



RIFLES and REELS GAME and FISH

Safety Orientation

2020

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Disclaimer:

Rifles and Reels Game and Fish, hereinafter known as the club. The club reserves the right to amend their rules and regulations as deemed necessary. The following information was designed to provide all new members with a course in safe firearms handling and to inform new and old members of the current rules and regulations set out by the club.

Introduction to Rifles and Reels Game and Fish

Welcome to Rifles and Reels, Game and Fish Club. Our club was established in the late 60's. We have continuously endeavoured to improve our club, and are always open to new ideas from our membership to help us achieve this goal. To date our current membership exceeds 300 members. The ranges on the property are as follows:

#1 - Trap Range

#2 - Action Range

#3 - 25/50/100 Yard Handgun & Rifle Range

#4 - 200 Yard Rifle Range

Archery Ranges - Indoor and Outdoor

(Coming Soon) 400 Yard Precision Rifle Range

Our club goals are to promote and support the safe use of firearms and Archery as a fun family sport as well as to promote and support any educational programs advancing firearms, game and fisheries.

This orientation booklet, along with the course all members must complete, is to provide all our members with an introduction to our club, its rules and regulations. We'll cover safe shooting practices, the proper and safe handling of your firearm and the basics of range etiquette.

Upon satisfactory completion of this orientation course you will be given the gate code. This should be written on the back of your membership card. This card must be **worn at all times** while on range property, and must not be modified. First year members, new to the sport, will carry a yellow dot on their membership card. This is so other shooters on the range are aware that you are new to the club. First year members are not permitted to bring a guest.

As a member, feel free to ask questions when you see someone you do not recognize loitering on club property. Try to identify anyone attempting to follow you into the club. (Lic. Plate number, type of vehicle, etc) **Report any vandalism or suspicious activities to a club executive.** Ensure all doors and gates have been secured before leaving the club property.

THIS IS NOT INTENDED AS A MARKSMANSHIP COURSE.

THIS IS AN INTRODUCTION IN SAFELY HANDLING AND DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM.

The object of this orientation

Before we allow new member access to our club, the executive of our club must be able to state that to the best of their knowledge,

- That the prospective member is knowledgeable in the safe use and discharge of firearms.
- That the prospective member has completed a club level safety course and is aware of all range safety rules and regulations at the club.
- That the prospective member has been given a copy of the constitution and bylaws.
- That the prospective member has demonstrated on a live firing line that they are reasonably proficient in the safe use of a firearm.
- That the prospective member has demonstrated firearm and range safety practices.

Entering club property

Upon entering the property certain procedures must be followed.

- If you are the first person to arrive at the range you will be required to open the gate.
 - o Make sure the red flag at the main gate is raised.
 - o Make sure the closed sign to the right of the gate is flipped down to "Welcome"
 - o The gate must be left open and unlocked whenever the property is in use.
 - o Combination lock must be scrambled to protect security.
- You must sign in at the Club house.
 - o Write the date, time in, membership number, your first name and your activity.
 - o When you bring a guest, write their first name also.
 - o Guests must complete the guest form and the member responsible for them must ensure that they have read and understand the rules of the club.
 - o Your membership tag must be worn at all times when on the property.
 - o Your guest must also wear a guest tag at all times while on property.
 - o **Make sure you sign out before leaving the range.**

Basic club rules

- 1) When arriving or departing range property, all shooters must ensure they follow the legal requirements for transporting firearms. *safety comes first at all times!*
- 2) No member or guest is allowed to be on club property while impaired by drugs and/or alcohol. **No alcohol or drugs are allowed on property at anytime.** This includes locked in your vehicles.
- 3) The red flag (behind the firing line or shelter) must be raised to indicate that a range is in use, and lowered when the last shooter leaves. Some ranges are equipped with a firing line indicator (a flag/light system) this is used to indicate if the firing line is **SAFE** or **LIVE/HOT**.
- 4) The firing line is **SAFE** when a ceasefire is called and only after all firearm have been confirmed they are in a safe condition –magazines removed, and an **ECI (empty chamber indicator)** inserted and the firearm is either put in the rack or on the bench pointed down range. ECIs are available in the shooting shack
- 5) When two or more shooters are on the range and a certified **range office** is not on site, one of the shooters must act as a **range officer** and enforce the range rules.
- 6) Eye and ear protection are mandatory for everyone on a range while the range is hot – shooters, spectators and non-shooting guests.
- 7) **Use only approved targets.** Place your target down range directly in line with your shooting position – no cross-range shooting. Make sure your shots will hit the berm behind your target. Do not attach targets to support posts or edges of target frames or other range structures.



