dry erase board posted in the screened-in kitchen.

Enforcement of the RCCL Range rules.

Safety is paramount. Violations must be dealt with and corrected as swiftly as possible.

Severity of the violation must be considered when applying the stepwise enforcement of the safety rules.

1. Educate the shooter to eliminate further infractions. If they understand the rule. Know why it is important and how to comply. It is more likely the rule will be followed.
2. Warning. Inform the shooter that they are violating a safety rule, cite the rule, and that if correction is not accomplished, more severe consequences will follow.
3. Penalize the shooter.
 - Must sit out the remainder of this course of fire
 - Must sit out next turn/stage.
 - Removal from the range for the rest of that day.
 - Suspension of range privileges.
 - Revocation of range privileges.
 - Expulsion from the League.

Emergency Procedures

One person takes charge, an RSO if present or someone is appointed, or assuming an RSO role.

If not already done a CEASE FIRE must be immediately called.

Assess the situation.

Render first aid, within your training and abilities. Note, a person has an absolute right to refuse treatment. If they refuse, record their refusal and try to have them sign a refusal statement.

All guns are to be unloaded (safety first) and grounded, all shooters are to step away from the scene. Unless you are rendering aid.

Evaluate If minor injury/illness, treat if trained, and permitted. See above, re refusal of treatment. Always advise the injured to seek appropriate medical attention.

If major injury/illness contact 911, follow the emergency script, do not give out any other information or opinion to the dispatcher. The dispatcher is trained to engage you in conversation(to collect evidence)do not say anything not on the script. But do not hang up. The script is in the appendix.

Assign someone or several people to guide EMS to the scene.

Assign someone to take notes, eg time of the incident, who was ill or injured, nature of illness/injury, fell hitting his head, gunshot to hand, he was clutching his chest (not he had a heart attack), was EMS called, what time, when did EMS arrive, who witnessed the incident, and other pertinent information .

Have witnesses write down what they saw. Remind them to write down only what they actually saw or heard. Do not include anything you thought you saw or heard, or speculate on what you think may have happened.

RSO collects the statements and written recording of times, and actions that were

WAIVER & RELEASE OF LIABILITY

THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT, IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE TERMS OF THIS DOCUMENT PRIOR TO SIGNING IT, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL TO REVIEW THIS DOCUMENT

In consideration of the services rendered herein, and to access to the equipment and facilities of *Ross County Conservation League*, Participant specifically acknowledges and represents to the Instructors, all title holders, licensees, and concessionaires of *Ross County Conservation League*, and all members, officers, directors, agents, employees, and Instructors, (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Released Parties") **That Participation in the above in the above-entitled course(s) May be considered hazardous and that the handling and use of firearms may be hazardous** and Participant expressly assumes all risk of injury and releases, holds harmless and indemnifies, the Released Parties from any and all liabilities, claims, injuries and damages arising out of participation in THE GUN RANGE, including but not limited to, losses, claims or liabilities caused by the PASSIVE OR ACTIVE NEGLIGENCE of the RELEASED PARTIES, or defects in the equipment, premises or facilities used.

Participant expressly, specifically and voluntarily **ASSUMES ALL RISK OF PROPERTY DAMAGE PERSONAL INJURY OR RISK OF DEATH** sustained while participating in THE GUN RANGE, including the risk of passive or active negligence by the Released Parties, or hidden, latent or obvious defects at the Training Site, or in the equipment used.

Participant expressly states that she/he is aware that participation in THE GUN RANGE, including but not limited to, the handling, operation, and firing of Firearms, can be hazardous. Participant assumes all risks of injury, loss of life, and damage to persons and property during such activity, fully realizing that the "Released Parties" are held harmless from such liabilities, claims, demands, costs, losses, expenses or compensation of whatever nature for loss, damage, or injuries to persons and property sustained by Participant, Participant's heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns and all other persons, resulting from or in any way connected with participation in the GUN RANGE or use of equipment furnished by the "Released Parties" whether directly or indirectly caused or contributed to said injury, loss of life or damage to persons or property by their negligent acts, gross negligence, or recklessness. Participant further agrees to reimburse the "Released Parties" for all court costs and attorney fees in defending an action related to this release or the events and actions referred to in it.

For these express reasons, the "Release Parties" herein disclaim any warranty, express or implied, as to the adequacy of the training provided to Participant, and the Participant has been expressly advised of such disclaimer.

