

# **SAFETY RULES**

## **SWADLINCOTE RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB**



***A COMMUNITY AMATEUR  
SPORTS CLUB***

# **SWADLINCOTE RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB** **CLUB SAFETY RULES AND GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS**

**(Revised: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018)**

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY OF EVERY SHOOTER TO READ AND MAKE THEMSELVES FAMILIAR WITH, AND TO CONFORM TO, THESE CLUB SAFETY RULES.**

**Always treat a gun as loaded.  
Never point a gun at anyone.  
Only pull the trigger when pointing in a safe direction.  
Always be sure of your target and what's beyond it.**

## **1. GENERAL RULES**

- a) It is the duty of this club to ensure that these rules are so constructed to ensure the safety of any person whilst in the confines of the range and of any person in the vicinity, outside the confines of the range. With this objective in mind the club committee strongly recommends that a member does not shoot, at the range, whilst unaccompanied and so as to prevent unauthorized persons entering the range complex it is recommended that the pedestrian entrance gate is kept locked, especially at off peak periods. (*See item '(o)' in this section - General Rules*)
- b) The only permitted targets shall be those that are recognized by the respective shooting bodies to which the club is affiliated, and such other targets as may be approved by the Committee from time to time.
- c) A shooter must ensure that when firing at their selected target there is no other target or target frame in their line of fire.
- d) Targets must be placed on target frames in accordance with the design of the frame.
- e) Unorthodox target frames/holders must have prior Committee approval.
- f) Target frames used forward of the backstop shall be made of 'Correx' plastic as denoted on the club safety certificates.
- g) Any other targets must have committee approval.

**The minimum distances where wood may be used, on each range, are as follows: -**

- 'A' Range (15 firing points), 25 meters or 25 yards.
- 'B' Range (9 firing points), 25 meters or 25 yards.
- 'C' Range (4 firing points), 50 meters or 50 yards.
- 'D' Range (12 firing points), 100 meters or 100 yards.
- 'E' HV Range (3 firing points), 100 meters.
- 'F' Range (multiple firing points), Various.
- 'G' Range indoor air gun range (.177 only), 10 meters

**Target Centre heights for each range are as follows: -**

'A' Range (15 firing points) 25metres, Max.1.5 meters, Min. 0.5 meters (prone)

'B' Range (9 firing points) 25metres, Max.1.5 meters, Min. 1.0 meters

'C' Range (4 firing points) 50metres, Max.1.5 meters, Min. 1,0 meters

'D' Range (12 firing points) 100 meters, Max.1.5 meters, Min. 1.5 meters

'E' Range (3 firing points) 100metres, Max. 2.0 meters, Min. 2.0 meters

'F' Range (multiple firing points 21 meters, Max 1.5 meters, Min 0 meters

'G' Range indoor air gun range (.177 only), Fixed height

- g) Specific limitations regarding muzzle velocities, muzzle energies and distances are posted on or near each range, in the form of safety certificates or specific notices authorized by the committee.
- h) Any Member, whilst on the range, can be asked to produce their current Membership Card, and if unable to do so may be requested to leave.
- i) It is the duty of every Member to inform the Administrator, in writing, of their current Firearm Certificate Number.
- j) Ammunition purchased on the range must not be removed from the range unless entered on the purchaser's Firearm Certificate.
- k) All Members shall carry their keys when visiting the range. The last Member to leave the range shall lock club house and all gates. Any Member opening or unlocking any of the Club's buildings is responsible for ensuring they are locked before he leaves the range.
- l) Members shall ensure that all electrical equipment, which is operated by members, is switched off should they be the last to leave.
- m) No vehicles are permitted within the perimeter fencing without a Committee Member's approval.
- n) Any communications or statements on behalf of or naming the club, made to the media, must first be cleared by the club committee or a person nominated by the club committee to be responsible for such communications.
- o) This club operates a key system which gives all members the advantage of being able to use the facilities, when they wish, during the permitted shooting hours. This imposes a duty on all members to act responsibly.

