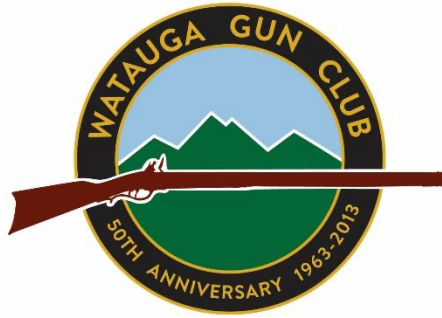


# WATAUGA GUN CLUB

## MEMBERSHIP AND SAFETY MANUAL

Revised July 2023



### Membership and Safety Manual

The material contained herein shall be considered the official Rules and Handbook of The Watauga Gun Club. These Rules supersede all previously published, or otherwise communicated, rules, policies and procedures.

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# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this book is to familiarize Watauga Gun Club members with the proper use of Club facilities. Club members have the opportunity to participate in organized activities with pistol, rifle and shotgun and are encouraged to do so. Members also have the benefit of being able to use the range, individually or in small groups, to practice with their firearms, test ammunition, and sight in weapons. Members are expected to abide by the honor system and help maintain range equipment in order to keep the range clean and attractive.

Safety is a paramount concern at Watauga Gun Club. It is the responsibility of each member to be aware of the Rules of The Club, especially the safe handling of firearms, and to ensure that any of their guests are aware of and abide by the same rules.

Please read the following information and listen to your range safety officer carefully. Always be vigilant and do not hesitate to call a "CEASE FIRE" if you observe any unsafe situation. Please report all unsafe situations to a Club Official immediately.

**READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY.**

**THINK SAFE, ACT SAFE, BE SAFE!**

# Section I:

## FIREARMS SAFETY

Members and non-members of Watauga Gun Club are responsible for the safe handling of firearms while on the Club property. These rules apply to all members and guests while at the Club for practice or sanctioned shooting events.

### FIREARMS IN SAFE CONDITION

#### Handguns

##### A. Unholstered

1. Revolvers: cylinder open and no ammunition in the charge holes.
2. Pistol: magazine removed, slide locked open, empty chamber, safety engaged if applicable.

##### B. Holstered

1. Revolvers: cylinder empty, hammer down
2. Pistol: magazine removed, slide released, hammer down, safety engaged

#### Rifles

A. Bolt actions: bolt open or out, chamber empty, magazine empty or removed, safety engaged.

B. Pump and semi-auto: action locked open, chamber empty, magazine empty or removed, safety engaged.

C. Lever action: action open, chamber empty, magazine empty or removed, safety engaged.

#### Shotguns

A. Hinged action (side by side, over & under, single barrel): action open, chamber empty, safety engaged if applicable.

B. Pump and semi-auto: action open, chamber empty, magazine empty or removed, safety engaged if applicable.

C. Bolt action: action open, chamber empty, magazine empty or removed, safety engaged if applicable.

# GENERAL FIREARMS HANDLING RULES

1. All firearms transported from a vehicle to the range must be in a **SAFE (OPEN) CONDITION**. Each time a weapon is removed from a vehicle or passed to another individual, a visual inspection must be made to ensure the weapon is in a **SAFE CONDITION**. **Further information regarding firearms in a safe condition may be found in the Range Use Manual.**
2. When a firearm is not in use, the safety will be activated and the breach open to show a clear chamber.
3. Eye and ear protection **MUST** be utilized at all times when firing or in the proximity of others firing a weapon.
4. All firearms will be presumed to be loaded at all times. **DO NOT** point a weapon at anyone or anything other than the designated target.
5. Dry firing is permitted only in designated ranges and always in the downrange direction.
6. No loaded firearms are allowed in the clubhouse unless it is a handgun that is holstered by a concealed carry permit holder.
7. The firing of firearms in other than the designated ranges is prohibited.
8. Unless approved by the Club, all forms of hunting on Club property is prohibited.
9. Shout "**CEASE FIRE**" if you witness a safety violation.
10. **IMMEDIATELY** notify club officials of safety rule violations.
11. Strict discipline will be followed while on the range. Horseplay will not be tolerated on the firing line.
12. In the event of a misfire or malfunction, keep your firearm pointed downrange and use extreme caution in clearing the firearm.
13. When you leave the firing line, your weapon will be clear and in a safe condition.
14. Any violation of these safety rules can be grounds for expulsion from Watauga Gun Club.

## Section II:

# ORGANIZED SHOTS AND ACTIVITIES

Watauga Gun Club is active with organized competition in arms in several different disciplines. Club members as well as nonmembers are welcome and encouraged to participate in these events. The benefits of competitions are numerous and one of the most important benefits is the credibility that competition in arms adds to our Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

During organized shooting events, the range is controlled by the discipline hosting the event. In most cases, the entire range is closed to general shooting until the match is over. The club calendar of organized club shooting events is kept on the webpage ([www.wataugagunclub.com](http://www.wataugagunclub.com)). Check it often to prevent scheduling conflicts.

