RANGE RULES & SAFETY REGULATIONS

(UPDATED 2018)

NOTE: The SCMLC has adopted the rules and regulations of the New South Wales Muzzle Loading Association (NSWMLA) with the following variations. If there is a conflict between the NSWMLA and the SCMLC variations, the SCMLC variations will have precedence.

GENERAL:

1. The Range Captain, Discipline Captains or their assistants (Range Officers) shall be in charge of the Club Ranges at all times. To achieve safe and enjoyable shooting, members and guests must co-operate with the Range Captain and his/her Officers by reacting promptly to their instructions and advice.
2. The Range Captain, Discipline Captain or Range Officer must have taken charge of the range before shooting can commence.
3. REMEMBER – Safety is your responsibility and requires your attention to detail. It is not the sole responsibility of the Range Officer, Committee Members or other shooters.
4. The Range Officer may request any person acting unsafely, unfairly or in a manner objectionable to the members, to remove themselves from the range. The Range Officer will report any such incident to the Range Captain for further action.
5. Members are responsible for their family, children, guests and pets.
6. Members and guests must sign the attendance book on arrival at the range.
7. Smoking is forbidden within three metres of the loading or firing line.
8. No alcohol shall be consumed on any Club Range whilst shooting events are in progress. On completion of shooting for the day persons must remove their guns and equipment to safe storage before partaking of alcohol. **NOTE: Firearms Act 1996,No46,Part 6 Section 64 Subsection (1)States : "A person must not handle or use a firearm while the person is under the influence of alcohol or any other drug" (Maximum Penalty: Imprisonment for 5 years)**
9. It is the shooter's responsibility to hear the Range Officers orders. Loud talking is not permitted on or near the firing line.
10. A red flag must be displayed when any shooting is taking place and must be removed at the completion of shooting.
11. The Range Officer may declare a firearm inappropriate for use on a Club range or unsafe to be used.
12. Firearms declared to be inappropriate or unsafe will not be used until declared appropriate or safe by the Range Captain or a qualified person acting on their behalf.
13. Unless the Range Officer specifies otherwise, only shooters participating in competition are permitted to shoot on the range while competition is in progress.
14. The Range Officer may declare a firearm as unsuitable in meeting the specifications required to enter a particular class of event.
15. It is the duty of firelock shooters to prevent the touchhole blast from reaching neighboring shooters. Flintlocks SHALL be fitted with flash guards.
16. A person shall not use or have in his or her possession a firearm on Club Property unless they are the holder of a firearms license or permit of the appropriate category valid for use in NSW. Persons wishing to sample the sport may do so by must first complete a Form P650 which allows the applicant (on approval)to shoot under the direct supervision (i.e. one on one supervision)of a licenced club member as appointed by the committee of management
17. No person is to bring a prohibited device or unlicensed firearm onto Club Property.
18. A person shall not use any electrically detonated firearm on any range under the control of the Club or its Officers.
19. No firearm may be capped, primed or fused or have a cartridge inserted until the shooter is on the firing line and the firearm is pointed down range.
20. Firearms that are capped, primed, fused or have a live cartridge in the breech must be kept pointed down range and may not be removed from the firing line unless instructed otherwise by the Range Officer.