Participant understands that the use of equipment furnished by the "Released Parties" or participation in THE GUN RANGE constitutes an acceptance of said equipment and instruction on an "AS IS" basis. Participant agrees to pay for any damage done to said equipment or property of others.

In consideration of Participant's involvement in THE GUN RANGE, Participant hereby: A) Waives, releases and discharges from any and all liability for the Participant's death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or actions of any kind may hereafter accrue to Participant, the "Released Parties" and the following entities or persons: Their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, and agents, the event holders, event sponsors, event directors, event volunteers, and event officials. B) Indemnify and hold harmless the entities, or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made by other individuals or entities as a result of my actions or any actions during this event.

This contract shall be legally binding upon this Participant, and Participants heirs, estate, assigns, legal guardians and personal representatives.

Participant has carefully read the agreement and fully understands its content. Participant is aware that she/he is releasing certain legal rights that she/he otherwise may have and she/he enters into this contract on behalf of her/himself and her/his family of her/his free will. Participant further agrees that this instrument is intended to cover the entire relationship of the parties during the Participant's involvement in THE GUN RANGE. All provisions of the instrument are assumed to be legal and enforceable, but if any provision of the instrument is found unenforceable the remaining provisions of the instrument are to be considered legal and enforceable and remain in full force and effect.

The "Released Parties" hereby inform the Participant that no warranties other than those contained herein are made and hereby expressly disclaim any warranty not expressly made herein, including but not limited to all warranties of fitness for a particular purpose.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE POSSIBLE DANGERS OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THE GUNRANGE AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY OWN ACTIONS. I RELEASE THE RELEASED PARTIES, THEIR AGENTS, AFFILIATES INSTRUCTORS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES OR SUITS WHICH MAY ARISE DURING OR DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE AS A RESULT OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THE GUN RANGE., DIRECTORS, OFFICERS.

THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY. DO NOT SIGN OR INITIAL THE RELEASE IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR DO NOT AGREE WITH ITS TERMS.

Participant: _____

Date: ___/___/___

Signature: _____

Guardian: _____

Witness: _____

Witness: _____

taken. These are the property of RCCL. Copies will be available to investigating authorities, or Insurance company employees with the completion of proper requests to the Board of Directors.

No one is to speak on behalf of The RCCL without consultation with and permission from the Board of Directors. TO ANYONE including sheriff, deputies, police, insurance personnel. Do not talk with friends or neighbors either. An innocent conversation may be misinterpreted potentially making a difficult situation for The RCCL when none existed in reality.

The RSO or person in charge will fill out an injury report form(in appendix)

All forms and statements will be turned into the CRSO or League President for review by the Board of Directors and if needed, the League's attorney.

Annual review

These Range Standard Operating Procedures and Range Rules are to be reviewed annually, before the May Board of Directors meeting. Any revisions, additions, or changes, recommended are to be reported to the Board for their action.

First Aid Kit

The assembly and maintenance of a first aid kit should be done in consultation with local EMS.

911 script

- 427 Brown Hollow Rd.
- ___ - ___ - ___ Phone number you are calling from (your cell phone)
- This is _____
- We have a medical emergency at our rifle range.
- ___ injured State how many people are injured, or ill.
- _____ Location where someone will direct help to the scene. Eg, at the road, at the trail to the range,
- Do not hang up!
- Do not say anything other than what is scripted, do not answer questions, refer back to the scripted information. This is all that is needed to get trained help to the scene.

WAIVER & RELEASE OF LIABILITY

THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT, IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE TERMS OF THIS DOCUMENT PRIOR TO SIGNING IT, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL TO REVIEW THIS DOCUMENT

In consideration of the services rendered herein, and to access to the equipment and facilities of *Ross County Conservation League*, Participant specifically acknowledges and represents to the Instructors, all title holders, licensees, and concessionaires of *Ross County Conservation League*, and all members, officers, directors, agents, employees, and Instructors, (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Released Parties") **That Participation in the above in the above-entitles course(s) May be considered hazardous and that the handling and use of firearms may be hazardous** and Participant expressly assumes all risk of injury and releases, holds harmless and indemnifies, the Released Parties from any and all liabilities, claims, injuries and damages arising out of participation in THE GUN RANGE, including but not limited to, losses, claims or liabilities caused by the PASSIVE OR ACTIVE NEGLIGENCE of the RELEASED PARTIES, or defects in the equipment, premises or facilities used.