- 8) Hunting, Harassing and Shooting wildlife is prohibited on club property.
- 9) Show respect for others at the range. Be considerate and respect the property of others. **Violence and threats are a violation of good sportsmanship and will not be tolerated.**
- 10) Membership cards must be worn on your person at all times when on club property.

Each range has the range rules posted.

Be aware of these rules and the ranges to which they apply.

These rules are subject to change, please check for updates.

Emergency

If an emergency occurs that requires outside help, your first call is to 911. When the situation is under control you must contact a member of the executive. If the member has completed the back of their membership card, you may call their emergency contact as well.

All ranges are equipped with a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit. If at anytime you notice these to be missing, please notify a member of the executive right away. Their contact information is listed on the club's website, www.riflesandreels.ca. The password for the members only area is the gate code.

Guests

First year members are not permitted to bring guest.

- All other members are each permitted to bring a maximum of 3 guests per visit.
- You are one person and as such you can only watch one person at a time.
- Remember, **you are 100% responsible for your guests**. If they do something wrong, you will be held accountable for it.
- A licensed guest may shoot while you are shooting if you are comfortable for them to do so.
- As a member, you have access to one shooting position. If other positions are open, you and your guest may use both positions. If other members arrive you will be expected to relinquish the extra position.
- A non-licensed guest may not handle or shoot any firearm unless they are always under the member's complete observation. The member and the non-licensed guest may not shoot at the same time. Guests are the sole responsibility of the hosting member.
- Your guest(s) must be on the same range as you. Ex. Your guests may not go to the trap-range while you are shooting on the action range.
- When you bring a guest(s),
 - Enter their first name(s) in the sign-in book.
 - Complete the guest form for each one of your guests which includes:
 - First name
 - Last name
 - DOB
 - Address
 - Phone #
 - PAL# (if applicable)

R&R SAFETY ORIENTATION

- The fee per guest is \$5, it is to be included with the form.
- Place the guest fees/form in the envelope and drop in the guest box to the left of the sign-in table.
- Guest Tags to be worn by each guest while on the property.

Range Officers

A Certified Range Officer must take control of the line to ensure all shooting is done safely and in compliance with both CFO and CLUB rules and regulations. If a Certified Range Officer is not available, a range officer must be chosen by mutual agreement from the shooters present. This person will take on the duties of Range Officer to ensure safety rules are followed and all firearms are clear before calling a range safe.

Range Offices Must:

- Ensure all firearms are in a safe condition before making a line safe.
 - o Locked open.
 - o E.C.I. in place.
 - o Boxed, holstered, placed in the gun rack or on the table muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Stay at the shooting position while other shooters check/replace targets to ensure no one handles a firearm and/or ammunition while other shooters are ahead of the line.
- Ensure all shooters have returned behind the firing line before making the line hot/active.
 - o Visually ensure no one is ahead of the line.
 - o Check that all shooters are accounted for.
 - o Ensure safety devices are in place. (safety chain at 25/50/100yd range)

Range Officers have complete authority to:

- Stop and correct a shooter on the line.
- Remove anyone from the line for safety reasons.
- Inspect all firearms on the line before calling the line safe and allowing members to advance ahead of the line to change or patch targets.

All members must obey the Range Officer while on the range.

Any discussions with the Range Officer regarding their decision must happen off range.

All non-resolved issues must be brought to the club executive.

Range Officers should keep notes of all actions taken at the range in case the information is required in the future.

Range Officers are to complete and submit an incident report for all safety infractions, removal of members from the range and all range equipment failure. Incident reports are in the club house.

Boxing / Unboxing a Firearm

Remember, you are responsible for your firearms 24 hours a day.

Your firearm must be transported to and from the range as per current government regulations as well as club regulations.

