

potential adverse consequences.

- **Range Accident:** An unintended range occurrence leading to personal injury or damage to property.
- **Range Incident:** An unintended range occurrence that could in different circumstances have resulted in personal injury or damage to property.

SECTION 52 – SAFETY RULES

110 Throughout this section the expression “CRO” includes the Head of Range Services or his appointee at Bisley whenever a Chief Range Officer is not formally appointed.

111 If any person on the range considers that there is a potential or actual breach of safety which urgently requires all firers to stop firing he will immediately give the order “Stop, Stop, Stop”. All firers must immediately stop firing, take their finger off the trigger, keep their firearms pointing at the target and await further instructions. No-one may unload or move off the firing point. The person ordering the stop, if not himself the RO, must immediately explain his action to the RO so that the RO may take effective control of the situation.

112 It is the responsibility of the firer to ensure that he is fit, competent, safe, legal and authorised to participate in range activity with firearms. The (C)RO or any official acting with the authority of the CRO may prohibit any person from such participation if in that official’s opinion a person is not fit, competent, safe, legal or authorised. If the opinion giving rise to a prohibition stems from a perceived deliberate act by the person prohibited, including intoxication or misuse of drugs, the official shall report the matter to the Secretary General for consideration of disciplinary action.

113 When at the firing point a firer must comply with all orders for the due carrying out of the NRA Rules and Regulations given by the CRO or any official acting under orders of the CRO. Without prejudice to the authority of the CRO or RTC, all persons on or in the immediate vicinity of a range element under the control of an RO are to obey the instructions of the RO.

114 No firer may move himself or his equipment forward onto the firing point until authorised to do so by the (C)RO.

115 No round may be placed on the loading platform or in the firearm, nor may it be fired, until the RO has given the order to do so (see Para 546c).

116 A firer is responsible for ensuring that his firearm and ammunition are safe to use individually and in combination. It is prohibited to use ammunition that does not conform to the standard of proof of the firearm eg cartridges loaded with modern nitro propellants in firearms proofed for black powder

only. A firer must submit his firearm and ammunition for inspection and testing whenever requested by an official of the NRA.

No ammunition of a dangerous character may be used. For definition of dangerous ammunition and instructions for ROs see Appendix VI and Paras 288 and 544.

117 The bolt (or equivalent working part in other types of firearm) must not be closed (or opened after being closed) on a live round if the barrel is elevated at more than 70 mils (approximately 4°) above the horizontal. In practice this means that when closing or opening the bolt with a live round in the chamber the barrel should be horizontal and laterally aligned within the target lane.

118 Except only where otherwise prescribed in the conditions of an NRA event or other rules of specific and limited application, a loaded firearm must at all times point no further left or right of the direct line to the assigned target than the standard safety angle of 200 mil (11.25 degrees – approximately six targets width per hundred yards distance). A firer who consistently points a loaded firearm outside these limits may be considered to be acting in a dangerous manner (Para 125).

119 Neither aiming nor snapping an unloaded firearm is allowed except when in the firing position on the firing point, and then only if it would be in all respects safe actually to fire and provided it causes no delay.

Firers shooting muzzle loading firearms may, after the order has been given by the RO, “cap off” to clear nipple vents prior to loading for fouling shots. During capping off the firearms must be pointed down range or into the ground immediately in front of the firing point. When firers have completed capping off they must retire from the firing point to their designated loading location behind the firing point.

120 A firer who neither observes nor receives any indication of the impact of his first shot, or in a practice where shots are not signalled individually of at least one shot in the first string, may only continue if one of the following applies:

- a The firer identifies and rectifies a fault or error (eg mis-set sight) that would reasonably account for the miss.
- b There is reasonable evidence (eg an unexplained shot on the next target) that the firer has crossfired.
- c There is reasonable evidence (eg based on the advice of other competitors, which advice shall not be considered to be in the nature of coaching) that the wind allowance applied was such as to account for the miss.
- d With the permission of the RO (eg as in Para 301).

121 Misfire Procedures

- a Bolt-action centrefire rifles. If a misfire occurs the firer must remain on aim for at least 30 seconds (in case of a hangfire) and inform the RO. Under the supervision of the RO the firer should tilt the rifle to the side and open the bolt, ensuring that his hand is not behind the bolt and that no one is standing behind the rifle. He must ensure that the cartridge comes out complete with the bullet.
- b Gallery Rifle. In accordance with the procedures in the NRA Gallery Rifle and Pistol Handbook (published separately).
- c Other types of firearm. As specified in the procedures for the relevant discipline.

122 Inspection of Firearms and Magazines**a Firer's responsibilities**

The firer is responsible for ensuring both that his firearm is clear and that it is independently inspected in accordance with this rule before it is removed from the firing point. The action of “unloading” in this rule requires that, before inspection, such of the following actions as are possible and within the designers intent for the firearm type have been carried out:

- i Safety catch applied.
- ii Magazine removed.
- iii Integral magazine / cylinder emptied.
- iv Chamber and action cleared of rounds, misfires and empty cases.
- v Working parts fully open and locked.