Participant expressly, specifically and voluntarily **ASSUMES ALL RISK OF PROPERTY DAMAGE PERSONAL INJURY OR RISK OF DEATH** sustained while participating in THE GUN RANGE, including the risk of passive or active negligence by the Released Parties, or hidden, latent or obvious defects at the Training Site, or in the equipment used.

Participant expressly states that she/he is aware that participation in THE GUN RANGE, including but not limited to, the handling, operation, and firing of Firearms, can be hazardous. Participant assumes all risks of injury, lose of life, and damage to persons and property during such activity, fully realizing that the "Released Parties" are held harmless from such liabilities, claims, demands, costs, losses, expenses or compensation of whatever nature for loss, damage, or injuries to persons and property sustained by Participant, Participant's heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns and all other persons, resulting from or in any way connected with participation in the GUN RANGE or use of equipment furnished by the "Released Parties" whether directly or indirectly caused or contributed to said injury, loss of life or damage to persons or property by their negligent acts, gross negligence, or recklessness. Participant further agrees to reimburse the "Released Parties" for all court costs and attorney fees in defending an action related to this release or the events and actions referred to in it.

For these express reasons, the "Release Parties" herein disclaim any warranty, express or implied, as to the adequacy of the training provided to Participant, and the Participant has been expressly advised of such disclaimer.

Participant understands that the use of equipment furnished by the "Released Parties" or participation in THE GUN RANGE constitutes an acceptance of said equipment and instruction on an "AS IS" basis. Participant agrees to pay for any damage done to said equipment or property of others.

In consideration of Participant's involvement in THE GUN RANGE, Participant hereby: A) Waives, releases and discharges from any and all liability for the Participant's death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or actions of any kind may hereafter accrue to Participant, the "Released Parties" and the following entities or persons: Their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, and agents, the event holders, event sponsors, event directors, event volunteers, and event officials. B) Indemnify and hold harmless the entities, or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made by other individuals or entities as a result of my actions or any actions during this event.

This contract shall be legally binding upon this Participant, and Participants heirs, estate, assigns, legal guardians and personal representatives.

Participant has carefully read the agreement and fully understands its content. Participant is aware that she/he is releasing certain legal rights that she/he otherwise may have and she/he enters into this contract on behalf of her/himself and her/his family of her/his free will. Participant further agrees that this instrument is intended to cover the entire relationship of the parties during the Participant's involvement in THE GUN RANGE. All provisions of the instrument are assumed to be legal and enforceable, but if any provision of the instrument is found unenforceable the remaining provisions of the instrument are to be considered legal and enforceable and remain in full force and effect.

The "Released Parties" hereby inform the Participant that no warranties other than those contained herein are made and hereby expressly disclaim any warranty not expressly made herein, including but not limited to all warranties of fitness for a particular purpose.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE POSSIBLE DANGERS OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THE GUNRANGE AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY OWN ACTIONS. I RELEASE THE RELEASED PARTIES, THEIR AGENTS, AFFILIATES INSTRUCTORS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES OR SUITS WHICH MAY ARISE DURING OR DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE AS A RESULT OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THE GUN RANGE., DIRECTORS, OFFICERS.

THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY. DO NOT SIGN OR INITIAL THE RELEASE IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR DO NOT AGREE WITH ITS TERMS.

Participant: _____

Date: ___/___/___

Signature: _____

Guardian: _____

Witness: _____

Witness: _____

Injury Report Form

Name _____ Date of Injury _____

Address _____ Time of injury _____

Telephone Numbers _____

1 Describe nature and extent of injury/illness _____

2 Describe how the injury occurred _____

3 Describe first aid given _____

4 First aid given by (names and phone #'s) _____

5 Disposition (specify hospital and phone #, time of transport, etc) _____

6 Notification of next of kin, person contacted, time and method _____

7 Location of incident and condition of the area _____

8 Was protective equipment worn _____

9 Describe steps taken to preserve the scene _____

10 Witness statements attach statements written by witnesses

Witness name and phone # _____

Witness name and phone # _____

11 notes and comments (do not speculate or editorialize) _____

12 Injury report completed by

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

Signature _____

13 Disposition and follow up _____

Name _____ Title _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Attach a blank waiver release form here.

Attach a blank range sign in form here.

