

## Range Safety and Operations Plan for the Cowboy Action Range

At the Black's Creek Public Shooting Range

February 2022

This Range Safety and Operations (RS&O) Plan has been established to ensure the health and safety of those individuals who use the Cowboy Action Range (CAR) within the Black's Creek Public Shooting Range (BCR) and the community at large. The purpose of this RS&O Plan is to prescribe range safety rules, firearms handling practices while on the facility, describe specific range rules, and operational or administrative rules and regulations. This RS&O Plan applies to anyone and everyone who uses this facility for any purpose, firearms related or not.

The Oregon Trail Rough Riders (OTRR) operate the CAR as a sanctioned club of the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS). All SASS rules apply to all shooting events held at the CAR.

The CAR is open to the public only during designated cowboy action matches.

Only lead bullets may be used on the CAR at approved steel reactive type targets.

OTRR members may shoot on the CAR during regular BCR open hours, and at other times through special arrangement with the Range Master. OTRR members must sign in at the BCR office and show their OTRR membership card. Any guest of an OTRR member shooting on the CAR must also sign in and pay their range fee.

All firearms will remain unloaded except while under the direct observation of a designated person on the firing line or in the designated loading and unloading areas.

The muzzle of all long guns must be maintained in a safe direction at all times (generally "up" and slightly down range).

As long as the shooter has contact with the firearm, it is considered in their control.

Long guns will be emptied and discharged with their barrels pointed downrange.

This condition may be corrected on the clock, prior to the next round being fired. If the long gun is not empty prior to the next firearm being fired, only the shooter may return to open and/or clear the firearm at the end of the stage under the observation of the Chief Range officer/ Timer Operator(CRO/TO).

Pistols are returned to leather after use, unless stage instructions state otherwise.

## **Safety**

### **The Magnificent Seven:**

Always treat every firearm as if it is loaded.

Never let the muzzle of a firearm break the 170 degree rule.

Be sure of your target and what is beyond.

Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire.

Firearms remain unloaded outside of the normal course of fire -- loading area to unloading area.

Treat all firearms with respect.

Speak up. Everyone is a Safety Officer

**The 170 degree rule** means the muzzle of the firearm must always be straight down range (+/- 85 degrees in any direction). Direction and muzzle control is important between, before, during, and after shooting a stage. The 170 degree rule is the backbone of all safe firearm handling and is always in effect. Or expended case is considered safe and

A muzzle must not be allowed to 'sweep' the other participants at any time.

Long guns shall have their actions open with chambers and magazines empty and muzzles pointed in a safe direction when transported at a match.

A holstered revolver (loaded or empty) with the hammer fully down on an empty chamber or expended case is considered safe and may not be interpreted as sweeping another shooter while safely secured in the holster.

Failure to manage safe muzzle direction is grounds for a Stage Disqualification penalty

### **Safety Officers/Chief Range Officer—CRO (Timer Operator—TO)**

**The role of the Chief Range Officer/ Timer Operator (CRO/TO)** is to safety assist the shooter through the course of fire. Coaching and constraining the shooter from unsafe acts are expected when appropriate, minimizing procedural and safety penalties whenever possible.

It is expected the Chief Officer will be the responsible party for observing and resolving all safety related matters occurring in the loading, unloading, and firing line areas. However, as all shooters are considered safety Officers, any shooter who observes a safety infraction not witnessed by the CRO should call the infraction to a CRO's attention, at which time the matter will be resolved.

### **Range Commands**

**"Cease Fire" or "Stop"** – The command called out by the CRO/TO or any witnessing Range Officer /

Match Official at the anytime an unsafe condition develops.

**“Muzzle”** – This command quickly and efficiently warns the shooter their muzzle is getting close to the 170 degree rule and should be pointed in a safe direction (back down range).

**“Down Range”** – This command is announced prior to anyone proceeding down range for any reason, including to reset or repair targets. When a “down Range” command is announced, all participants at both the loading and unloading areas should cease firearm loading/unloading. Common practice is to raise hands in the air as a visual confirmation that no firearms are being handled while someone is down range.

## **Match Roles and Match Terms**

This section is a very basic summarized listing and definition of Match officials and terms.

**Posse** – A group of shooters scheduled to shoot through all stages together during the course of a match.

**Match Director** – is in charge of the overall match is required to ensure qualified officials are in place in all competition area. The Match Director is typically the stage writer/designer of the match and has the authority to override an “RO-assisted “ Minor Safety Violation penalty for a reshoot.

**Range Master**—is in charge of and oversees all stages and ensures qualified officials are in place on all stages. He or she reviews all stages and ensures they are designed and constructed to operate in a safe manner for both competitors and officials.

**Posse Marshal/ Deputy Posse Marshal**—is in charge of a posse and is required to ensure all posse positions are manned to safely and efficiently run the posse through each course of fire, ensuring all rules and regulations are followed.

**Chief Range Officer/Timer Operator (CRO/TO)** – is the Chief Range Officer for the stage and is in charge of the firing line as long as he/she is running the timer, and has the primary objective to safely assist the shooter through the course of fire.

**Spotters/Counters** – have the responsibility to count shots and misses and to verify targets were engaged in the correct order for the required number of shots. A minimum of three spotters are required – 2/3 breaks any ties in regards to misses.

**Scorekeeper** -- records the time and penalties appropriately for each contestant on the provided score sheets for each stage.

**Loading Table Officer** – is responsible for visually checking to ensure all firearms as loaded with only the correct number of rounds, verify no round is ever under the firing pin of any firearm, and all loaded firearms’ hammers are fully down on an empty chamber.

**Unloading Table Officer** – is responsible for visually checking to ensure all firearms are unloaded (clear) at the completion of the shooting stage.

## **Ammunition Covenants**

Power Factors -- The minimum standard for center fire ammunition used in all smokeless categories in all SASS matches is not less than a minimum power factor of 60 and no velocity may be less than 400 fps.

The maximum velocities are 1000 fps for revolvers and 1400 fps for rifles. Ammunition that exceeds these velocities is considered illegal and may not be used.

Power factors can be calculated by multiplying the bullet weight (in grains) x the velocity (in feet per second) and then resulting number divided by 1000.

All revolver and rifle bullets must be of lead. No jacketed bullets allowed.

Shotgun size must be number 4 lead birdshot or smaller for all events.

No steel shot, magnum or high velocity shells are allowed.

Pump and lever action shotguns are allowed to load no more than two live rounds at a time in main match stages unless specified in the stage description.

All shotguns are staged open and empty. Shotguns are loaded at the appropriate shooting position with rounds from the shooter's body.

All injuries, emergencies, and "near-miss" accidents such as a firearm errant discharge) occurring on the CAR must be reported immediately to the Range Master. An Incident Report Form shall be completed and filed with the Range Supervisor. In addition, an IHEA Range Incident Report and/or Emergency Report Sheet shall be completed and filed with the Range Supervisor, with a copy provided to the Range Executive Officer for each incident involving a firearm that results in an injury or property damage.

Both good sportsmanship and sportsmanlike conduct are encouraged at the CAR. Verbal abuse or harassment of one shooter by another is uncalled for and may be grounds for disqualifying the offender from an event or result in the offender being asked to leave the range. Physical abuse of one shooter by another will not be tolerated and will be grounds for disqualifying the offender from an event or result in the offender being asked to leave the range.

As part of the Black's Creek Range, the Oregon Trail Rough Riders follow all BCR rules for emergencies that require 911 services or in the case of wild fires on or near the range.

This CAR Range S&O Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis to evaluate its continued applicability and to determine the need for additions, deletions, or changes.