

# Range Safety Rules For The Gander Rod & Gun Club



# 1. GENERAL

## 1.1 Wording

Words used in the singular in these Rules shall include the plural, and words in the plural shall include the singular.

Words implying the masculine gender in these Rules shall also include the feminine.

In these Rules:

- (a) 'may' is to be construed as being permissive;
- (b) 'should' is to be construed as being desirable; and
- (c) 'must', 'shall', and 'will' are to be construed as being mandatory.

## 1.2 Understanding And Compliance

It is the responsibility of all shooters using the range facilities to familiarize themselves with, and to follow, these rules. Shooters using the range shall consult a Club Official on any part of these rules that they do not understand. Ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse for non-compliance.

## 1.3 Revisions

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# 2. DEFINITIONS

## 2.1 Meanings

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a) 'Club' means the Gander Rod and Gun Club;
- b) 'member' means a person who has been accepted for membership of the Club, and has paid the prescribed annual membership fee;
- c) 'firearm' means any device which is designed to launch a projectile in a given direction;
- d) 'firing line' means the position from which all shooting is to take place, i.e., no one to shoot ahead of this point;
- e) 'safety line' means the position beyond which no person may advance unless under the direction of a Range Safety Officer;
- f) 'Safe Area' means a designated area where unloaded firearms may be cased, uncased, cleaned, repaired, handled, etc. and where no ammunition is allowed.
- g) 'target' means any object which is designed and intended to be hit by a projectile (subject to the Club Range Operating Instructions);
- h) 'muzzle' means the end of the barrel of a firearm from which the projectile emerges during firing;
- i) 'action' means that part of a firearm which controls the loading and firing of a cartridge;
- j) 'RSO' means Range Safety Officer;
- k) 'misfire' means a cartridge which fails to fire when the primer is struck by the firing pin; and
- l) 'range' means all ranges located on the Club property.
- m) 'strong hand' means the hand a person would normally use for everyday activities. A "right-handed" person would normally have a right strong hand.
- n) 'weak hand' means the hand other than the one a person would normally use for everyday activities. A "right-handed" person would normally have a left weak hand.

# 3. SAFETY RULES

## 3.1 Basic Safety Rules

- a) These Rules are not expected to cover every circumstance. Range users are expected to **take all reasonable action to ensure safety on the Range** in any circumstance.
- b) **Be alert and aware of your actions and the actions around you** on the range. The Club is family oriented and there are children, non-shooters, wildlife, etc around. Be ready to cease firing if any person or thing intrudes in the danger area.
- c) **Always treat every firearm as if it were loaded.**
- d) **Always keep a firearm pointed in a safe direction.** A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. When shooting on the range the firearm should be pointed towards the backstop. In a Safe Area the firearm should be pointed in the indicated safe direction. When carrying the firearm, the firearm should be pointed straight up with the muzzle at shoulder height. Depending on circumstance, including those listed above, take reasonable steps to ensure a safe direction is maintained or reacquired as necessary.

- e) **Always keep your finger off the trigger** and outside the trigger guard unless actively engaged in shooting. The trigger finger should be placed straight alongside the firearm above the trigger guard so an RSO or any person can clearly see the trigger is clear. Only when a firearm is pointed at a valid target in front of the range backstop may your finger engage the trigger.
- f) **Always keep a firearm unloaded and on safe** until you intend to fire. Whenever you pick up a gun immediately ensure the safety device is engaged, if possible. Remove the magazine if equipped. Open the action and inspect the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the firearm pointing in a safe direction and get help from someone who does. If the chamber(s) or non-detachable magazine is not empty, get help from an RSO (if alone, the RSO is you) to safely carry the firearm to the range, point the firearm towards the backstop and unload the firearm. In any circumstance, take all reasonable steps to ensure a loaded firearm is safely emptied by yourself or other knowledgeable person.
- g) **Never point a firearm, loaded or unloaded, at another person.**
- h) **Never leave a loaded firearm unattended.**