The committee strongly recommends, therefore, that a second person is always present when a member is shooting on a range. This second person does not have to be a member, this person must not shoot unless they are a paid FAC guest, they could be required to give evidence should any type of accident happen to the member. The second person would then be able to offer assistance or could request help from the emergency services. A phone is installed in the main foyer, for this purpose, with the '9' exposed in order that emergency calls can be made. The height barrier can be opened by the standard members club access key. If an emergency vehicle is called it will be necessary to unlock the height barrier, at the top of the road, so that the vehicle can gain access. The second person also serves as a witness should a third party be injured in an accident, shooting or otherwise, involving a member. The second person's information would be critical if a third

party, or their representative, sought to bring litigation against the member or the club, and would be required to provide evidence by the club's third-party liability insurers.

If a member chooses to visit the club alone, without the protection of a second person, then they are placing themselves at risk should an accident occur. In such a case the club would find it very difficult to support any claim by the member or be involved in defending any claim against the member, by a third party.

It is also very doubtful if the club's third-party insurers would be prepared to defend such a case.

- p) Any person who has an impairment which could affect the safe running of a range shall communicate this fact to the range officer before starting to shoot.

## **2. OPEN AND CLOSE ANY OF THE OUTDOOR RANGES AS PER THE NRA RANGE OPERATING PROCEDURES**

There is a log provided on each outdoor range which must be completed each time a range is opened for use or closed after use, by the range officer in charge.

The 'Range Officer' in charge is designated as the first full member to arrive at the range, who will be responsible for opening the range, and the last full member to leave the range, who will be responsible for closing the range.

If the range is opened by a full "yellow" badge member the first full "red" badge on that range will assume the range duties.

A range can be opened and closed any number of times during the shooting day, but the following procedure must be undertaken on each occasion.

### **2.1 Opening the Range to be used**

- a) The 'Range Officer' shall check that the main complex RED FLAG is raised and if not then they shall raise it. They shall then raise the RED FLAG on the range to be used. If using the HV range, then BOTH the HV red flag AND the D range red flag will be raised.
- b) They shall then enter the date and time, together with their name and membership number into the range log and signify, to others present, that they are about to carry out 'Range Opening' checks. If they observe, from the log, that the range was not properly closed then they shall make note of this in the log.

*(There is an example log sheet posted on each range giving details)*

- c) They shall then carry out the following checks on the range to be used: -
  - 1) The condition of the stop butt and the profile line.
  - 2) The condition of the range floor for ricochet inducing materials
  - 3) The condition of the target frames.

*(If any of the above checks prove to be unsatisfactory then the 'Range Officer' shall enter the details in the range log and shall not allow the range to open until corrective action has been carried out).*

- d) When they are satisfied that the range is safe to open then they shall signify this decision by entering the time alongside their first entry in the range log.

## 2.2 Closing the Range after use

- a) After the 'Range Officer' has checked that firing has finished, for their session, then they shall ensure that the whole range is cleared of litter, empty cases and live ammunition. They shall also ensure that target frames are brought back to the firing point.  
*(It is the responsibility of each shooter to clean up their firing point before leaving)*
- b) They shall then signify these actions in the range log together with the time of closure.
- c) They shall then lower the red flag for the range which he has closed.
- d) They shall then lower the complex main red flag providing there are no other range red flags raised, in which case he shall not lower this flag

## 2.3 Handing Over Responsibilities While the Range Is Open

This may occur due to a number of reasons but if it should occur then details of the replacement 'Range Officer', together with the time of handover shall be entered into the range log. The new 'Range Officer' shall then assume the full duties as indicated above.

## 2.4. Backstop Flags

Two permanent red flags are positioned at the right and left hand extremities of the backstop.

NO ATTEMPT should be made to remove EITHER of these flags.

