

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION/NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTREBISLEY RANGE SAFETY REGULATIONSAS AT 01 MAY 2008

NOTE. These Range Regulations will be amended as necessary, and you are advised to check the current version displayed in the Range Office. All ranges are administered by the National Shooting Centre Ltd. (NSC) on behalf of the National Rifle Association (NRA) through the Range Office unless specifically shown otherwise.

All amendments in the current year will be sidelined as shown.

You are reminded that the following ranges have been moved or renamed, or their use has been restricted (Note: the *new* names are used throughout this document):

- The previous 'returning targets' on Winans (previously Pistol Galleries) range have been relocated to Bay A on Melville Range.
- Winans (previously Pistol Galleries) may only be used for Air Rifle/Pistol.
- The Clay Target facilities on Butts 7 & 8 (previously Shorts Range) are administered by, and may be booked through, the National Clay Shooting Centre.

GENERAL

1. These Range Safety Regulations govern the safe conduct of shooting on the NRA Ranges at Bisley and are to be strictly complied with by **all** users of the Ranges. The Regulations are augmented by, and should be read in conjunction with, the "Rules of Shooting and Programme" published annually by the NRA, the "Regulations for Butt Markers" and the regulations governing the administration of the Ranges which can be seen in the Range Office. In the interests of safety, any breach of these Regulations is to be reported immediately to an official of the NSC.

The NRA and NSC disclaim responsibility for any accident, injury, loss or damage arising from non compliance with these Regulations.

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

2. a. **All shooters are responsible for ensuring that their firearms and ammunition are safe to use.** All firearms and ammunition must be made available for inspection and testing whenever required. The regulations concerning dangerous ammunition are laid out in Appendix 14 to the Rules of Shooting which is available on request.
- b. No tracer, incendiary, armour piercing, armour piercing incendiary or any other rounds containing any igniferous or explosive substance may be used on Bisley Ranges at any time unless prior permission has been given by the Director of Shooting. Permission will rarely be given and then only in exceptional circumstances.
- c. The use to which a range may be put is set by its safety certificate. The following firearms may be used without specific zeroing requirements on individual ranges as in para 3 below, **but subject always to:**
 - i. for **Rifle ranges**, no specific calibre limitation (**but see para 5. d. below**) but: a maximum muzzle velocity of 3280 ft/sec (1000 m/s), and a maximum muzzle energy of 3319 ft. lbs. (4500 Joules);
 - ii. for **Gallery Rifle and Pistol ranges**, no specific calibre limitation but: a maximum muzzle velocity of 2150 ft/sec (655 m/s), and a maximum muzzle energy of 1496 ft. lbs. (2030 Joules).
 - iii. for **High Muzzle Energy (HME) firearms** (**see para 5 a. below**) the limits are: a maximum muzzle velocity of 3280 ft/sec (1000 m/s), and a maximum muzzle energy of 5160 ft. lbs. (7000 Joules);

In this case **special zeroing procedures** are required as explained in para 5 b. below.

No firearm and ammunition combination which develop a muzzle energy exceeding 5160 ft. lbs. (7000 Joules) may be used on any of the Bisley ranges without the specific permission of the Director of Shooting which must be sought well in advance of the planned use.

In addition,

- iv. Antique and Muzzle Loading Rifles/Muskets, Pistols and firearms of large calibre whose ammunition is initiated by a black powder or equivalent charge may be discharged on all equivalent ranges **except** as follows:
 - (a). none of the above firearms may be discharged on the 300m (AMS), Zero, Running Boar, Running Target or any of the Clay, Smallbore or Air Gun ranges;
 - (b). permission for Muzzle Loading Rifles/Muskets to be discharged on any of the pistol ranges must be obtained from the Director of Shooting in advance.
 - v. application to use ammunition **above any of the specification limits** applicable to a particular range must be made in writing to the Director of Shooting well in advance.
 - vi. By special arrangement, gallery rifles and muzzle loading pistols may be used on rifle ranges as shown below (except Zero and 300 m AMS), **but other full bore centre fire rifles may never be used on pistol ranges unless approved in advance by the Director of Shooting**. Small bore prone target rifles may be used on Melville but only by prior arrangement with the Range Office. Gallery rifles may be used on any of the pistol ranges.
- d. Ranges and their permitted usage are as follows:

Fullbore Rifle Ranges

- i. **Stickledown** (Gallery, 800 - 1200 yds). Rifles; gallery rifles and pistols by special arrangement only. Shotguns firing solid slug may be used only with the prior permission of the Director of Shooting. Electronic targets are available.
- ii. **Century** (Gallery, 100 - 600 yards). Rifles; gallery rifles and pistols by special arrangement only. Shotguns firing solid slug may be used only with the prior permission of the Director of Shooting. Electronic targets are available.
- iii. **300m (Butt 10)** (Gallery, 100 yds - 300m). Rifles; gallery rifles and pistols by special arrangement only.
- iv. **300m (AMS)** (Gallery, 300m only). Target rifles and rifles conforming to ISSF Regulations not exceeding 8mm. Limited availability.
- v. **Short Siberia** (Gallery, 100 and 200 yards only). Rifles; gallery rifles and pistols by special arrangement only.
- vi. **Zero** (No Danger Area Range, 71' 7"). Fullbore rifles only. The prone or supine (back) positions **only** may be used.
- vii. **Snail Trap** (No Danger Area). This is situated in the Zero Range, and may be used for all firearms except muzzle loading. The published instructions **must** be followed.

Gallery Rifle and Pistol Ranges

- viii. **Melville** (Gallery Rifle and Pistol, turning targets @ 25 & 50 m). Gallery rifles and pistols only; prone .22 calibre rimfire rifles by special arrangement only.
- ix. **Cheylesmore** (No Danger Area Range). (Gallery Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun, turning targets @ 25m only). Gallery rifles, pistols and shotguns (.410 solid slug only).
- x. **Time Limit** (Gallery Rifle and Pistol, and Shotgun, 10m, 25m & 50m). Gallery rifles, shotgun, air rifles and air pistols only. Administered by the British Sporting Rifle Club.

Moving Target Ranges

- xi. **Running Deer** (Running & Static Targets @ 100m only). Administered by the British Sporting Rifle Club.
- xii. **Running Boar** (Running & Static Targets @ 50m only). GRCE, GRSB and small bore rifles only. Administered by the British Sporting Rifle Club.

- xiii. **Running Target** (Running Target @ 10m only). Air rifles only (in the Clubhouse). Administered by the British Sporting Rifle Club.

Clay Target Ranges

- xiv. **Cottesloe Heath Sporting Clay Target & FITASC** Sporting & FITASC layouts. Shot gun only. Administered by Bisley Shooting Ground.
- xv. **Long Siberia Sporting Clay Target & FITASC** Sporting and FITASC layouts. Shot gun only. Administered by Bisley Shooting Ground.
- xvi. **Shorts Clay Target Ranges** Skeet, Olympic Trap, ABT, DTL and Practice. Shot gun only. Administered by National Clay Shooting Centre.

Smallbore & Air Gun Ranges

- xvii. **Winans** (No Danger Area Range, 10m & 25 m). Air Rifles and Air Pistols only.
- xviii. **NSRA International Range** (No Danger Area Range, 25 yards and 50 metres). Smallbore rifle and pistol only. Administered by the National Small Bore Rifle Association.
- xix. **NSRA International Range** (Air Gun, 10m only). Air rifle and air pistol only. Administered by the National Small Bore Rifle Association.
- xx. **Field Target** Air rifles only. Administered by the Bisley Field Target Organisation.

