

# RANGE OFFICER ORIENTATION

## NORTH OLMSTED SPORTSMAN CLUB

Rev 05/10/10

### **SAFETY**

The most important consideration for all range officers is safety

- Shooters
- Observers
- Yourself

The range officer in charge is responsible for the club, its members and its assets for those few hours and assumes the same liability as any of the elected officers. Some of the people that use the range may be inexperienced with firearms. Regardless of a person's stated experience it is important that everyone using the range follows a standard procedure so that shooters on the line and range officers can immediately notice a problem. Experts and neophytes alike will benefit from strict enforcement of range rules. Everyone on the range will feel more comfortable if they know that the Range Officer in charge has complete control of the firing line and that no exceptions to the rules will be made.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **Club access** - Range Officers are issued key cards that allow access to the building and provide a record of entry. The key card also serves as an identification badge and must be displayed when the owner is acting as a range officer. If the range is not scheduled for club use it may be opened for shooting, provided there is a range officer and one other person present.
- **Hours of operation** - Normal hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Sign in** - The range use sheets are located on the range. All persons using the range must sign the sheets and pay range fees. The range fee is waived for first time guests but they must sign in.
- **Range use** - There must be a Range Officer in charge in order for a person to shoot. Any certified Range Officer may open the range.

### **FIREARMS RULES**

- **Empty chamber indicator (ECI)**. All uncased and/or unholstered weapons in the range that are not being fired, must have a club supplied yellow empty chamber indicator properly installed at all times. User supplied ECI's of a different color and/or style may not be used.
- **Loaded Weapons**. No one may enter any part of the range with a loaded weapon. Weapons may be loaded on the firing range after the range officer has declared that the "RANGE IS NO LONGER SAFE". Only that weapon which is being used may be loaded. A person wishing to fire more than one weapon must keep the weapon(s) not in use in a safe condition. Treat every gun as if it were a loaded weapon. Keep all guns on the firing line pointed down range at all times. No person is to proceed forward of the firing line until the Range Officer has declared the firing line "SAFE". The line will not be considered safe until the Range Officer has visually inspected each weapon to make sure that the action is open and the weapon is not loaded and that the empty chamber indicator (ECI) is in place. A weapon is considered loaded if:
  - The action is closed.
  - The action is open and the ECI is not in place
  - The action is open and there is a case in the chamber, regardless of whether the case is empty or not.
  - If it is a clip fed weapon and the clip is partially or wholly inserted in the gun, regardless of whether there are any cartridges in the clip.
  - It is a magazine fed weapon and there is a cartridge (fired or not) in the magazine.
- **Holstered Weapons**. No one may be in the range with a holstered weapon. This includes legal concealed carry licensees. If a person is not on the firing line the weapon must be cased or carried in such a manner as to be clearly visible as a safe weapon.
- **Safe Weapons** – Weapons must be transported to and from vehicles in a closed case. Weapons must be transported to and from the firing line in a safe condition. A safe weapon is unloaded and enclosed in a case or is carried at shoulder level in a clearly visible manner as follows:
  - **Long guns** – muzzle pointed upward carried with the action open, **empty chamber indicator in place**, and in such a manner as to keep the finger out of the trigger guard.
  - **Hand guns**, - cylinder open (double action revolver), loading gate open.(single action revolver), slide back (semi-auto), **empty chamber indicator in place**, middle finger through the trigger guard, gun hanging from the middle finger.
- **Firing** - No weapon may be handled in any manner between the time that the Range Officer has declared the line "SAFE" and the time the Range Officer has declared the line "NO LONGER SAFE" and has given the command to handle weapons. No weapon may be fired until the Range Officer gives the command to fire. All weapons will be fired only within the area designated by the Range Officer. Only paper or cardboard targets properly placed on the frames may be used.