## 3. RANGE CONTROL

- a) The range officer shall be designated as follows for the ranges herein stated: -
  - i. **(RANGE 'A') 15 Firing Point (25 meters)** the FULL MEMBER (RED BADGE) shooter who is positioned on the furthest LEFT, facing down range, and nearest to the range entry barrier.
  - ii. **(RANGE 'B') 9 Firing Point (25 meters)** the FULL MEMBER (RED BADGE) shooter who is positioned on the furthest RIGHT, facing down range, and nearest to the range entry barrier.
  - iii. **(RANGE 'C') Gallery Range (50 meters)** the FULL MEMBER (RED BADGE) shooter who is positioned on the furthest LEFT, facing down range, and nearest to the range entry path.
  - iv. **(RANGE 'D') Rifle Range (100 meters)** the FULL MEMBER (RED BADGE) shooter who is positioned on the furthest LEFT, facing down range, and nearest to the range entry door. This range officer will be subservient to the adjacent 100 meter HV range NRO RCO when it is in use.
  - v. **(RANGE 'E') HV C/F Range (100 meters)** the non-shooting NRA RCO who will also be in charge of the adjacent 100 meter range through the range officer operating on that range.
  - vi. **(RANGE 'F') Practical Range (25 meters)** The range officer for the session will announce himself prior to the range session briefing. The non- shooting RCO (or designated stage RCO) will accompany all shooters when actively shooting in practical stages on the range.

***(With respect to any of the above ranges Except the HV "E" range if firearms are not being used, on that particular range, then the range control duties shall be undertaken by a FULL MEMBER (YELLOW BADGE).***

- vii. **Indoor (10 meters) Air gun Range** the FULL MEMBER (RED OR YELLOW BADGE) shooter who is positioned on the furthest RIGHT, facing down range.
  - vii. **Other Outdoor Air gun Shooting must** be controlled by a FULL MEMBER (RED OR YELLOW BADGE) shooter.
- b) It shall be the duty of the RANGE OFFICER to communicate with all the shooters on that range, for which they have assumed responsibility, and to satisfy themselves 'VISUALLY' that all firearms have been made safe before allowing any shooter to go forward of the firing line.  
It will also be their duty to ensure that EVERY person is back safely behind the firing line, and the barrier lowered, where one is installed, before allowing shooting to commence.

c) **The following system of range orders MUST always be used: -**

i. **HAS EVERYONE FINISHED SHOOTING?**

If a 'NO' reply is received from any shooter then the RCO must wait a few minutes and deliver the order again.

When the RCO does not receive a 'NO' reply, from any shooter, then he will order;

ii. **UNLOAD AND STAND BACK.**

At this point the range officer will visually check that each gun or bow is in a safe condition before issuing the next command.

iii. **THE RANGE IS SAFE TO GO FORWARD AND CHANGE TARGETS.**

*(Should the range officer need to go forward of the firing line, or be temporarily engaged on a safety check, then they MUST appoint a TEMPORARY RANGE OFFICER to ensure safety at the firing line and to prevent any CASING, UNCASING or HANDLING of any guns or bows).*

iv. When the range officer has ensured that EVERY person is safely back behind the firing line they will RECOMMEND that all persons, on the firing point, should put on their ear defenders.

They will then issue the following command.

v. **THE RANGE IS CLEAR TO COMMENCE FIRING.**

**EMERGENCY COMMAND WHICH CAN BE USED BY ANY SHOOTER.**

vi. **STOP STOP STOP.**

On hearing this command every shooter must stop shooting IMMEDIATELY, Finger off the trigger and keeping the firearm pointing down range in a safe direction and await further instructions

The range officer will then investigate the cause of the emergency order and determine the best cause of action.

**ALL SHOOTERS WILL COMPLY WITH THESE AND ANY SUCH COMMANDS ISSUED BY THE RANGE OFFICER.**

d) **Permissible types of guns or bows**

- i. Only the following types of gun or bow can be used on the 'D' 100 meter, the 'C' 50 meter and both 'A' & 'B' 25 meter ranges: -