Requests to conduct organized shooting events must be cleared by the Range Officer. Your organization, the type of match you wish to conduct, and requested scheduling must be given to the Range Officer *in writing* for approval. Events must also be approved by WGC membership in accordance with Club Bylaws; plan to attend a monthly membership meeting prior to your event to request range access *after* corresponding with the Range Officer.

New shooters are always welcome and encouraged to attend, whether they are shooting or just observing. Prior to any match, new shooters are examined for proper equipment, safe gun handling is explained, and the new shooter must demonstrate safe gun handling. Accidents are extremely rare and this is possible because of the strict adherence to established safety rules and procedures. Violation of these rules will result in the shooter being disqualified from any further participation in that match. For more information, see a club official.

## HANDGUN

### Steel Challenge Pistol &/or Rifle

Steel challenge uses revolvers, pistol, and rifles with iron or optical sights on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from April-October. Various timed strings of fire (5 per stage) on steel targets are shot over 5 stages (1 of the stages being a speed stage) with the worst string of each stage being discarded to arrive at a cumulative score. The shooter normally starts at a shooting table with their weapon at a low ready or holstered depending on the type of firearm, with adequate magazines or reloads available for the required number of strings. This discipline follows the steel challenge format, but does not hold sanctioned steel challenge matches. Contact the discipline director for further information.

### Action Pistol

Action Pistol matches are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from March-October. Any basically stock center-fire handgun of 9 mm/.38 SPL or larger caliber is allowed. Contact the discipline director for a more complete listing of the rules. These matches use practical equipment including full charge ammunition to simulate “real world” scenarios. Shooters are required to

use practical handguns and holsters that are truly suitable for self- defense. The shooter normally starts with their weapon loaded and holstered and on demand draws and engages the targets.

## **RIFLE**

### **.22 100 yd Rimfire Smallbore Competitions**

Almost any rimfire sporter rifle is eligible: .22 S/L/LR, .22 WMR, .17 HMR/HM2. Separate categories available for open sights, aperture sights and scopes to guarantee a class for each gun. Shooters may participate in as many classes as desired. Matches are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday year-round.

## **TRAP**

### **ATA TRAP SHOOTING**

Trap events that are sanctioned by the Amateur Trap Association are held at Watauga Gun Club monthly. These events are generally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from April-October. Matches may be one, two or three-day events. Shooters from all over the east coast converge on Watauga Gun Club for our trap matches, as we are as well known for our friendly atmosphere as our mild weather. During the winter and off season, the club offers ATA registered Big 50 matches as well. For more information on ATA Trap, see a club official or trap discipline director.

# Section III:

## CLUB RULES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

### GENERAL RULES

All Club rules, policies and procedures will be subject to and in accordance with the Club's ByLaws. New members are given a copy of the Club's Range Handbook at time of acceptance. Members may receive a copy of the Range Handbook by requesting same from any club officer. Members are expected to maintain current knowledge on any rules and operations procedures.

1. Membership dues are \$200.00 per year and are due on February 1 each year. If dues are not paid by February 1, the member will be considered to be a new member and must re-apply for membership, including attending the range safety briefing and paying an initiation fee. New members are assessed an initiation fee of \$50 in addition to club dues and National Rifle Association membership is required for WGC membership.
2. New members will undergo an orientation course before becoming active members. Renewing members must attend at least one regular business meeting in the prior calendar year to be eligible for renewal.
3. If the card system for club access is not in operation, the club may use combination locks until repairs are complete. The combination will be provided to any member in good standing by publication in club minutes as well as an e-mail distribution. **DO NOT GIVE OUT THE COMBINATION TO ANY NON-MEMBER OR MEMBER NOT IN GOOD STANDING! DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE ELSE TO USE YOUR ACCESS CARD.**
4. An incident reporting log is located in the clubhouse on the table beside the water fountain. Any safety incidents or machine problems, etc. should be carefully documented in detail to facilitate appropriate and timely action. Urgent incidents should be reported immediately to a member of the Executive Committee.
5. The last member leaving the club property will be responsible for insuring that the facility is properly secured; all equipment turned OFF, all buildings LOCKED and the gate LOCKED.
6. It is important that all members display their membership badge while on the club property. Members who observe someone they do not know on the club property are asked to please ask to see their membership badge or card. If they do not have their club identification, get their name, or if the member prefers, record any relevant information including tag number, vehicle description, and time and date of the incident and enter the information in the incident log and report them to a club officer.
7. Members should leave the facilities in better condition than they found it.



Violation of the following rules, but not limited to, may result in the SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION from The Watauga Gun Club.

1. Revealing the Club Combination to any non-member or a member not in good standing is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. The same applies to cards; allowing a non-member to use your card to enter the range is strictly forbidden; members must be present with any non-members that are their guests while on the range.
2. Vandalism, destruction, or theft of Club property or that of a member or guest.
3. Assault, threats or any behavior that disrupts the harmony of the Club.
4. Involvement in drinking and/or illegal drug use while on club property.
5. Entering club property while intoxicated.
6. Repeated rules violations.
7. Pointing or firing a weapon, regardless of loaded condition, at anyone or anything other than a designated target.
8. Use of club facilities without having first received training contained in this manual and a signed acknowledgement of same on file with the Secretary.

