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# COSSA Member's Guide to Safety and Range Use

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COSSA safety rules and range use procedures are intended to promote the enjoyment of COSSA Park and the safety of all participants, shooters and spectators. If you have concerns or suggestions for improvement, please contact the COSSA Safety Coordinator via the COSSA website: <http://cosa.netgarage.net>.

Violations of safety rules are grounds for expulsion from COSSA Park. Repeated or egregious safety infractions will result in permanent banishment from COSSA Park.

## **COSSA PARK**

COSSA Park is located at mile marker 24 on Highway 20, east of Bend. COSSA Park consists of 27 distinct shooting venues, ranges and bays. It is open to COSSA members 24 hours a day, seven days a week, subject to prior scheduled events and BLM-mandated closures. Consult the range calendar on the COSSA website to see if any event is scheduled for a shooting bay or range you wish to use.

## **COSSA PARK RANGES & BAYS**

### **Ranges intended for casual shooting**

- Public range: to 100 yards
- Gong range: to 1000 yards
- Fockler sight-in range: 200 yards; gongs to 500 yards. **This is the primary casual use range.**
- Pistol and pistol-caliber rifle range (Bay 1): 100 yards
- Pistol/rifle range (Bay 18): 100 yards
- Shotgun range
- Pistol/rifle range (Bay 18): 100 yards

### **Ranges open to casual shooting**

***(subject to scheduled events)***

- Black Powder Cartridge (Buffalo) Range: 100 to 1200 yards
- Rifle silhouette range: 500 meters
- COSSA Kids-Small Bore Range: 100 yards
- Action pistol ranges (Bays 2,3,4,5,6,7,8): COSSA Practical Shooters
- Cowboy Action ranges (Bays 9,10,11,12,13,14): Horse Ridge Pistoleros and Pine Mountain Posse
- Lady Hawks ranges (Bays 15-16)

### **Ranges closed to casual shooting**

- Nosler High Power range: 200 to 1000 yards
- Handgun silhouette range: 200 yards
- Law Enforcement area (Bay 17)

Each range or bay is designed for a specific use and has restrictions appropriate to its layout. The following further describes the range and bay parameters:

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**Gong Range:** Targets are set from 100 to 1000 yards in 100 yard increments. Paper targets may be set up along the road at various distances and must be removed when done. Rifles only.

**Nosler High Power Rifle:** (200 to 1000 yards). **This range is never available for casual shooting.**

**Black Powder Rifle (Buffalo) Range:** (100 to 1200 yards). Only black powder cartridges lead bullets can be used on the soft steel buffalo targets.

**Rifle Silhouette Range:** (500 meters). No shotguns.

*With the exception of the Nosler Range, the above ranges are available for casual shooting except when scheduled for an event. The above ranges **cannot** be used simultaneously due to the lack of safety berms separating the ranges. When an event is scheduled for one of these ranges, the other ranges are automatically closed.*

**Handgun Silhouette Range:** (200 yards.). Used for handgun silhouette matches and special events. **Closed to casual shooting.**

**Fockler Sight-In Range:** (200 yards). This is the primary casual use shooting range. All calibers are allowed at this range. Benches, target backing, and sandbags are supplied. Paper or plastic targets and steel gongs only. Targets can be set at ranges from 25 to 200 yards. Steel gongs are set at 50 yard increments from 250 out to 500 yards. Range rules are posted. Police all brass and targets when done shooting. Target backing boards are provided if needed. No shotguns unless using slugs. For safety, do not access the area beyond the 200 yard berms.

**COSSA KIDS-Small Bore Range:** (100 yards). Used for rimfire shooting only. COSSA KIDS meet the third Saturday of every month on this range.

*Bays 1 through 16 and 18 may be used for casual shooting when no event is scheduled. **Use only pistol caliber lead bullets in Bays 9-14.** Bay 18 may be used for casual rifle and pistol shooting except when law enforcement is using Bay 17. Scheduled events have precedence and all members must yield to that event. There are no permanent target holders set up in these bays and shooters must set up and take down target holders if they wish to shoot in these bays. Avoid damage to props! Clean up all targets and debris when finished. No shotguns except for scheduled events.*

**Pistol and Pistol caliber Rifle Range (Bay1)** (100 yards): used for casual shooting and special events. Targets can be set at any range out to 100 yards. Benches, target stands and gongs provided. Scheduled events take precedence over casual shooting. Range rules are posted. **Do not shoot range yardage markers.**

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**COSSA Practical Shooters (Bays 2-8):** Used for both casual shooting and scheduled events. Bay 3 has 3 COSSA steel plate targets for casual shooting. DO NOT MOVE TO OTHER BAYS. Do not leave targets in bays 2, 7 or 8 as they provide access to storage areas behind berm.

