



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

**Rich Storm**  
Commissioner

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**Gabe Jenkins**  
Deputy Commissioner

December 1, 2025

Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair  
Representative Derek Lewis, Co-Chair  
c/o Emily Caudill, Regulation Compiler  
Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee  
Legislative Research Commission  
Rm 029, Capitol Annex  
Frankfort KY 40601

Re: 301 KAR 3:015. Shooting ranges on department-owned or managed lands.

Dear Co-Chairs:

After discussions with Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee staff of the issues raised by 301 KAR 3:015, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources proposes the attached agency amendment to 301 KAR 3:015. These amendments are necessary due to new provisions just established in 301 KAR 5:022 requiring a fee to use a shooting range on lands owned or managed by the department. 301 KAR 3:015 sets the provisions for use of a shooting range on department owned or managed land and without the exception language added in this agency amendment, members of the public utilizing certain ranges would have been subject to a duplicate fee which we wanted to avoid. This language simply would conform to provisions previously approved in other regulations after the original file date of 301 KAR 3:015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny Gilbert".

Jenny Gilbert  
Legislative Liaison  
Commissioner's Office  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
1 Sportsmen's Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601

1 TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET

2 Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

3 (Amendment)

4 301 KAR 3:015. Shooting ranges on department-owned or managed lands.

5 RELATES TO: KRS 150.025(1)(h)

6 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 150.025(1)(h), 150.620

7 CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources,  
8 pursuant to statutory authority to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the  
9 provisions of KRS Chapter 150 as established in KRS 150.025 and as an independent  
10 department of state government within the meaning of KRS Chapter 12 as established in  
11 KRS 150.021(1), promulgated by the Commissioner with approval of the Commission in  
12 accordance with KRS 150.010(1), does hereby certify this administrative regulation is  
13 promulgated in compliance with Section 8 of 2025 RS HB6.

14 NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 150.025(1) authorizes the department  
15 to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the purposes of KRS Chapter 150.  
16 KRS 150.620 authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations to  
17 acquire or lease land for the operation of public shooting or fishing grounds. This

administrative regulation establishes requirements for the safe operation of department-owned or managed shooting ranges.

Section 1. ~~Definitions.~~

~~—(1) "Archery and crossbow range" means a shooting range that is established for target shooting at stationary targets with archery or crossbow equipment.~~

~~—(2) "Club-operated shooting range" means a facility that is:~~

~~—(a) Operated by a department-authorized entity for target shooting; and~~

~~—(b) Open to the public during club events.~~

~~—(3) "Firing line" means the area where a weapon is shot or discharged, as designated by:~~

~~—(a) Signage;~~

~~—(b) A shooting bench; or~~

~~—(c) A range officer.~~

~~—(4) "Pistol pit" means a shooting range that is established for target shooting with pistols.~~

~~(5) "Range officer" means an individual designated as a National Rifle Association range officer, a National Shooting Sports Foundation range officer, a department hunter education instructor, or a law enforcement range officer, responsible for supervising a shooting range and ensuring compliance with this administrative regulation.~~

~~—(6) "Safety zone" means an area downrange of a firing line where all public access is prohibited as designated by department signs.~~

~~—(7) "Self-service trap shooting range" means a shooting range that is established for people to shoot at moving targets with a shotgun.~~

~~—(8) "Shooting range" or "range" means a public facility on lands owned or managed by the department through ownership, lease, license, or cooperative agreement, or a facility owned or managed by an affiliated partner of the department that is designated for the shooting of firearms or archery equipment.~~

~~—(9) "Shooting station" means a location on the firing line for one (1) person to shoot, as designated by:~~

~~—(a) Signage;~~

~~—(b) A shooting bench; or~~

~~—(c) A concrete pad~~

~~—(10) "Tube range" means a shooting range established for target shooting through designated steel tubes.~~

## Section 2.]

(1) Except as established in subsection (2) of this section, if a shooting range exists on department-owned or managed lands, then a person shall not target practice, sight in a firearm, or discharge a firearm on any area except the shooting range.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to:

1 (a) A person legally hunting a game species;

2 (b) A department employee, range officer, or department-authorized volunteer~~[hunter~~  
3 ~~education instructor]~~in the performance of an official duty;

4 (c) A person or group participating in a department-sponsored ~~[hunter education class]~~  
5 event; or

6 (d) A group participating in a department-approved event pursuant to 301 KAR 3:010.

