



RANGE SAFETY OFFICER - INTERIM GUIDANCE

UNSUPPRESSED RIFLES ON RECREACTIONAL FIRE RANGES

- **Date** – August 11, 2026; valid until rescinded or supplemented
- **Applicability** – Applies to unsuppressed rifles on Range 1 and Ironman. Members shooting suppressed / unsuppressed in the same session are considered unsuppressed
 - Not intended to affect other range rules such as minimum steel distances, restrictions, etc.
 - Educating members and instituting these changes will take time and patience; do your best
 - Questions, clarification, and feedback on experiences to the Chief RSO or a member of the BoD
 - RSOs, as always, use their discretion based on events and circumstances as experienced
- **Background** – The growth in rec fire, at times, reduces spacing between shooters, which is particularly evident on Range 1 whether in or out of the shoot house. Members have concerns about the concussive effect of being next to unsuppressed rifles, especially when “brakes” are used
- **Safety** – This guidance mitigates blast and concussive events associated with un-suppressed rifle fire by segregating unsuppressed rifles to the right side of range 1 and Ironman
 - No .50BMG will be shot from inside the R1 shoot house
 - RSOs are reminded MCBQ mandates double hearing protection - This is an individual’s personal responsibility, not QSC’s
 - Range kits now include foam plugs for members who may wish a second set of protection
- **Implementation** – RSOs should make reasonable efforts to ensure compliance, to include:
 - Ensure unsuppressed rifle guidance is published in their range notes on the club’s calendar
 - Meet in the clubhouse prior to range opening to plan the firing line
 - RSOs enter / setup the range and shooting areas before members are allowed on the range
 - Dedicate one RSO to meet shooters (before they enter the range), advise them of the range separation guidelines, and direct them to their correct shooting area
 - Maintain segregation for new shooters – Adjust the size of the firing line as needed
 - **Range 1** – Place unsuppressed rifles from the right edge of the storage house to the right limit of the range. Alternatively, move to the right edge of the shoot house if additional space is needed
 - Place .50BMGs (recall there are no .338s allowed on Range 1) to the far-right side of R1 with 15’ of clearance to the next shooter
 - Place orange cones as delineators for the suppressed and unsuppressed shooting areas
 - Maintain space between unsuppressed shooters to the best of your ability to mitigate effects
 - **Ironman** – Place unsuppressed rifles from the Lane 8 marker to the Lane 12 marker
 - Place .50BMGs / .338s to the far-right limit of IM with 15’ of clearance to the next shooter
 - Place orange cones as delineators for the suppressed and unsuppressed shooting areas
 - Maintain space between unsuppressed shooters to the best of your ability to mitigate effects