# Section IV:

## BYLAWS OF WATAUGA GUN CLUB

*Last Amended April 2022*

### **Article I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be Watauga Gun Club, Inc.

### **Article II – Object**

The object of this organization shall be the encouragement of organized shooting events among the citizens of the United States in our community, with a view toward better knowledge on the part of such citizens of safe handling and proper care of firearms, as well as improved marksmanship. It shall be further object and purpose to forward the development of those characteristics of honesty, good fellowship, self-discipline, team play and self-reliance, which are the essentials of good sportsmanship and the foundation of true patriotism.

### **Article III – Membership**

Any citizen of the United States at least 18 years of age may become a member to this organization on vote of the membership after subscribing to the following pledge and on payment of the usual initiation fee and dues.

#### **The NRA Pledge**

I certify that I am a citizen of the United States of America and that I am not a member of any organization or group which has as any part of its program the attempt to overthrow the government of the United States or any of its political subdivisions by force or violence; that I have never been convicted of a crime of violence, and if admitted to membership I will faithfully endeavor to fulfill the obligations of good sportsmanship and good citizenship.

### **Article IV – Dues (Amended April 2022)**

1. The member's annual dues to the club shall be \$200.00 due no later than February 1st of each year. Law enforcement agency or ROTC dues are billed at an annual rate of \$500.00 per year.
2. If renewal membership dues are not received by February 1, membership will terminate. Terminated members would be required then to follow the New Member requirements, including initiation fees, in order to rejoin the club and use club facilities.
3. 10% of membership dues go to a Capital Reserves Fund until the account is equivalent to one year's dues. The fund is for club improvements or emergencies.

4. Annual dues are prorated for new members only and not prorated for renewal. Prorated dues calculations begin in July.

5. Dues for Executive Committee members will be waived for the term served. If for some reason the member is unable to serve the full year of their term or they are removed for a disciplinary action or other matter that does not preclude them from general membership, they will be responsible for paying their annual membership dues (or prorated dues if applicable) for the remainder of the year. If the dues are not paid, they will be ineligible for membership or other office until the matter is resolved. Special circumstances for personal matters or other emergent events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

6. Lifetime members of Watauga Gun Club, while meeting all applicable eligibility rules for membership, are exempt from payment of annual dues.

### **Article V – Meetings**

1. **Annual Meeting** The annual meeting of the club shall be held on the second Thursday of December in each year. If the annual meeting shall not take place within a reasonable time thereafter the officers shall hold over until their successors shall have been elected.
2. **Regular Meetings** The regular business meeting of the club for the transaction of ordinary business shall be held on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:00 pm at the Watauga Gun Club club house or, at such time and place as may be fixed by the Executive Committee.
3. **Special Meetings** A special meeting of the club may be held at any time upon the call of the President or upon the call of the Executive Committee, or upon the demand in writing, stating the object of the proposed meeting, and signed by not less than 20% of the members entitled to vote. The Executive Committee shall fix the place of such special meeting. Notice of the time, place, and object of any special meeting shall be given all officers and members in good standing in writing by US Mail or email not less than seven days prior to the date fixed for the holding of the meeting.
4. **Quorum** All members present at any regular or special scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum, provided time and place of regular meeting has been previously announced.

### **Article VI – Finances (Amended 9/9/2021)**

1. The annual operational expenditures of the Watauga Gun Club (WGC) shall be governed by a balanced annual budget, which is ratified at the January membership meeting. In November, the proposed annual budget shall be included in the WGC newsletter, which is emailed to the WGC membership, and presented at the November monthly membership meeting.
2. The Club's approved annual budget does not include the Disciplines' budget and it is not meant to be revised. If the Executive Committee deems it necessary to revise the budget, a revision must be read and discussed at a meeting, be published in the newsletter prior to being voted on at the next meeting, and passed by two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the meeting.

3. Expenditure Limit: Expenditures must be approved by the membership at a regular membership meeting only if:

- a.) An annual operational budget was not prepared/proposed/ratified,
- b.) When the budget YTD Expenses are at 100% before the end of the budget year, and
- c.) when a proposed operational expense is not within the current budget.

4. Emergency Expenditures: The Executive Committee shall be responsible for any expenditures necessary to ensure access to the club, prevent further damage, and possible injury. The Executive Committee may access money from the Capital Reserves Fund [Article IV Section 3] with a limit of \$5000.00. Emergency expenditures require a Quorum of the Executive Committee to approve such expenses, quorum as defined in Article VII Section 4. If expenses will exceed this limit, the President may call a special meeting of the membership to approve any such expenses and suspend the 30-day notice. The amount borrowed shall then be added to the budget as a separate item for the next year or years, depending on the amount, and shall be used to replenish the Capital Reserve Account.