3. The use of Section 5 firearms (automatic/semi-automatic or pistols) is allowed only if the user has written authority for possession on their Firearms Certificate. **Prior permission for their use MUST be obtained from the Director of Shooting, and will be given only rarely.** The use of machine guns/sub-machine guns converted to single shot is forbidden.
4. Shot guns may only be used on Clay Target ranges or on Stickle-down, Century, Short Siberia or Time Limit Range. The use of solid shot or slug is allowed on rifle ranges only with the prior permission of the Director of Shooting, and on Time Limit Range with the prior permission of the Chairman BSRC. All such use must conform to range safety parameters. Restrictions on the size of lead shot which can be used on the clay target ranges may have to be applied from time to time.

HIGH MUZZLE ENERGY (HME) FIREARMS

5. a. A High Muzzle Energy (HME) Firearm is defined as any firearm which, using a particular round, develops a muzzle energy (ME) in excess of 4,500 Joules (3,319 ft lbs). In view of the fact that a bullet discharged with such energy may escape the Range Danger Area a special zeroing procedure will be required with these firearms before they may be shot at any distance on any range at Bisley.
- b. The muzzle energy of a firearm may be calculated from the bullet weight and the muzzle velocity, and the attached graph may be used to determine whether or not a particular firearm is HME or not. If the ME exceeds 4,500 Joules then the advice of the Ranges Supervisors should be sought. The firearm may be zeroed on the NRA Zero Range using a special target supplied by the Range Office, or at a distance of 200 yards on a special target under the direction of a RCO qualified to conduct HME zeroing (see para 13 below).
- c. The use on any NRA range of cartridges such as .50" Browning MG, 0.55" Boyes Anti-tank, 12.7mm Russian MG, or cartridges of similar or greater power, whether 'downloaded' or not, is **absolutely** forbidden, regardless of the type of firearm used to fire them.
- d. .338" calibre rifles **may not be used on any of the ranges** due to revised Range Danger Area and Air Danger Height requirements which exceed the available range safety template and air danger height available.

RANGE USE

6. The rifle and pistol ranges are normally closed on Mondays (**except Bank Holidays**), **Good Friday and between Christmas Eve and New Years Day inclusive**. The Clay ranges may be open during the Christmas Holiday period and at times **other** than those stated for the rifle & pistol ranges. Other closure periods will be notified at the gate or in the range office. **No rifle or pistol ranges may be used without the prior permission of the NSC.**

7. The ranges are reserved for the use of NRA members, and members of Associations and Clubs affiliated to the NRA. Other persons or bodies may only use the ranges with the prior permission of the NSC.
8. No shooting is permitted other than on approved ranges, except with the permission of the NSC. On the NRA ranges firers must use **only** the targets allocated to them by the Range Office. On the Shorts Clay Target ranges the layouts to be used will be as allocated by the National Clay Shooting Centre. Only shooters, or Instructors or Coaches appointed by the National Shooting Centre, are allowed on the firing point/line.
9. Normal times of shooting:

a. **All Ranges except NCSC Clay Ranges, Cheylesmore, Winans and Zero Range:**

Low Season	Weekdays:	8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m./1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
	Weekends:	8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m./1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
(March)	Weekends:	8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m./1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
High Season	Weekdays:	8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m./1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
	Weekends:	8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m./1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

b. **Cheylesmore, Winans and Zero Range:**

As in 8 a. above but, in addition, shooting may recommence at 12.45 p.m. rather than 1.30 p.m. on all shooting days.

c. **NCSC Clay Target Ranges:**

Shooting times will be arranged by the event organiser in consultation with the Range Office.

Unless prior permission has been requested and granted, the start and conclusion of shooting periods will be indicated by siren and must be strictly observed. A cease-fire at the end of a shooting period will be notified by two long blasts on the siren and must be observed immediately. **Should an immediate cease fire be required at any other time this will be indicated by several blasts of the siren: all shooters must cease fire at once.** Permission to continue firing will be indicated by one long blast on the siren.

