

HURN RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB

OUTDOOR RANGE RULES



Range Commands

<i>RO Command (Note 'STOP' command)</i>	<i>Result</i>
<p>"STOP, STOP, STOP"</p> <p>NB. This is an emergency command. Anyone may use this command if they think the range is not safe or there is anyone in front of the firing point.</p>	<p>The shooter shall point the firearm DOWN at 45 degrees in front of bench with the finger OFF the trigger.</p> <p>Do NOT unload.</p> <p>Await instructions from RO. If preparing to shoot and not already handling a gun, step back from the bench behind the yellow line.</p>
<p>"Cease fire, guns on the bench and show clear"</p> <p>(Before a 'Cease Fire' a RO may warn with 'X minutes to end of detail')</p>	<p>The shooter shall put down the firearm immediately.</p> <p>The shooter shall then unload the firearm and ensure the chamber is empty, remove the magazine or rack the mechanism if necessary to empty a fixed magazine – then make sure all magazines/speed loaders are clear of ammunition.</p> <p>The shooter shall lock the bolt or slide back, or insert breech flag, or remove the barrel from the action and then move behind the yellow line. The RO will inspect each firearm and once assured that it is clear, place the chain across the firing point.</p>
<p>A single buzzer or whistle blast and the range lights switched to GREEN followed by the command "Range Safe, go forward and change targets"</p>	<p>The shooter may move in front of the firing point to change targets.</p> <p>All shooters or spectators remaining at the firing point shall remain behind the yellow line and NO ONE SHALL TOUCH ANY FIREARM OR ANY OTHER ITEM OR PIECE OF EQUIPMENT ON THE BENCH.</p>
<p>A double buzzer or whistle blasts and the range lights switched to RED followed by the command "Range is live. Commence firing"</p>	<p>The shooter may step up to the bench, pick up the firearm and commence shooting.</p> <p>The normal time period between the range going live and the next cease fire is around 15 minutes.</p> <p>Hearing protection is mandatory and eye protection is recommended. Juniors must wear eye protection on both ranges.</p>

Hurn Rifle & Pistol Club Range Rules

General Range Rules

These General Rules shall apply to all Hurn Rifle and Pistol Club ranges.

Please remember that, when at the range, you have a “Duty of Care” to behave in a way that avoids causing risk or injury to others.

These rules may be read to suit the configuration of an airgun e.g. ‘break barrel’ may be substituted for ‘action open’ or ‘discharge pellet into backstop’ instead of ‘unload’ but the principles and the intent shall remain the same.

When shooting at other approved ranges, local rules and regulations may apply as appropriate.

All Range Officers must: -

1. Be full members of the Hurn Rifle and Pistol Club.
2. Have had adequate experience to resolve problems that occur when shooting firearms.
3. Be approved by the Committee.
4. Have read and understood these range rules.

RO Responsibilities and Duties: -

1. The Range Officer (RO) is responsible for all aspects of range operation. His prime responsibility is to ensure safe operation of the range at all times. The Range Officer will wear a day-glow waistcoat and, if the buzzer system is not working, carry a whistle at all times.
2. Before shooting can commence the RO should ensure that the lights and buzzer system are operational, that the red flag is flying and that the backstop is safe to use and that the gates and fences either side of the range are secure.
3. The RO may not leave the firing point at any time while the range is active. This includes periods when the shooters have moved forward of the firearms to change targets (Green Light). If the RO has to leave the firing point for a break, then a replacement RO will be appointed. If the RO wishes to know the status of other parts of the range (i.e. targets) then the RO will appoint another full member to carry out this duty for him.
4. The appropriate range commands as defined above shall always be used.
5. RO may hand over an active range to another RO at any time, but the range must not at any time be left unattended with the flag flying, signs displayed and the gates open or unlocked.
6. The RO shall not shoot whilst in command of the range. The RO may shoot only when command of the range has been handed over to another RO.
7. The RO has the authority to ban any shooter, firearm or ammunition from the range if a firearm or ammunition does not comply with either the maximum calibre, muzzle velocity or muzzle energy stated on the range safety certificate.

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The safety certificate for the outdoor range is based on the following:

Maximum calibre 0.455 in

NB. Not applicable to black powder weapons so long as the maximum velocity and energy limits stated below are not exceeded.

