

PISTOL RANGE SAFETY RULES

***YOU are personally responsible for every bullet that you fire;
where it goes and what it does.***



1. ALL GUNS ARE ALWAYS LOADED

DO NOT load any gun on this range until you are on the line and ready to shoot. Assume that every gun you come in contact with is loaded until you prove otherwise. Don't believe anyone who says "it isn't loaded".

Be deadly serious about handling every gun as you would a loaded gun.

More people are unintentionally shot with guns that they believed to be unloaded than with guns believed to be loaded. Rule #1 is a statement of mind, not a statement of fact.

2. NEVER LET THE MUZZLE POINT AT ANYTHING THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO DESTROY

Keep muzzle pointed in the safest possible direction consistent with situation or mission, especially during administrative functions: (loading, unloading, chamber checking and clearing malfunctions). It is a deadly threat to allow a gun to be in your hand while pointed at another human being. Uncase and case with the muzzle pointed downrange and away from all people. *"It isn't loaded"* is NOT an excuse – see Rule #1.

MUZZLE DOWN - ON THIS RANGE IS IT NEVER PERMITTED TO LET THE MUZZLE POINT SIDEWAYS OR ABOVE THE BACKSTOP. Exceptions: REVOLVER shooters may use proper reloading techniques for revolvers that work with gravity to eject cases. MUZZLE LOADER shooters may load UNPRIMED muzzle loaders with the muzzle vertical provided that priming is done afterwards with muzzle down and directed downrange. TUBULAR MAGAZINE RIMFIRE RIFLE ok to use gravity to load magazine with muzzle up, but chamber may not be loaded until muzzle is pointed at backstop. Do not close actions until muzzle is pointed at the target.

3. KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOUR SIGHTS ARE ON THE TARGET

Keep your finger off the trigger and on something solid above the trigger guard until your sights are on the target and you have decided to shoot. The reverse is also true: your finger goes back to "index position" the moment you come off target. Nothing touches the trigger unless the sights are on target and you want to hear a loud noise. This is the golden rule. It's violation is responsible for at least 80% of unintentional discharges.

4. BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET

Know what it is, what is behind it and what might cross in front of it. Never shoot at anything you have not positively identified. Do not let muzzle point above the target plane.

PLEASE USE OUR THREE (3) RANGE COMMANDS

COMMUNICATE your intentions. If you want to go downrange, ASK all other shooters if it is OK to CEASE FIRE and go downrange. Be courteous. If everyone agrees, then call "CEASE FIRE". Do not advance downrange until it is announced that "THE RANGE IS SAFE" and all guns are tabled. **"CLEAR" IS NO LONGER A VALID RANGE COMMAND ON THIS RANGE.**

1. **"CEASE FIRE"** MEANS:

- ✓ STOP FIRING IMMEDIATELY! DO NOT TAKE ONE MORE SHOT.
- ✓ REMOVE THE MAGAZINE AND AMMUNITION THE GUN. TRIPLE CHECK
- ✓ LOCK BACK ALL BOLTS AND SLIDES
 - If an action does not lock open, a "flag" type device such as weed whacker string may be placed in the action to give visible indication that the action has been cleared.
- ✓ OPEN THE ACTION AND PLACE YOUR FIREARM ON THE BENCH
- ✓ TABLE THE GUNS AND STEP BACK FROM THE BENCH

If YOU see an unsafe condition YOU HAVE THE AUTHORITY to call "CEASE FIRE"

2. **"THE RANGE IS SAFE - NO ONE TOUCHES ANY GUN"**

- ✓ ALL AMMUNITION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM ALL FIREARMS.
- ✓ EVERYONE HAS BACKED AWAY FROM FIREARMS AND WILL NOT TOUCH THEM.
- ✓ IT IS SAFE TO PROCEED DOWNRANGE OR PICK UP BRASS

The first person downrange one each side will place the **ORANGE FLAG** in the flag holder pipe
The last person back on each side will recover the **ORANGE FLAG** from his side.