1. Any .17 or .22 rim fire rifle.
  2. Any club approved firearm initiated by a charge of Black Powder.
  3. Any air pistol or rifle.
  4. Any pistol calibre rifle.
  5. Any long barrel pistols. (see 3, d), viii)
  6. Any shotgun for use in practical shotgun disciplines (**not** B range)
  7. Bows or crossbows. ( see 3, d, iii)
- ii. FULL BORE BLACK POWDER RIFLES / MUSKETS are permitted on 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D' but these must NOT be loaded with Nitro propellants.
- iii. Bows or crossbows. F range. A range restricted to firing position 1 to 8 only. D range with prior committee approval or competition only
- iv. The use of shotguns is ONLY permitted on A range (Firing Points 1-8), C, D (restricted to Firing points 6 to 12) and F range.  
Bird shot no5 or smaller only. The use of shotguns is prohibited on B range.
- v. HV C/F Rifles, using nitro propellants, are ONLY permitted on the 'E' HV C/F 100 meter range.
- vi. Maximum MUZZLE VELOCITIES and MUZZLE ENERGIES shall not exceed those stated on the range safety certificate for the range in use. A member of SRPC committee or their nominated agent may require a round to be chronographed to ensure compliance.
- vii. Guns shall not be loaded with shot (i.e. more than one projectile) without the prior approval of the Committee in writing. (This rule does not apply to shotguns used for the practice of practical shotgun).
- viii. No pistol shall be DISCHARGED from a distance greater than 50 METRES (FIFTY) from the back stop.
- ix. On the 'D' range, no gun shall be discharged from a distance greater than 50 meters, from the backstop, in a standing unsupported position.
- x. On the 'F' range, only the following type of guns will be permitted:
1. Any air pistol or rifle.
  2. Any shotgun (using bird no5 or smaller) for use in practical shotgun disciplines (only during organized scheduled events)
  3. Bows and crossbows.

**e) Persons Authorized to Shoot on SRPC ranges.**

- i) No person shall be permitted to shoot on the ranges unless they are a Member, a Probationary Member, a Guest FAC Member, a Full Member of another Approved Club taking part in an authorized shoot, an air or bow sport guest, a person invited to attend on a pre-arranged guest day. Guest members are NOT ALLOWED to shoot HV centrefire at any time. None FAC holder guests are only allowed to shoot on pre-arranged guest days.
- ii) Each Member can introduce two shooting Guest Members per session only one guest is allowed to shoot at a time and must be supervised by the full member at all times. Numbers greater than this require prior approval from the Committee.
- iii) Guest Members must always be prepared to give way to FULL MEMBERS.
- iv) Guest Members may visit the Club a maximum of six times in any one calendar year.

- v) Ex-members of the Club must obtain Committee approval before visiting the range as a Guest Member.
- vi) The Guest Member shall be supervised by the host Member and it shall be the responsibility of the host Member to ensure the prescribed visitor fee is delivered to the Administrator. The guest fee is currently set at £10 per day except on calendar guest days when guests may shoot without charge. The host member is responsible for collecting/paying the fee and in the absence of the Administrator they should post the fee through the office letter box together with the mandatory statutory declaration form signed by the guest.
- vii) Each person shooting on S.R.P.C. ranges shall enter details of the session in the attendance register.  
The details entered shall include name, membership number and the disciplines shot during the session and the time of arrival and departure.  
In the case of a Guest Member the name shall be linked, on the following line, to the host member's entry.

These rules may be changed by decision of the Committee from time to time and will be evidenced by a notice on the appropriate range signed by either the Chairman or Deputy Chairman.

#### **f) Shooters' Duties**

- i. All guns and bows shall be transported to and from the firing point suitably covered.
- ii. No loaded guns or bows are to be brought onto the range. They may only be loaded at the FIRING POINT under the direction of the RANGE OFFICER and they must be unloaded before leaving the FIRING POINT.
- iii. Any gun or bow must be proved safe when handed to or taken from another person or when taken from its case.
- iv. No gun or bow holstered or otherwise shall be taken forward of the FIRING POINT in any circumstances, except under the express instruction of the RANGE OFFICER.

#### **g) Safety Procedures**

- i. The Range Officer IS TO BE NOTIFIED before any shooter takes up position on the firing point. (RANGE ETEQUETTE)
- ii. Firing is not to commence before the Range Officer gives the order to "Commence Firing".
- iii. No person is to go forward of the firing line until the Range Officer is satisfied that all guns or bows are Unloaded and Clear, laid down, 'Pointed' towards the target and parallel to the ground, all loaded magazines removed from the firing point and that the Range Officer has notified that the "Range is Safe to go Forward".
- iv. No gun or bow is to be chambered until the Range Officer gives the order to "Commence Firing".
- v. Chambering, Unchambering, Stoppage and Inspection Drills must be carried out with the gun parallel to the ground and pointed 'AT THE TARGET', or the bow pointed towards the ground immediately in front of the shooter, so that any subsequent discharge is safely contained.

