



***Blue Ridge
Sportsmen's Club Inc.***

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**SAFETY COURSE
MANUAL**



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BLUE RIDGE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB INC

ORIENTATION AND FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Club Orientation and Firearms Safety Course. It is the intention of your instructors to promote safe shooting disciplines and educate all applicants in the competent use, handling and transporting of firearms, prior to permit recommendation. We would also like to let you know more about Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Club and what we represent.

First of all, this Gun Club exists to develop and support all the shooting disciplines within the law. At a time when the sport and recreational activity in which we're all interested is coming under direct fire from those who oppose private ownership of firearms, it has become more imperative than ever before that, as shooters and potential shooters, you understand the complexity of the equipment you use in pursuing your sport. At the same time, by gaining and implementing this knowledge, you will certainly enjoy firearms to the greatest degree possible. You, in turn, become part of the educational process. By demonstrating to others your maturity and responsibility in the owning and use of firearms, you will help to dissolve the false and damaging image of shooters that the anti gun lobbyists have constructed for the media and non-shooting public over the past few years.

In the past, except for the actual club orientation references, this course was designed almost exclusively for those interested in owning and using handguns, either semi-automatics or revolvers. As the legislative reins tighten around us, we have expanded our training to include rifles and shotguns as well. It never hurts to gain more knowledge about various types of firearms.

Before you apply for any type of authorization permit to transport, the Executive of this Club must be able to certify that:

1. You are trustworthy in the use of firearms
2. You have undergone a course of instruction and have a sound knowledge of the safety procedures implemented on any reputable shooting range, and
3. You have demonstrated on the range, by actually firing under supervision, your capability and willingness to implement recognized safety practices whenever you handle a firearm of any kind, as per requirements of the Chief Firearms Office of Ontario.

Please ask questions. If you have any doubts at all concerning anything you hear from us, or you just plain don't understand something we've said, there's a good chance you're not alone. So ask.

This safety course is comprised of three sections: the orientation, theory (safety practices) and practical application of firearms.

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RULES – GENERAL

THESE RULES ARE MANDATORY FOR THE OUTDOOR RANGE AND MUST BE FOLLOWED....

1. Club Membership identification is to be worn at all times.
2. Proper safety glasses must be worn at all times.
3. Hearing protection must be worn at all times while shooting.
4. No handgun may be worn or carried in a holster or on your person.
EXCEPTION – will be made for special interest groups by the Board of Directors of the Club.
5. While on the range you will be under direct control of the designated Range Officer. All shooting will be on his or her command. If a Range Officer is not present, a member of the group shooting is to assume command of the range.
6. ANYONE can call a cease-fire if they observe or encounter an unsafe situation.
7. Shooting may not occur if you are alone on the range. All shooters must be accompanied on the range for safety purposes.
8. Authorized or approved targets only are to be used.

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SHOTGUN RANGE RULES

1. Action must be open at all times when carrying your gun and waiting your turn to shoot.
2. Pump and Autoloaders must have the action open while in the gun racks.
3. The gun must not be loaded until the shooter is standing in position.
4. In case of delay or equipment failure all guns must be emptied and left open until shooting resumes.
5. Guns must be open and empty before leaving shooting position or station.
6. Gun shall be carried with breech open and empty. Pumps and automatics will have the action open. Fixed breech (double barrels and over and unders) will be broken open and pointed in a safe direction at all times.
7. No shot larger than 7 1/2 by 3 dram may be used on trap field.
8. You may load but not close the action of your gun prior to your turn.
9. When changing position or stations, the gun must be OPEN and EMPTY.
10. Trap - When moving from position #5 to position # 1, the shooter must always pass behind the line of shooters.

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OUTDOOR RANGE RULES

1. Shooting hours are from 8:00 am to dusk Monday to Saturday and Sundays are 10 am to dusk.
2. When using the outdoor range, ensure that the range signs are properly posted.
3. The red warning flag must be flown at all times when shooting is done on Range.
4. All shooters using the range must sign in at the range.
5. Range Officer must be assigned.
6. Eye and ear protection mandatory for all persons on range.
7. Non-members may only shoot under the direct supervision of a member.
8. Firearms will be empty. Mag out. Actions open and will not be handled when anyone is down range or when R.O. calls line safe.
9. No aerial targets.

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Select Discipline

Action Pistol - Black Powder - Handgun IPSC (Practical Pistol – Shotgun - Rifle

Approved Targets

The issue of what constitutes an "Approved Target" can sometimes be difficult to determine, especially for new club members. The club rules require that all club members use only approved targets, yet there is no complete list of what constitutes an approved target and what does not. The fact is that this is both a "common sense" and an "intelligent choice" issue. Based on the information supplied and various criteria, club members are expected to use common sense and make intelligent choices when they choose their targets.