5. Discipline Finances:

a.) Each discipline shall maintain its own financial accounting and bank account, but will also allow the designated members of the Executive Committee (President, Treasurer, and Vice President) as signatories on their accounts with the understanding that the Executive Committee and the club at large are to not interfere with Discipline finances unless there is an emergency as outlined in item (e.) below, or the discipline dissolves or becomes otherwise inactive.

b.) There must be at least two signature persons on the account,

c.) Operational expenditures of the WGC Disciplines shall be governed by a balanced annual budget,

d.) A quarterly finance report must be given to the club treasurer and the Club's accountant / bookkeeper to be included in the club treasurer's financial report. The Treasurer may, at their discretion, require only an annual report from each discipline if they so choose and will communicate the same to any discipline director.

e.) The Discipline finances are property of Watauga Gun Club and may be used by the club for emergency expenses only. If discipline monies are appropriated to address an emergency, the funds shall be borrowed from each discipline account in equal percentages unless financial circumstances in the discipline's account prevents the same. It is understood that Watauga Gun Club is to reimburse any funds borrowed from each discipline in a timely fashion, to be repaid to each discipline in equal disbursements until the outstanding balance is paid in full, and

f.) Each discipline shall annually transfer to the club 25% of that discipline's profit, and

g.) New Disciplines will be approved by the membership after having been first presented to the Executive Committee for consideration. The Club will issue the new Discipline seed money in the amount of \$500.00 if they are not assuming the account of a prior Discipline; the amount of issued seed monies may be adjusted with the express approval of club members at a regular membership meeting. The Discipline is to reimburse the Club its seed money within a period not to exceed two (2) years.

6. Capital Reserve:

a.) 10% of memberships dues go to a Capital Reserves Fund,

- b.) The fund is for club emergencies, restoration, or improvement of assets. An emergency or unanticipated event is defined as one that requires correction immediately, or within the current budget year, and cannot wait for the next budget cycle,
- c.) By a majority vote of the Executive Committee, up to \$5000 of funds from this account can be borrowed for an emergency or unanticipated event. WGC Membership will be notified of the need and amount to be borrowed from Capital Reserves in a timely manner, and
- d.) The amount borrowed shall then be added to the budget as a separate item for the next year or years, depending on the amount, and shall be used to replenish the Capital Reserve Account.

## **Article VII – Officers**

1. The Officers of this club shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Instructor, Range Officer, and Publicity Officer, who, acting together shall constitute the Executive Committee. It is intended that the number of Executive Officers shall remain at an odd number so that there are fewer opportunities for a split vote. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the members in good standing present at the annual meeting of the club. They shall hold the office for one year or until their successors are elected. Each post will not be filled by an individual for more than two consecutive years unless there are no volunteers for the vacant post. In that event, the officer may, if they choose to and are elected by club membership, continue to serve in that position.
2. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision and control of all activities of the club.
3. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held regularly at such time and place as the committee may determine. Three members of the committee may hold special meetings at any time on the call of the President or on demand in writing to the Secretary.
4. Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. In the event that the quorum is only comprised of four members and there is a split vote, the absent board members will be asked to vote on the matter. If absent members are unable to vote, the order of the deciding vote will be as follows, depending on officer availability: President, Vice President if the President is not available, or Treasurer if the President and Vice President are not available.
5. Resignation of any officer shall be accepted by the remaining officers of the Executive Committee.
6. A vacancy in the Executive Committee may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the committee. However, if more than one vacancy exists, a special meeting of the club shall be called and new officers shall be elected to fill the vacancies until the date of the next annual meeting as provided in paragraph (1) above. If the vacancy is not filled, club operations may pause until the vacancy is filled and verified by the membership.

