



Town of Harpswell Sport Shooting Range Ordinance

Enacted March 9, 2019

1. Purpose

This ordinance is intended to allow a property owner to have a sport shooting range on his/her property provided that it is designed and operated in a safe manner that does not create a nuisance for neighboring property owners.

2. Definitions

A. Sport Shooting Range: An area designed and used for skeet and trap shooting or other similar shooting sports and the shooting of rifles, shotguns and pistols.

B. Firearm: Any weapon that is defined as a firearm in 17-A M.R.S. §2 (12-A) as it may be amended from time to time.

C. Rimfire Arms: Firearms which use cartridges that have the primer around the edge of the base of the cartridge case.

D. Automatic Firearm: A weapon of any description, by whatever name known, which is capable of discharging a number of projectiles in rapid succession by one mechanical action on the trigger or firing mechanism.

E. Black Powder Guns: Firearms that are defined as muzzleloaders in 12 M.R.S. §42-A as it may be amended from time to time.

3. Registration Required

All sport shooting ranges shall be registered with Town of Harpswell's Code Enforcement Officer. Any sport shooting range existing as of the date of the adoption of this ordinance shall be registered prior to its use and no later than ninety (90) days after the adoption of this ordinance. Any proposed sport shooting range shall be registered prior to its use.

4. Standards for Registration

A sport shooting range shall comply with the following standards to be eligible to be registered with the Town:

A. Pre-Existing Ranges

1. The owner of the property shall document that the use of the range has occurred on a regular basis prior to the enactment date of the ordinance, and
2. The Code Enforcement Officer in consultation with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department must find that the range conforms to generally accepted gun safety and shooting range operation practices and is constructed in a manner not reasonably expected to allow a projectile to cross the boundary of the range. The Code Enforcement Officer in consultation with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department shall be guided by the most recent edition of the Range Source Book published by the National Rifle Association in making this determination.

B. New or Expanded Ranges

1. The Code Enforcement Officer in consultation with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department must find that the range conforms to generally accepted gun safety and shooting range operation practices and is constructed in a manner not reasonably expected to allow a projectile to cross the boundary of the range. The Code Enforcement Officer in consultation with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department shall be guided by the most recent edition of the Range Source Book published by the National Rifle Association in making this determination.
2. No portion of a shooting range involved with the discharge of firearms outside of a building shall be located within three hundred (300) feet of any building or residential dwelling without the prior written permission of the owner of the building or residential dwelling or a person authorized to act on the behalf of the owner.

5. Allowed Activities

The following activities are permitted at a registered sport shooting range:

A. Outdoor Ranges

1. The discharge of firearms limited to shotguns, Rimfire Arms and Black Powder Guns.

2. The discharge of firearms other than shotguns, Rimfire Arms and Black Powder Guns at a registered pre-existing range only if such firearms were discharged prior to the enactment of this ordinance in conjunction with a legal commercial use.

B. Indoor Ranges That Are Fully Enclosed Within a Building

1. The discharge of firearms limited to the types and calibers of firearms for which the range is designed to accommodate based on the recommendations of the most recent edition of the Range Source Book published by the National Rifle Association.

6. Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited at a registered sport shooting range:

- A. The discharge of any automatic firearm.
- B. The use of a firearm other than a shotgun, Rimfire Arm, or Black Powder Gun within the area of a shooting range if the range is located outside of a fully enclosed building except as provided for in 5.A.2.
- C. The discharge of any firearm between 8:00 P.M. or sunset whichever is later and 8:00 A.M. outside of a building or fully enclosed shooting range.

7. Fees

The Board of Selectmen may establish a fee for the registration of a Sport Shooting Range.

8. Enforcement

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department or any successor local law enforcement agency.

9. Penalties

Any person violating any part of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine as determined by the Board of Selectmen of not less than \$250.00 per violation or such greater penalty as may be provided by state law which may include costs and reasonable attorney fees. Such fine(s) shall be recovered for the use of the Town of Harpswell.