- vi. At all times when a gun or bow (other than a muzzle loaders) is chambered shooters will ensure that its 'LINE OF SIGHT' is not inclined greater than the horizontal. This also includes MISFIRES.
- vii. If a stoppage or misfire occurs: -
  - a) *With a gun:* -  
The shooter is to ground the gun pointed towards the target whilst attending to the problem. If unable to rectify the problem, he will leave the gun 'Grounded' (i.e. laying horizontal pointing to the backstop). - Step Back and Notify the Range Officer. No one is to be allowed to go forward of the firing point until the gun is made safe. If it is unable to be easily made safe the Range Officer shall be consulted, who shall then use their best judgment to deal with the situation.
  - b) *With a bow:* -  
The shooter shall hold the bow on target until competent assistance is available. In this case the safety catch must be engaged, and the bolt removed, before lowering the bow.
- ix. Every shooter is personally responsible for the safe condition of their gun or bow and must check after firing that it is unloaded and clear. They shall then ask the Range Officer or another suitable person for clearance of its condition. A breech flag shall be inserted into the breach, or the bolt can be removed to prove it safe.
- x. No gun or bow is to be aimed, adjusted or sighted whilst shooting is in progress unless it is on the firing point; this includes "Aiming or Snapping".
- xi. Whilst shooters are forward of the firing point No gun or Bow is to be UNCASSED, CASSED or HANDLED in any way.
- xii. At no time shall a gun be uncased unless it is on the firing point, except under the direction of the Range Officer.
- xiii. No guns, bows, live ammunition or propellants, belonging to members or guests, shall be left or stored on the Club Premises.
- xiv. Every shooter shall endeavor to ensure that each projectile is aimed to strike in the catchment area of the back stop for a gun or target butt in the case of a bow.
- xv. No gun shall be uncased and handled within the Club House unless by committee approval.
- xvi. Shooting shall only take place, on outdoor ranges, between 9.00 am and 9.00 p.m. Please see current notices posted in all outdoor ranges.

**h) Muzzle Loading (General including Cannon)**

- i. No loading directly from a powder flask.
- ii. Only commercially manufactured black powder or black powder substitute to be used.
- iii. Shooters using revolvers must always take adequate precautions to reduce the risk of chain firing, by always using a suitable grease to seal the chambers.
- iv. Cannons must always be shot at bench level using a suitable base board which has front and rear stops, to prevent the cannon from leaving the bench

- v. Cannons may only be used on the 25-meter ranges (A, B) and are to be treated in the same manner as a muzzle loading pistol by Range Officers.
- vi. In the event of a misfire the gun must be held on the target for at least 30 seconds before being placed down in a safe position pointing down range and the range officer must be notified immediately (refer to section 3, g), vii (a))

#### **i) Breech Loading Black Powder Rifles**

- i. Only original black powder calibers between 0.32 ins and 0.58 ins to be used on the range. Calibers outside these sizes will require approval by the committee.
- ii. It is the committee's decision that .303 black powder rifles shall only be used on the HV (E) range.
- iii. Only commercially manufactured black powder or black powder substitute to be used.
- iv. Nitro loads in any form, including nitro duplex, are not permitted other than on the HV (E) range.
- v. Jacketed bullets must not be used only lead or lead alloy other than on the HV (E) range.
- vi. Any shooter using a breech loading rifle must always carry the necessary equipment to be able to dismantle a cartridge, to provide a sample of powder, following a request from a member of the S.R.P.C. committee. The choice of cartridge to be dismantled will rest with the committee member. A member of the S.R.P.C. committee might also require that a round be chronographed.

NB. A table is provided to enable members to calculate their maximum muzzle velocity knowing the bullet weight and maximum permissible muzzle energy.  
A chronograph service is available if required.

#### **j) Practical Shooting**

*Disclaimer to be stated at the start of all practical shooting activities*

*"All shooting activities have a potential to be dangerous.  
This is particularly relevant in respect of practical shooting, so make sure you take extra care when moving and handling all guns.  
You shoot in this session at your own risk and the club will take no responsibility for any injury caused by taking part in this Competition or Practice.  
By taking part in this activity you are agreeing to the above statement."*

- Ear and Eye protection must be worn when on the range by shooters and non-shooters alike.
- No gun is to be loaded until given instruction to do so by the current range officer.
- All guns must be shown to be clear of ammunition after every shoot/course of fire.
- Shooters must wear suitable footwear to prevent unnecessary trips or falls.
- Triggers should support the weight of 500g to reduce the chance of a Negligent Discharge.
- Steel targets can only be shot at during an organized shoot and must not be used by individuals for personal practice on the range.