## **Article VIII – Duties of Officers** (Amended November 2019)

1. **President** The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and of the Executive Committee. He shall be a member ex-officio of all regular and special committees, and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertain to the office. The President will be a signatory authority on any Club or Discipline accounts. As it pertains to Discipline accounts, the President will abide by Club rules governing Discipline Finances.
2. **Vice-President** The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence or at his request, and shall be responsible for programs, refreshments, meals, and scheduling events to be posted on club calendar. They will also be responsible for entering card access information in the database for any new or current member, as well as resolving any issues that may arise from the card access system. The Vice President will be the primary officer responsible for issuing new or replacement access badges, but they may enlist the assistance of another member of the board in their absence. The Vice President will be a signatory authority on any Club or Discipline accounts. As it pertains to Discipline accounts, the Vice President will abide by Club rules governing Discipline Finances. The Range Officer and/or Vice President are responsible for updating access codes and/or cards with any applicable emergency service or contract service provider that requires range access
3. **Secretary** The Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence pertaining to club operations. He shall notify all members of special and annual meetings, as required in Article V. He shall keep a true record of all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the club and have the custody of the books and papers of the club. The Secretary shall add all passed amendments to the By-Laws of the Watauga Gun Club. All above mentioned books and papers shall remain the property of Watauga Gun Club.
4. **Treasurer** The Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds of the Club (except for Discipline funds) and place the same in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Electronic banking / mobile banking may be utilized for the transfer of monies between WGC bank accounts and for the payment of bills that have been approved by the Executive Committees. The Treasurer will be a signatory authority on any Club or Discipline accounts. As it pertains to Discipline accounts, the Treasurer will abide by Club rules governing Discipline Finances The Treasurer will be responsible for preparing, or facilitating the preparation of an annual operational budget for the next calendar year no later than 31 October, as well as regularly monitoring and comparing the actual revenues and expenses incurred against such budget. The Treasurer will keep an accurate account of all transactions or delegate this to the Club's accountant or bookkeeper, and will ensure that annual IRS and NC Department of Revenue requirements are met on time. The Treasure will render a detailed treasurer report at any Executive Committee meeting when requested, and present a monthly P&L report at the WGC monthly membership meeting. The Treasurer will also be responsible for keeping a record of all applying or current members and a record of the Range Safety Briefing for each member and any duties as defined in Amendment I Section 3 concerning membership eligibility.
5. **Chief Instructor** The Chief Instructor shall have the charge of all small arms instruction with authority to appoint assistants. He shall contract no bills without the authorization of the Executive Committee.

6. **Range Officer** The Range Officer shall have charge of the Range of the Club, the printing of scorecards, the arranging of competitions, etc. He shall contract no bills without the authorization of the Executive Committee. He shall also be responsible for updating the Club's master calendar of events and facilitating communication relating to scheduling events on Club property. The Range Officer is also responsible for conducting range safety briefings, or working with a member in good standing to teach range safety briefings in his absence. After each range safety briefing, the Range Officer will submit the relevant information to other Committee members, including but not limited to the Vice President and Treasurer. The Range Officer and/or Vice President are responsible for updating access codes and/or cards with any applicable emergency service or contract service provider that requires range access.
7. **Publicity Officer** The Publicity Officer shall distribute publicity and advertisement for the club, and be responsible for publishing and distributing the newsletter. The Publicity Officer will also update the club's website, or oversee communication with a membership approved contracted service provider for web hosting and updating.

**Article IX – Suspension or Expulsion**  
(Amended 11/14/2019)

1. Any member involved in drinking and/or illegal drug use while on club property constitutes grounds for expulsion.
2. Any member in good standing may proffer charges against any officer or member. If the charges are against a member of the Executive Committee, the member in question will recuse themselves from any deliberations. Any charges shall be in writing clearly stating the facts relied upon and accompanied by all affidavits or exhibits which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the Secretary, or the President if the Secretary is the one whom charges are leveled against. The President will call a meeting of the Executive Committee and to the accuser and the accused which notice shall be in writing and will include a true copy of the charges and of the supporting affidavits and exhibits. The Executive Committee shall give written notice to the accused member and accuser to appear at a hearing before the Executive Committee meeting to be held not sooner than 15-days and not later than 30-days from the date of the notice unless otherwise agreed upon. The accused member will be suspended upon the issuing of a written notice by the Executive Board and shall comply with all restrictions for a suspended member.
3. At such meeting the accused member (under charges) will be accorded a full hearing, at which time the Executive Committee will review the violation with the member and render a judgment on the discipline to be issued, if any. The Executive Committee will adhere to the Club's Violation Guidelines when evaluating the level of the violation and the degree of the discipline to be issued, with consideration of any relevant aggravating or mitigating factors.
4. Any member may be suspended or expelled from the club for any cause deemed sufficient by the Executive Committee by two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the committee present at any regular or special meeting.

5. A failure of the member in question to attend the Executive Meeting / Special Meeting without notifying the Board shall constitute a waiver of the said member's rights.
6. A suspended member is prohibited from entering the club property for any purpose to include participation in scheduled matches, club events, as a guest or family member of another member in good standing.
7. Any member suspended or expelled by the executive committee may appeal to the full membership of the Club. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the Secretary who will notify the President. The president will call a special meeting of the club for the purpose of acting on the appeal. The Secretary shall give at least fifteen days' notice in writing to all members of the club in good standing stating the date, time, place, and reason for such meeting. At the meeting of the full club the Secretary will read the original charges, the supporting affidavits, and will read or display the accompanying exhibits, and will read the minutes of the special meeting of the Executive Committee at which the charges were heard and the action taken. A full hearing will be given the accuser and the accused. A vote will be taken by the ballot of the members in good standing present and a two-thirds vote shall be required to reverse the action of the Executive Committee.
8. Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing present at any special meeting called for this purpose. No vote on suspension or removal may be taken unless at least fifteen days' notice in writing shall have been given to the officer of the reasons for his removal and of the time and place of the special meeting at which such ballot on his removal is to be taken. At such special meeting the officer shall be given a full hearing.