21. Misfired firearms must be kept pointed down range for at least 15 seconds before any attempt is made to clear the malfunction.
22. Call the Range Officer if a firearm misfires. The shooter must keep it pointed down range and attract the attention of the Range Officer by calling 'MISFIRE" and shall then clear the firearm under the supervision of the Range Officer.
23. A loaded firearm that cannot be discharged should have the barrel dismounted, the cap removed or otherwise be made unfirable before being bought back to the loading area. The Range Officer may ban such a faulty gun until satisfied that it is in good working condition.
24. When a powderless ball has been 'shot out' by means of a reduced charge introduced through the nipple or flash hole, the barrel is to be verified as clear by means of a cleaning rod passed down the barrel before any attempt is made to fire another shot.
25. Call the Range Officer if a ramrod becomes jammed in the barrel during the loading operation. Once the Range Officer has been notified, the firearm will be cleared under their or their nominated assistant's supervision.
26. No firearm may be loaded or primed outside the loading/firing area of the range.
27. Once a firearm has been loaded, it must not be left unattended by its owner or user until it is either discharged or unloaded under supervision. It must be carried muzzle up to the firing line.
28. Cleaning or modification of firearms may only be undertaken when the range is 'OPEN'
29. Capping off and fouling shots must not commence before the Range Officer gives the permission to do so.
30. Removal of live caps from nipples must be undertaken with great care. Compression of the cap composition with an ill-used or inappropriate tool may cause it to explode.
31. Firearms shall only be loaded from containers holding one charge of powder. Loading directly into the barrel or cylinder from flask, horn or canister is prohibited.
32. Transferring of powder from one bulk container to another bulk container must be done at least three metres from the firing line or other source of ignition.
33. Plastic containers for bulk powder are not permitted on the firing line
34. Firearms are not to be loaded with composite or duplex loads consisting of a mixture of smokeless (nitro-cellulose based) powder and black powder.
35. Containers of powder, percussion caps, pellets, tubes etc, must not be left open on any part of the range. Patent cappers may be used.
36. On the command 'CEASE FIRE' all shooters must immediately render their firearms safe and ensure the firearms are pointed in a safe direction while awaiting further instruction from the Range Officer. (See also Field Loading)
37. No person shall move forward of the firing line without the permission of the range Officer.
38. Upon the command 'RANGE CLOSED' all firearms must be rendered safe to the satisfaction of the Range Officer in charge. All firearms will then be placed in the racks provided, or secured boxes(or holstered) and shall not be handled until the range once more declared to be 'OPEN' for further shooting.
39. Firearms must not be touched when the Range Officer has permitted persons to go forward of the firing line. (See also Field Loading)
40. No firearm may be touched if a GREEN LIGHT is showing in the bay.
41. The Range Officer is to check that all firearms are unloaded before removal from the firing line / loading area.
42. Black powder breech loading firearms may be used on the range at any time if, in the opinion of the Range Officer, such use does not interfere with the shooting of muzzle loading firearms.
43. Breech loaders must have their actions open unless ready to fire on the firing line.
44. Breech loading firearms must have their breeches; magazines or cylinders emptied of spent cases and live ammunition before leaving the firing line to return to the loading area.
45. Eye and Ear protection must be worn as well as covered footware

46. Any group of shooters using a range at a non-scheduled time must consist of a minimum of two licenced shooters(of the appropriate category),with one operating as range officer while the other(s) shoots and swapping positions as necessary. The appointed Range Officer is responsible for ensuring all club rules and safety procedures are adhered to and it is their responsibility to be familiar with all applicable rules.
47. CAVEAT: In the event that there appears to be a contradiction between a general rule and a discipline rule, the discipline rule shall take precedence.

SHOTGUN

1. For manually operated traps, the trapper will be given a red flag. On the appearance of the red flag, shooting must stop immediately and guns uncapped, unprimed or unloaded while awaiting the instructions of the Range Officer.
2. Each shooter will be given the opportunity to see the flight of non-scoring clay before shooting commences or after trap adjustment. This may be by standing near the shooter ahead.

FIELD LOADING

1. Shooters must carry on their person ALL equipment that they require during the event.
2. No shooter may leave the firing line to get extra or forgotten gear once shooting has commenced.
3. A separate loading rod and loading road rest may be used.
4. In the event of a 'CEASE FIRE', the range Officer or their deputy will ensure that firearms are held vertically in an unprimed state, with no loading, cleaning or maintenance taking place, before any person moves forward of the firing line. It is preferable to have a means of resting the firearms where they need not be touched.
5. For safety reasons, avoid having the muzzle resting against your body when loading.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY RULES FOR MATCHLOCKS