- Firearms must be boxed (enclosed on all 6 sides) when entering or leaving the property.
- Your firearm must be boxed or unboxed on the firing line or at the approved safety table
- You must maintain muzzle control at all times, down range or in a designated safe direction.
- It is a good practise to mark your gun case to indicate the direction of the guns muzzle.



- If you transport two firearms in the same case only handle the firearm with the muzzle pointed in the safe direction. To handle the other firearm, you must rotate the case to properly orientate the muzzle.



Any time you handle a firearm you must prove it safe and maintain muzzle control.

Remember the safe handling of any firearm is based on the following two acronyms.

ACTS

- A** - Assume every firearm is loaded.
- C** - Control the muzzle direction.
- T** - Trigger finger kept off the trigger and out of the trigger guard.
- S** - See that the firearm is unloaded and proved safe.

PROVE

- P** - Point the firearm in the safest available direction.
- R** - Remove all cartridges.
- O** - Observe the chamber(s) or cylinder.
- V** - Verify the feeding path.
- E** - Examine the bore

Moving a firearm

When moving a firearm from one position to another it must be boxed, holstered or carried using the high carry method,

- If boxing your firearm, you must,
 - Prove your firearm safe while **maintaining muzzle control** in the designated safe direction.
 - Then close the action and lower the hammer while **maintaining muzzle control** in the designated safe direction.
 - Place the firearm in your gun box/bag on the firing line while **maintaining muzzle control** in the designated safe direction.

- If holstering your firearm, you must,
 - Prove your firearm safe while **maintaining muzzle control** in the designated safe direction.
 - Then close the action and lower the hammer while **maintaining muzzle control** in the designated safe direction.
 - Place the firearm in your holster on the firing line while facing in the designated safe direction.

- If carrying your firearm, you must,
 - Prove your firearm safe while **maintaining muzzle control** in the designated safe direction.
 - An ECI (empty chamber indicator) must be used
 - Then raise your firearm to a high carry.
 - Gripping your firearm as normal with your finger off the trigger.
 - The action or cylinder must be opened.
 - The magazine (cylinder if so designed) must be removed.
 - The muzzle must be pointed upwards with the muzzle above your shoulder

REMEMBER TO ALWAYS MAINTAIN MUZZLE CONTROL!

High Carry

Gripping your firearm as normal with your finger off the trigger.



The action or cylinder must be opened.



The magazine (cylinder if so designed) must be removed.



The ECI must be in place.



The muzzle must be pointed upwards with the muzzle above your shoulder, Finger off the trigger.

MUZZLE CONTROL

It is important that the muzzle of your firearm always be pointed in the designated safe direction, usually down range. When boxing, unboxing or reloading. Treat your firearm as if there is a steel rod from the muzzle to the mid point of the target berm, an accidental discharge while maintaining muzzle control will result in the round striking the target berm. If the muzzle was pointed high an accidental discharge would cause the bullet to leave the range, If the muzzle was at a low ready, (pointed down at 45 deg.) an accidental discharge would strike the ground and might ricochet causing the bullet to leave the range.

THE CLUB IS 100% RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERY BULLET LEAVING THE RANGE.

ECI

ECI (EMPTY CHAMBER INDICATOR)



An ECI, **EMPTY CHAMBER INDICATOR** is usually a plastic flag that fits into the chamber to ensure that there is no cartridge in the chamber. At anytime a firearm is left in a gun rack or on the safety table an ECI must be in place.

Safety Areas

Safety areas (tables) on a range are to be used for boxing/unboxing of firearms and any minor cleaning or repairs. **No ammunition** and/or their components are permitted in this area. This applies to empty casings and/or ammo boxes.

If a live round is jammed in your firearm it must be cleared at your firing position before leaving the line. At no time, will a firearm in this condition be allowed at a safety table.

AMMUNITION IS PROHIBITED IN A SAFETY AREA!

Range Etiquette

Good range etiquette isn't just good manners, it's a combination of common sense, courtesy and safety. We all have different likes and dislikes, we may not shoot the same guns or calibers, but we're all here to have fun.

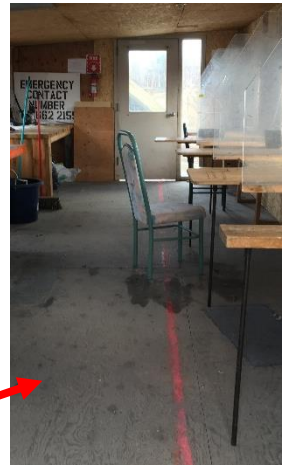
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- First, Last and **ALWAYS – SAFETY**
- Keep your equipment contained to your area.
- Clean up your brass and empty boxes, garbage goes in the garbage can.
- Never pick up another member's firearms without permission
- Do not call a cease fire for the purpose of hanging a target, if you arrive and others are shooting, set up and wait for a break in the shooting before asking to hang your target.
- Be kind and helpful to the other shooters at the range.
- If someone is doing something wrong, don't read them the riot act. Tell them what they are doing wrong, give them some helpful advice.

Range Commands

Although many shooting disciplines have their own range commands there are three basic commands that are common on most ranges.

CEASE FIRE:

When a CEASE FIRE command is given, all shooters will immediately stop shooting and P.R.O.V.E. their firearm safe. The firearm **MUST** be unloaded, action/cylinder open, an **ECI (Empty Chamber Indicator)** inserted. The firearm is then either placed in the rack or on the bench pointed down range. When complete the shooter must step behind the CEASE FIRE LINE and the Range Officer will inspect all firearms before calling the line safe.



CEASE FIRE LINE

ECI (EMPTY CHAMBER INDICATOR)



During a CEASE FIRE

NO ONE is allowed to step forward of the CEASE FIRE LINE.

NO ONE is allowed to handle or take anything from in front of the CEASE FIRE LINE.

NO ONE is allowed to handle a firearm and/or ammunition.

If a firearm is discovered to be unsafe after the range has been declared safe and shooters have advanced ahead of the line. Said firearm **MUST NOT BE HANDLED!** All shooters are to be called back behind the line, the line is to be declared hot and the firearm proven safe.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE RULES OF A CEASE FIRE WILL RESULT IN CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.

RANGE IS SAFE:

This command is stating that the range is now safe to check your targets. All firearms are unloaded and either open at the shooting position or holstered. When the range is safe all shooters must be behind the cease fire line and no firearms are to be handled, boxed or unboxed.

Range is Hot:

This command is stated once the RO has proven the range safe for shooter to commence shooting. Hearing and eye protection must be used and firearms can be handled. This command is only given once the range officer has confirmed no shooters are ahead of the firing line.

Alcohol / Drugs

NO ALCOHOL of any kind is allowed on the range. Any person who is INTOXICATED or IMPAIRED will not be allowed on CLUB PROPERTY. Keep in mind, the local police as well as the CFO may be notified of such an infraction.

NO ILLEGAL DRUGS are allowed on club property. Any person under the influence WILL NOT be allowed on CLUB PROPERTY. Again, the local police as well as the CFO may be notified of such an infraction.

Holsters

- Must point straight down in a safe direction.
- Must hold the firearm well enough that it will not fall out while moving.
- Must cover the trigger guard to ensure nothing can snag the trigger.
- Must have all OEM retention devices in use. (Must not be modified)
- Shoulder, cross draw or small of the back holsters are **prohibited 67.0**.
- The firearm must only be drawn from the holster when on the firing line or at a safety area.

If you are holster certified, you may draw hot from the holster (firearm loaded). But this is only allowed on an open range at the firing line. When not on the firing line, ready to engage the targets, the firearm must be in the holster unloaded.

If you are not holster certified, you can only use a holster as a storage device. Your firearm must be unloaded and magazine (if so equipped) out when in the holster. The firearm must only be drawn from your holster when at the firing line or a safety area.

Holster certified members have a red dot on their membership card. The club hosts holster certification courses every year.

Transferring

From time to time you may wish to try another shooters firearm, or they, yours. First you must ask before handling someone else's firearm. Secondly transferring the firearm from one person to another must be done in a safe way. **NEVER HAND THE FIREARM TO ANOTHER PERSON.**

- Prove your firearm safe.
- Place it on the shooting position or safety area in a safe condition:
 - o Unloaded.
 - o Locked open.
 - o Magazine removed.
 - o Muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Step back and allow the other person to pickup the firearm.

Malfunctions

Malfunctions may occur from time to time. The main thing to remember is to stay calm. Maintain muzzle control at all times, unload your firearm and prove it safe. Then clear the malfunction. The following are the most common malfunctions you may encounter.

FAILURE TO FEED

This usually happens with a self loader type firearm, and the usual cause is an improperly seated magazine. It can be corrected by removing the magazine and reseating it properly.

MISFIRE

This can occur when the hammer falls and/or the firing pin strikes the primer but the primer fails to ignite the powder. Should this happen to your firearm:

- Keep the muzzle pointed downrange for 60 seconds before opening the action.
- It may be a delayed ignition.
- After 60 seconds, open the action slowly and remove the misfired cartridge.
- Dispose of the cartridge in the red, LIVE AMMO box in the shooting shack.



SQUIB LOAD

This occurs where the primer is struck by the firing pin, detonates and the powder is not ignited by the primer inside the casing. Shooters must eventually learn to recognize the distinct sound of a primer detonating without igniting the powder and the absence of recoil. Should this happen to your firearm:

SQUIB LOAD (cont.)

- DO NOT continue shooting
- Stop firing immediately
- Keep the muzzle/pointed downrange
- Wait 60 seconds and then unload the firearm
- Carry out the ACTS - PROVE method of examination to make sure there are no cartridges in the firearm AND there is no bullet stuck partially in the bore

HOT SHELL CASINGS

It is extremely common for ejected shell casings to land in “uncomfortable” places. New and inexperienced shooters getting burned by casings are at the highest risk of pointing the firearm in an unsafe direction. **It is of the utmost importance that safe muzzle direction is maintained!**

SLAMFIRE

While loading a magazine in a self-loading firearm the action disengages causing it to slam forward stripping a round off the magazine being loaded into the firearm and discharges the round. This is one of the reasons we maintain muzzle control at all times.

Leaving club property

Upon leaving the property certain procedures must be followed,

- You must sign out at the Club house.
- The club door should be closed when no one is present inside.
- If you are the last person to leave the range you will be required to Close the range.
- Make sure the red flag at all ranges are down.
- Make sure you have turned off the solar panel system.



- Make sure the welcome sign is flipped to "closed" at the range and main gate.
- The gate must be closed and locked whenever the property is not in use.

Shooting Fundamentals

There are seven fundamentals in shooting. When practiced, these fundamentals will result in more accurate shooting.

GRIP

- You should always have a strong grip on the firearm.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Keep the muzzle pointed down range.
- Apply sufficient pressure and firmness to prevent the firearm from shifting in your hand during firing.
- Equalize the pressure of all fingers and thumb.
- Too much pressure will create excessive vibrations and tension.

STANCE

Standing position (rifle)

The standing position is the least stable shooting position from which to fire a rifle.

To shoot from the standing position, first, turn your body approximately 45° to the right of the target. Place your feet shoulder width apart. Support the rifle with your left arm and hand. Hold the left arm against your body for extra support where possible. Hold the stock firmly against your shoulder with the right hand. Keep holding the rifle firmly but not tightly.

Isosceles (Handgun)

The isosceles stance is generally considered the preferred modern shooting stance as it allows both ease of movement as well as firearm hand transfers.

- To assume an Isosceles stance the shooter lines up with their feet shoulder width apart, and square to the target.
- Then unlock or flex their knees very slightly.
- Now lean forward just enough to feel your weight to begin to shift from your heels to the balls of your feet.
- Feet shoulder width apart

Weaver (Handgun)

While no longer seen as an ideal stance, it does do a better job at recoil management. Unfortunately, it lacks the versatility for rapid movement and firearm transitions.

- Feet shoulder width apart
- Shooter steps back with holstered side foot
- Angle the rear foot about 45° away from body
- Shooting arm is straight. Supporting arm is bent at elbow
- The shooting arm presses forward while the supporting arm pulls back to make all the arm muscles firm up.

Kneeling position (rifle)

The kneeling position is better than the standing position but not as steady as either the prone or the sitting positions.

