

# **BASILDON RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB**

## **CLUB & RANGE RULES**

### **RULES**

1. Shooters must sign in before they shoot.
2. During formal section sessions, entrance doors to ranges may be locked shut, in which event the Range Officer must be ready to let anyone in who requires access. During add hock shooting sessions the doors are to remain unlocked. The only exception to this is when shooters are forward; the R.O. may then lock and stand by the door to prevent unauthorized persons gaining access.
3. At least one person must remain with the firearms, preferably standing by and securing the range door when shooters go forward to change targets.
4. At least two people must always be present on the range whilst shooting is in progress. **Never** shoot if you are the only person on the range.
  - 4.1 Any non-member accompanying a shooting member must be a responsible adult and must sign the Visitors Book. If they are to be the “second person” on the range, then they must be present on the range where shooting is taking place and it is the responsibility of the Member to ensure their visitor is suitable equipped with ear and eye protection.
5. Club identity badges to be worn when on the ranges.
6. Shooters must report to the Range Officer when entering the range.
7. Shooters and spectators must maintain range etiquette during details.
8. All persons on the range, shooters and spectators must wear both ear and eye protection whilst shooting is in progress.
9. Spectators witnessing infringements of Club Rules should notify the R. O. but not interfere with the shooter, except in an emergency.
10. Before leaving the firing point, clear away empty cartridge cases and used percussion caps from the bench top and floor. Black powder revolver shooters remove grease deposits from bench top and sidewalls.
11. Last person leaving the Club House must turn off all lights, set the intruder alarm and securely lock the Club House door by both of the cylinder locks.
12. Gate key-holders must ensure there's another key-holder present before leaving the Club premises, otherwise they must instruct all shooters to leave the range(s), alarm and lock the Club House and lock the range gates or make other arrangements to lock-up the range.
  - 12.1 Gate keys will only be issued to members who have a genuine need for a key. A member must have been a Full Member for a minimum of 2 years before a gate key will be issued, but this does not infer there is any implied right for a member to be issued with a gate key. The General Secretary will decide if a key is to be issued. If the General Secretary believes there is

not sufficient good reason to issue a gate key, the request will be referred to the General Committee for a final decision.

13. High-pressure air bottles for charging PCP air weapons must not be taken into the Club House or onto a shooting range without the prior approval of a Section Officer or Range Officer. A Section Officer, nominated section member or Range Officer, must supervise the re-charging of air cylinders.

On completion of re-charging the cylinder, the air bottle must either be removed to a vehicle or put into a designated safe area.

14. **Shooting Times for Out-door Ranges:**

- 14.1. **Start Times:** Air Weapons and .22 rifles can commence from 0900 hours. For all other caliber firearms shooting must **not** commence prior to **1000 hours**.

- 14.2. **Cessation Times:** All shooting must cease by 2200 hours on a Monday to Friday. Saturdays, shooting to cease by 1800 hours. Sundays and Bank Holidays, shooting must cease by 1400 hours, with the exception of air weapons and .22 rifles which can continue shooting until 2200 hours. There are no time restrictions on the use of the indoor range for air weapons and .22 rifles.

15. **Guest Shooters**

- 15.1. **Must sign** in the Club Attendance Register and be countersigned by a club member. (This is to comply with the Club's insurance cover).

- 15.2. **Must pay** a session range fee of £5.00.

15.2.1. **Ex Members of BRPC** must pay a per session range fee of £20.

- 15.3. **Must have** a valid firearm certificate or temporary permit (except where they are shooting air guns that do not require a firearms certificate). The FAC or permit must be in their possession and they must show it to any club member who asks to see it. (Any club member has a right to ask to see a shooting visitor's firearm certificate).

- 15.4. Must **not** make more than a total of three (3) visits as a guest shooter.

16. **RANGE SAFETY RULES**

16.1. **Safe Carrying Conditions**

Firearms must be unloaded and empty at all times. This means:

- **Rifles:** all long arms, with the exception of .22 prone target rifles which must have a breech flag inserted into the breech, must be cased or slipped when being transferred to and from the ranges. All cased or slipped firearms must only be uncased or de-slipped at the firing point.
- **Pistols:** must be cased or slipped and must only be uncased or de-slipped at the firing point.
- **Shotguns:** see rifles above.
- **Air weapons:** see rifles and pistols above.
- **Muzzle loaders:** see rifles and pistols above.

**Any firearm, shotgun or air weapon in a slip or cased will be deemed to be in a safe carry condition.**

## 16.2. Safety Procedures on the Firing Point

- Loading and firing may only be carried out in organized details and under the instruction of a Range Officer.
- Movement with a loaded firearm is forbidden. (For certain disciplines, movement with a loaded firearm is permissible under strict Range Officer control and for the duration of the detail only).
- Firing across lanes is forbidden.
- Firing positions. See precis of Range Safety Certificate details posted on each range.
- Muzzle/chamber loading of firearms using Black Powder or Black Powder substitute powders **must not** be charged directly from a powder flask. All charges **must** be decanted into phial's that have either a stopper or capped top and which hold a single charge of powder. The firearm must then be charged from a phial holding a single charge of powder.
- Powder phials containing powder charges must be covered with a cloth or kept in a covered container.
- Powder flasks and powder dispensers must be removed from the firing point before firing commences and either put into a covered container or covered with a cloth.
- Powder flasks and powder dispensers must not be handled after the Range Officer gives the order to commence fire.
- Recharging of powder into phials from a powder flask or a powder dispenser **must** only be carried out **after** the Range Officer has given the order to "cease fire" and declared the range safe.
- The match of a match lock must not be lit until the powder phials have been loaded, the phial's put into a covered container or covered with a cloth and the powder flask or powder dispenser removed from the firing point and put into a covered container or covered with a cloth.
- The container used to hold the lighted match **must** be on the opposite side of the firing point from the container holding the powder phials.
- The match of a match lock **must** be extinguished at the completion of each detail and only re-lit after the powder flask or powder dispenser has been removed from the firing point and the phials covered.
- Firearms must not be loaded or shouldered until the detail comes under orders from the Range Officer and the Range Officer has given the order to load.
- Firearms must not be handled whilst anyone is forward of the firing line (except in specified safety areas and under Range Officer control). This means all firearms even those that are unloaded.
- Do not go forward of the firing point until the Range Officer gives the "clear to go forward" command.
- Loaded firearms and unloaded firearms on the firing point must always be pointed down range.
- Firearms must always be brought up and not down into the aim.
- Actions of rifles (including muzzle loaders) must not be locked before the butt is put into the shoulder, the only exception to this is .22 self loading rifles which may be chambered on the bench.
- Shooting must stop immediately a Range Officer gives the order to cease-fire. This may be indicated by a verbal order to "cease fire" a blast from a whistle or by some other means. (Before starting the detail, the Range Officer will inform the shooters how the cease fire command will be given).
- Malfunctions, place the firearm down facing down range. Draw the attention of the Range Officer to the problem. Do not touch the firearm until the Range Officer gives permission.
- Dropped, loaded firearm. Recovery must be supervised by the Range Officer.

- Firearms, excluding air weapons, are **not** to be discharged at a distance closer than 10 metres from the target line.
- Firearms and ammunition must not be left unattended at any time, including when changing or patching targets.
- Dry firing must be conducted under control of a Range Officer, on a range or approved safety area. Rules as for live firing must be observed.
- Firearms must only be uncased or de-slipped at the firing point.

### 16.3. **General**

- Dropping a firearm, whether loaded or not, is deemed to be unsafe handling.
- Targets must be positioned so that shots hit the stop butts below a height of 1.5 metres
- Firing at anything other than an approved paper target attached to a target board or frangible target discs is forbidden, except in certain Practical rifle and shotgun details.
- Targets must **not** be attached to the Shot Seal curtain of the indoor range.
- The use of cans, cartons or any other objects as targets is strictly forbidden.
- Firing into walls, the ground and side banks or at fixtures and fittings is forbidden.
- Air weapons must **not under any circumstances** be discharged at the Shot Seal curtain, but only into approved pellet catchers.
- Clay traps must be set so clays **are not** discharged above the height of the stop butts. Under no circumstances are shotguns to be discharged above the height of the stop butts.