THE SAFE HANDLING OF MATCHLOCKS IS PARAMOUNT

1. The Range Officer will appoint an assistant, who will pay particular attention to the use of match cord, to solely supervise any matchlock shooters.
2. The match cord must be REMOVED FROM THE SERPENTINE while the firearm is being loaded.
3. Match cord to be lit at one end only.
4. Match cord to be lit only on the firing line.
5. If a shooter wishes to leave the firing line to reload, the lit match must be left at the firing line.
6. A matchlock shooter, or a group of matchlock shooters, must shoot separately from shooters of other types of firearms.
7. A distance of at least three (3) metres must separate a matchlock shooter, or a group of matchlock shooters, from other shooters.
8. A distance of at least three (3) metres must separate a matchlock stores and equipment from the stores and equipment of other shooters.
9. If carried by matchlock shooters, the bandolier mounted powder flasks (commonly called "The Twelve Apostles") must be worn as ornaments only.
10. An approved exception to this is if they are used as holders of fully enclosed and sealed paper cartridges that contain a single propellant load (with or without the projectile)
11. Their use as containers of loose propellant is strictly prohibited.
12. Any person using the flasks to hold paper cartridges must advise the matchlock Range Officer, prior, to the commencement of shooting.

PISTOL

RANGE RULES FOR PISTOL SHOOTING

1. No person may handle or fire a pistol after consuming alcohol.
2. No pistol to be left unattended.
3. Spotting scopes are to be positioned so that the pistol will remain (and be pointing) down range while the scope is being used.
4. Bulk containers of powder are to be removed from the loading bench before capping or priming.
5. Care must be taken to keep the hands behind the cylinder mouth while capping nipples.
6. Misfired pistols must be kept pointing down range for at least 15 seconds before any attempt is made to clear the malfunction.
7. Capped cylinders are not to be removed from a pistol without the express sanction of the Range Officer.
8. At the completion of shooting, it is the responsibility of the shooter to ensure that the cap and ball pistol is completely unloaded and all spent caps removed before calling the Range Officer to clear the pistol.
9. The pistol is not to be handed to the Range Officer, it is to be placed on the bench where the Range Officer will inspect it and hand it to the shooter to be holstered or otherwise secured
10. After clearing the pistol must be properly removed from the shooting bay.
11. Breech loading (cartridge) pistols are to have cases removed and the loading gate / action opened for inspection.
12. Bays are to be vacated promptly to make way for a following detail.
13. No person is to handle or fire a pistol without the appropriate category shooters license or permit.
14. All Probationary Pistol Shooters and Minors are to be supervised by a fully licensed Category H Shooter at all times.

SCORING RULES

PAPER TARGETS

1. The target adopted is the 50-metre Olympic Pistol Target at ranges up to 100 metres. Beyond 100 metres targets and scoring will be as specified for particular events. (See N.S.W.L.A Rules)
2. All scoring to be taken from the centerline of bullet holes, irrespective of caliber, unless otherwise specified.
3. Scoring to be carried out by Official Scorers, Range Officers or their Deputies.
4. Tied Scores: The shooter with the highest number of X's (10.1) shall be declared the winner. If no X's (10.1) are scored, or an equal number of X's the one with the most10's, 9's and so on. If the scores are still tied, the target with the least wide of the counted shots shall win. In aggregate events, ties will be resolved by counting X's, 10's etc. over all scoring targets.
5. Shots in excess of the prescribed number of rounds for any nominated event, which cannot be distinguished as being from a different source, will lose the equivalent number of the highest scoring shots.
6. Five minutes notice is to be given before the end of any event exceeding 30 minutes.
7. Pistol Events to be scored as above.
8. Decisions of the Range Officer in charge of the range are binding.
9. A range committee will decide disputed decisions on appeal. Notice of an appeal will be lodged in writing to the Range Captain, Scorer, or any Official before termination to the shoot.
10. The number of shots where specified will be in the following form: -
    - 10/13 Thirteen shots to be fired at the target, best ten to score.
    - 3/10 Maximum of three sighters followed by ten **consecutive** shots to score. A shooter may elect to keep their sighters and include them in his / her **consecutive**

ten shots. A shooter may fire two sighters with the second one a good score. He / she may elect to keep the second sighter and then fire another nine scoring shots. He / She could not keep the first and reject the second. Other events may be 1/10, 2/10 etc. 10/10 is Ten Shots all to score.