## 3.2 Specific Safety Rules

- a) Loaded firearms are only permitted on an active firing line and then only when in direct use.
- b) Unloaded firearms may only be left unattended if stored according to safe storage regulations.
- c) When the range is in use, the red flag must be raised. The flag is to be raised before any firearm is brought to the firing line. The flag is to be lowered when all firearms have been removed from the firing line and the range is no longer in use.
- d) After the red flag has been raised, a Range Safety Officer (RSO) must be declared. At a sanctioned event the RSO will be named by the Club. When shooting alone, the shooter is also the RSO. When shooting with a group, the RSO will be one member of the group. Unless shooting alone, the RSO shall not engage in shooting themselves but will be responsible for overseeing all activities on the range. When shooting with a group, RSO responsibility may be transferred to another person of the group so all members get a chance to shoot.
- e) Every individual using the range must follow the rules and regulations governing the operation of the range. The declaration of a RSO does not relieve an individual of his responsibility with regards to safety.
- f) No person may use the range under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that impairs action or judgment. If the RSO believes an individual appears to be intoxicated or otherwise impaired, they shall not permit the individual to engage in any shooting activity or handle any firearm.
- g) Horseplay is forbidden on the range.
- h) All individuals on or near an active firing line shall wear proper eye and ear protection.
- i) All individuals on or near an active range should wear proper eye and ear protection when shooting is taking place.
- j) When a misfire occurs the shooter will keep the muzzle of the firearm pointed safely down range and wait 60 seconds before unloading the firearm.
- k) In the event the RSO requires that shooting stop immediately, the order "CEASE FIRE" will be given. On this command all shooting will immediately stop, firearms are to be unloaded and laid down with muzzles pointing down range. Shooters will step back from the firing line and there shall be no handling of firearms. Further direction will be given by the RSO.

# 4. RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO)

## 4.1 Presence

No shooting will take place without the presence of a Range Safety Officer.

## 4.2 Firing Line

4.2.1 No one will move forward of the firing line to examine or replace targets until:

- a) All firearms have been unloaded and made safe;
- b) All firearms have been inspected and cleared by the RSO; and
- c) The RSO has given the "ALL CLEAR" command.

4.2.2 No one will leave the firing line with a firearm unless the conditions in 4.2.1 have been met.

4.2.3 If the shooter experiences a problem on the firing line they must signal the RSO by raising their weak hand while continuing to point the firearm down range in their strong hand. Further directions will be given by the RSO.

4.2.4 If the shooter has completed firing but the line is still active, they should remain on the line until the conditions in 4.2.1 have been met. Alternatively the shooter may:

- a) Unload the firearm and make it safe;
- b) Leave open the action of the firearm;
- c) Place the firearm down, pointing down range, with open action visible;
- d) Step back to the safety line; and
- e) Await further direction from the RSO.

## 4.3 Firearm Handling

Outside of a Safe Area, no one will handle any firearm while people are down range. Firearms may only be handled under direction of the RSO.

## 4.4 Duties

- 4.4.1 An individual will not participate in shooting while he holds the position of RSO unless the RSO is also the only person on the range.
- 4.4.2 The orders and instructions given by the RSO are to be obeyed at all times. Any individual the RSO considers to be a safety hazard will not be permitted to use the range.
- 4.4.3 The RSO has the right to expel anyone from the range who disturbs other shooters, or affects their safety or his own.