The formal unload procedure for a Service Weapon may require additional steps after the inspection. Any firer who fails to present his firearm for inspection whether called to do so or not, or who presents his firearm for inspection in an unsafe condition, may be considered as “acting in a way that might prove dangerous” and be dealt with as in Para 546.

b Person Designated to inspect

The responsibility to carry out inspections falls to a specific individual. By default, the inspection should be carried out by the CRO or a member of the range staff to whom the CRO delegates the responsibility. The following concessions are permitted, subject to any overriding instruction by the CRO or range staff:

- i In a team event where a coach is present on the firing point, the coach may carry out the inspection.

- ii In individual competition, or in team competition if no coach is present, the register keeper may carry out the inspection.
- iii Individuals outside competition may have their firearm inspected by any person sharing range space with them.

In all cases where a concession is invoked, the person inspecting must look down the barrel from the breech end and observe that the action and chamber are clear, and the firer must dismantle the firearm to the extent necessary to permit such observation. It remains the firer's responsibility to ensure that the person inspecting does so.

c Procedure

On the conclusion of a shoot or stage, or on the order of the (C)RO, all firers must:

- i unload their firearm and inspect the chamber, action, boltface and magazine (if one is fitted) to ensure that the firearm is clear,
- ii if requesting inspection by a person other than the CRO or a range official, dismantle their firearm to the extent necessary to permit a clear view through the chamber and barrel,
- iii present their firearm to the designated person on the firing point and have them inspect and confirm that the firearm is clear,
- iv for a Service Weapon complete the unload in accordance with the current Service procedure,
- v either keep the bolt removed or insert a breech flag (or both) for any bolt-action rifle, or carry out the equivalent procedure for other firearms (which may include casing in accordance with GR&P procedure)

before leaving the firing point and before anyone goes forward of the firing point.

d Comment

The practical results of the above rule are that any firearm other than a bolt-action or break-action firearm should for simplicity be inspected by the CRO or an official on his behalf, and that if a firer requires a bolt-action firearm to be inspected by anyone other than the CRO or an official on his behalf, the firer must remove the bolt.

123 A firer using a bolt-action rifle must carry it either with the breech open and a breech flag, which must protrude into the chamber, clearly inserted, or with the bolt removed from the rifle, except when on the firing point. Para 114 applies.

As an exception to the above civilian service rifles or practical rifles which are able to utilise a magazine fitted loading block which locks the working parts to the rear may do so.

Unless GR&P rules apply, a firer using a self-loading rifle must carry it unloaded, ie no magazine on it, no round in the chamber, working parts forward, not cocked and safety catch at 'safe'.

Firearms specified in the NRA GR&P, TS and CSR/PR Handbooks (published separately) must be carried in accordance with relevant rules.

All other firearms must be carried in a manner such that they are as clearly unloaded as is possible for that type of firearm.

124 If a firearm cannot be unloaded in the normal manner, the firer is to leave it on the firing point pointing towards the target. The firer is to inform the RO immediately. The firearm is to remain pointing towards the target until the detail has finished and all firers have cleared the firing point. The RO is to arrange for a competent person to make the firearm safe on the firing point.

At no time may a loaded firearm be taken from the firing point behind shooters or spectators. Should the armourer have to fire or expend a competitor's live round in the interests of safety, that round will be replaced on the authority of the RO.

125 A firer acting in a dangerous manner will forthwith be forbidden to fire again until the circumstances have been investigated and decided on, or referred to higher authority, by the CRO.

126 Powers and Duties of the Range Officer

a Powers

During the period that a range is open for use, and at any time that the firing point is occupied by people or equipment prior or subsequent to the range being open for use, and subject to any restriction imposed by or on behalf of the Chief Range Officer or Range Template Controller, the appointed Range Officer (RO) is in sole charge of that element of the range he has accepted responsibility for. The RO may issue such instructions as he deems necessary for the operation of the range element under his charge both in safety and within the published rules and range regulations.

b Duties

The RO is only to permit live firing when he has satisfied himself and remains satisfied that it is safe and within applicable regulations to do so.

The RO is to remain sufficiently close to the firing point to enable him to observe, give instructions to and respond to requests from all firers under his control.

If the RO finds it necessary to leave his post, he is either to stop all firing and clear the firing point of firers and firearms, or appoint another person, qualified competent and experienced to the standard required by the Range Operating Authority, to act as RO in his place, handing over the duty in accordance with the procedure required by the Range Operating Authority.

The RO is to deal with range occurrences, accidents and incidents in accordance with the procedure set out by the Range Operating Authority.

Section 53 *Reserved*

Para 127-130 *Reserved*