## **Article X – Amendments**

Any proposed amendments to these bylaws may be introduced by any member of the club at any regular meeting or special meeting called for the purpose. Discussion of the proposed amendment will proceed as usual at this meeting, but no vote may be taken. The proposed amendment shall be acted upon by the membership at a regular meeting or a special meeting called for the purpose, provided a copy of the approved amendment has been sent to each club member by email at least ten days prior to the meeting. The floor may be opened again for discussion at this meeting. A two-thirds vote of the members present will be necessary to pass or reject the proposed amendment.

### **Amendment I – Regular Membership (Amended September 2021)**

1. Individuals desiring membership must be a National Rifle Association member or applying for membership, and not be prohibited by Federal or State Law to possess firearms and ammunition.
2. Must attend a meeting to announce their desire to become a member.
3. Individuals applying for membership are required to sign a document affirming their eligibility to legally own and operate a firearm, and further affirm by signing that document that



there are no pending charges against them that would render them ineligible to own and operate a firearm if they were convicted..

4. All prospective applicants must attend two regular monthly meetings prior to being granted membership to Watauga Gun Club. The procedure for applicants is as follows:

- i. The applicant attends their first monthly membership meeting with a completed application and any supporting documents.
- ii. The applicant's name is published in the monthly newsletter, or, when circumstances prevent a newsletter publication, an e-mail to all current WGC members.
- iii. Current members review the name or names of prospective applicants and have the opportunity prior to the applicant's 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to oppose the application by submitting to the Executive Committee, with evidence and/or affidavits and other statements, reasons as to why the person should not be granted membership to WGC. Defamatory statements are not permitted; anyone submitting such will be subject to disciplinary action. The Executive Committee shall consider the evidence presented and either affirm or deny the concerns of the opposed.
- iv. If the Executive Committee determines that there is not enough evidence to deny membership, or if no member responds in opposition to the applicant(s), the applicant(s) will be required to attend a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to be voted on by members present.
- v. Prior to attending their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the applicant is expected to attend a range safety briefing. If the applicant has not attended the safety briefing prior to their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, or they have not produced all necessary documents to verify eligibility, they will be ineligible for a vote until they have satisfied that requirement.
- vi. If approved by a majority of the members present at the applicant's 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the new member shall be a probationary member for six months with all privileges of regular membership.

5. At the end of six months the probationary member shall automatically become a regular member unless a complaint against same has been voiced to the Executive Committee.

6. New members shall be assessed an initiation fee of \$50 (Amended 2000).

7. Gate access cards that will also grant clubhouse access will be issued to each new member after they have met all of the requirements of the new member approval process outlined above. One card will be assigned to each full member. Replacement cards will be issued at \$25.00 after the member informs the Vice President that their card was lost, stolen, or damaged. The old card will be deactivated.

8. In order to be eligible for annual membership renewal, each member must: 1.) not be prohibited by Federal or State Law to possess firearms and ammunition, 2.) not have any charges pending against them that would render them ineligible to possess or operate firearms and ammunition if they were convicted, 3.) have attended at least one Watauga Gun Club Regular Monthly Business meeting and 4.) acknowledge by way of payment of annual membership dues that they agree to renew their contract and commitment to abide by their original Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement as well as any changes that may have been made to the Liability Waiver in the time since the member's original signature of the Liability Waiver, and 5.) acknowledge by way of payment of annual

membership dues that the member also affirms that they have thoroughly reviewed the then current Range Use Manual and Membership Manual with particular regard for Range Safety/Operations of the Watauga Gun Club.

~~8. Stricken July 2023~~

9. Work trade for membership is not allowed.

10. Law Enforcement or ROTC Memberships: Each agency is allowed two officers with full access cards, and each of the designated officers will have their credentials on file with the Club and will be required to attend a Range Safety Briefing or present appropriate certifications prior to being granted access to the Club, as well as to sign a Liability Waiver that will apply to the entire Agency. Agencies may have additional officers with card access, but only with prior approval of the Executive Committee and by paying an additional \$25.00 per card. Updates to applicable officers with card access may be changed throughout the year with notice to the Executive Committee, and will also be reviewed or reaffirmed upon annual membership renewal.

11. Lifetime members are expected to follow all applicable rules and conditions for eligibility required for regular membership. Lifetime memberships will be awarded to members of distinction with approval of the general membership. Anyone who wishes to nominate someone for a lifetime membership should first present themselves to the Executive Committee for consideration prior to the presentation of the person's candidacy for a lifetime membership at a general meeting.

12. Coaches of teams who regularly use the range, to include childrens' sportsmans teams, must have at least one member of its coaching staff as a regular individual member. It is encouraged, however, that all coaching staff retain their own individual membership.

**Amendment II –Family or Junior Membership** (Amended August 2016)

Family or Junior membership shall be restricted to any regular member's immediate family – that is, his spouse, and real or legally adopted children, twenty-one years of age or under.

Member applicants over eighteen years of age shall hold regular or associate membership in the National Rifle Association and junior members (under eighteen years of age) shall hold junior membership in the National Rifle Association. Proof of application shall be required at application.