Maximum muzzle velocity 2145 ft/sec (655m/s)

Maximum muzzle energy 1,495 ft. Lbs (2030J)

Indoor Range – Rifle Sub 12 ft. Lbs, Pistol Sub 6 ft.Lbs

8. The RO has the authority to ban any shooter, firearm or ammunition from the range if a firearm or ammunition is considered by the RO to be either unsafe or inappropriate for whatever reason.
9. The RO shall ensure that all shooters keep the muzzles of all loaded firearms pointing towards the back stop at all times and behave in a safe and responsible manner. The RO has the authority to ban any shooter from the range if he considers that safety has been compromised by that shooter.
10. A Range Incident Book shall be maintained. All incidents, rule transgressions or accidents including the airgun range shall be logged in this book by the RO. The RO shall record the date, time and shooter responsible for each incident. The book shall not be removed from the range except that it may be brought to a Committee meeting so that any incidents may be reviewed.
11. In the event of a firearm becoming damaged while being discharged, the RO has the power to instruct the owner of the firearm to remove the firearm, all ammunition and powder as relevant from the range. Method of removal to be safe and have the agreement of the RO.
12. Nobody shall move forward of the firing point unless authorised by the RO.
13. The duration of details on the firing point will be approximately 15 minutes or until the RO is sure all shooters have completed their course of fire. It is normal to warn all shooters at two minutes prior to a cease-fire being called.
14. Within the boundaries of the range and surrounding areas, all firearms must be kept covered except when on the firing point. On the firing point, all firearms must be kept unloaded with their actions open at all times except when being fired. Actions may be closed only when the unloaded firearms are cleared by the RO and properly bagged or cased for transport. In exceptional circumstances, and only with the RO's express permission and supervised by the RO, may firearms be uncovered on the range behind the firing point.
15. All firearms must be cleared as safe by the RO before allowing personnel forward of the firing point or the firearms being removed from the firing point. The purpose of clearing a firearm is to ensure that it cannot be discharged.

It is not adequate in any circumstances to rely on a safety catch or putting the hammer in a half cock position to ensure that a loaded firearm cannot be discharged.

Firearms may be cleared as follows: -

- a. In the case of bolt action firearms, the RO should check that the bolt is open and fully rearwards, the chamber is empty and any removable magazine has been removed and the magazine/speed loader is clear of ammunition. Where possible the bolt must be removed.
- b. In the case of under lever rifles, the RO should check that the lever is fully extended and that the chamber is empty. As most underlever rifles have a tubular magazine that cannot be removed, the

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RO should operate the lever at least three times to ensure that no ammunition has hung up in the magazine or loading mechanism.

- c. In the case of semi-automatic rifles or pistol, the RO should check that the bolt is locked rearwards, the chamber is empty and the magazine has been removed and the magazine is clear of ammunition or removed from the firing point. If the bolt cannot be locked rearwards, then a breech flag should be inserted into the chamber to indicate that the firearm is safe and cannot be fired.
- d. In the case of cased ammunition revolvers (Long Barrelled Pistols), the RO should check that the cylinder is empty and if possible, swung clear of the frame and all speed loaders are clear of ammunition or removed from the firing point.
- e. In the case of muzzle loading/black powder revolvers, the RO should check that no percussion caps are on the nipples and the hammer is at half cock and that the revolver is either pointed towards the backstop or vertically in a reloading stand.
- f. In the case of single shot black powder rifles or pistols, the RO should ascertain that no percussion cap is on the nipple.
- g. In the case of air rifles or pistols, the RO shall ensure that the gun is broken or the bolt is fully back and the chamber is empty. If the air rifle or pistol has a magazine, the magazine should be removed and clear of pellets.

If the RO cannot use these methods to clear the firearm, then he should ask the shooter to demonstrate to him that the firearm is clear. In some circumstances this may be demonstrated by pointing the firearm down range and operating the mechanism and trigger a number of times to ensure that it does not discharge.

16. The RO shall ensure that spectators at all ranges are kept well to the rear of the firing point.
17. For probationary members, until they have demonstrated that they have reached an accepted standard of competence and safety they will be required to be supervised by an RO or full Club member at all times and must comply with all instructions given by the said supervisor. Where a Section 1 firearm has been provided for their use, this can only be done under the direct supervision of the owner. A single supervisor may only supervise one probationer or guest at any one time. Where the probationer already holds an FAC, then once a level of competency has been established, direct supervision will not be deemed necessary.
18. In the case of any shooter on any range being below the age of 14 years, a parent or guardian (minimum age of 21 years) should be present at all times and in direct line of sight.
19. On completion of shooting the RO will inspect the range to ensure that it is tidy and that no live rounds or equipment remains. When shooting is finished, the RO shall ensure that the range is left secure with the red flag removed, the clubhouse, toilet and target room doors locked, the range gate closed and the first gate locked.

Shooters' responsibilities: -

1. The orders of the Range Officer (RO) must be obeyed at all times. The RO's decision on any matter concerning running of the range is final.
2. It is the responsibility of each shooter to ensure that their name and gun details are entered onto the electronic attendance and weapons usage log and that the range fee is paid with an entry in the receipt book - prior to the commencement of shooting. Where only a non-FAC air gun is being used then the electronic attendance record should be completed as such. If visiting and not shooting then you should still complete the record. The T&Cs for shooting at HRPC form part of the electronic sign in and can be read on screen. If you do not accept these conditions then you cannot continue as a member and should leave the premises immediately.
3. Only cased firearms may be moved between firing points and within the boundaries of the range and the surrounding area.