- **Allowed weapons.** - Only handguns with a sight radius of 4 inches or longer, rim-fire rifles, and center-fire rifles firing pistol cartridges may be used. No shotgun patterning may be done.
- **Ammunition** - Any ammunition may be used. Extensive use of hollow-point ammunition causes rapid backstop deterioration and is discouraged.
- **Mechanical Problems** - In the event that a mechanical problem with a firearm should occur such as a failure to feed, failure to fire, jam, etc., The shooter should keep the weapon pointed downrange. If the weapon can be safely cleared it should be done on the firing line. If the weapon cannot be safely cleared, the range officer should immediately call a "CEASE FIRE" and clear the line. Have the owner of the weapon case the weapon and place it in the trunk of his/her car and remove the vehicle from the property.
- **Repairs** – In the event that a safe gun has to be repaired or disassembled it should be done in the clubhouse and not on the firing line. Repairs may preclude keeping the gun pointed down-range and the commotion and activity may distract other shooters. Minor repairs and sight adjustments that can be accomplished in a short time with minor distraction may be performed on the firing line.
- **IPSC/IDPA style shooting** is permitted only at the times scheduled, usually on Friday evenings. The appropriate rules of the governing body shall apply to equipment, caliber used etc.

## PERSONAL RULES

- **YOUNG SHOOTERS** - Any shooter under the age of 16 must be accompanied at all times on the firing line by an adult.
- **GUESTS** – Guests are the responsibility of their sponsor and must be accompanied by their sponsoring member at all times and must shoot on their sponsor's assigned firing point until they can adequately demonstrate to the range officer that they understand and can adhere to all range safety rules.
- **ALCOHOL**– If, in the opinion of the range officer, a person is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or otherwise physically or mentally unable to be 100% safe with a weapon, the person will not be allowed to handle any weapon and will be asked to leave the range.
- **UNSAFE ACTIONS** – If any shooter demonstrates inability to fire safely and keep all rounds down-range either through lack of skills or use of improper equipment, the Range Officer shall terminate their range session. Damage caused to the range such as bullet holes in the ceiling due to unsafe actions by any shooter is the financial responsibility of that shooter. Such damage shall be reported to the Range Chairman by the Range Officer.
- **DISCOURTEOUS ACTION** – on any shooters part will result in expulsion from the range for the remainder of the shooting session. Repeated occurrences will result in action by the Board of Governors as provided in the constitution of the North Olmsted Sportsman Club.

## EQUIPMENT

- **Protection** – All persons in the range must wear proper ear and eye protection.
- **Benches** – Shooters should have their equipment located in front of them on the bench. This allows for visual inspection of the weapons by the range officer. This also fosters safe weapon handling and establishes a physical firing line.
- **Squadding**–During open shooting the range officer shall ensure that all members have access to the firing line. If there are more shooters than firing points available, the range officer will rotate shooters on and off the line as necessary. Guests should use the firing point assigned to their sponsor. Guests may occupy an adjacent empty firing point if available.

## COMMANDS AND Demeanor

- **CEASE FIRE** – This command is the most important and must be obeyed immediately. The usual command is "Cease fire – slides back, magazines out, actions open, weapons unloaded and on the bench, **empty chamber indicators in place** - make the line safe." Any person who sees an unsafe condition on the line can and should call for a "CEASE FIRE".
- **SAFE** – After visually inspecting each weapon. The command "the line is safe you may go forward" is given. No weapon may be handled or touched until the line is declared "NOT SAFE".
- **NOT SAFE** – After the range officer has visually confirmed that everyone is back behind the firing line the range office will declare that "the line is no longer safe, you may handle your weapons". At this point the range officer may declare that the shooters may "fire at will" if the shooting is informal. If a formal match is in process, the range officer will give the appropriate "Load" and "Fire" commands.
- **DEMEANOR** – It is very important that everyone knows who is in command of the range. All commands and orders should be given in a clear and loud voice. If friends are using the range treat them with the same attitude and demeanor as you would a stranger.