



Menard County Sportsman's Club Reopening Plan

From the Menard County Sportsman's Club Board of Directors:

We would like to begin by thanking all of you for your continued support and interest in resuming normal trapshooting activities at the Menard County Sportsman's Club. Thanks to all of you, MCSC has experienced amazing growth in the past few years with event crowds of upwards of 125 competitors. It is this very success that makes the COVID-19 shutdown so difficult. Just like all of you, we too are eager to get back out on the range enjoying the summer weather and comradery of our fellow trap shooters. Our club's current challenge is balancing our desire to get back to trapshooting with the need to adhere to the State of Illinois' COVID-19 guidelines.

The MCSC Board of Directors met on June 7 to discuss possible plans for reopening the trap range. The State of Illinois entered Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan on at the beginning of June. The Phase 3 guidelines for outdoor recreation facilities, including shooting ranges, limit group sizes to 10 individuals, with groups spaced at least 30 feet apart. While this would certainly allow for a squad of five to take to the firing line, the logistics of separating a crowd of 125+ into groups of 10 separated by 30 feet is virtually impossible to manage with the space we have available. With the health and safety of our members and guests in mind, the board has decided that the safest course of action is to keep the trap range closed until the State moves into Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan.

The State's plan, barring any community health setbacks during Phase 3, is to move into Phase 4 on June 26. While the State has not yet released Phase 4 guidance specific for outdoor recreation facilities, their general Phase 4 guidance promises gathering sizes of up to 50 people. This would provide significant leeway for the trap range to reopen for Saturday morning practice and for the Tuesday night trap league. It still may be necessary to regulate crowd sizes, but we will make those decisions when/if it becomes necessary.

Assuming that the State moves into Phase 4 on June 26, as scheduled, here is our tentative schedule for reopening the trap range.

Saturday Morning Practice

Tentative Start Date: Saturday, June 27

Summer Trap League

Tentative Start Date: July 14

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our members and guests. Many of our club members fall into the COVID-19 high risk categories. According to the CDC, this includes anyone over age 65 and anyone with an underlying health condition, including lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, severe obesity, kidney disease, liver disease, etc. We recommend that anyone who falls into one of these risk categories stay away from the club, and all other unnecessary gatherings, until the COVID-19 crisis is resolved.

If you choose to visit the Menard County Sportsman's Club and participate in trapshooting activities, you will be expected to follow all of the guidelines presented here. If you choose not to follow these guidelines, you may be asked to leave the trap range, for the safety of our other participants.

General Guidelines

- Social distance of six feet should be maintained.
- Groups of more than 50 people are prohibited.
- It is permitted to have more than one group (of 50 or less people), but these groups must be kept at least 30 feet apart.
- Masks are required anytime proper social distance is questionable or not possible. Masks must be worn properly, covering both nose and mouth.

Registration/Cashiering & Clubhouse

- Clubhouse will remain closed and locked.
- All registration and cashiering will be performed outside.
- Masks required to be worn in the registration/cashiering area, by both staff and patrons.
- At least six feet social distance between people waiting in line at registration/cashiering area
- No more than 10 people (including registration staff) in the registration/cashiering area at a time.

Restroom Facilities

- The permanent bathrooms will remain closed and locked.
- A portable restroom and hand washing station will be provided.

Trap Range

- 16 yard posts are nine feet apart (yardage posts are further apart). Because of this distance, masks are not required on the trap line.
- When not on the trap line, minimum of six feet social distance should be maintained. If this is not possible, masks should be worn.
- Because the distance between the 26 & 27 yard line posts of any trap house are less than 30 feet from the 26 & 27 yard line posts of the next trap house, squads need to be to be conscious of the yardage of the squads to their left and right. No two adjacent squads can shoot from behind the 25 yard line at the same time.

Trap League Crowd Size Restrictions

Our intention is to accommodate all teams that are interested in participating in the trap league. To help keep the onsite crowd size to a minimum, we ask that all team members arrive at approximately the same time, shoot their trap rounds as efficiently as possible, and leave the grounds at the end of the team's round. As much as we all enjoy visiting with our fellow trap shooters, we all need to limit our time at the range during this challenging time. If it proves to be impractical to maintain required social distance, it may become necessary to regulate crowd size by means of one or more of the following methods

- Limit the number of participants on the grounds to 50 at a time
- Pre schedule shooting times to reduce the amount of time each team is on site
- Split trap league into two nights (Maybe Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Team registration, rather than individual registration – one person from each team would pay and register for the entire team

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