

# SAFETY POLICY

Safety with any type of firearm is everyone's responsibility. Shooting is one of the safest of all sports. The reason for this is that there are safety rules that **MUST** be observed at all times.

The two most fundamental of these are:

**NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYONE**  
**ALWAYS TREAT A GUN AS IF IT WERE LOADED**

The majority of the other rules arise from the application of these two rules in different circumstances.

## 1. Handling guns

- 1.1. When you get out your gun check it is unloaded and that it is not cocked
- 1.2. Show that the gun is unloaded before handing it to another person
- 1.3. When you put your gun away check it is unloaded and that it is not cocked. Never put a gun away that is loaded
- 1.4. When you are given a gun first check that it is unloaded and that it is not cocked. If you don't know how to, ask the owner
- 1.5. Never pick up a gun without the permission of the owner
- 1.6. If someone has bad gun-handling habits, **TELL THEM!** It is better to be unpopular, for a short time, than injured permanently.

Remember it is better to check your gun is unloaded 100 times too often than once not enough.

## 2. Operating the gun

- 2.1. Keep the gun pointing downrange when in use
- 2.2. Load the gun pointing downrange
- 2.3. If you are using break barrel rifles or underlevers where the breech could snap shut on your fingers, keep hold of the barrel / cocking lever when inserting the pellet

## 3. Moving around with guns

- 3.1. Never move between lanes with a loaded gun
- 3.2. When moving between lanes open the breech and remove any magazine from the rifle
- 3.3. When carrying a gun it must not be cocked, the breech must be open, the magazine removed and the gun carried vertically
- 3.4. Keep your gun in a case when it is not in use

## 4. Range commands

- 4.1. One long blast on a whistle is the signal for "Cease fire". If you hear a single note on a whistle or the command '**STOP**', stop immediately. Guns will be discharged into the ground (if outdoors) and the shooter will raise a hand to acknowledge that the signal had been heard and complied with
- 4.2. Always obey instructions from the range officials immediately
- 4.3. Never go forward of the firing line without permission of the range official
- 4.4. Two short blasts on a whistle will signify that shooting may resume.

## 5. General

- 5.1. Don't rely on safety catches to keep you or your companions safe
- 5.2. Don't attract people's attention when they are shooting as it may cause them to turn around
- 5.3. Observe all the usual safety rules when dry firing
- 5.4. All horseplay with guns is strictly forbidden
- 5.5. All shooters are reminded that they have the duty to bring to the attention of the committee / chief marshal if they consider a target to be positioned unsafely. That is, if a target is set so close that ricochets could occur, or is positioned so that a missed shot could go outside the boundaries of the ground or clear of a safe backstop. They should do this before attempting to shoot the target.

**THINK SAFE - ACT SAFE – KEEP SAFE!**

**Remember that 90% of so-called “accidents” are the result of sheer carelessness, reckless stupidity or ignorance.**

## **6. Safety with Compressed Air**

Many modern air rifles use compressed air as a power source. It provides for convenient and effortless shooting but we must never underestimate the amount of energy that is stored up inside a cylinder. A compressed air cylinder is a potential bomb if handled incorrectly.

- 6.1. Store bottles away from sources of heat
- 6.2. Avoid dropping bottles and hard knocks to the cylinder or decanting set
- 6.3. Do not use any bottle or fittings that appear to be damaged
- 6.4. Always check the charge pressure of unknown bottles
- 6.5. Make sure your bottle is in test
- 6.6. When tightening bottle fittings use a minimum of pressure, hand tight is generally enough
- 6.7. When using buddy bottles or other removable cylinders never stand in front of the bottle as it is charged
- 6.8. Always keep control of buddy bottles and hoses when charging
- 6.9. Avoid looking directly at gauges as you fill cylinders
- 6.10. Always charge your gun slowly, don't put full pressure onto the gun
- 6.11. Avoid contact between skin and high pressure air
- 6.12. Avoid getting oils and greases in the high pressure air system

## **7. Safety with CO<sub>2</sub> Cartridges**

CO<sub>2</sub> Cartridges provide a convenient power source for modern rifles and pistols. However they require special care in operation in addition to the normal safety rules.

- 7.1. In the club room
  - 7.1.1. Do not load magazines
  - 7.1.2. Do not install CO<sub>2</sub> capsules
- 7.2. On the firing point
  - 7.2.1. When installing CO<sub>2</sub> capsule the gun must point downrange
  - 7.2.2. When installing magazines the gun must point downrange
  - 7.2.3. When exhausting spent CO<sub>2</sub> capsule the gun must point downrange
  - 7.2.4. Take care when handling exhausted CO<sub>2</sub> capsules as they become very cold.
- 7.3. Before leaving the firing point:
  - 7.3.1. Remove the magazine and make sure it is empty
  - 7.3.2. Remove the CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge
  - 7.3.3. Put the gun in its case

**THINK SAFE - ACT SAFE - KEEP SAFE!**