7 Section 2[3]. General Shooting Range Requirements.

8 (1) A person shall not operate firearms, archery equipment, or any other device used  
9 to mechanically propel a projectile on a shooting range without possessing a valid  
10 shooting range permit, except the following individuals may utilize the ranges without a  
11 shooting range permit:

12 (a) Department personnel engaged in official duties; ~~[and]~~

13 (b) Federal, state, or local law enforcement agency personnel operating pursuant to **an**  
14 **approved WMA Use Permit** ~~[a written agreement]~~ may participate in organized training  
15 events without possessing a shooting range permit[-]; **and**

16 **(c) Individuals who have purchased a Peabody WMA Use Permit or Otter Creek**  
17 **Outdoor Recreation Area entry and special activities permits.**

18 (2) A person operating a firearm, archery equipment, or any other device used to  
19 mechanically propel a projectile on a shooting range, shall provide proof they possess a  
20 valid shooting range permit upon request by a department Game Warden.

1 (3) ~~[(1)]~~ Except as posted by a department sign or a group ~~[an event]~~ permit issued  
2 pursuant to 301 KAR 3:010, a person using a shooting range shall only shoot from a  
3 designated firing line downrange at a department-provided:

4 (a) Target stand;

5 (b) Target; or

6 (c) Shooting berm.

7 (4) ~~[(2)]~~ A person shall not:

8 (a) Enter a shooting range except at a designated entrance;

9 (b) Enter a designated safety zone, except as established in subsection (8) ~~[(6)]~~ of this  
10 section;

11 (c) Discharge a firearm:

12 1. Before 9 a.m.;

13 2. After sunset, except on a lighted range during scheduled hours of operation; or

14 3. At any time prohibited by department signage.

15 (d) Be under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicant.

16 (5) ~~[(3)]~~ A person shall not use:

17 (a) A tracer bullet;

18 (b) Armor piercing ammunition;

19 (c) A fully automatic firearm;

20 (d) A rifle cartridge that is .50 caliber or larger;

1 (e) A muzzle-loading rifle ball, sabot, or bullet larger than .78 caliber;

2 (f) A cannon or replica thereof;

3 (g) A mortar or other explosive device;

4 (h) A grenade; or

5 (i) An incendiary.

6 ~~(6)~~[(4)] A person shall not:

7 (a) Leave spent cartridge cases or litter on the range;

8 (b) Point a firearm in an unsafe direction or otherwise carelessly handle a firearm; or

9 (c) Use a shooting range at any time or in any manner inconsistent with department-  
10 posted signage or department group permit pursuant to 301 KAR 3:010.

11 ~~(7)~~[(5)] A person under the age of sixteen (16) shall not discharge a firearm on a  
12 shooting range unless under the direct supervision of a person at least eighteen (18) years  
13 old.

14 ~~(8)~~[(6)] A person actively engaged in shooting or a spectator shall not go beyond the  
15 firing line without first clearly communicating to all other shooters to cease fire.

16 ~~(9)~~[(7)] Upon hearing a cease fire command, seeing a person move beyond the firing  
17 line, or seeing another unsafe condition~~[or seeing a person move beyond the firing line],~~  
18 a person shall:

19 (a) Immediately cease firing;

20 (b) Unload all firearms;

1 (c) Leave the action open, with the safety in the "on" position if the firearm has a safety  
2 mechanism, on all firearms;

3 (d) Place all firearms:

4 1. In a holster;

5 2. On a table at the shooting station; or

6 3. On the ground; and

7 (e) Not handle a firearm while a person is beyond the firing line.

8 ~~(10)~~~~(8)~~ There shall not be more than one (1) person at a shooting station at the same  
9 time, unless one (1) person is an instructor and the other is a student.

10 ~~(11)~~~~(9)~~ A person shall immediately obey the range officer's command.

11 ~~(12)~~~~(10)~~ Any spectator and a person handling a firearm shall wear protective eye and  
12 ear wear.

13 ~~(13)~~~~(11)~~ Each person shall be limited to one (1) hour of shooting time if anyone is  
14 waiting to use the shooting range.

15 ~~(14)~~~~(12)~~ If a scheduled event or department maintenance activities preclude open  
16 public use of a shooting range, then the department shall notify the public by:

17 (a) Posting the closure on the department's Web site at fw.ky.gov; and

18 (b) Posting a notice at the shooting range or a kiosk or bulletin board on the  
19 department-managed area.

20 ~~(15)~~~~(13)~~ A shooting range may be reserved for group use, if:



1 (a) The group has obtained a department group~~[event]~~ permit pursuant to 301 KAR

2 3:010; and

3 (b) The group designates a range officer who shall oversee the event and ensure that  
4 all participants are in compliance with this administrative regulation.

