



TRISTATE GUN CLUB

RANGE BRIEFING

JANUARY 2010 EDITION

***BE SAFE—BE RESPONSIBLE—BE COURTEOUS
MAINTAIN SITUATION AWARENESS AT ALL TIMES!***

GENERAL

G1: The policies/procedures contained within this Range Briefing apply to **ALL** TriState Gun Club (known as the Club or the Range) members, their guests and any spectators on the Club property. NOTE: During sanctioned club matches, the Match Director may modify these procedures (more or less restrictive to allow, within reason, the standards of their particular discipline to be applied) with the approval of the Board of Directors (BoD) for that specific match.

SAFETY

S1: Speed limit on the access road is 15 miles per hour (mph). If you can safely pull over to allow oncoming traffic to pass; do so. Be aware of ATVs/motocross bikes travelling at high speeds along the access road, they aren't looking for you!

S2: **EVERYONE** is a Safety Officer! If an unsafe act is observed, call "Cease Fire" and inform the individual of the violation/unsafe act. If the individual does not comply, contact a member of the (BoD); statement should include; who, what, when, and where. The Board will take appropriate action. ***Do not get into an argument over it!***

S3: **NO** alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs on the Club property. This policy includes prior to arrival, or on the range. If you or a member of your group appears to be under the influence you will be asked to leave. Exceptions: For specific events (non-shooting), prior permission may be approved by the BoD. **NOTE:** Violation will be grounds for dismissal from the Club.

S4. Eye and hearing protection are ***strongly*** recommended for all shooters and spectators.

S5. All care should be taken to ensure that rounds never leave the confines of the range. The Club is surrounded by highways and communities on all sides. The following four events have been identified as the most likely to cause a round to leave the confines of the range:

a. The muzzle is elevated above the bullet-stopping berm when the weapon is fired. This can happen if the weapon, “slam fires” when bolt or slide moves forward under operating spring tension. Always ensure your muzzle is pointed in a safe direction (down range) when chambering rounds.

b. A bullet bounces off the floor of the range. This can happen when targets are placed too low or are on the ground. **Ensure all rounds pass thru the target and travel directly into the bullet stopping berm.** If you wish to shoot targets not posted to a target board; place them on the lower portion of the bullet-stopping berm. **Never** place them on the firing range floor.

c. Very rapid fire, un-aimed fire or automatic weapons fire. This practice presents an extreme risk. This type of firing may cause uncontrolled muzzle deviations. **Such activities are only to be conducted when you are exceptionally close (10-15 yards) to the largest of our bullet-stopping berm.** (Located adjacent to the Law Enforcement Qualification Range)

d. A bullet is deflected by something in or on the bullet-stopping berm. This is most likely beyond your control. However, never place steel targets directly on the bullet-stopping berm. This will cause a deflection of the bullet away from the bullet-stopping berm.

S6. Aircraft have the right of way. We fly our bullets in airspace owned and operated by the U.S. Army (Cairns Army Airfield/CAAF). There is a helicopter flight corridor (500ft AGL) running east/west along the rifle range/general purpose range. MEDEVAC (Flat Iron) aircraft, located on CAAF, may fly directly over the range enroute to an emergency. Hold your fire, point weapon muzzles downward, until the helicopters have passed and are clear. The main concern is related to S5(d) above. Maintain situation awareness and be a responsible neighbor. Note: Most aircraft around us are of no concern. We are talking about the low-level guys directly down range.

S7. Safe Areas. Safe areas are places to handle/repair guns, to show & tell during events or casual shooting. Safe areas are marked and most side berms can be used as a safe area. Ammo, to include empty magazines, **shall not** be handled in a safe area. The use of safe areas may conflict with the hot/cold status of a firing line. When in doubt, use a safe area on an unoccupied range.

S8. Use a holster. Hip holsters are *strongly* encouraged. When pistol/revolver shooters are moving to or from the firing line the firearm should be empty and holstered. A holstered handgun is considered safe and grounded on any range when it is empty and the magazine is removed. Empty holstered firearms may be worn anywhere on the Club property. Non-holstered handguns shall comply with cold range procedures and be carried muzzle up, preferably by the barrel/slide. Use of shoulder or cross draw holsters is discouraged. The orientation of the muzzle while the gun is being drawn places spectators or other shooters on the line at high risk.

S9. Concealed Weapons. Properly permitted members may carry a loaded concealed weapon on Club property with the following exceptions:

- a. It is one of the weapons you intend to use/show while at the range.
- b. You are going to remove your cover while at the range.

S10. Shooting steel targets (plates/poppers/any steel at any distance).

- a. Shooter and spectators **MUST** wear eye protection (not negotiable).
- b. Stand no closer than 10 yards from the steel.
- c. No ammunition stronger than .45 ACP (magnum handgun cartridges not authorized).
- d. No centerfire rifles, regardless of caliber. (This includes pistols that are chambered for centerfire rifle calibers.)

S11. Emergencies: Call 911 and notify a club officer in the event of an accident or serious incident, write down in detail exactly what you observed. Request others to independently write down what they observed. Use of the Injury Report Form is encouraged.

