

# St. John's Rod and Gun Club

## Range Regulations and Safety Rules



## 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Words used in the singular in these Rules shall include the plural, and words in the plural shall include the singular.
- 1.2 Words implying the masculine gender in these Rules shall also include the feminine.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of all shooters using the range facilities to familiarize themselves with these rules. Ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse for non-compliance.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) '**Club**' means the St. John's Rod and Gun Club;
  - (b) '**member**' means a person who has been accepted as a member of the St. John's Rod and Gun 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) '**target**' means any object which is designed and intended to be hit by a projectile (subject to the Range Operating Instructions);
  - (f) '**muzzle**' means the end of the barrel from which the projectile emerges during firing;
  - (g) '**action**' means that part of a firearm which controls the loading and firing of a cartridge;
  - (h) '**RSO**' means Range Safety Officer;

- (i) **'misfire'** means a cartridge which fails to fire when the primer is struck by the firing pin; and
- (j) **'range'** means all ranges located on the St. John's Rod and Gun Club property.

### 3. SAFETY

**Be alert.** The Club is family oriented and there are kids and non-shooters around. Be ready to cease firing if they intrude in the danger area.

- 3.1 Every firearm shall be treated as if it were loaded at all times.
- 3.2 A firearm, loaded or unloaded, is never to be pointed at another person.
- 3.3 A loaded firearm must never be left unattended and an unloaded firearm may only be left if stored according to safe storage regulations.
- 3.4 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 and is to be lowered when all firearms have been removed from the firing line.
- 3.5 After the red flag has been raised the next order of business is to appoint a Range Safety Officer, who will be responsible for overseeing all shooting related activities.
- 3.6 Loaded firearms are not permitted anywhere except on the fire line and then only when in use.
- 3.7 Firearms will always be pointed in a safe direction. When on the firing line this direction is down range towards the targets.
- 3.8 The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. If in the opinion of the RSO an individual appears to be intoxicated or otherwise impaired, the RSO will not permit this individual to engage in any shooting activity or handle a firearm.
- 3.9 Horseplay is forbidden on, near or forward of the firing line.
- 3.10 All individuals on or near the range should have proper hearing and eye protection on when shooting is taking place.
- 3.11 It is the responsibility of every individual using the range to follow the rules and regulations governing the operation of the range. The appointment of a RSO does not relieve an individual of his responsibility with regards to safety.

- 3.12 When a misfire occurs the shooter will keep the muzzle of the firearm pointed down range and wait 60 seconds before unloading the firearm.
- 3.13 In the event the RSO requires that shooting stop, 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 directions will be given by the RSO.

#### **4. RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO)**

- 4.1 No shooting will take place without the presence of a Range Safety Officer.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 No one will handle any firearm while people are down range. Firearms may only be handled when permission is given by the RSO.
- 4.4 An individual will not participate in shooting while he holds the position of RSO during organized, sanctioned events.
- 4.5 The RSO's orders and instructions are to be obeyed at all times, any individual who is considered to be a safety hazard will not be permitted to use the range.
- 4.6 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 Paper targets or other soft targets (balloons) shall be attached to the target frames installed on the range for that purpose. It is expressly forbidden to pin targets to the vertical target frame supports (posts).
- 5.2 Other targets may be suitable but their use will have to be authorized by the Chair of the Range Committee.
- 5.3 The use of bottles, tin cans, and other non-traditional targets is prohibited, as their use poses a safety hazard for other shooters.

- 5.4 It is absolutely forbidden to fire at targets lying on the ground or any hard objects such as rocks that may cause ricochets.
- 5.5 It is absolutely forbidden to fire diagonally across the range. All shots must be parallel to the centre line of the range and discharged in such a way as to impact the backstop.

## **6. ACCIDENTS**

- 6.1 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 a individual, apply first aid and if necessary seek medical attention;
  - (b) notify the Chair of the Range Committee; and
  - (c) notify the police, if necessary.

## **7. RANGE OPERATION**

- 7.1 The range may be used by any current member of the club in good standing, subject to 7.2, during the time frame of dawn to dusk.
- 7.2 The use of the range by club members may be restricted when the range has been booked by other organizations. Details of these bookings will be made available to the membership.
- 7.3 It is illegal for non-members to shoot on the ranges except as the guest of a member in good standing and then only under his immediate and direct supervision.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 All sanctioned, organized shoots must have the following:
  - (a) An emergency vehicle suitable for the transport of an injured person, keys in the ignition and a cell phone.
  - (b) A suitable first aid kit.

- (c) A log book for all participants to sign in before shooting.
- (d) If you are using a semi auto firearm position yourself so your ejected brass does not hit another shooter.
- (e) If you haul it in haul it out, take your garbage and spent casings with you, keep the range clean.

## **8. RANGE CARE**

- 8.1 Users will be responsible for the cleaning of the range upon conclusion of firing. All portable target stands are to be removed. Garbage is to be disposed of in the containers provided.
- 8.2 Individuals misusing or being reckless with firearms or range equipment will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the By-Laws of the Club.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Members are encouraged to bring guests, however in fairness to paying members guests should be encouraged to join after their second visit.
- 9.2 Shooters are encouraged to practice range courtesy, i.e.:
  - (a) Shoot only at your own target;
  - (b) If you firearm is particularly smoky stand down wind; and
  - (c) Don't take up all the shooting positions with your gear.

Original Publication: April 2001  
Revisions: March 2006  
March 2007