## 17. **Range Officer Commands**

### 17.1. To start the detail: -

#### .22 Small-bore Rifle

- R.O. to check range is clear and then gives order “Settle Down put eye and ear protection on”.
- R.O. to order “Stand By.” (Firearms can be handled).
- R.O. to order “Commence.” (Firearms may be loaded and fired).

#### Sporting and Gallery Rifle

- R.O. to check range is clear and then gives the command “Are You Ready?” (Anyone not ready must shout “Not Ready”. In this case the R.O. will give a further 30 seconds before repeating the command for the second and last time).
- R.O. to order “Eye and ear protection on, 20 minutes detail, load and fire when ready” (Firearms can be loaded and fired).

#### Black Powder Rifle and Pistol

- R.O. to check range is clear, then give order “Are You Ready?” (Anyone not ready must shout “Not Ready”. In this case the R.O. will give a further 30 seconds before repeating the command for the second and last time).
- R.O. to order “Eye and ear protection on, 30 minutes detail, load and fire when ready”.

### 17.2. To end the detail: -

#### .22 Small-bore Rifle

- Bell signal (5 seconds, during which firing may continue, **but not after**), or a whistle or call to “Cease Fire”.
- Shooters to unload, rifle grounded, action open, chamber clear.
- R.O. will check that all firearms are clear before giving order to “Go Forward and Change Targets”.

#### Sporting and Gallery Rifle

- R.O. to signal with whistle, or call “Cease Fire”.
- Shooters will cease firing, unload, place rifle on firing bench with muzzle

- pointing down range, action open, chamber clear.
- R.O. will check that all firearms are clear before giving order to “Go Forward and Change Targets”.

#### Black Powder Rifles and Pistols

- R.O. to signal with whistle, or call “Cease Fire”.
- Shooters will cease firing. If they still have a loaded firearm they must bring this to the attention of the R.O. who will oversee the discharging of the firearm into the stop butts.
- R.O. will check that all firearms are clear before giving the order to “Go Forward and Change Targets”.

## **18. Range Officer Duties**

### **18.1. Safety**

- Ensure red flag is raised.
- Ensure Range Safety Rules are obeyed.
- Check that only shooters for that detail are on the firing line.
- Inspect firearms before shooting to ensure they are appropriate and safe as per Range Safety Rules.
- Check that all firearms are benched or grounded and pointing down range.
- Ensure nobody is forward of the firing line.
- Give instructions on the course of fire to be followed.
- Give instructions on the range commands to be used, particularly the cease-fire signal.
- Check that the range is clear of intruders before starting and during the detail.
- Malfunctions. Deal with these, if possible, on the firing line but do not allow anyone forward of the firing line until the firearm is made safe & unloaded.
- If anyone infringes the Range Safety Rules you may ask them to cease firing and you have the right to ask them to leave the range if you believe this is appropriate.
- If any danger is perceived, give the cease-fire instruction.
- Ensure there are sufficient responsible members present at the firing line guard firearms and ammunition when shooters go forward to change or patch targets.

### **18.2. General**

- Keep a log, record names of members present and condition of range.
- Admit only authorized members to the range. Inspect Firearms Certificates and Club I.D. and Membership Card.
- Visitors to be specially recorded. Visitors must be sponsored by a member.
- Ensure intruders do not enter the range.
- Record and report to the General Committee on infringements of Safety Rules, noting name of perpetrator and details.
- Ensure equipment is stowed away, range is secured and lights are turned out at the end of a session.
- Ensure stop butt sand is raked up.
- Ensure equipment is stored out of danger zone.

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