VAN DYNE SPORTSMEN CLUB

CODE OF ETHICS

Purpose

The Van Dyne Sportsmen Club is committed to providing a safe, responsible, respectful, and welcoming environment for members, guests, and the community. Because the Club operates a shooting facility, safety and responsible firearm handling are fundamental responsibilities of every member and guest.

1. Safety

- Safety shall be the highest priority at the Van Dyne Sportsmen Club.
- Follow all Club safety rules and range procedures.
- Follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- Keep firearms pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- Keep fingers outside the trigger guard until ready to fire.
- Know the target and what is beyond it.
- Use appropriate eye and hearing protection.
- Immediately obey instructions from authorized range officers or Club officials.
- Report unsafe conditions, accidents, or violations to Club officials as soon as reasonably possible.

2. Firearms and Ammunition

- Only firearms and ammunition permitted by Club rules may be used.
- Firearms shall be handled and transported in accordance with Club rules and applicable law.
- Members shall use appropriate ammunition for the firearm being used.
- Firearms shall not be discharged except in designated areas and in accordance with range rules.
- No person shall intentionally discharge a firearm in a manner that creates an unsafe condition.
- Any malfunction or firearm problem shall be handled safely and reported when appropriate.

3. Range Conduct

- Range commands shall be followed immediately.
- Members shall respect established cease-fire procedures.
- No person shall handle firearms during a cease-fire when the range rules prohibit such handling.
- Members shall not interfere with another person's safe use of the range.
- Horseplay, practical jokes, or other conduct that could create a safety hazard are prohibited.
- Shooting shall remain within designated areas and toward approved targets and backstops.
- Members shall leave their shooting area clean and safe for the next user.

4. Respectful Conduct

- Treat fellow members, guests, neighbors, and the public with courtesy and respect.
- Threatening, intimidating, harassing, bullying, fighting, or excessively disruptive behavior is prohibited.
- Deliberate damage to another person's property is prohibited.
- Differences of opinion should be handled respectfully and brought to Club leadership when necessary.

5. Youth and New Shooters

- Youth and inexperienced shooters shall receive appropriate supervision and instruction.
- Firearm safety shall be emphasized before and during shooting activities.
- Adults supervising youth shall maintain appropriate conduct and boundaries.
- No person shall encourage a youth or inexperienced shooter to violate Club rules or applicable law.

6. Club Property and Facilities

- Club buildings, ranges, equipment, grounds, and other property shall be used responsibly.
- Members shall not intentionally damage Club property.
- Trash and spent ammunition components shall be properly disposed of according to Club procedures.
- Damage to Club property should be reported promptly to a Club officer or director.
- Members shall not remove Club property without authorization.

7. Membership Responsibilities

- Know and follow the Club's bylaws, range rules, safety rules, and policies.
- Set a good example for guests and other members.
- Take reasonable action to prevent unsafe conduct.
- Report serious safety violations to Club leadership.
- Protect the reputation and integrity of the Van Dyne Sportsmen Club.

8. Guests

- Members are responsible for ensuring that their guests understand and follow applicable Club rules.
- Guests shall follow all range safety requirements, authorized instructions, and conduct themselves respectfully.

9. Honesty and Integrity

- Members, officers, and volunteers shall conduct Club business honestly and responsibly.
- Members shall not falsify Club records, misuse Club funds or property, knowingly provide false information to Club officials, misrepresent themselves as authorized Club representatives, or use their position for unauthorized personal financial gain.

10. Conflicts of Interest

- Officers and directors shall disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest involving Club business.
- Club decisions shall be made in accordance with the Club's bylaws and in the best interests of the organization.

11. Compliance With Laws

- All members and guests shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws governing firearms, ammunition, shooting facilities, and conduct on Club property.
- Nothing in this Code of Ethics or any Club rule authorizes conduct that violates the law.

12. Reporting Safety or Conduct Concerns

- Members are encouraged to report serious safety concerns, rule violations, threats, or other inappropriate conduct to a Club officer, director, or authorized range official.
- Reports should be made in good faith and should not be used to intentionally harass or retaliate against another member.

13. Enforcement and Disciplinary Action

- Violations of this Code of Ethics, Club bylaws, safety rules, or range rules may result in disciplinary action.
- Possible action may include a verbal or written warning, temporary removal from the range or Club property, temporary suspension of range privileges, suspension of membership, or termination of membership in accordance with the Club's bylaws.
- Serious or repeated safety violations may result in immediate suspension of shooting privileges while the matter is reviewed.
- All disciplinary action shall be handled in accordance with the Club's bylaws and applicable law.

14. Retaliation

- No member shall retaliate against another person for making a good-faith report of a safety concern, rule violation, or other misconduct.
- Knowingly making a false report for the purpose of harming another member may itself constitute a violation of this Code.

15. Responsibility to the Club

- Every member has a responsibility to help maintain a safe and respectful shooting environment.
- The Club's reputation depends upon the conduct of its members. Members are expected to demonstrate safety, responsibility, respect, honesty, and good sportsmanship whenever they are on Club property or representing the Van Dyne Sportsmen Club.

16. Grievances and Concerns

- Should any member have a grievance or concern regarding the Van Dyne Sportsmen Club, its operations, policies, activities, or decisions, the member is encouraged to first contact a Club officer or member of the Board of Directors so the matter can be reviewed and addressed.
- If the member remains dissatisfied after taking this first step, the member is welcome to schedule an appointment to appear at a Club meeting and present their concerns to the Board of Directors.
- Members are expected to use these established procedures rather than airing grievances concerning Club matters on social media platforms. These procedures are intended to give all parties an opportunity to provide relevant information, reduce misinformation and misunderstandings, and allow Club leadership to obtain the facts necessary to make fair and informed decisions.
- All grievances should be presented respectfully and in good faith. Retaliation against a member for raising a legitimate concern in good faith will not be tolerated.

Member Acknowledgment

By becoming or remaining a member of the Van Dyne Sportsmen Club, each member acknowledges the importance of this Code of Ethics and agrees to follow the Club's bylaws, safety rules, range rules, and other properly adopted policies.