Let's begin by giving you some guidelines:

- ◆ Cardboard is acceptable for use on the outdoor ranges as a backer board material on which you can affix your paper targets.
- ◆ Generally speaking metal or other "hard surface" targets are not approved for use. These types of targets have a high probability of causing ricochets and can only be used by qualified shooters, under specific conditions and after the target has met all design criteria specifications. Not approved for "new" shooters.
- ◆ Bowling Pins are NOT for casual use. They are a restricted target, requiring specific knowledge and limitations on their use. Bowling Pins have serious ricochet potential and can only be used with certain firearm and ammunition types. They are to be used at specified minimum distances and by shooters who understand the dangers and restrictions involved.
- ◆ Steel Plates. Poppers, etc. are restricted targets and may only be used by qualified shooters in the associated discipline. These targets have minimum distance requirements and design criteria that must conform to CFO regulations. They are NOT approved for general use by non-qualified shooters.
- ◆ Most commercially manufactured paper targets designed for handgun, rifle and/or shotgun use are Approved for all members. Notice we said "most". Specifically restricted or not allowed are silhouette / hostage /military type targets. These target types can sometimes be viewed as "politically incorrect" and their use is restricted to discipline specific shooting sports (e.g. PPC - Police Pistol Combat) and qualified members.
- ◆ Home-made targets are allowed as long as they stay within the guidelines...
... no hostage or silhouette type targets... nothing that is of a design that would be offensive (someone's picture is an obvious example of an inappropriate target)... nothing that might cause ricochets (metal or other hard surfaces). If you believe someone might object to your using it, then there's a good chance the target may be inappropriate.
- ◆ Pop cans, coffee cans, etc. are not really appropriate... we're a legitimate shooting organization. If you choose to use this type of target be very sure that the safety committee will agree that it was a safe choice... be sure that a ricochet isn't possible... be sure that fragments from the target can't cause problems or safety concerns... be sure to only use it on the outdoor range ... and **clean EVERYTHING** up when you're finished. A "poor choice" here could cost you your membership privileges.
- ◆ Balloons are a fun target and are approved for general use.

- ◆ Speaking of target placement... target stands, uprights, etc., are considered range equipment, they are not targets. Your target should be placed on a backer board or between the target stand uprights in such a way that when shooting at your target the bullets do not strike the range equipment. Barricades, target stand bases, target stand uprights, etc. are not supposed to be hit when you are shooting. Target stands cannot be made of steel.

- ◆ **When making your target choice consider the following:**
 - Is my choice of target a safety issue?
 - Can any damage result from my choice of target?
 - Am I using equipment that is restricted for certain disciplines?
 - Does my choice of target comply with the various specific target restrictions?
 - Will any club member be offended by my choice of target?
 - Finally... if someone does find my choice objectionable, can I justify my choice to the Safety Committee?
 - If you can't be totally comfortable with the answers to these simple questions then it is very likely you are choosing an inappropriate target.

If you want to be sure, ask a member of the Safety Committee or the Board of Directors *BEFORE* you use the target in question.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Paper Handgun Targets | Approved | |
| Paper Rifle Targets | Approved | |
| Paper Plates | Approved | Members Supply Own |
| Shotgun/Skeet Birds | Approved | Under Safe Conditions |
| D- I (Tombstone)Paper Target | Restricted | Used for Marksmanship Qualification Program |
| Silhouette (PPC) Targets | Restricted | Discipline Specific- Used only by qualified Members |
| IPSC Cardboard Targets | Restricted Restricted | Discipline Specific – Used by qualified IPSC shooters |
| Steel Plates | | Discipline Specific – Used only by qualified Members |
| Steel Poppers | Restricted | Discipline Specific- IPSC / Action Pistol / Action Shotgun |
| Movers / Swingers Etc. | Restricted | Discipline Specific- IPSC / Action Pistol / Action Shotgun |
| Bowling Pins | Restricted | Discipline Specific- IPSC / Action Pistol / Action Shotgun |
| Balloons | Approved | Discipline Specific IPSC/ Action Pistol /Action Shotgun/other Specialty Events |
| Hostage Type Targets | Not Allowed | Exception for Law Enforcement Only-Duty Related |
| Military Targets | Not Allowed | Exception for Law Enforcement Only-Duty Related |
| Pictures of People | Not Allowed | No Exceptions |
| Glass | Not Allowed | No Exceptions |
| Water Filled Containers | Not Allowed | No Exceptions |
| Fruit, Melons, etc. | Not Allowed | No Exceptions |
| Appliances, TVs etc. | Not Allowed | No Exceptions |

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EQUIPMENT

- EAR PROTECTION** - The wearing of adequate ear protection is mandatory.
- EYE PROTECTION** - The wearing of adequate eye protection is mandatory.
- FIREARMS** - Must be in proper working order when on the range.
Mechanical safeties must be operational.
- CASES** - All firearms to be carried to and from the range in proper gun cases. All restricted firearms must be carried in a LOCKED case.
- HOLSTERS** - The use of handgun holsters is strictly prohibited on Club premises except for disciplines approved by the Board

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COMMANDS

THE DANGER SIGNAL

Because they run the risk of not being able to make themselves heard, experienced range officers always carry a whistle. The danger signal with a whistle is a series of short blasts. It is used to reinforce the 'Cease Fire' signal which is one long blast on the whistle.

