



St Hubert Club of Great Britain

Training area Safety Rules

On MOD approved ranges, or at sites designated by the FC, firing will only take place from firing points set up by the Training Officer or his representatives at targets and locations they have risk assessed. First Aid kits and mobile phones (and / or radios) must be available.

Range Conducting Officer (RCO) Duties

There must be a Club approved RCO present together with at least one other person before shooting may take place.

The RCO, identified by a yellow tabard or high visibility vest, is in sole charge of everything that happens on the training area

The RCO must ensure the area is fit for use before any firing commences.

The RCO will appoint Firing Point Officers (FPO) as required to run the Firing Points and/or other duties

The RCO/FPO shall immediately stop all firing of weapons if any circumstances develop which he considers to be a hazard or a danger either on or about the area or outside or adjacent to the area.

The RCO/FPO shall have the right to have removed any person whose conduct is considered to be dangerous in any way or unsafe and to report to the Committee when having done so. Serious infringements caused through negligence will be reported to the Committee and disciplinary action may result.

General safety

All individuals on or near the firing points must wear hearing protection.

No guests are allowed to shoot.

Only English deer legal rifles and ammunition are permitted for training in the forest; elsewhere range regulations must be met.

Rifles must not be left unattended at any time.

All firearms shall have breech flags inserted where practicable or the bolt removed, whenever they are out of their transit case/bag, but not in actual use.

Always treat a firearm as if it were loaded until you have personally certified it to be clear.

Never point a rifle at anyone - accidentally or deliberately, even if you believe the rifle to be safe.

Never load a firearm or have the breech closed except on the firing point.

Unless authorised by the RCO, only shooters, their coaches and the RCO/FPO shall be present on the firing point during the shooting detail. Coaches and supervisors may only supervise one shooter at any one time.

No person may distract a shooter during a shooting detail, except the RCO, FPO or a coach.

Except as provided for by the RCO and unless 'Cease Fire' is in force, no shooter may approach the Firing Point without permission of the RCO/FPO or leave it without gun clearance by the RCO/FPO.

Shooting Sequence

The RCO shall be in charge at all times during shooting.

No one is allowed onto a firing point until invited by the Range Officer.

The RCO will call shooters forward to the firing point. The command "**Range clear, commence firing**" will be issued. Loading and firing may then commence.

Loading may only commence at the firing point prior to commencement of shooting. No person may load a firearm until the RCO/FPO has given a command to proceed. No shooting may commence until clearance to fire is given by the RCO/FPO.

Only load the required number of rounds needed.

If you need to change shooting positions whilst on the firing point the rifle must be unloaded and the bolt action opened.

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.

Always keep your finger off the trigger and the safety on until your sights are on the target.

Set triggers may only be applied when the rifle is pointing at the target. Care must be taken applying set triggers if wearing gloves that may make the operation difficult.

On the command 'Cease Fire', all guns will be unloaded immediately and their bolt actions opened. Remove the magazine to prove the gun empty/clear. (Before a 'Cease Fire' a RCO may warn with '1 minute to end of detail')

At the end of a shooting detail the RCO or his Firing Point officers will prove all weapons empty/clear before the RCO dismisses the detail. Nobody will advance forward of a Firing Point unless authorised by the RCO or his Firing Point officers.

No firearms are to be handled at a firing point during target marking or changing.

After shooting wait for permission from the RCO before you leave the firing point.

Abnormal conditions

In an emergency, the RCO will use the command “**STOP STOP STOP**” to suspend shooting. Upon hearing this command, shooters shall immediately stop shooting. Guns shall be lowered and pointed **DOWN** in front of the firing point - finger **OFF** trigger. Do not unload. Await instruction from RCO. If preparing to shoot and not already handling the gun, on command, apply your safety catch, lay your rifle down, stand up and step back.

Any Firing Point officer or spectator seeing that the area is not safe, and there is immediate danger may call **STOP STOP STOP**

Should there be any cause for shooting to be interrupted on any range for any reason, the call 'Cease Fire' by anyone will be obeyed immediately and the weapon made safe as above.

In the very unlikely event of a misfire (when you pull the trigger and nothing happens) or other technical problem you must raise your hand and get the attention of the RCO/FPO. During this time keep the rifle pointing down range at the target, with your finger off the trigger. Keep the bolt closed, do not open it for a minimum 60 seconds.

If any time you are unsure of a command or of a procedure then - keeping the barrel pointing in a safe direction - raise your hand and attract the attention of the RCO/FPO.

Notes

These rules should be read in conjunction with the Club's health & Safety policy.

Dogs are not allowed on MOD ranges.

Dogs are not allowed leashed or free running in the vicinity of the firearms training Area.