Turn to about a 45° angle to the target. Kneel on your right knee and place your left foot slightly forward. Sit on the heel or the side of the right foot. Place the left elbow near you but not on the bony part of the left knee, as far under the rifle as you can.

Sitting position (rifle)

The sitting position is one of the steadiest shooting positions.

Sit solidly on the ground, with your legs crossed or open, and your body positioned about 30° to the right of the line of aim.

Place your left elbow near, but not on, the bony part of the left knee. Tuck the elbow as far under the rifle as possible. Place the right elbow on or near the right knee.

Hold the rifle firmly but do not grip it tightly. If bracing your body against a tree or rock to steady your aim, be careful that the recoil will not force you against the support.

Prone position (rifle)

The prone position is the most stable shooting position.

It is good for firing accurate long distance shots if tall grass or dense brush does not obscure the line of sight to the target.

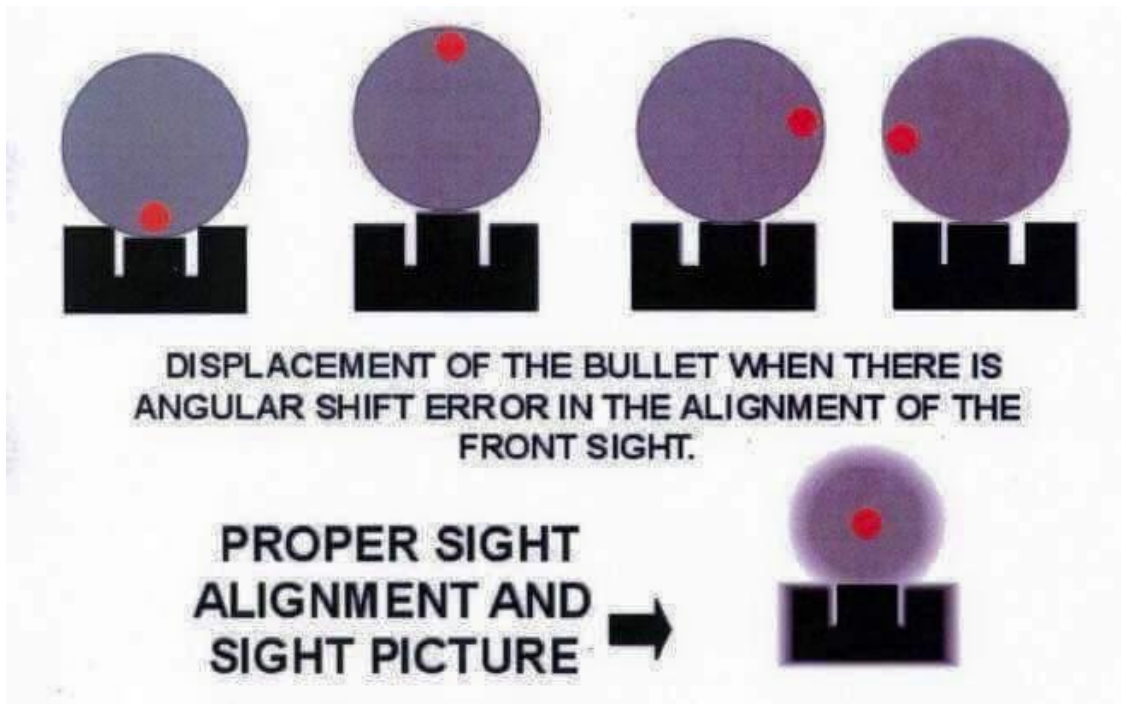
Lie on your stomach with your body angled slightly to the left of the line of aim. Keep your back straight and legs in a relaxed position. The right leg should be bent slightly. Both elbows should be bent and your shoulders curved slightly forward to form a solid upper-body position. The upper body and arms support the rifle weight.

When shooting, you can use a rifle sling for extra support. Hold the rifle grip with the trigger hand. Place your opposite arm through the sling as far as it will go. Swing your arm in an outward circular motion, ending with your hand under the fore-stock of the rifle and the sling across the back of your hand.