**Cowboy Action (Bays 9-14):** To be used for Cowboy Action scheduled events and casual shooting. **Pistol caliber lead bullets only.**

**Lady Hawks (Bays 15-16):** Can be used for both scheduled events and casual pistol shooting.

**Law Enforcement Training (Bays 17-18):** Bay 17 is **never** available for casual shooting. Bay 18 (100 yards) may be used for casual shooting when Bay 17 is not in use.

**Shotgun Range:** Four shotgun throwers are provided for casual shotgun shooting. Cover throwers when finished and report any damaged throwers to any board member. A shot patterning area is also provided with paper and holders for patterning shotguns. Steel and lead shot and slugs are allowed in this area.

If any further information or clarification is needed, see the COSSA Safety Manual or contact Bill Lewis, [lewis.w.l@hotmail.com](mailto:lewis.w.l@hotmail.com).

## **Firearms and Ammunition**

At COSSA Park, restrictions on firearms and ammunition are minimal. Shooters may use any firearm they are legally allowed to possess that is serviceable and safe. Persons shooting fully automatic firearms must have the required legal documentation in their possession and notify other range users that auto fire is in use. Ammunition is restricted to that commonly used in hunting and target shooting. Incendiary, exploding or tracer ammunition are not allowed due to BLM restrictions as well as fire danger. Minimum distance to steel targets is 50 yds. for rifles and 25 ft. for handguns. Armor piercing, painted tip or steel or tungsten core ammunition is not allowed due to potential target damage and ricochet danger. .223 Green Tips are not allowed.

## **Targets**

COSSA provides steel targets at some ranges open to casual shooting. Buffalo Range targets are mild steel so jacketed bullets are not allowed. Shooters are welcome to provide their own paper targets using the wood target backing and target stands provided by COSSA. Biodegradable clay targets are permitted only at the Shotgun Range. Objects, such as old TV's, propane tanks, glass bottles, or any material that may result in sharp-edged fragments, are NOT targets and are prohibited. Explosive and incendiary (Tannerite©) materials are also prohibited. Used targets are a housekeeping issue so please clean up after shooting.

## **Gates**

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COSSA's east and west gates are normally closed and locked except during weekend scheduled shooting events. If you open a gate, close and lock it behind you. The east gate is preferable for RV access.

## **Guests and Spectators**

Guests of COSSA members are welcome. Each member may bring up to 4 guests per visit. Members and guests, as well as visitors and observers, need to sign in at the entrance kiosk. Shooters who are not COSSA members must pay the \$5 guest "member for a day" fee. Children 17 and under must be under the direct control and supervision of an adult COSSA member at all times.

## **Parking**

Park vehicles away from the firing line in designated areas free of brush and high weeds. Parking for Bays 1-18 should be behind the iron rail fence.

## **Pets**

Pets must be under physical control (leashed) during shooting activities. Owners are responsible for picking up after their pets.

## **Smoking and Fire Alerts**

All smoking is restricted to inside vehicles. The BLM may also impose additional restrictions on smoking as well as general shooting activities consistent with the fire alert posture governing the general area in and around COSSA Park. During extended hot weather, monitor the COSSA website for fire alerts and possible range closure.

## **Cleanup**

Each shooter must clean up used targets and spent brass. Dispose of debris properly. Cardboard goes in the cardboard (horse) trailer. Take all garbage home.

## **Wildlife**

All wildlife on COSSA ranges are protected. No hunting, trapping, or harassment is allowed.

## **Safety Rules**

These rules apply to all members, guests and visitors not participating in a discipline-sanctioned event. The safety rules and procedures of COSSA disciplines conducting COSSA-approved competitions, practices, and other scheduled activities will prevail during those events.

All firearms brought onto COSSA Park must be unloaded and holstered or encased. Firearms in carts with muzzles down can be considered holstered or encased. The only exceptions are for law enforcement officers carrying firearms in accordance with their agencies written policies and persons with concealed carry permits, in which case their carry weapon must remain holstered and unhandled except when at a hot firing line.