SHOTGUN

1. Misfires (Shotgun events only) two allowed per 10 shot match. One allowed per 5 shot match.
2. If shooting to international rules, one percussion misfire is permitted and two for flintlock in a 25 shot round.
3. The Range Officer will call "NO TARGET" and the shooter will have to re-shoot the point in cases of: -
   - A clay placed outside the shooting area
   - A dangerously placed clay
   - A clay that breaks leaving the trap
4. A shooter may decline to shoot if there is a prolonged delay between the shooter calling PULL and the clay launch. He / She must indicate the refusal by raising the gun. Targets should appear immediately on call.
5. The Range Officer may request a sample of any shooter's shot and powder loads for weighing or other testing.

RANGES OF THE CLUB

100m RANGES

1. This range is for the use of black powder shooting up to 1.5" and Smokeless to 9mm/ .38 calibre
2. No jacketed ammunition except 0.22 is permitted.
3. May only be used during the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm or as arranged for special occasions within the period of range approval noise regulations.
4. Rifles, Pistols, Air Rifles and Cannons may be fired but not at the same time.
5. Pistols may not be fired at the same time as any other types of firearms.

LOWER RANGE

1. All legal firearms may be used on the appropriate ranges
2. Lead projectiles only on the Single Action Range no Jacketed Ammunition.
3. Only single action approved types of firearms permitted on the single action range.
4. All legal black powder long arms and cannon as well as legal smokeless rifles may be used.

SHOTGUN RANGE

1. Shot must be no larger than No 6 Single ball slugs or heavy shot prohibited.
2. Maximum loads are 3.5drams of black powder and 1.25 oz of shot Proofed firearms only.
3. Smokeless shotguns may be used on this range as directed by the Range Officer. Smokeless shotguns may be fired as advertised in the shooting calendar. Members, at the discretion of the Range Official, may also fire these on the second Sunday of each month.

HILLEND RANGE

1. Pistols and prohibited firearms must not be fired on this range.
2. Prior permission of the Management Committee must be obtained before shooting on this range. At times not shown on the calendar. The Committee through the Club Captain will need to know details of times, provisions for Range Officer, target types, Flags etc.
3. Both Smokeless and Black Powder may be fired.

DEFINITIONS

1. **MKT:** MUSKET. Generally a long smooth bored gun issued to the Army
2. **F/L MIL MKT**: FLINTLOCK MILITARY MUSKET. Smooth bored with no back sight. E.g. Brown Bess
3. **R/MIL MKT**: RIFLED MILITARY MUSKET. Rifled bore with enhanced front and back sights issued to the Army. The sights may have permanent metallic relocation (Left or Right) to align the sights with the bore. The front sight may be permanently raised or lowered. The form of the sights must adhere strictly to the original and be black only. E.g. Enfield.
4. **T/R**: TRADITIONAL RIFLE. Has non-adjustable front and rear sights and fires round ball. Range Officers may permit adjustable sights if such sights can be sealed so that adjustment cannot be made for the duration of the match.
5. **O/R**: OPEN RIFLE. Any sights except optical, and lead or lead alloy projectiles.
6. **B/R**: BENCH REST
7. **S/B**: SINGLE BARREL
8. **D/B**: DOUBLE BARREL
9. **S/R**: SINGLE RISE. One clay target is launched.
10. **D**/R: DOUBLE RISE. Two clay targets are launched simultaneously. For shooters with double-barreled gun or when shooters with single barrel shot in pairs.