SIGHTING Alignment:

- Raise the firearm and point it at the target or downrange.
- Align the tip of the front sight with the centre of the target.
- Fit the front sight into the rear sight notch.
- There should be equal light each side of the front sight blade and the rear sight notch.
- The tip of the front sight should be level with the rear sight shoulders.
Picture:
- Look through the rear sight notch at the front sight.
- Keep looking at the front sight.
- The front sight should be sharp, clear and in focus at all times.
- The target will be fuzzy and out of focus.

REMINDER: DO NOT look at the target to find out how and where your shots went or scored. Concentrate on looking at the front sight only.



TRIGGER CONTROL

NOTE: The largest majority of shooting errors are trigger control related.

TRIGGER FINGER PLACEMENT - Double Action

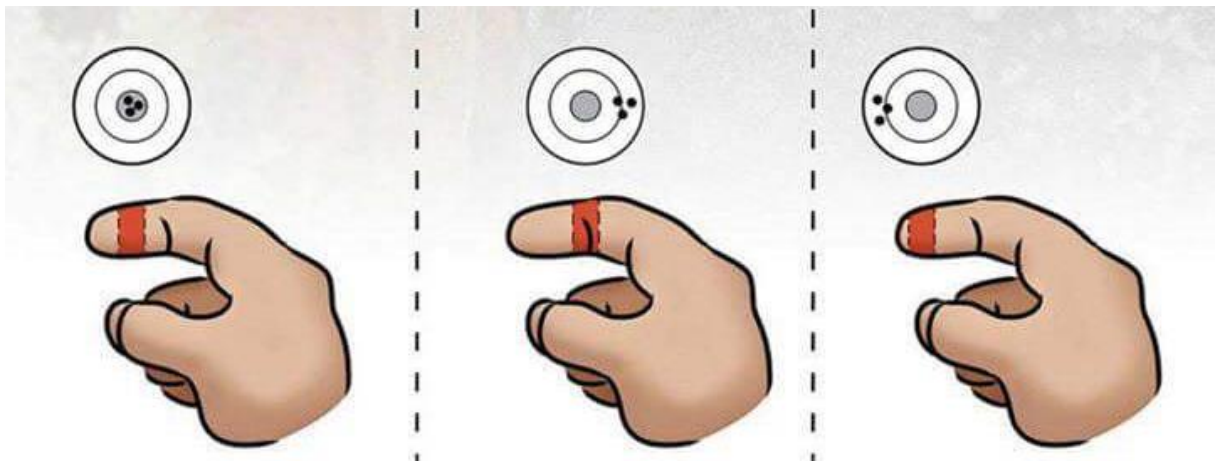
The trigger finger should be positioned on the trigger at the seam between the first and second sections.

TRIGGER FINGER PLACEMENT - Single Action

The pad of the trigger finger between the tip and the seam between the first and second sections should be positioned on trigger.

TRIGGER OPERATION

- When operating the trigger it must be manipulated through the complete cycle in one smooth continuous pull or stroke.
- Steadily increase the pressure on the trigger until the shot is delivered. Pausing the trigger part way through the pull or stroke will cause jerking. This is known as "staging" and should not be practised.
- The trigger must be operated straight to the rear in one fluid continuous motion.
- A smooth trigger operation is the key to improved shot delivery.



BREATH CONTROL

Breath Control is the key to you being relaxed and able to concentrate on the job at hand.

- When you are ready to start shooting take a deep breath and exhale it all.
- Take a second breath and exhale part of it as you deliver the shot or operate the trigger.
- Then resume normal breathing.
- Do not hold your breath too long as this will cause excessive tension and body vibration.
- Practice will tell you how your breath control will assist your improvement of your shooting skills.

FOLLOW THROUGH

In a nutshell, "FOLLOW THROUGH" means "finish the shot".

- As the trigger reaches the rear of the stroke travel, the firearm discharges.
- Hold the trigger fully to the rear briefly and allow the sights to come back on target.
- Pick up the front sight and release the trigger.
- Don't be in a hurry to fire the next shot.
- Analyse what you have done.
- In multi-shot shooting strings where time is very reduced this pause is extremely brief and may not exist.

RHYTHM

- Establish and build your rhythm for each shot you deliver so that all fundamentals come together and you finish smoothly.
- Form sound habits and practice them to establish your rhythm.
- This rhythm may be sped up or slowed down to meet the shooting conditions or the program.