CEASE FIRE

On the command 'Cease Fire' everyone on the line will immediately cease firing and will unload, make his pistol safe and bench his pistol. Normally, only the range officer will give the command "Cease Fire", but it is the responsibility of any shooter who sees a dangerous situation to call out "Cease Fire". And the shooter need not be on the line to exercise this responsibility.

MAKE YOUR PISTOLS SAFE

This command requires everybody on the line to unload their pistols and to bench them with the cylinder open, the slide back and the magazine out. After this command, no shooter may handle his or her pistol until the range officer directs "You may handle your firearms'.

ALWAYS USE A BENCH

The bench at the forward edge of the firing point is an important safety device. Stand up to it so that your shooting arm will strike the bench before you can point a pistol at your toe. A shooter must concentrate on his shooting. A properly placed bench will relieve him of the fear that he may let his arm drop to the vertical and inadvertently blow his toe off.

A shooting bench also supplies a secure table on which to mount your shooting box, put your pistol down securely, and to hold your ammunition.

If you drop a round of ammunition, forget it until you have made your pistol safe. And at no time should you ever reach ahead of the firing line to retrieve anything, be it live ammunition, cases, or whatever.

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Prove Safe

PROVE it safe:

Point the firearm in the safest available direction.

Remove all cartridges.

Observe the chamber.

Verify the feeding path.

Examine the bore.

The firearm is now unloaded and safe until it leaves the direct control of the person who unloaded and **PROVED** it safe.

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BASIC FIREARM SAFETY

Basic Firearm Safety Practices

While many safety practices have been incorporated into the *Firearms Act* and Regulations, experienced firearm users often exceed those requirements by following some or all of the recommended safety practices listed below. These safety practices are summarized in Chart 7 in Section 8. (For specific requirements on storage and transport, see Section 9 of this manual.)

Firearms under your care and control are your responsibility twenty-four hours a day.

Keep Firearms and Ammunition Separate and Secure When Not in Use

Firearms are safer when stored and transported under lock and key. Examples include trigger or cable locks, and securely locked containers.

In many cases, you are required by law to have your firearm unloaded and properly locked. Be aware of what the law says about which firearms need to be locked and when.

Keep firearms and ammunition out of sight during transport and storage. This will reduce the chances of theft. It will also prevent unqualified or unauthorized persons from using them.

Store firearms unloaded. Store ammunition separately. Lock the firearm and the ammunition separately when storing them.

Load a Firearm Only for Actual Use

Ammunition and firearms must be kept away from children if unsupervised . Accidental misuse can cause a tragedy.

A firearm should be loaded only when you intend to use it and where it can be safely and legally discharged. At all other times, it should be unloaded.

Load a firearm, only when you have reached the shooting area and you are ready to shoot. Completely unload the firearm before you leave the shooting area.

Always make sure a firearm is unloaded before you pass it to anyone or any time it leaves your hands. Whenever possible, leave the action open.

Never accept a loaded firearm from any one.

Never run with a loaded firearm. Never climb or cross an obstacle with a loaded firearm. Never jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.

Never toss or drop a firearm across a ditch or fence.

Do not lean loaded firearms against a vehicle, tree or wall. They could fall and accidentally discharge.

Transport only unloaded firearms by vehicle or boat. Many accidents occur, as firearms are being stored or removed from a vehicle. Also, the motion of the vehicle or boat can make you stumble or drop the firearm. Either way, it can fire accidentally if it is loaded.

Always unload a firearm before transport or storage. This prevents accidental discharge if bumped during transport. It also reduces the chances of unexpected firing by an unqualified user.

Be Sure Before You Shoot

Always use your firearm in the safest manner possible, Be sure of your target and beyond before -you shoot.

Always examine the bore for obstructions before loading.

Always check that you are using the right ammunition. Use only the ammunition for which the firearm was designed. Carry only the type of ammunition you intend to shoot.

Never rely on the firearm's safety. Safeties wear down and may not work properly. Also, a loaded firearm may fire even with the safety on. All mechanical devices can fail.

Be sure of your target and beyond. This means:

- Positively identify your target. Make sure it is exactly what you want to shoot;
- Do not shoot when in doubt. Never fire at a movement, a colour, a sound or a shape:
- Check that you have a clear field of fire-, and
- Check that the area behind your target is safe before shooting.

Never use a scope as a substitute for binoculars to identify persons, animals or objects.

Always be aware of where your bullet or shot may end up. This is your responsibility. A bullet or shot may ricochet. It may also travel far beyond the target. Therefore, if unsure:

- never shoot if your bullet may hit a hard surface or water. Both can cause a bullet or fragments to ricochet in unsafe directions;
- never shoot at a target on the skyline;
- never shoot at a target near a building;
- never shoot at a target on a hill; and
- only shoot when you are sure no one is ahead of you.

Secure Locking Devices

Secure locking devices prevent a firearm from being fired. (Figure 2-1) To work effectively, they must be installed properly. Please note that not all secure locking devices are compatible with each firearm.

In some cases, they are required by law. (Refer to Section 9) Several devices are available for this purpose. The most common are key and combination trigger locks, and chain or cable locks. All of these locks block operation. Check with a firearms dealer for a locking device best suited for your specific firearm.

Figure 2-1 Various firearm locking devices, shown installed on the firearm