RCCL

Range Use Instruction

All RCCL members who wish to use the range must attend a range use and rules seminar, and complete a liability waiver and release. The seminar will be conducted annually during a regular meeting, scheduled in consultation with the league President, Membership Chairperson, and the CRSO. The seminar will also be offered periodically, after regular meetings, as needed. When a member has attended a seminar and completed a waiver, a pistol silhouette will be stamped on the reverse side of their membership card. This Procedure must be completed once annually to maintain "Active Range Status".

Gun Safety Rules

- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction
- Always keep the gun unloaded and the action open until ready to shoot
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until aiming at your target.
- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Be sure your gun is safe to operate
- Know how to use your gun safely
- Use only the correct ammunition for that gun
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting
- Store guns so that unauthorized persons do not have access
- Wear eye and hearing protection as appropriate
- Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions

General range safety rules

- Know and obey all range rules
- Know where others are at all times
- Shoot only at authorized targets
- Use only authorized firearms
- Do not handle guns or stand at the firing line while others may be down range
- Stop shooting immediately when CEASE FIRE is called
- If you have a gun or ammunition malfunction, Keep the muzzle down range, Finger off the trigger, clear the stoppage/malfunction yourself, if you can do so safely. Raise your support/nonshooting hand for assistance if needed. An RSO will help, you clear the gun.
- Know the difference between a misfire, hangfire, and a squib load and how to resolve each. Wait 30 seconds (two minutes for muzzleloader) before you open the action for a misfire vs

Hang fire. A squib load requires the shooter to stop, unload, open the action and ensure there is no barrel obstruction before returning that gun to service.

- Never ground or bench a loaded gun. If you have to put it down you are not ready to shoot! Unload and open the action, then ground/bench the gun!
- NEVER remove a loaded gun from the firing line! Ask an RSO for assistance in unloading. If for some reason the gun cannot be unloaded, the gun must remain on the firing line until all others have left the range. The gun must be transported in the owners car to a gunsmith for removal of the live round in as safe manner as possible. Be sure to call the gunsmith and tell them what your problem is before you take a loaded gun to their shop.

RCCL Range specific rules

- No full auto(with one trigger pull will continue to fire until out of ammunition or release the trigger).
- No burst fire(fires two or more rounds in succession with one pull of the trigger, but not until the gun is out of ammunition)
- No destructive devices
- No tracer ammunition
- No armor piercing ammunition at steel targets
- Only approved targets are to be used, (see listing of approved and excluded targets below)
- Targets are to be mounted, hung, high enough to ensure that bullets will strike the impact berm
- Dry firing is allowed only on the firing line
- All guns must remain unloaded and actions opened except on the firing line.

Firing line commands

- **Load**
- **Commence firing**
- **Cease Fire**
- **The range is safe** (cold). Only given when it is confirmed that all guns are unloaded, actions open, and grounded/benched and everyone stand back/away from the guns. After this command is given, you will be told, you may go down range. Only after you have been told you may go down range, you may move down range.
- **The range is no longer safe** (the range is hot). This command is only given after everyone has returned from down range, (count heads if necessary). Only after the RSO is certain everyone is accounted for, and not down range, shooting will resume.
- **Other Commands may be necessary for special events**

Hygiene Guidelines

- Refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, or placing your hands near your mouth or eyes while shooting or cleaning your gun(s).
- When you are done shooting or cleaning guns, wash your hands in cold water with soap.

- Change and wash your clothes when you finish shooting or cleaning your guns.

Special events may require additional rules or regulations regarding, firearms, ammunition, targets, or activities.

Administrative Rules

Parking is to be either in the lower or upper graveled lot. You are to carry your shooting equipment up to the shooting platform.

- Exceptions, (Ground conditions permitting).
- Seniors (65 years and older)
- Members with an infirmity (hardship walking, carrying)
- Special events where a large amount of equipment must be moved to and from the range.

Drive up to the shooting platform, parking behind or alongside the platform.

Scheduled Activities are posted on the RCCL website (rossccl.com), events page. On Facebook, and on the dry erase board posted in the screened in kitchen.

Range Operations

Range hours of operation, 10:00 AM until 30(thirty) minutes before sunset. Seven days per week.

Range closures.

- Any scheduled event(that does not include range activity)
- Rental of the Lodge and grounds
- All Deer gun seasons. Consult ODNR hunting regulations for schedule.
- Fall turkey season for the first week.
- Spring Turkey season, until 12:00 noon

Range opening procedures.