5 Section 3~~[4]~~. Special Shooting Range Requirements.

6 (1) In addition to the general shooting range requirements established in Section 2~~[3]~~  
7 of this administrative regulation, a person shall comply with the special shooting range  
8 requirements established in subsections (2) through (8) of this section.

9 (2) A person using a tube range shall only:

10 (a) Shoot from a designated shooting station;

11 (b) Shoot a firearm through the tube provided at a shooting station;

12 (c) Use the department-provided target frames;

13 (d) Place target frames in the ground inserts provided on the tube range; and

14 (e) Attach paper targets to the target frames.

15 (3) A person using a tube range shall:

16 (a) Not shoot a pistol;

17 (b) Close tube doors when any person is downrange of the firing line;

18 (c) Not smoke or have any open flame;

19 (d) Not shoot at any objects on the ground; or

(e) Not use the range on a Monday, except if participating in a department-approved event pursuant to 301 KAR 3:010.

(4) A person may target shoot on a club-operated shooting range on Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA, Jones-Keeney WMA, Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA, and West Kentucky WMA if the person:

(a) Attends a ~~regularly~~ scheduled event coordinated and sponsored by a department-authorized club;

(b) Complies with the requirements of this administrative regulation and posted signage on the area; and

(c) Complies with the rules of operation established by the club and the club's range officer.

(5) On a club-operated shooting range, a club or organization shall:

(a) Comply with all WMA group~~event~~ permit requirements pursuant to 301 KAR 3:010;

(b) Post all approved event dates and times that are open to the public:

1. In the WMA clubhouse, if present;

2. On a WMA bulletin board or kiosk; and

4. On the Department's Web site at fw.ky.gov.

(c) Provide a range officer who shall oversee each event to ensure that all participants shall be in compliance with the requirements of this administrative regulation.

1     (d) Submit required reporting information to Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

2     Resources pursuant to 301 KAR 3:010.

3     ~~[(6) A person who is using an archery and crossbow range shall only use:~~

4     ~~—(a) Broadhead-tipped arrows or crossbow bolts on department-provided broadhead~~  
5     ~~targets, and in compliance with area signage.]~~

6     (7) A person using a pistol pit shall:

7     (a) Only shoot from a designated firing line;

8     (b) Only use department-provided target frames;

9     (c) Only attach paper targets to the target frames;

10    (d) Only use single projectile ammunition;

11    (e) Not shoot any firearm except a pistol;

12    (f) Not shoot at any objects on the ground; and

13    (g) Not use the range on a Monday, except when participating in a department-  
14    approved event pursuant to 301 KAR 3:010.

15    (8) A person using a self-service trap shooting range shall:

16    (a) Only use a shotgun with shotshells containing multiple projectile pellets no larger  
17    than number two (2);

18    (b) Provide clay targets and portable target throwers; and

19    (c) Not target shoot anywhere except at a designated self-service trap shooting station.

## FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

301 KAR 3:015

Contact Person: Jenny Gilbert

Phone: 502-564-3400

Email: Jenny.Gilbert@ky.gov

(1) Identify each state statute, federal statute, or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation: KRS 150.025 and KRS 150.620

(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and if so, identify the act: 2024 HB 586 RS defined a shooting range or range and established shooting range permits.

(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: \$0

For subsequent years: \$0

2. Revenues:

For the first year: Unknown at this time

For subsequent years: Unknown at this time

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: \$0

For subsequent years: \$0

(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts): No local government entities should be affected by the regulation.

(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: \$0

For subsequent years: \$0

2. Revenues:

For the first year: \$0

For subsequent years: \$0

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: \$0

For subsequent years: } \$0

(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a): Organizations that engage in shooting sports and utilize the department ranges would be affected. The entities themselves would not need to acquire permits but individual participants would need to obtain permits. There is no additional fee requirement included in the agency amendment. In fact, this amendment ensures the regulated entities would not be charged two separate fees for the same activity.

(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: \$0

For subsequent years: \$0

2. Revenues:

For the first year: \$0

For subsequent years: \$0

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: \$0

For subsequent years: \$0

(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation: We are unable to determine a fiscal impact until the permit has been effective and sold for at least a year as the number of shooters utilizing state-owned shooting ranges is unknown.

(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion: We are using this permit as a tool to track usage of state-owned shooting ranges.

(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a "major economic impact", as defined by KRS 13A.010(14): No

(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion: The entities listed in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a) will not have any negative fiscal impact. Only individuals will be impacted.