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All firearms must be transported from vehicles to the firing line must be unloaded and holstered or encased. Each range/bay open to casual use has an established firing line with tables or benches for shooter use.

Do not load or unload firearms at your vehicle, or anywhere else except at a hot firing line. After shooting, unload and encase or holster firearms before leaving the firing line.

Do not leave firearms unattended, especially at the Public Range.

All shooters and spectators must wear approved eye and ear protection. Eyewear should be shatterproof per ANSI Z87.

**Cold Firing Line:** When the range is called "Cold" and all personnel acknowledge the cold status, shooters may move down range to set up or retrieve targets, or pick up debris. At this time all persons not down-range must move behind the yellow safety line or move behind the benches. **Under no circumstances are firearms to be handled.** Always treat all firearms as if they are loaded.

Always keep firearms pointed in a safe direction.

Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until ready to shoot.

In the event of a hang-fire, misfire, or squib round, keep the muzzle pointed down-range and take your finger out of the trigger guard. Yell "cease fire" and explain the problem to any others present. Wait at least 30 seconds before opening the action. With the firearm unloaded and the action open or the bolt removed, check the bore for obstructions visually or if necessary with a cleaning rod. Remove the cleaning rod immediately after checking.

If you drop a firearm, do not pick it up until you call "cease fire" and the firing line is "cold".

Fired rounds must impact berms or the ground in front of berms. Intentionally firing over berms or shooting at targets thrown into the air is prohibited; exception: shotguns.

Do not use alcohol or other substance, including any medications, that can impair judgment or coordination before or during shooting.

Be sure to wash your hands after handling lead ammunition. Do not eat or drink from open containers at the firing line. Adults who are supervising children should pay special attention to lead hygiene, making sure all minors wash their hands before eating, drinking or leaving the range.

## **Definition of Terms**

**Cease Fire:** Anyone at a firing line may call for a cease fire. You must stop firing, take your finger out of the trigger guard, keep your firearm pointed safely down-range, and wait. When all shooters have acknowledged the cease fire, made their firearms safe and stepped away from the firing line, a cold firing line is in effect.

**Cold Firing Line:** Firing Line at which a "cease fire" is in effect. Firearms must be unloaded, have their actions or cylinders open, have magazines removed (if applicable), and have muzzles pointed in a safe

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direction. No shooter may handle a firearm. See the COSSA Safety Manual for details. Persons may then go forward of the firing line to set or score targets, retrieve brass, or clean debris, or adjust chronograph equipment, or related activities.

**Cold Range:** COSSA Park is a "cold range" meaning that all firearms must be unloaded with actions or cylinders open and magazines removed (if applicable) at all times, when not cased or holstered, except when preparing to shoot at a hot firing line.

**Down-range:** Forward of the firing line, toward the target and beyond.

**Firing Line:** Line at which shooters stand, sit, kneel, or lie prone to fire at targets arrayed in front of them.

**Hot Firing Line:** Firing line at which no persons are down-range and the range is clear for handling, loading, and shooting firearms. Shooters may normally fire at will. All other persons must be behind the firing line.

**Red safety flag:** Some COSSA ranges have a red safety flag. If the range is hot, the red safety flag is not displayed. The red flag is displayed when a cold firing line is in effect and it is safe to go down-range.

**Safe Direction:** The firearm must not point at or sweep any person at any time. Firearms hand carried behind the firing line must be carried muzzle up. Firearms at the firing line must be pointed down-range.

**Safety Area:** Some ranges/bays may have an area near the firing line set aside and designated as a "safety area". Safety areas are provided as a place where shooters may safely handle unloaded firearms to dry-fire, inspect, adjust, clean, repair or transfer them from cases to holsters or carts or vice versa. Ammunition, dummy rounds, magazines or speed-loaders (loaded or unloaded) may NOT be handled in safety areas. The safety area may be used when the firing line is HOT or COLD, or when gun handling is otherwise prohibited.

**Unloaded Firearm:** A firearm is unloaded if the action or cylinder is open, the chamber(s) are empty, and the magazine is removed (if applicable) or empty, and if the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction, or the firearm is cased or holstered. Even in an unloaded condition, a firearm should never be considered "safe".

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