10. Regulation target **only** are to be used in the frames or holders provided and are to be engaged only from the recognised firing points and appropriate shooting station or peg. **On no account are tin cans or any other unauthorised objects to be placed and used as targets**, and indiscriminate firing is forbidden. In rapid fire practices with bolt-actioned rifles no more than 15 shots may be fired in one minute unless otherwise permitted by the Director of Shooting. Snap targets are to be exposed in or in front of target frames. No laterally-moving target may be used on gallery ranges without the permission of the Director of Shooting. Skittles or falling plates may **not** be engaged at a distance of less than 25 yards.
11. The use of extraordinary target arrays or firing points is forbidden except with the prior authority of the Director of Shooting. Any concerns or queries in connection with the targets provided must be reported to the Range Office **before** firing commences.
12. Rifles other than Gallery Rifles are to be fired from the prone or back position except where expressly provided by the conditions of a particular discipline or approved competition rules. The intention to fire from any other position must be notified to the Range Office at the time of booking to allow suitable target allocation on the range.

RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER (RCO)

13. An Association, Club or group of persons intending to shoot on any range or part thereof must appoint a Range Conducting Officer **who will be present on the range while shooting is in progress**, and whose responsibility it is to ensure that the Range Regulations are read and adhered to **at all times**. An individual shooter will be regarded as his own RCO.

Before commencement of shooting the RCO must sign the register in the NSC Range Office thereby certifying that he is accepting responsibility for the safe conduct of the practices being fired. He must also confirm that no member of the Association, Club or group of persons firing are prohibited (under Section 21 of the Firearms Act) from possessing firearms or ammunition, **and that they are all either full members of the NRA or of a Club affiliated to the NRA.**

In addition he must ensure that all those under his control are fully covered by insurance, including third party public liability cover. **He must also sign off when shooting is completed** and must report any infringement of these regulations to an NSC official as soon as possible.

If the RCO intends to conduct zeroing practices with an HME firearm (see para 5 above) **he must hold the RCO (HME) qualification**. Once the HME firearm has been correctly zeroed, firing at any other distance or on any other range may be conducted by any RCO, who need not hold the RCO (HME) qualification.

SAFETY REGULATIONS

14. Unless prior permission has been granted, no firearm may be loaded or fired before the siren has indicated the commencement of a shooting period, nor shall a firearm be loaded or fired until the RCO has given the order to load and to fire.
15. Aiming or “snapping” an unloaded firearm is NOT allowed except as part of a properly organised Course of Instruction, or when in the firing position on a firing point, and then only if it would, in all respects, be safe to fire a live round.
16. No firearm is to be loaded until the shooter is in the firing position on a recognised firing point. Except when otherwise prescribed in the conditions of a discipline or competition, a loaded firearm must at all times point towards the butts. **When loading, unloading or checking a rifle, the barrel must at all times be pointed in a safe direction**. At no time may any part of the body be placed in front of the muzzle of a loaded firearm.
17. The firearm and/or magazine must be unloaded by every shooter at the conclusion of each shoot or stage, or on the order of the RCO. The firearm and/or magazine of every shooter is to be inspected and proven “clear” by or on behalf of the RCO before he/she gets out of the firing position and quits the firing point, and before anyone goes forward of the firing point.
18. At all times except during a shoot a bolt action rifle is either to have the bolt removed or a breech flag inserted. A self-loading firearm is to be in the “unloaded” condition, i.e. magazine removed, no round in the chamber, working parts forward and not cocked, and safety catch applied. The L98 A1 Cadet GP rifle is to be carried with a breech flag inserted. Pistols are to be carried in a box at all times. All other firearms are to be carried in as demonstrably safe a manner as is possible for the firearm concerned.
19. A competitor acting in a dangerous manner will forthwith be forbidden to fire again or take further part in any shoot at Bisley until a report has been made to the NSC and the circumstances have been fully investigated. Where considered appropriate the matter will be reported to the NRA for possible disciplinary action.
20. **Care must be taken when changing distance or crossing a range. RCOs must immediately call an emergency cease fire and order firearms to be ‘benched’ or unloaded if it appears that a person is likely to enter the danger area. Particular care must be taken on days when “reverse echelon” firing (5/600x on the LHS and 2/300x on the RHS of Century Range, or 1000x on the LHS and 900x on the RHS of Stickledown Range) is operating.**