3. **"THE RANGE IS HOT - EYES AND EARS"** MEANS:

- ✓ NO ONE IS DOWNRANGE AND FLAGS ARE BACK
- ✓ EVERYONE – NOT JUST SHOOTERS, IMMEDIATELY PUT ON EYE AND EAR PROTECTION
- ✓ YOU MAY HANDLE YOUR WEAPONS OR RESUME SHOOTING
- ✓ YOU MAY PACK YOUR FIREARMS TO LEAVE Point each firearm safely downrange, verify that it contains no ammunition before moving it or casing it.

SHOOTERS MAY NOT PRACTICE SPEED DRAW (PRESENTATION AND RECOVERY) FROM A HOLSTER on this range UNTIL proof has been provided to the Pistol Committee of adequate training in safely working from a holster. Acceptable credentials include Gunsite, Thunder Ranch, DTI, LFI, F.I.R.E. Institute, MPOETC, sheriff, PSP, or federal LE ID credentials. A holstered pistol need not be unloaded or benched during CEASE FIRE or SAFE – NO GUN WILL BE TOUCHED DURING SAFE. Advanced defensive techniques are best performed when less skilled shooters are not sharing the range.
NO extraordinarily loud guns (muzzle breaks etc) unless alone or with the consent of other shooters. Rifle – shotgun, if other shooters are present, rifle and shotgun shooters are restricted to 25y and 50y and may not shoot more than one shot per 3 seconds.

6. NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

Safe shooting requires clear minds. No alcohol on the range. No person may use this range while under the influence of alcoholic beverages, narcotics or if taking any medication that suggests the user not drive or operate machinery.

7. UNCASE WITH MUZZLE POINTED DOWNRANGE

Please carry your firearm to and from the firing line in a case or holster or pointed straight down. Do not touch or handle any firearm behind the firing line or when people are downrange. Uncase only when the line is "HOT" with the muzzle pointed downrange at the backstop with your finger off the trigger. **If a gun is in your hand it must never be pointed at anyone!**

8. EYE AND EAR PROTECTION ARE REQUIRED WHILE THE LINE IS HOT

Shooters and spectators must wear eye and ear protection. Polycarbonate or Tri-Vex lenses are best. We recommend a hat with baseball-style bill to prevent ejected brass from another shooter's gun from falling between your eyewear and your eye, burning you. Ladies low cut blouses are NOT recommended.

9. WASH HANDS AFTER SHOOTING & PREGNANCY

Shooters should wash hands in cold water or at least wipes, before drinking, eating or smoking to prevent the accidental ingestion of lead compounds from primers. Pregnant LADIES should avoid noise & lead exposure. Nursing ladies should avoid lead & chemical exposure such as gun cleaning.

10. SUPERVISE YOUR GUESTS AND CHILDREN

Responsible adult must constantly supervise each child on or behind the firing line. Adults cannot simultaneously shoot AND supervise children or inexperienced guests who shoot.

11. GUNS & AMMUNITION

- ✓ NEVER ELEVATE A FIREARM AND COCK IT – as in stupid old cowboy movies.
- ✓ .50 caliber BMG, full auto fire, fanning, bump firing and birdshot are prohibited.
- ✓ **SHOTGUNS: SLUGS ONLY**, the rack at skeet range is for bird shot patterning.
- ✓ **UNCONTROLLED FIRE IS PROHIBITED. RAPID FIRE** is only permitted if every shot hits the target. Slow down - uncontrolled fire will result in banishment.
- ✓ Use ammunition that is correct for your gun and recommended by the manufacturer.

12. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

By staying here to shoot or observe, you agree that you understand and will abide by the rules. You also agree that you and your family will not sue the club, or the people who run the club, or the people who keep up the club, or instructors who teach here or those who make or enforce the rules. **IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND AND AGREE, LEAVE NOW!**

Release Of Claims For Accidental Injuries or Death, Assumption Of Risk Agreement, Agreement Not To Sue, and Agreement To Hold Harmless, In Connection With Participation In Shooting Activities. In consideration of their presence at and/or participation in any shooting activities at the North Side Sportsmen's Association (hereinafter "NSSA") all individuals using or present at NSSA ranges and grounds and every shooter and observer agrees on behalf of themselves individually, their heirs, executors, and assigns, and any minor children who accompanies them that they (1) do so at their own risk, and (2) assume responsibility for any injury to persons or property caused by them, and (3) for themselves, their heirs, executors, and assigns, and for any minor children who accompanies them they agree that in the event any claim for damages is or in the future shall be prosecuted against NSSA or its officers, directors, committee chairman or members, instructors, range officers, coaches, agents, or employees as a result of their actions, omissions, or negligence, that they, or their estate, shall indemnify and save harmless NSSA, its officers, directors, committee chairman or members, instructors, agents, or employees from any and all claims or causes of action by whomever and wherever made or prosecuted for damages, including the cost and expense of defending the same. You are personally responsible for all damage that you cause.

BY REMAINING ON THESE PREMISES, YOU AGREE TO THE FOREGOING.

All range shooting is governed by these rules except that special rules may apply during special events or at the discretion of the Board of Directors or Pistol Committee. Rules may be changed by the NSSA Board of Directors or by the NSSA Pistol Committee. *Please promptly report unsafe or discourteous activities to Harry Schneider, Pistol Range Chairman 724-584-8902 psa@pagunlaws.com*
revised 08/30/2013

"MUZZLE - DOWN"

BY John Farnam <http://www.defense-training.com/>

"Muzzle-down" is the by-word... All rifle, pistol, and shotgun handling is with the muzzle no higher than horizontal. Elevating muzzles past horizontal during administrative processes, and during reloading and stoppage-reduction, is commonly taught in some quarters, but it is wrong - and dangerous!

When NDs occur with the muzzle down and angled toward the berm, the bullet hits the ground between the shooter and the berm and can still subsequently jump over to the other side. However, these ricochets are typically low energy and far less dangerous than direct launches.

"Muzzle-up" is bad practice for other reasons too. Handling guns with the muzzle up is an invitation to a disarm, and rifle barrels angled upward will reliably betray an Operator's position and intentions, particularly when he is behind cover.

So, our students need to become accustomed to keeping all muzzles continually at a downward angle, coming up to horizontal only when aiming at a target. All administrative processes: loading, unloading, and performing a chamber-check can be (and must be) done with Operator facing in a relatively safe direction and with the muzzle angled downward.

Harry Schneider, NSSA Pistol Chairman comments:

On this range it is NEVER permitted to have any loaded firearm pointed higher than the target AND backstop.

PRONE: Shooting from low positions such as prone, kneeling or sitting (on the ground) may only be done if you are shooting on targets that are on the 50 yard rack.



PISTOL RANGE PROCEDURES

←←← (don't learn the hard way)

1. PRIOR TO SHOOTING - ALL SHOOTERS MUST:

- ✓ SIGN IN AT THE PISTOL RANGE AND PAY DAILY USE DONATION
- ✓ RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGES ARE SEPARATE SIGN IN AND PAY
- ✓ READ THE RANGE PROCEDURES AND THE PISTOL SAFETY RULES

2. ONLY MEMBERS AND ESCORTED GUESTS MAY USE RANGE. MEMBERS MUST DISPLAY CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD.

3. EVERY MEMBER AND GUEST MUST PERSONALLY SIGN IN & DONATE

Daily PISTOL RANGE DONATION: members \$1.00 guests \$2.00 each

If you want to shoot on the pistol range, including the use of rifle on the 50 yard line, you must sign up and pay at the pistol range even if you have already paid at the rifle range.