BASIC SINGLE ACTION RANGE RULES

1. No wrist or butt stock ammunition bandoliers are allowed
2. All long guns must be broken open when they leave the shooters hands. All pistols will be returned to leather when emptied unless instructed otherwise.
3. Shotguns are always staged empty. They may be loaded on the line and securely held at port arms until bought into action when allowed in a particular stage.
4. All pistols including black powder pistols shall be loaded with 5 rounds only, on a 5 shot revolver, 5 rounds may be loaded but the hammer must rest on a safety pin or a dummy chamber. ALL loaded chambers MUST be capped. It is permissible to load and cap chambers in a second pistol. The shooter, Range Officer and the posse are to pay particular attention to ensure that all the chambers are either empty or uncapped before the cap and ball shooter leaves the bay.
5. All range commands, including 'CEASE FIRE', are to be obeyed immediately.
6. Knock down targets must go down to be counted as a hit. A good habit for the Range Officer is to check the adjustment of any knock down targets before the posse begins shooting the stage. SHOTGUN ONLY
7. Only the shooter is to handle his / her firearm during any stage, including moving to the unloading table.
8. SCMLC conducts "NO ALIBI" matches. Once the shooter has fired their first shot down range, the shooter is committed to the stage. This means that once you start, it is up to you to finish the best way you can. Jams, faulty rounds, misfires, a round in the barrel, not understanding the stage etc. are no grounds for a re-shoot. Failure of the range equipment, including failure to correctly measure the shooting time, broken targets, etc., are grounds for a re-shoot at the discretion of the Range Officer. When allowed a re-shoot, the score will be based upon the new shooting time, adjusted by either the number of targets missed on the first run, or the second run, whichever is greater. In other words, the shooter cannot have fewer misses on the second run, but they may have more.
9. It is the responsibility of the shooter to verify their scores at each stage, initial main score sheet and record their score on their personal score record card provided. At the completion of the match the shooters list will be posted showing individual range scores. Once posted, you will have one hour to check the list, after which the results will be printed. If you do not check your scores, there will be no grounds for questioning the later result.

10. Ear and eye protection is mandatory at all times on the range.
11. Coaching from the competitors is not allowed. If the shooter is coached in a serious manner during any stage, there will be a 10 second penalty for the person doing the coaching.
12. Everyone is a safety officer. If you see anyone doing anything unsafe, politely bring it to the attention of the offending party. If the person continues to offend, bring it to the attention of the Range Officer or other members of the posse. If this does not solve the problem, you may rely on the Range Captain and Management Committee to deal with the situation.
13. Shooting areas and spectators do not always mix. Each posse should be aware at all times of any spectators and make them aware of the need for ear and eye protection when near the firing line. It is the role of each individual posse, is to keep any spectator, at their stage safe.
14. Probationary and Junior shooters are to be supervised at all times by a fully licensed person for the category of firearm that they are using.
15. Metallic targets are to be positioned in such a manner as to not permit any projectile to ricochet out of the range area or towards shooters, or other persons in the vicinity.

GENERAL CANNON RULES

<u>All STANDARD RANGE RULE AND REGULATIONS ALSO APPLY TO CANNONS.</u>

1. Every person on the cannon firing line must wear ear and eye protection
2. Only persons directly involved in cannon firing will be permitted on the firing line.
3. Cannons that are likely to recoil a distance greater than their overall length must be restrained.
4. Range Officers must pay particular attention to the security of the cannon's cap squares. I.e., the way the barrel is held to the carriage.
5. All bulk powder and cartridges must be held in a lidded box, which must be closed and at least two (2) metres behind the firing line when the firing commences.
6. The Range Officer may order the powder charge to be reduced if the recoil of the cannon is excessive.
7. The slow match must be under the direct control of the Range Officer, with the exception being volley fire. (See Rule 12) The Range Officer will ensure that it is not passed to the next gunner in a firing sequence until the lit cannon has been fired or declared a misfire by the Range Officer.
8. The slow match must be under the personal control of the Range Officer during all loading cycles.
9. The Range Officer must personally supervise all misfires.
10. Any cannon that misfires twice on consecutive shots must be left on the firing line until the completion of the event, at which time the gunner will clear the cannon under the supervision of the Range Officer.
11. Any cannon that cannot be cleared on the firing line must have water poured into the powder charge through the vent before permission will be granted for its removal from the line.
12. When a volley (all guns fired together) is to be fired, all gunners must be supplied with a linstock (a stick with a slow match attached). After the volley is fired the Range Officer must collect all the pieces of slow match and ensure that they are extinguished.
13. **<u>NOTE WELL: -</u>** Firing in succession is the ONLY approved method for conducting events. Volley fire will only be used on SPECIAL OCCASIONS never in competition.
14. Persons using powder cases or bags must use a wormer, as well as a damp mop/sponge to remove impacted material from the breech face AFTER EVERY SHOT HAS BEEN FIRED.

