

CHAPTER 33 - FIRING RANGE FACILITIES – COMMERCIAL ONLY

Sec. 33.1 Firing range facilities, outdoor. These are any facilities where outdoor firing of firearms is performed on a commercial basis (i.e., requires a fee or membership), including private gun clubs, target shooting ranges, etc.

- a) Minimum lot size: 100 acres.
- b) A 200-foot vegetated buffer shall be required for all sides of the property abutting residential or commercial areas.
- c) Firing ranges for rifles and pistols should be oriented so that firing is not directed towards any residential or commercial property within 2000 yards that is touching an arc width of 20 degrees, centered on the axis of firing (that is, within ten degrees of either side of said axis);
- d) All portions of any firing range (for pistol and rifle ranges, this is defined as the area from the firing line to the target backstop or berm, for the width of the shooting lanes; for sporting clays, skeet, trap and five stands, this is defined as the area from the firing stations to a distance 100 yards from the firing stations in the direction of fire) must be located at least 1,000 feet from all property lines.
- e) Hours of firing shall be limited to between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday. No firing permitted on Sunday.
- f) A site plan shall be submitted with the conditional use application showing all facilities and ranges, the direction of firing, all residential or commercial property within 2000 yards downrange, and all buffers and distances, plus such other information as is required by GA law.

Sec. 33.2 Firing ranges facilities, indoor. These are facilities where all firing ranges are inside buildings.

- a) Minimum lot size: 10 acres.
- b) A 50-foot vegetated buffer shall be required for all sides of the property abutting residential or commercial properties.
- c) No building containing a firing range may be located within one hundred feet (100') of the property boundary.
- d) Building's housing firing ranges must be constructed to prevent the escape of bullets and also constructed with soundproofing or setbacks such that no sound of the discharge of firearms is audible at the property line.
- e) A site plan shall be submitted with the conditional use application showing all facilities, all buffers and distances, plus such other information as is required to enforce this section and in accordance with Federal, State, and Local guidelines and laws.

Sec. 33.3 Existing firing ranges. Outdoor Firing Ranges in existence as of September 8, 2023 in Union County shall, commencing 90 days after the firing range ordinance goes into effect will be subject to the following restriction: hours of operation shall be limited to Monday to Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. No firing shall be permitted on Sunday. Note: The foregoing provisions concerning firing ranges (Sections 33.1, 33.2, 33.3 shall not apply to property owned by the County or property owned entities exempt from this ordinance including the U.S. Government, a

municipality within the County, or an entity regulated by the Georgia Public Service Commission (i.e., a public utility).

Sec. 33.4 Violations / Consequences

- a) Any section of this ordinance that is not followed constitutes a violation.
- b) This article shall be enforced by any Court of competent jurisdiction, Code Enforcement Officer, State, and county law enforcement.
- c) The ticketing agent has the discretion to issue a warning or a citation on a case-by-case basis.
- d) Any violation of this ordinance, the property owner is subject to a maximum fine of \$1000, and/or 60 days in jail.

Sec. 33.5 Variance Application

- a) Any request for a variance from this article must go through the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals. Section 33 is incorporated into the oversight of Section 18-105.

1st Reading: September 21, 2023

Public Hearing: October 19, 2023

2nd Reading: November 9, 2023

Adoption: November 30, 2023

Lamar Paris, Commissioner

Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk