

Haliburton County Marksmen Club Inc.

RANGE SAFETY OFFICER GUIDELINES

Range Safety Officer responsibilities are as follows:

- 1) A captain's event will have a qualified Range Safety Officer (RSO) conducting the shoot. In the event of an unorganized shooting session, where no defined activity is planned, the first person on a range becomes the Range Safety Officer and must do the following before shooting starts:

First: Open the entry gate, close and scramble the lock on the chain (never close and/or lock the gate when someone is at the range) and then open the sign on the driveway entering the gun range to show that the gun range is in use.

Second: Sign in and then raise the red flag in front of the Clubhouse to show that the gun range is in use.

Third: Open the sign on the target range you are going to be using to show that it is in use.

Fourth: Inspect the target range to be sure it is safe to use. Paper targets can only be posted on frames placed as close as possible to the backstop. Portable target frames can only be placed in front of a backstop. Metal reactive targets can only be shot with handguns or .22LR. Only center fire handguns may be used on metal targets at 10 meters. Rimfire firearms of all types can only be used on metal targets at 25 yards or greater. Metal targets must be suspended or placed within shrouds that cover top, bottom, and sides. These shrouds should only be positioned in front of, and as close as possible to, the backstop. Metal reactive targets may be shot with shotguns using shot size 7½ or smaller providing the shooter is a minimum of 10 m away from the target.

Fifth: If a second person comes on the range, it must be agreed who is going to be the RSO for the unorganized shooting session. The designated RSO is then responsible for enforcing all the rules, including the posted range-specific rules and any rules specific to the shooting discipline in progress. Both persons, in this scenario, may shoot simultaneously under the direction of the designated RSO. If additional shooters come to the same range, the designated RSO may then not shoot, but rather must oversee the attendant shooters.

Firearms should be uncased and proven safe on the safety bench at each range, pointing in the safe direction indicated at each range's safe area. Rifles and shotguns should be placed on the rack/stand with the action open and magazine removed (if applicable); and pistols must be proven safe before being carried to the firing line either holstered or in a case. Firearms on the firing line must be pointed down range at all times. Before moving a pistol off the firing line, it must be unloaded and shown to be clear to the RSO and then moved when instructed to do so by the RSO. No ammunition may ever be placed on a safe area bench under any circumstances.

A rifle/shotgun should be made safe and the action kept open before moving off the firing line. Only move a rifle/shotgun from the firing line to the safety bench or rifle rack with the muzzle above your head, at the direction of the RSO. Any firearm may only be handled, for purposes of casing or uncasing, when there is no one down range (i.e. on the firing line or at the trap house), under the direction of the RSO.

2) After posting targets, and when everyone is behind the safety line, the RSO gives the appropriate commands directing shooters to the firing line, for loading of the firearm, and for the commencement of firing. When shooting is finished, the shooter(s) will unload and show clear to the RSO then place their firearms, either on the firing line bench facing down range with actions open and facing up, or, in the case of a rifle or shotgun, in the provided rack(s) with actions open. Pistols may then be returned to their holster or container. The shooters will then step behind the safety line and await further instruction from the RSO. The command to go down range to check or score targets will be given by the RSO when it is safe to do so. Upon return to the shooting area, all shooters must remain behind the safety line until given the appropriate commands to continue. Shooter shall approach the firing line only when they are directed to by the Range Safety Officer. Never handle any firearm under any circumstances when someone is downrange. On the trap range, follow RSO instructions on handling your firearm once you are directed to remove your shotgun from the rack and move to the firing line, and again once a course of fire has been completed.