The DONATION BOX and SIGN-IN BOX are at the pistol range. Before shooting, all shooters must read all of the rules, sign in and prepay posted donations. Signing in constitutes acceptance and understanding of all listed range safety rules and procedures.

- ✓ YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER is the last 4 digits on your Gate Access card.
- ✓ GUESTS personally sign in under the member & write "guest" under membership number.
- ✓ Please politely remind other members to SIGN IN AND PAY BEFORE SHOOTING.

Please report unsafe shooters, trespassers, slobs who leave a mess and cheaters who do not pay. Write down vehicle license number & slip a note in the cash box or call Harry at (724)584-8902

Your presence on the range constitutes acceptance, at minimum, of all posted RANGE SAFETY RULES and PISTOL RANGE PROCEDURES. Sign in constitutes documentary evidence of your understanding and acceptance of all listed rules and procedures. Any conduct detrimental to good order, safety and operation of the range will result in expulsion and/or legal action.

4. MEMBERS HAVE PREFERENCE OVER GUESTS

5. SHOOTING HOURS – 8:00 AM TIL SUNSET (Chairman makes the exceptions).

6. TARGETS - PAPER TARGETS ONLY

No clay birds, cans, or bottles. Remove all targets when the range is SAFE and you are finished shooting. No shooting at targets on the ground or in the air. No mid range targets. Balloons are permitted but leaving balloon residue will result in banishment. Beware of nails, screws and staples on the ground or boards. Other types of targets only with the approval of the BOD or Pistol Chairman. If you bring large sheets of plastic or cardboard to shoot at – please take it home with you – please don't be rude and leave it to other members to dispose of.

NEVER SHOOT WOOD - ATTACH TARGETS TO SNOW FENCE

NEVER shoot into any wood posts or target racks – shoot into snow fence.
NEVER shoot at objects on the ground or in the air or placed on boards.
UNCONTROLLED FIRE IS PROHIBITED – slow down, learn from each shot.

YOUR PAPER TARGETS must be affixed to the snow fence – keep the aiming point far away from all wood that supports the snow fence. Do not shoot at the wood horizontal cross members or posts or clothes pins. NEVER SHOOT BIRDSHOT on this range.

7. PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF

Pick up all targets, boxes, patches and brass. Your BRASS CASES must be picked up and taken home or placed in the brass buckets. Steel cases, aluminum cases, empty shotgun slug hulls, targets and patches go into the rubbish barrels. Only those who help at the range may take donated brass home. THIS RANGE IS NOT AN ASHTRAY. YOUR CIGARETTE BUTTS GO INTO YOUR CARS ASHTRAY – NOT ON THE GROUND OR BARRELS. The safest time to pick up brass is when the line is SAFE and no one is shooting or touching guns.

8. PLEASE DO YOUR PART

Range maintenance is done by members like you. Protect your investment by reporting unsafe shooters, trespassers, slobbers and cheats. Please volunteer to occasionally help maintain the Pistol Range. We also need instructors to assist in teaching pistol classes - especially women's introductory classes.

Please donate time or materials or let us know where we can get them inexpensively. Contact Pistol Committee Chairman Harry Schneider at psa@pagunlaws.com or slip a note in the cash box. Thank you.

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9. EMERGENCY PHONES - DIAL 911 – DO NOT SPEAK TO MEDIA

Use your cell or the emergency cell phones at the RIFLE RANGE and CLUBHOUSE ENTRANCE airlock. Ask for Allegheny County 911. Club address is North Side Sportsmen's Association 325 Mount Pleasant Road, Warrendale 15086, Marshall Township. **Send someone with a gate access card to open the gate to let the ambulance in and direct them to the injured & remain at gate to let ambulance out.** Report injuries or property damage to NSSA. Please call Harry at (724) 584-8902, Scott at (724) 622-7292, Jeff at (724) 816-9986. *Please suggest improvements to Harry Schneider, Pistol Chairman psa@pagunlaws.com Revised 02/05/2013*