

Wellington Rifle Association Range and Butts Officer Duties

Before shooting starts the Range Officer must ensure:

- When the range key is collected from the duty complex at the Army camp they also get a radio for communicating with the Army.
- A copy of the Range Standing Orders (RSOs) are in this Range Folder.
- As a courtesy to others, the information sign at the duty complex is pushed across, to inform them that the range is in-use and the key has been collected.
- They have the Defence radio with them always and it is turned on so they are able to respond to any radio messages.
- They have read and understood the RSOs.
- They have the first aid kit and the defibrillator on the range.
- The three red range danger flags are in position at least 30 minutes before shooting starts.
- The Range Danger Area (RDA) is clear of any hazards and people. They or a delegated person must drive to the demolition range to inspect the area that cannot be seen from the range.
- The backstop has been inspected and is in good condition.
- Contact has been established with the Army Duty Complex by radio and they have acknowledged that shooting is starting.
- An orange cone is placed on the range road to indicate not to drive forward of the mound
- Shooters have received a briefing of the safety requirements for live firing on Seddon Range.
- Contact has been established with the Butts Officer (if present) and they report that the butts area is safe and shooting can commence
- There is a live round extraction tool available to remove a live round from a chamber should one become stuck. A cleaning rod is NOT acceptable.
- Name, sign and date the Officer of the Day sheet to confirm that they have carried out all of the Range Pre Firing checks above and as required by Range Standing Orders.

During shooting the Range Officer must ensure:

- The RDA remains clear of people or hazards.
- Should anyone be seen in or is suspected of being in the RDA, shooting is halted immediately. The Duty Complex must be contacted.
- Scorers check the sight settings of each shooter before they commence firing.
- That shooters only close and open the rifle bolt with the rifle in the shoulder and aimed at the target.
- Bolts are only in rifles when on the firing line and shooters are with their rifle.

- That ammunition used does not exceed a muzzle energy of 4500 joules (155grain projectile at maximum muzzle velocity of 3100fps)
- That all shooters are achieving the NRANZ cone of fire.
- That a shooter who is unable to obtain a hit on the target is directed to retire on the third consecutive miss.
- That anyone who is within 20 metres of the firing point uses hearing protection.
- That they are familiar with the RO's responsibilities and procedures in the event of a serious injury or incident occurring on the range. Shooting to stop and firearms involved are not moved.
- Ask the shooter if they know how to maintain their suppressor and when it was last inspected. If you think it is needed, ensure that the suppressor is the correct size for the rifle, that it is attached securely and that it is a robust construction. Check by looking down the rifle barrel that no part of the suppressor is visible.
- In stronger winds, monitor the wind speed using the meter in the WRA trailer. If wind from any direction exceeds 60km/hr, shooting should stop. Check section 53 of the RSOs, it has the procedure to follow to restart shooting. **Any stoppage because of wind strength should be noted in the clearance certificate.**

If a visitor brings a rifle to the range the RO must establish:

- That the rifle has a confirmed zero.
- That the ammunition to be used will not exceed the maximum permitted muzzle energy.
- That the visitor is supervised/supported to achieve the NRANZ cone-of-fire.
- While this is the responsibility of the CRO, clubs need to be proactive and liaise with the CRO re any visitors they have at the range

If any shooter does not have a confirmed zero for their rifle:

- The rifle must first be bore-sighted and the zero confirmed by live fire from the 300yard firing line.

Before the red flag is lowered and the targets raised the Butts Officer must ensure:

- That all vehicles have left the butts area. Vehicles must not be parked in front of any part of the backstop.
- They have the first aid kit in the butts.
- That all butts personnel are inside the safety area under the concrete mantlet within the gallery.
- There is effective communication with the Range Officer.

- That all markers have received a butts safety briefing including being instructed to wear hearing protection / earmuffs and are aware of the hazard areas, especially between the target frame and concrete floor.
- The markers are instructed to stand under the concrete overhang and watch for bullet strike indicating a shot on the markers allocated target. Markers are not to stand directly under the target.
- The markers are wearing suitable clothing and footwear. i.e not too loose that it may get caught in the frames, no bare feet or open toed shoes.

While live firing is being conducted on the range the Butts Officer must ensure:

- All butts personnel stay within the butt's safety zone.
- All butts personnel are wearing hearing protection / earmuffs.
- Butts personnel do not become unduly distracted from their duties.
- All markers use the target carrier back latch while the target is in the fully raised position
- Targets are lowered immediately and the red flag is raised should he / she become aware of any potential danger. This includes loss of contact with the range officer.

Opening and closing the range if shooting is conducted with electronic targets only:

- A red flag or cone will be placed on the mound before shooting when the range is being set up.
- The red flag should be shown above the butts when people are working in the butts before shooting.
- The last person to leave the butts will lower the red flag, they need to have communication with the RO and seek permission to do this.
- If they cannot establish communication with the RO they are to leave the red flag in place and return to the mound.
- After shooting finishes, the first person into the butts should raise the red flag.
- If shooting will recommence after a lunch break, the targets must be lowered and the red flag raised during the break.
- Before the targets are raised after the lunch break the RDA will be inspected by driving to the demolition range gate.

Breaks in shooting to allow people to move forward of the firing line:

- After a call to cease fire and open bolts, the CRO will ask the BO to lower the targets. The CRO will then move down the firing line to ensure that all rifles are cleared and safe before asking the BO to raise the red flag. Shooters will leave the mound.
- If only electronic targets are being used, the CRO will put a red flag or cone on the mound to indicate that it is safe for people to move forward of the shooting line.
- If someone goes to the butts in a break of shooting, they should have communication with the CRO and raise the red flag when they arrive there.

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