SAFE CUSTODY

21. Firearms and live ammunition, when not in use, must be kept in an armoury, or under lock and key in secure accommodation. **Responsibility for the safe custody of firearms or ammunition lies with the individual owner.**

BUTTS

22. Markers are to enter and leave the butts by the covered and recognised safe approaches provided and within the markers gallery; on no account are markers to use the roads in the butts while firing is in progress. Markers and all others in the butts must remain within the protection of their gallery and under the mantlet while shooting is in progress. Ear protection should be worn by all who are working or marking in the butts.
23. On no account is any object to be thrown or placed upon the face of the butt or mantlet. Butts must be tidied **before** the marker leaves his position.

CHILDREN

24. Children under the age of 14 must remain under the supervision of a parent or guardian or other competent adult at all times during shooting periods. **Their hearing must be fully protected**. They are not allowed as markers in the butts. Application for permission for children under the age of 14

to fire must be made to the Director of Shooting in advance. Children under 12 years of age are not allowed to fire cartridge firearms under any circumstances, but they may use air rifles or air pistols on ranges suitable for such use **only** when they are under the direct supervision of an adult aged 21 or over.

DOGS

25. Dogs must be kept on a lead **at all times** in the domestic area of Camp and also on the ranges when shooting is taking place.

SPECTATORS

26. Spectators are to remain behind the firing point at all times and are to comply strictly with the instructions given by the RCO or **any** NRA or NSC official. Adequate precautions **must** be taken by spectators to protect their hearing.

CARS

27. **Unless prior permission has been granted by the Range Office**, private vehicles may never:
- go beyond the 1000 yards firing point on Stickle-down Range; or
 - go behind the firing points on Century range except at 600 yds, or behind the firing points on Short Siberia.

These rules may be varied for disabled persons and those with special needs **only with the permission of the Range Office on each and every occasion**. Disabled passes are available, for those registered disabled, on application to the Range Office.

Though the annual car pass fee has been abolished members of the NRA should carry their NRA membership card with them at all times. This will allow unhindered entrance to Bisley on occasions when a daily car pass is in operation for specific events.

BREACHES OF REGULATIONS

28. Breaches of these regulations are to be reported immediately to a member of NSC staff in the Range Office.

USE OF RADIOS AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

29. On all radios the Emergency Channel is Channel 8 or Channel 16 (depending on the model). In the event of an emergency RCOs should switch to Channel 8 (or 16) and pass the message "Emergency, Emergency, Emergency, Hello Control this is (e.g.) Range 13 at 300 yards, firer injured and requires". **In this case** all other radio users are to remain off the air until the emergency has been dealt with. First Aid equipment is available in the General Office, the Range Office and the NSC vehicles. Trained First Aiders are on duty in the Range Office. All injuries are to be reported immediately to a member of the Range Office staff who will, if necessary, call an ambulance and enter full details of the occurrence in both the Accident and Incident Books.

HEALTH

30. In view of the potential permanent damage which can be caused to hearing, all persons involved in a shoot, or in close proximity when shooting is taking place, **must wear ear defenders**. The wearing of ear protection is recommended when in the butts. The wearing of eye protection by all pistol and gallery rifle shooters, and by spectators on the range, **is highly recommended at all times**, and will be obligatory in all matches where hard targets are being used or where the competition rules require it.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

31. In accordance with Rule 251, a firer whose equipment (including firearms) or dress are thought inappropriate or likely to bring the Association into disrepute will be challenged by the RCO or other member of NSC staff, and may be required to withdraw.