Procedures

P1. The firing line is established by mutual consent of all shooters on a given range. Shooters are to never move forward or behind of another shooter on the same range regardless of the lateral distance. Do not handle a firearm behind the line. That may include handling firearms at the benches or shelter areas if the “line” is forward of that point. ***Use extra caution on the General Purpose Range. The shelters block the view between the 25 and 50 yard shooting positions.***

P2. The firing line is hot or cold with consent of all shooters. We run a cold range. All firearms are to be open and empty and preferably cased or holstered when removed from the vehicle:

On a **hot line**: Shooters can; handle firearms, shoot, adjust sights/scopes, case/uncase, load, and show/tell. Keep all non-holstered or uncased weapons pointed down range at the bullet-stopping berm. ***You must be on the line to conduct the activities above. Never conduct any of the above activities behind the line.*** Firearms may be moved to or from the line while empty and cased or holstered at any time. If not cased or holstered, the weapons must be moved open and empty with the muzzle up while the line is hot.

On a **cold line**: ***No one touches a firearm for any reason!*** Empty all firearms; actions/bolts/slides/cylinders open, magazines out. Ground, case, or holster all empty firearms. Shooters can move down range: post/past/recover targets, police brass, load rounds into external magazines and handle ammo.

P3. Shoot from as close to a target as you wish (except steel). **Never** shoot thru an established shelter and **never** from beyond the extension of the side berms. Never shoot into a side berm.

P4. Supervise guests and minors at all times, bring as many as you like. You are limited to two shooting guests on the line at a time (one is recommended). You are expected to sacrifice your shooting time to mentor your guest(s). This means that you are not shooting when they are! Brief them on all applicable safety and procedural rules prior to shooting activities. You are responsible and liable for their conduct.

P5. Range use. The Main Rifle Range and the General Purpose Range may use any smokeless powder rifle up to .50 caliber centerfire or rimfire, any black powder rifle of any caliber,

shotguns utilizing slugs or sabots and pistols/revolvers. (No tracer or armor-piercing ammunition.) Shooting of aerial targets (clays only) is only permitted on the Clays Range.

Pistol Ranges - ***Shoot only pistols and rim fire rifles on the pistol ranges.*** You may also shoot centerfire rifles, shotguns (slugs/sabot only), pistols shooting a rifle caliber cartridge (an example is, but not limited to, a Thompson CenterFire) that are made for long range shooting and have a long range sighting system installed are to be used in the Bulls-eye (top) Bay only. No steel is allowed in the Bulls-eye (top) Bay. General use of the Law Enforcement Qualification Range, is allowed but may not be courteous as it causes closure of the General Purpose Range.

P6. Targets: Place targets on the target boards with staples, use portable target stands, or place directly on the berm. **Arrange multiple targets vertically on the boards, not horizontally. This may better protect the support stakes holding the board.** Never attach targets to other range structures such as the falling plate racks, other props, fences, or furniture. ***Remove and discard all paper targets when finished.*** Place paper or cardboard target materials in the burn rings/barrels rather than in the trash cans.

P7. Police all centerfire brass. Keep it or deposit it in the coffee cans found on the various ranges. Club members that reload will get it. Rim fire brass can lie where it falls. This policy is about wear and tear on the lawn mowers. Place all “duds” in the brass cans or remove them from the range. Pick up all shotgun hulls and place in the barrel provided on the Clays Range if you do not intend to keep them.

P8. Use of glass for targets, on any range is **PROHIBITED**. Plastic and tin/aluminum cans are great. Water filled milk jugs are neat. Melons are messy. Please clean up after yourself when you are done. REMINDER: ***Do not shoot them on the range floor. Place them up in the lower portion of the bullet-stopping berm.***

P9. If you have installed new optics or iron sights on your weapon, regardless if you laser bore-sighted the weapon, please use the 25 yard bench on the General Purpose Range to check your zero. Confirm the zero on the General Purpose Range 50 yard bench. Then move on to the Main Rifle Range 100 yard bench. This procedure mitigates the risk of a bullet inadvertently leaving the range confines.

P10. Target board use limitation: Target boards may not be used for any weapons firing shot. When using a shotgun on target boards, use slug/sabot ammunition only.

P11. Shooting hours are from 8 am until official sunset. You may remain on the grounds 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

P12. Clays Range Briefing: Contact a BoD member for a detailed briefing on clays operations.

P13. Last person out locks the gate! If in doubt--lock the gate.

Administrative

A1. Wear your club id card (club card) at all times. If you spot a shooter not displaying their card, ask to see it.

A2. Never share the gate combination with any guest or non-member. This compromises the security/safety of the club and will result in a combination change and possible censorship for the offender.

A3. Participation in Club work days is voluntary, though highly encouraged. Members can earn \$5.00 club credit for each 2 hours worked. These credits can be used for matches, club dues, and Pro-Shop items.

A4. Never intentionally destroy any club property.

A5. Report any damaged equipment or unsafe conditions to a club officer. Leave a note at the coffee pot in the club training building or e-mail the Vice President.

A6. Contact information for the club officers is located at the gates.

A7. All animals brought onto the Club property are the responsibility of the owner, and must be cleaned up after.

A8. Use every square inch of our 22 acre facility. Use any equipment you find available. Return it when you are finished. Help keep the facility clean and organized. If something is out of order, restore it if it is within your capability.

A9. This is *our* club. How nice or how poor the club looks, how it is maintained or operates is our responsibility. We make it what it is.

MISCELLANEOUS

Three Fundamental NRA Rules for Safe Gun Handling

- **ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- **ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- **ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**