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4. These rules apply to all guests as well as members. In the interests of safety, guests on firearms ranges must be supervised at all times by a RO or full Club member and must comply with all instructions given by the said supervisor.
5. **There must be a minimum of two full members in attendance whenever the range is in use.**
6. If Section 1 Firearms are in use, then there must be at least two FULL adult members on the outdoor range at all times. If air guns only are being used then it is permissible for a single shooter to use the outdoor range whilst one uses the indoor range.
7. If shooting takes place other than on a Sunday, then: -
 - a. One shooter must be identified as the RO at all times. He/she is to carry out the range opening and closing checks as detailed above under "RO Responsibilities and Duties". All of the shooters in attendance share the responsibility with the RO in ensuring that the range is used in accordance with the established safety procedures and must observe the instructions of the RO at all times.
 - b. The appropriate range fees shall be paid by all those shooting, including anyone acting as RO. No fees are required from a non-shooting RO.
8. Any person pointing any firearm, imitation firearm or airgun at another person or persons in any circumstances whatsoever, whether loaded or otherwise, or being found guilty of any practice which, in the opinion of the Committee, is either dangerous or reckless, after consideration of the report from the RO of the day, will be liable to expulsion from the Club.
9. Members are reminded that it is a criminal offence: -
 - a. To carry any firearm or airgun unbagged or uncased in any public place.
 - b. For probationary members or persons not having an appropriate FAC to remove firearms and/or ammunition from the range.
 - c. For non-members of the Hurn Rifle and Pistol Club to handle firearms and ammunition within the boundaries of the range unless they are guests taking part in club organised Guest Day.
10. In the case of firearms designed to have removable magazines, the magazines shall be clear of ammunition before being bagged or cased for transport.
11. At the firing point, no firearm or any other object or piece of equipment shall be touched or loaded during a 'Cease Fire' and all shooters shall remain behind the yellow line. Firearms shall be handled, boxed and/or loaded only after the RO has confirmed that the range is live and that shooting may commence with the safety lights on red.
12. On the command 'Cease Fire. Unload. Guns on the Bench and show clear', all shooting shall cease immediately. All firearms shall be unloaded. Firearms shall then be placed on the bench with their muzzles pointing towards the backstop and with their actions open.
13. If any member, guest or spectator sees a person or animal on the range, or should there be any cause for shooting to be interrupted **for any reason**, they may call 'STOP, STOP, STOP' and have the same authority as the RO. In the event of 'STOP, STOP, STOP' being called, all shooters on the firing point will point their guns to the ground in front of the bench at an angle of approximately 45 degrees, take their fingers off the trigger and, holding the gun steady, wait for the RO's next command. **THEY WILL NOT FIRE OR UNLOAD.**
14. In the event of a misfire or any other stoppage, the shooter shall raise his arm to attract the attention of the RO and wait at least 30 seconds with the rifle still shouldered pointing down range at the target, in case of hang fires. Then the rifle should be carefully placed on the bench, ensuring that it still points towards the target. The bolt should be opened carefully ensuring that the shooter's hand is not behind the bolt, and that no-one is standing behind or beside the rifle. If an underlever or semi-automatic rifle

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cycle the action to discharge the cartridge. The shooter should check that the cartridge comes out complete with the bullet. The failed round SHOULD NOT be put back into the rifle but kept separately from other live ammunition and removed from the range for disposal.

15. When a match is in progress or members are shooting league targets, all others present shall have the courtesy to observe reasonable silence to avoid any distraction, and will assist the RO in ensuring that only the permitted number of shooters and others are on the firing point and any others are all standing well back from the point.
16. The Club impresses on members that it is one of the conditions of their membership that they should help maintain a tidy range, with particular care being taken to avoid leaving any live ammunition unaccounted for. A tidy range is a safe range. All spent cases, targets etc. must be removed from the firing point on completion of the shoot.
17. Competitive shooting should be carried out in accordance with the rules of the NRA or other properly constituted body as relevant. However, the rules may be modified by local range conditions as and when necessary. In the case of matches or shoots, either internally or involving visitors or guests, all competitors must be left in no doubt as to which rules govern the shoot.
18. Those wishing to shoot special targets on any practice detail must first consult the RO as to the position they occupy. Images that portray human characteristics cannot be used.
19. Coaching during matches of all kinds will, at the sole discretion of the RO, only be allowed on a supervisory basis with probationary members, to comply with safety standards.
20. The RO is responsible for the safe running of the range, BUT individual shooters have responsibility for their own actions. The fact that the RO was not aware of a particular unsafe conduct or practice is not an excuse for any unsafe conduct or practice to continue.
21. For safety reasons, all shooters and spectators must wear ear protection and are strongly advised to wear appropriate eye protection while shooting is taking place.
22. Eye protection for those shooting black powder firearms is required.

Any infringements of these rules may render the offender liable to expulsion from the range on the day by the RO. Any misconduct shall be recorded in full in the Range Incident Book for discussion by the Committee at its next meeting. If the matter is of a more urgent nature, the Secretary shall convene a special Committee meeting.

If an entry is made in the Incident Book this event should then become an agenda item at the next Committee Meeting.

- End -