

# Commercial Scale Outdoor Gun Range Ordinance

Adopted: November 8, 2023

## Commercial Scale Outdoor Gun Range

### (A) Definition:

(1) Zoning Exempt Shooting: The safe and secure use of legal firearms for hunting or sport shooting, as permitted by County, State, or Federal law, shall be permitted in White Oak Township, and shall not be subject to this Ordinance or require any permit from the Township, unless the shooting meets the definition of Commercial Scale Outdoor Gun Range in subsection 2.

(2) Commercial Scale Outdoor Gun Range: An outdoor commercial facility, open to the general public, for the safe and secure use of rifles, shotguns, pistols, silhouettes, skeet, trap, black powder, or any other similar sport shooting.

(a) Facilities that offer gun safety training to the general public shall be considered commercial, regardless of the capacity of the gun range, the size of the lot, or any other factor.

(b) Facilities that charge a fee, suggested donation, membership fee, or any other financial consideration in exchange for shooting on the premises shall be considered commercial, regardless of the capacity of the gun range, the size of the lot, or any other factor.

(c) Repair or maintenance of firearms for a fee shall not, by itself, result in a facility being designated as a Commercial Scale Outdoor Gun Range.

### **(B) Zoning Districts Permitted for Commercial Scale Outdoor Gun Ranges:**

Commercial Scale Outdoor Gun Ranges shall only be permitted in the C District, and shall require Special Use Approval.

### **(C) Standards for Commercial Scale Gun Ranges**

(1) The minimum lot size for a Commercial-Scale Outdoor Gun Range shall be 40 acres.

(2) Each individual Commercial-Scale Outdoor Gun Range shall be enclosed with a minimum six (6) Foot wooden or masonry fence, with no gaps. Range fencing shall enclose the range proper, backstop, side walls, or greenbelt, shotfall area for shotgun

ranges, firing line, ready areas, and any other area in which a person might unwittingly subject himself to reasonable hazard.

(3) Trap, skeet or other shotgun ranges shall be placed such that the firing positions are not less than nine hundred (900) feet from the nearest property line in the direction of fire, and not less than 1,000 feet from a well or septic field on another property, in the direction of fire.

(4) All outdoor pistol and rifle ranges shall be provided with a secondary backstop and a primary bullet-stop immediately behind the target line.

(a) The primary bullet-stop shall consist of inclined steel plates with sand pits, or heavy timbers backed with earth. The steel plates shall be backed with sand or other sound deadening material.

(b) The secondary backstop shall be constructed of earth and shall be at least 20 feet tall. This backstop may be a natural rise of ground if free of stone and exposed rock and lying entirely within the fenced area. Alternative construction affording equivalent protection and noise reduction are allowed with the approval of the Planning Commission.

(5) In addition to the primary and secondary backstops, all outdoor pistol and rifle ranges shall be enclosed on the remaining three (3) sides by a dense greenbelt of bushes, brush or trees not less than ten (10) feet in height and not less than two hundred (200) feet in width.

(a) As an alternative to the greenbelt, an earthwork may be constructed such that the top of the earthwork subtends an angle of not less than six (6) degrees from the horizontal when viewed from any point on the firing line, or not less than ten (10) feet in height, whichever is greater. In case of the earthwork, the two hundred (200) feet distance between the firing line and the property line shall be maintained.

(b) Alternative construction affording equivalent protection and noise reduction may be allowed on petition to the Planning Commission.

(6) No-trespassing or danger signs designating the hazard, not less than two (2) square feet nor more than four (4) square feet in area, and spaced not more than two hundred (200) feet apart, shall be posted on the upper portion of the fence enclosing the range. The sign shall also be posted at each gate and other entry.

(7) Only during the hours between 10:00 AM and 9:00 PM. Further, no Commercial-Scale Outdoor Gun Range shall operate after dusk, even if the sun sets before 9:00 PM.

(8) Operational noise levels emanating from a gun range shall not exceed seventy (70) decibels LMax as measured from the property line of the gun range.

(9) The gun range must be located and designed so that no residential homes are within 500 yards of the firing line in the direction of fire.

(10) Commercial Scale Outdoor Gun Ranges must be operated in compliance with all County, State, and Federal laws. Specifically, the range must comply with Michigan Department of Natural Resources generally accepted operation practices for sport shooting ranges.