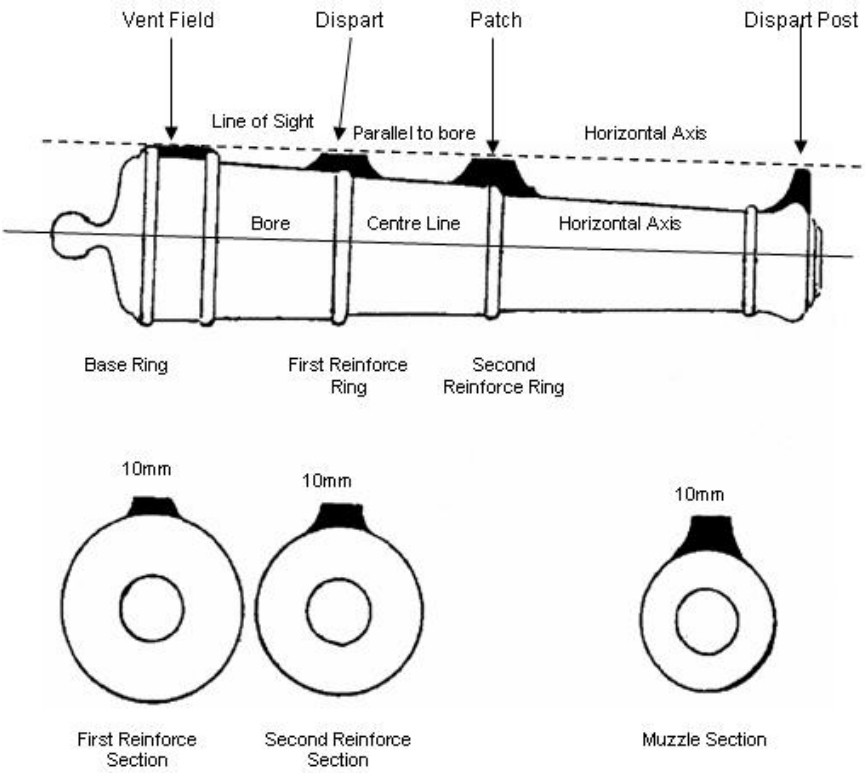
15. Never stand or place any part of the body, except the hands, in line with the cannons bore or vent during the loading process, or at any time the cannon contains a live charge.
16. The person who ignites the vent priming must use a linstock or other method approved by the Range Officer and must remain clear of the vent flash.
17. Never insert a new powder charge into the barrel without first swabbing the bore, full length, with a wet mop or sponge.
18. **NEVER** cap, fuse or prime until ordered to do so by the Range Officer.
19. SCMLC is approved for a maximum 1.5" (38mm) cannon ball.

DISPARTS

Disparts (foresights posts/patches) are allowable and may be fitted as an integral part of the swell of the muzzle. They may also be fitted as an integral part of the top and center of the barrel at the first and second reinforce rings. They must be closely true to the form used on full sized cannons and can either be cast into the barrel or permanently attached by screw or solder. They must not be adjustable in any way. They must be at least 10mm wide across the flat and may only be marked with a single scribe line.

BASIC DISPART CHARACTERISTICS

The illustration below shows both the placement and the rough shape of disparts. Disparts may be placed at one or all of the locations.



THE CLUB CALENDAR

The Club shooting calendar shall be adhered to unless a change is advertised in the Club Newsletter (Cap n Flint) or on the Club Website (www.scmlclub.com) or notified by direct communication. If unforeseen circumstances means that an advertised match cannot go ahead, then the members attending on the day may decide to conduct an alternative event.