- Confirm if the Red Range in use Flag is displayed. If is, Sign in at the screened-in kitchen at the lodge. Then introduce yourself and join those already using the range.
- If the flag is not being displayed, sound your horn for a 3(three) second "blast". Check the time.
- Sign in at the screened-in kitchen, any guests must also sign in and complete and sign a waiver/release form.
- Sound your horn 3(three) second "blast" again when 10(ten) minutes has elapsed.
- Sound your horn again 3(three) second "blast" when another 10(ten) minutes has elapsed.
- You may begin shooting, after the third 3(three) second horn blowing (20 minutes total time)
- During this time, you may park your car on the upper-level lot, unload and carry your shooting equipment to the shooting platform, and prepare for shooting to begin.

Range Closing Procedures.

- Call cease-fire, ensure all guns are unloaded, actions opened, safeties engaged, and benched/grounded.
- Go down range to retrieve all targets and target frames. Collect all trash that may be down range as well.
- Pick up your brass/shells, and trash. Put trash and unwanted brass into the trash can. If the can is full, then it is your turn to take the trash to the dumpster. Put a new bag into the trash can as well.
- Sign out at the screened in kitchen.
- Remove Red Range Flag from the holder and place it in the screened in kitchen.

Range capabilities

A 150-yard rifle range and a pistol “pit” are available for use by members and guests.

The range is bounded by warning signs alerting persons that they are approaching/entering a range area

Any legal firearm in safe operating condition may be used on the range, except

- No fully automatic firearms (machine guns)
- No burst fire guns (fires more than one round per trigger pull, but not continuously).
- No destructive devices. See NFA and ATF rulings for identification guidance.

The use of suppressors, moderators, or silencers is approved. Provided the user has in their possession the ATF paperwork for that device.

Any legal, safe, cartridge, shot shell, ball /propellant/ primer cup is approved for use.

Approved targets.

Any paper target, properly mounted on a target frame is approved for use at any distance, with any approved cartridge.

Steel targets.

- Owned by The League,

Small diameter plate rack.

Limited to rimfire and low-velocity handguns (less than 1100 feet per second) with a

distance of at least 15 yards.

Large diameter plate rack.

Same restrictions as small diameter plate rack when the targets are less than 25 yards

25 to 50 yards, any rimfire, and handguns with muzzle velocity below 1500 fps.

50 yards and beyond, any high-velocity soft point handgun round.

No ultra high velocity, high energy rounds eg 454 Casull, 460 S&W mag, or commercial or wildcat rifle/handgun rounds.

No shotgun slugs on steel plates.

- Personally owned steel targets are approved for use. Provided they are properly mounted.

15 yards to 100 yards, handgun or rimfire rifle use only.

100 yards and further, rifle or handgun.

Novelty Targets are approved provided they are properly mounted, hung, or placed on a frame or holder that will position the targets such that bullets fired at the target will impact the target berm.

Examples of novelty targets include but are not limited to; bowling pins, plastic jugs, soda cans, wooden blocks, fruits, vegetables, candies, clay pigeons.

Prohibited targets.

Not limited to the list below.

Exploding targets (even if you have a permit), propane tanks, bricks, concrete blocks, pieces of cement, appliances, electrical equipment, glass objects.

Informal Target Shooting Procedures.

- Observe range opening procedures.
- Appoint one of the group to be the RSO if none is present.
- Ensure that all Range and RCCL rules are followed.
- Observe range closure procedures.

Organized events

- Range use will be exclusive for the scheduled event.
- RCCL Standard Operating Procedures will be followed, and modified as needed to safely conduct the event.
- RSO(s) will be present to assist with the event.

Enforcement of the RCCL Range rules.

Safety is paramount. Violations must be dealt with and corrected as swiftly as possible.

Severity of the violation must be considered when applying the stepwise enforcement of the safety rules.

1. Educate the shooter to eliminate further infractions. If they understand the rule. Know why it is important and how to comply. It is more likely the rule will be followed.
2. Warning. Inform the shooter that they are violating a safety rule, cite the rule, and that if correction is not accomplished, more severe consequences will follow.
3. Penalize the shooter.
 - Must sit out the remainder of this course of fire
 - Must sit out next turn/stage.
 - Removal from the range for the rest of that day.
 - Suspension of range privileges.
 - Revocation of range privileges.
 - Expulsion from the League.