

RANGE & FIELD SAFETY BRIEFING

Participant Safety Rules & Acknowledgment

You are attending an open public event where firearms will be present and shooting activities may occur. **Safety is our highest priority.** Every participant, guest, volunteer, instructor, and observer shares responsibility for maintaining a safe environment.

A **Waiver of Liability** will be presented for signature during registration. This Range & Field Safety Briefing is intended to clearly establish the firearm-handling and range-safety standards expected of everyone participating in or observing shooting activities.

We recognize that many attendees have significant firearms training and experience. Regardless of experience level, **all participants are expected to serve as firearms safety practitioners and observers.** If you observe an unsafe condition, immediately bring it to the attention of a Range Safety Officer or firearms instructor. If an immediate hazard exists, call **"CEASE FIRE."**

Shooting sports can be conducted safely when established firearm-safety practices are consistently followed. They can also be unforgiving of carelessness, horseplay, or failure to follow instructions. **There is no place for unsafe firearm handling or horseplay at this event.**

FUNDAMENTAL FIREARM SAFETY RULES

1. TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS IF IT IS LOADED.

Never assume a firearm is unloaded. Personally verify the condition of any firearm you handle.

2. ALWAYS CONTROL THE MUZZLE.

Never point a firearm at anything you are not willing to destroy. On the firing line, the muzzle must remain pointed in the designated safe direction or target area as directed by the Range Safety Officer or instructor. Never allow the muzzle to cover any part of your body or another person.

3. KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL READY TO FIRE.

Keep your trigger finger straight and outside the trigger guard until you are properly positioned, have positively identified your target, are prepared to fire, and firing is authorized.

4. POSITIVELY IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT.

Know your target, its surroundings, and what lies beyond it before firing. When shooting at flying birds or clay targets, do not fire unless the shot can be taken safely within the designated shooting area and with a safe background.

RANGE & FIELD OPERATING RULES

5. VERIFY THE CONDITION OF EVERY FIREARM.

Whenever you pick up or receive a firearm, verify its condition and whether it is loaded or unloaded. Before setting down, transferring, casing, or returning a firearm, unload it and leave the action open unless specifically directed otherwise by an instructor.

6. FIREARMS ARRIVING AT THE RANGE MUST BE UNLOADED.

Firearms transported from a vehicle to the range area must be unloaded and preferably cased. If an uncased firearm is permitted by range staff, it must be carried in the manner specifically directed by the Range Safety Officer or instructor. Actions must remain open whenever practical. Firearms must not be loaded until authorized on the firing line.

7. LOAD ONLY WHEN DIRECTED.

Do not load a firearm until you are in the designated shooting position and instructed to do so by a Range Safety Officer or firearms instructor. Follow all range commands exactly. **Do not anticipate commands.**

8. SAFETIES DO NOT REPLACE SAFE FIREARM HANDLING.

When a firearm is equipped with a manual safety, use it as directed by the instructor and manufacturer. Never rely solely upon a mechanical safety. Proper muzzle control and trigger-finger discipline must be maintained at all times.

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RANGE PROCEDURES (continued)

9. MALFUNCTIONS, MISFIRES AND FAILURE-TO-FIRE CONDITIONS.

If a firearm fails to fire or otherwise malfunctions: Keep the muzzle pointed in the designated safe direction. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard. Do not turn around with the firearm. Follow the instructor's directions regarding any required waiting period or clearing procedure. If you cannot safely resolve the problem as instructed, raise your **non-firearm hand** and wait for assistance from a Range Safety Officer or firearms instructor.

10. NEVER LEAVE THE FIRING LINE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION.

Remain in your assigned shooting position until instructed otherwise. Do not move forward of the firing line or enter the target area until the range has been declared safe and permission has been given.

11. ANYONE MAY CALL "CEASE FIRE" FOR AN IMMEDIATE SAFETY HAZARD.

If you observe an immediate hazardous condition, loudly call: **"CEASE FIRE!"** Upon hearing the command, all shooters must immediately stop firing, keep their firearms pointed in a safe direction, remove their fingers from the trigger area, and follow the Range Safety Officer's instructions. Participants should repeat the **"CEASE FIRE"** command as necessary so everyone on the firing line hears it.

12. DO NOT TURN AROUND WHILE HOLDING A FIREARM.

If an instructor speaks to you while you are on the firing line, listen to the instructions while maintaining safe muzzle direction. **Do not turn your body to face the instructor if doing so could cause the muzzle to move away from the designated safe direction.**

13. DO NOT RETRIEVE DROPPED ITEMS WHILE ON THE FIRING LINE.

If ammunition, equipment, or another item is dropped, do not bend over or reach for it while handling a firearm. Maintain safe firearm control, raise your non-firearm hand, and request assistance from an instructor.

14. KEEP FIREARM MUZZLES CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS.

Do not allow the muzzle of a firearm to contact the ground, mud, snow, or other material that could obstruct the barrel. If a firearm is dropped or you believe the barrel may be obstructed, **do not fire it**. Notify an instructor and have the firearm inspected before further use.

15. EYE AND HEARING PROTECTION ARE REQUIRED.

All shooters must wear appropriate eye and hearing protection while on the firing line. Observers and others within designated shooting areas must comply with the protective-equipment requirements established by range personnel.

16. ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND IMPAIRMENT ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

No person may possess or consume alcoholic beverages or use illegal drugs within the active range area. No participant may handle or discharge a firearm while impaired by alcohol, cannabis, illegal drugs, prescription medication, over-the-counter medication, fatigue, illness, or any other substance or condition that could impair judgment, coordination, reaction time, or perception.

17. FOLLOW ALL RANGE SAFETY OFFICER AND INSTRUCTOR COMMANDS.

The instructions of Range Safety Officers and firearms instructors must be followed immediately. Range personnel may stop an individual from shooting or remove an individual from the firing area whenever they determine that a safety concern exists.

18. HORSEPLAY AND UNSAFE CONDUCT ARE PROHIBITED.

Horseplay, careless firearm handling, intentional disregard of safety rules, or disruptive conduct will not be tolerated. Participants who violate safety rules may be immediately removed from the shooting activity.

PARTICIPANT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and/or had explained to me the **Range & Field Safety Briefing** and the firearm-safety rules contained in this document.

I understand that participation in shooting and outdoor activities involving firearms requires my continuous attention to firearm safety. I agree to follow all safety rules, range commands, and instructions provided by Range Safety Officers, firearms instructors, event personnel, and authorized representatives.

I understand that I have an affirmative responsibility to immediately report an unsafe condition and that I may call **"CEASE FIRE"** if I observe an immediate safety hazard.

I understand that failure to comply with these safety requirements may result in my immediate removal from the firing line or termination of my participation in the event.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I understand these safety requirements and agree to comply with them.

Participant Name (Print):

Participant Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Name (if applicable):

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Emergency Contact Name:

Emergency Contact Phone:

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

When in doubt: STOP — maintain safe muzzle direction — keep your finger off the trigger — and ask a Range Safety Officer or instructor for assistance.