### **When not shooting, the Rifle, Pistol, or Shotgun must be kept in a safe condition.**

- **Pistols:** *In holster:* unloaded, chamber empty, hammer down, no magazine.  
*In safe area:* unloaded, chamber empty, breach open, no magazine.
- **Rifle:** in gun rack or gun bag, unloaded, breach open, safety applied if has one, magazine removed unless its fixed to the rifle.
- **Shotgun:** in gun rack or gun bag, unloaded, breach open, safety applied

### **When Carrying the firearm to and from the point of fire:**

- **Pistols:** In holster, unloaded, chamber empty, hammer down, no magazine.
- **Rifle & Shotgun:** unloaded, safety applied, muzzle down, breach open.

### **During a live fire stage:**

- **Rifle:** The firearm must be pointed down range at all times when moving, loading or shooting.  
When moving, unless engaging a target, the trigger finger **must** be outside of the trigger guard.  
The minimum distance to engage a target is set out on the range certificate.
- **Shotgun:** The muzzle must not go above the height of the shooter. The Angle of fire will be set out in each stage briefing, but this will never be more than 180 degrees from the shooter.  
When moving, unless engaging a target, the trigger finger **must** be outside of the trigger guard.  
A shooter must be the minimum distance of 5mtrs before engaging any target.
- **Pistol:** The muzzle must not go above the height of the targets. The angle of fire will be set out in each stage briefing, but this will never be more than 180 degrees from the shooter.  
When moving, unless engaging a target, the trigger finger **must** be outside of the trigger guard.  
The gun must not sweep any part of the shooter's body  
A gun's muzzle must **never** be pointed at a person either empty or loaded, no matter where the person is standing.

*(Failure to observe the above rules may result in disqualification from the session/competition)*

Preparation of the range must ensure that each stage can be shot safely.  
The range brief should include any restriction that may breach the safety rules.

### **k) Behavior**

- i. No alcohol is permitted on the firing points. Anyone who is apparently intoxicated will be required to leave the range.
- ii. Members must remove their litter prior to leaving the range.
- iii. No one shall step over or disturb a shooter whilst he is in the process of firing.

- iv. Shooters and spectators are strongly advised to employ the use of adequate hearing and eye protection at all times whilst on the range. The Club will not be responsible for any injuries or damage sustained from failure to do so. It is also the responsibility of members to ensure that their guests are aware of these recommendations.
- v. All children brought to the range by members or their guests shall, at all times, remain under the control of a responsible adult and shall not be allowed to roam around the range complex.
- vi. It is club policy, for reasons of safety and hygiene, not to allow dogs into the range complex and it is recommended that members leave them at home but, if a member finds it necessary to bring their dog with him and finds it unsafe, because of heat or other reasons, to leave their dog, in their vehicle, in the car park, then under these circumstances he may bring the dog into the complex providing that the dog shall remain tethered and with the member for the whole of the visit. Should the dog defecate then it shall be the member's duty to clean up and dispose of the faeces by taking them away from the site.
- vii. Smoking and Vaping is ONLY permitted in the designated smoking area, located outside the main building and adjacent to the disabled car parking bays.

### **3. PERSONAL ACCIDENTS, MATERIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE**

- a) Any injuries caused or sustained by members or visitors, or
- b) Damage to either Club or personal property must be notified, at the earliest possible time, to the Club Administrator or any officer.  
The term "damage, loss or injury" will be taken to mean accidental or willful.  
Failure to report such incidents may jeopardize subsequent insurance claims.
- c) Any malicious damage caused by members or visitors will be investigated by the committee and may result in permanent expulsion of the responsible member(s) and visitors from the club.

***This document is designed to operate alongside and co-exist with the  
Constitution of Swadlincote Rifle and Pistol Club.  
By order of the Committee.***