**Family Plan Membership Dues:** A new member will have the standard membership fee, but a spouse or family member would have a discounted (\$100) membership fee

- Discounted members would be responsible for a \$50 initiation fee the first year.
- Discounted membership would be extended to children in the household ages 18-21
- All individuals will be subject to range safety briefing
- After the person's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, they would have to purchase a full membership at \$200, but would not be subject to a new initiation fee

- All members 18-21 may use the range unsupervised for rifles, other long guns and shotguns. Refer to Amendment IV for additional information regarding operation rules of specific firearms for members under age 21.
- Rules for Minors still apply. Minors must be supervised at all times; \$5 junior memberships will remain non-voting membership

No junior member can fire on a club range unless accompanied by a regular member.

### **Amendment III – Open Weekend**

A designated weekend each month is to be left open for unorganized shooting by Club members; no organized shooting event or activities shall be scheduled for any of the ranges. This weekend, first, second, third, or fourth weekend, shall be announced at the beginning of the year once the disciplines have agreed on their scheduled weekend each. Exceptions may be granted only with prior member approval, but it is the intention of the club that it is a priority to maintain an open weekend for general membership use each month, and that exceptions are to be discouraged and/or rarely approved.

### **Amendment IV – Members Aged 18-21 Unsupervised Long-gun Use (Amended June 1997)**

All Club members between the ages of 18 and 21 may use the long-gun (rifle and shotgun) ranges without supervision by a regular member. All club members (under 21 years of age) must be directly supervised by a regular member (over 21 years) to use and fire a handgun on any of the club ranges. In this regard, transporting the handgun to and from the club should be in compliance with North Carolina Law.

### **Amendment V – Range Officer Empowered Authority (Amended May 1998)**

The primary duty of the Head Range Officer shall be to enforce all club rules and regulations pertaining to club safety. Specifically, the Range Officer (as well as any other member of the Executive Committee) is empowered with the authority to verify at his discretion the safety and legality of any firearm used on the ranges, including a Class 3 FFL for any firearm classified by BATF as such. It is the obligation of members to report any unsafe act or non-complying firearm to the Executive Committee or any officer.

### **Amendment VI – Guests, Instructors, and Other Groups (Amended June 2008)**

1. Members shall be allowed to bring guests to the range at their discretion. The only restriction on this is that the member is totally responsible for these guests and shall monitor these guests, and the member as well as the guest of the member will be liable for any rules infraction or injury that may occur. The member and their guests may be subject to disciplinary or legal action if applicable in the event of an injury or infraction. Guests are limited to 3 per member. These guests are under direct supervision of the member and must be in the same range or area, that is, not shooting on different ranges and the same time.

2. Repeat guests are welcome. Any guest visiting the club more than 3 times in a year's period may be asked to join the club as a regular member.

3. Non-profit organizations such as the Boy Scouts or Hunter Skills/Safety Teams should be allowed use of the range at no charge for special events or practices, the rules governing membership for coaches of regularly scheduled practice teams notwithstanding. The organization and their guests shall be expected to follow range safety rules at all times. They shall schedule use of the range with enough time so that the club can have one or more of its safety officers present while the organization is using the facilities if needed. In the alternative, if no club safety officers are present, the group is required to provide proof to the club of its ability to produce an adequate number of safety officers appropriate for the size and duration of their event. The respective organizations are also required to present a proposal for range use, whether for regular practices or special events, to the Executive Committee for consideration prior to presenting the same proposal to the general membership. The general membership must approve use of the facilities prior to any event or regularly scheduled practice.

4. For-profit groups shall be required to pay a fee of \$10 per person per day for use of the range. This would include private groups that use the range for instruction, training, or similar activities not specified in this item.

5. Special events conducted by members or outside groups that are not regularly approved instructors (ex.: Women on Target, Range Officer or other Certification Classes, Project Appleseed, shooting clinics, etc.) will be expected to abide by all range rules at all times. Any rules relevant to instructor certifications, numbers of safety officers, or liability insurance may apply. The rules for for-profit groups in reference to range use fees will also apply unless the organization is part of a documented non-profit. If the non-profit is charging admission or other fees for the event in question, the rules for for-profit group fees may apply and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Fees, if applicable, are to be paid to the club the day of the event, but no more than 7 days after the event unless they have prior approval. Any new proposals for special events or other classes, clinics, or presentations must be brought to the Executive Committee for consideration prior to being presented to the general membership. Instructors or other groups may be asked to present proof of liability insurance prior to approval. If the individual, group, etc., follows any applicable rules and is approved for range use, the event will be posted on the Club's calendar and published in the newsletter.

