

# OUNDLE RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB



## Range Safety Rules

These rules are based on common sense guidelines laid out by the National Rifle Association and have been conceived to protect all users of our ranges, together with adjacent land users. Serious infringements caused through negligence will be reported to the Committee and disciplinary action may result. A copy of the NRA RCO course manual is available for study by anyone wishing to improve their knowledge of range safety.

**The RCO is in sole charge of everything that happens on the range!**

### COMMON SAFETY RULES

- All range users are required to sign-in to both record books upon arrival.
- Always treat a firearm as if it were loaded until you have personally certified it to be clear and never trust another person's word that it is clear.
- Never point a firearm at anyone, even in jest.
- All firearms shall have breech flags inserted where practicable and/or the bolt removed and/or the action/chamber open whenever they are out of their transit case/bag, but not in actual use.
- No person may uncase a firearm or move it on/off the firing point until the RCO has given permission.
- No person may load a firearm until the Range Conducting Officer (RCO) has given an express command to do so.
- A loaded firearm must always be pointed in a safe direction i.e. downrange towards the target, always **parallel** to the ground – even when loading.
- A firearm shall not be pointed at any aiming mark behind the firing point. *It is irrelevant whether a breech flag has been inserted or the bolt removed!*
- No person shall walk downrange until all firearms have been cleared, bolts removed or breech flags inserted, or the firearms have been removed from the firing point and cased and the RCO has given an express command to move forward.
- Once firearms on the firing point have been inspected and the RCO and has given the 'clear' instruction, shooters shall not under any circumstances, touch the firearm again until the RCO has given an express command to do so.
- Unless authorised by the RCO, only shooters, their coaches and the RCO shall be present on the firing point during the shooting detail.
- No person may distract a shooter during a shooting detail, except the RCO or a coach.
- In an emergency, the RCO will use the command **"STOP STOP STOP"** to suspend shooting. Upon hearing this command, shooters shall immediately stop shooting, place their firearms upon the firing point and step away from them.

- Shooters shall only engage targets directly in front of their firing point. Cross shooting will not be permitted.

## **SPECIFIC SAFETY ISSUES**

### NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE

- A Negligent Discharge is either a shot fired (whether in a safe direction or not) without the order to fire having been given. Alternatively it may be a shot fired after the order to fire has been given, but in an unsafe direction. A Negligent Discharge will usually arise from a breach of the safety rules and may occur on or off the firing point. (NRA RCO course manual 1.4.28)
- RCO Action:
  - Make the situation safe.
  - The firer may be suspended from further participation and asked to leave the range. The matter shall be reported to the Committee who will decide what action to take (see further NRA RCO course manual 1.4.29 – 1.4.32).

### UNSAFE BEHAVIOUR

- This constitutes an immediate threat to personal safety, e.g. a loaded firearm being removed from the firing point or someone using a firearm in an aggressive or irresponsible manner.

### MISFIRES & SQUIB LOADS

- If a misfire occurs (no ignition of the cartridge propellant) or a squib load is noted (insufficient propellant charge to expel the bullet), the firearm must be held parallel to the ground, pointing at the target butt for a minimum 60 seconds before the bolt or action is opening.

### EMERGENCIES

- In any emergency, the RCO will immediately take control as per the NRA "Guide to the duties of Range Conducting Officers".