# 5. TARGETS

## 5.1 Target Stands

- 5.1.1 Target stands may have a movable base or there may be a permanent target stand erected at select distances.
- 5.1.2 Target stands will normally be constructed of wood to reduce ricochet potential. Metal target bases specifically constructed for shooting ranges may also be used.
- 5.1.3 Target frames shall be affixed to the movable bases or to a permanent target stand.
- 5.1.4 Target backings consisting of cardboard, fibreboard, thin plywood, OSB (aspenite) or similar material may be attached to the frames for the purpose of attaching targets.
- 5.1.5 Paper targets or other soft targets (balloons) shall be attached to the target frames or backings. It is forbidden to pin targets to vertical target frame supports (such as may hold up a permanent target stand) or movable bases.
- 5.1.6 Target stands shall be aligned so that shots at a mounted target will be made reasonably parallel to the centreline of the range.
- 5.1.7 Target stands shall be constructed so that shots at a mounted target will pass through the target and strike the impact area of the backstop.
- 5.1.8 It is absolutely forbidden to fire diagonally across the range. All shots must be reasonably parallel to the centre line of the range and discharged in such a way as to impact the backstop.

## 5.2 Targets

- 5.2.1 Targets shall consist of paper, balloons, steel reactive or frangible clay targets suitable to each specific range as indicated in the Range Operating Instructions (ROIs).
- 5.2.2 Other targets may be suitable but their use will have to be authorized by the Board of Directors of the Club.
- 5.2.3 The use of bottles, tin cans, and other non-traditional targets is prohibited, as their use poses a safety hazard for other shooters.
- 5.2.4 It is absolutely forbidden to fire at targets lying on the ground or any hard objects such as rocks that may cause ricochets.

# 6. ACCIDENTS

## 6.1 RSO Action

- 6.1.1 In the event of an accident affecting persons and/or property, the RSO shall take any action deemed necessary at the time. Such action shall include the following:
  - a) In the case of injury to an individual, apply first aid and seek medical attention, if necessary;
  - b) Notify the Board of Directors of the Club; and
  - c) Notify the police, if necessary.

# 7. RANGE OPERATION

## 7.1 Authorised Use

- 7.1.1 The range may be used by any member of the club in good standing, subject to 7.1.2, during the time frame of dawn to dusk.
- 7.1.2 The use of the range by club members may be restricted when the range has been booked by other organizations or groups. Details of these bookings will be made available to the membership.
- 7.1.3 It is illegal for non-members to shoot on the ranges except as expressly authorized by the Club. Guests of a member in good standing are authorised to shoot on the ranges only under immediate and direct supervision of the member.
- 7.1.4 Children may only use the range under the direct supervision of a parent, guardian or other designated responsible adult. This applies to all who have not reached majority unless they are 16 and have a Minors Firearm Possession Licence.

## **7.2 Shooting Matches**

7.2.1 All sanctioned, organized shoots must have the following:

- a) An emergency vehicle suitable for the transport of an injured person, keys in the ignition, with a cell phone accessible;
- b) A suitable first aid kit; and
- c) A log book for all participants to sign in before shooting.

## **8. RANGE CARE**

### **8.1 Misuse**

8.1.1 Individuals misusing or being reckless with firearms or range equipment will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Board of Directors of the Club.

### **8.2 Range Cleanup**

8.2.1 Users shall be responsible for cleaning up the range upon conclusion of firing.

8.2.2 Target stands should be returned to storage or shooting lanes as appropriate.

8.2.3 Garbage and spent casings are to be disposed of in the containers provided or preferably removed from the range facilities. If you haul it in, haul it out.

8.2.3 Users are expected to help keep the range clean and tidy to maintain the facilities and safety requirements.

## **9. ETIQUETTE**

### **9.1 Guests**

9.1.1 Members are encouraged to bring guests. For insurance reasons as well as fairness to paying members, guests shall be levied a Range Use Fee that covers each day or scheduled event.

9.1.2 Guests of a member shall be the direct responsibility of that member and shall follow all rules, instructions and regulations pertaining to the use of the Club.

### **9.2 Courtesy**

9.2.1 Shooters are expected to practice range courtesy including:

- a) Shoot only at your own target;
- b) If your firearm is particularly smoky, stand down wind;
- c) Don't take up all shooting positions with your gear; and
- d) If you are using a semi-auto firearm, position yourself so ejected brass does not hit another shooter.