6. Regular instructors, to include concealed carry instructors or other certified instructors, are required to, in addition to presentation of any applicable credentials, maintain and present documentation of a separate liability insurance policy prior to being granted access to club facilities. The rules for fees of for-profit use of the range apply, and instructors are expected to present documentation (if requested) of the number of people in their class at the time money is paid to the club for use of its facilities. It is expected that the instructor (if at the range on a regular basis) is to pay their fees on at least a quarterly basis. Regular instructors will present a list of dates to the Executive Committee for consideration of scheduling classes (ideally on or before the current calendar year, but with adequate notice if that is not possible), and also present themselves (after meeting with the Executive Committee and receiving approval) for consideration of those dates before the general membership prior to being scheduled on the Club calendar. Regular instructors are defined as individuals or

groups who are approved by members and are on the approved instructor list. The members on the approved instructor list are confidential as these by-laws are available to the general public, but members in good standing will be given a list of approved instructors upon request. Currently, the approved instructor list is full and anyone additional will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but it is understood that additional approval may not be available for regular classes and only for special events as the membership may approve and/or time allows. Members or other individuals or organizations who want to apply to be an approved instructor may be added to a waitlist at the discretion of the Executive Committee and/or general membership. Vacancies of approved instructors will be announced as needed. Approved instructors who are not club members may be granted day-of access to the range; approved instructors who are club members may be given office access or code access as needed.

7. Any new instructor (someone who is not on the approved instructor list) presenting themselves for consideration as either a regular/approved instructor, an instructor on a waitlist, an as-needed instructor, or an instructor for a special event, must have all documentation (credentials and liability insurance) that are required of regularly approved instructors. In addition, the potential instructor may be asked to present a class to members of the Executive Committee or a select group of members as a demonstration prior to moving forward with the approval process with the remaining Executive Committee members, and then the general membership.

8. Any guest, instructor, member of an event, visitor, etc. are expected to abide by all range rules at all times.

### **Amendment VII– Creation or Dissolution of Disciplines, and Discipline Operations**

1. The rules governing discipline finances as outlined in Article VI(5) apply.
2. New Disciplines will be subject to approval by the membership after having first been presented to the Executive Committee for consideration, with the course of fire and any proposed scheduled dates for events to be noted during the presentations to both the Executive Committee and the membership.
3. Disciplines will abide by all range safety rules, but will otherwise be responsible for its own governance except as outlined below. The rules and operations of how matches are conducted will be left to the Disciplines and their respective Directors. Any changes to courses of fire or other match operations will be filed with the Executive Committee and updated in the appropriate manuals as needed, and that information will then be distributed to the membership.
4. Each Discipline will have a Director and Co-Director that will have an access badge for the club office and will be updated with any relevant hold open codes for the Club gate. Directors and Co-Directors may be changed at the Discipline's discretion, but the change must be documented with the Executive Committee so that range access may be updated for the respective directors. Failure to update that information may result in temporary suspension of badge access until the information is updated. There may be more than one co-director, but each additional co-director will be responsible for paying the additional \$25.00 for extra access cards, or the discipline's accounts will be responsible for paying the same.

5. Updates to the designations of Director and Co-Director may occur with notice to the Executive Committee and membership at any point during the year, but the same information will also be reviewed upon the beginning of a new calendar year.
6. The Discipline Directors and Co-Directors may have use of the Club's office for their match and other operations. When there is a match or other event in progress, the office is to remain locked and closed when not in use by either the discipline director, co-director, or designated match staff. Except as common sense circumstances apply, the office is not to be left empty or unattended.
7. If the Discipline were to dissolve or become inactive (inactivity to be defined as not having any matches for a duration of its regular season, or 6 consecutive months of no matches for Disciplines which operate on a monthly basis for the whole year) for any reason, the funds in the Discipline's account will be held in the Discipline's account for a period of one (1) calendar year (unless otherwise approved by the membership) in order to allow time for a new Discipline Director to assume responsibility for the Discipline or allow for a new Discipline's operation to take its place. If, after one (1) year (or another designated and membership approved timeframe), no activity takes place in the Discipline's account or operations, or a new Discipline is not started in its place, the funds will be dispersed to the Club's accounts at the approval of the membership as they see fit.

### **Amendment VIII– Emergency and Injury Response Procedures**

1. In the event of an emergency that requires a first responder, persons present are expected to dial emergency services as soon as possible. An emergency call box is located on the outside of the clubhouse facing the driveway for additional access to emergency services if a cell phone is not available or does not have appropriate signal. The emergency call box is also encouraged to be used in addition to a cell phone if needed.
2. An AED and first aid kit are located in the clubhouse in the event either item needs to be used in response to an injury or other emergency. An additional call box, if not already installed, will be located next to the AED as an additional means of calling for first responders in the event of an emergency.
3. As soon as possible following the response to an emergency or other non-emergent injury, notify a member of the Executive Committee of the event.

### **Amendment IX - Rules Incorporation and Severability**

Any rule included in the Member Manual or Range Safety Manual that is not specified in any of the foregoing bylaws is incorporated by reference. If any clause, amendment, or provision is found unenforceable or invalid, or is rendered invalid by a court decision, statute, or rule, the remainder of the bylaws, Member Manual, and Range Safety Manual as well as any of their accompanying documents or agreements shall not be affected.