

PISTOL FIRING PROCEDURES AND COMMANDS

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The following range procedures must be used to conduct Service Pistol and .22 Rimfire Pistol events.

BASIC SAFETY RULES AND STANDARDS TO BE ENFORCED IN ALL CMP-SANCTIONED MATCHES (To be reviewed in the pre-match safety briefing):

- A safety flag (Empty Chamber Indicator) must be inserted in your pistol at all times except during preparation and firing periods.
- Competitors and other personnel who are on the firing line during CMP Pistol Matches are required to wear appropriate eye and hearing protection. Using hearing protection devices to receive communications or listen to music while on the firing line is not permitted (see Rule 3.6.2).
- Keep all pistol muzzles pointed downrange towards the targets or, when carrying pistols, up or down.
- You are permitted to carry boxed or cased pistols behind the firing line; you are not permitted to open pistol boxes or cases or handle pistols behind the line (see definitions of “carry” and “handle” in Rule 3.6).
- Do not take pistol boxes, pistols, or equipment to the firing line until instructed to do so.
- Do not unbox your pistol until instructed to do so.
- You may handle your pistols after bringing them to the firing line and the Range Officer has instructed competitors to take pistols out of their boxes or cases. When pistol boxes are opened, pistol actions must be open and safety flags must be inserted. Safety flags may not be removed, or actions closed until the preparation period starts.
- Do not load until the command **LOAD** is given.
- Upon completion of firing or when a **CEASE FIRE** command is given, open your pistol action, remove magazine, or open cylinder, insert a safety flag and place it on the bench.
- Do not remove your pistol or pistol box from the firing line until the Range Officer instructs you to do so.
- Do not go forward of the firing line until the Range Officer authorizes you to do so.
- If you have a malfunction, keep the pistol pointed downrange and raise your non-shooting hand. Do not attempt to clear the pistol. A Range Officer will check the pistol to determine if the malfunction is ALLOWABLE or NON-ALLOWABLE and then instruct you to clear the pistol.
- If you have a problem, remain in position, keep your pistol muzzle pointed downrange and raise your hand, a Range Officer will assist you.
- When you score another competitor’s target, you are a Match Official responsible for the accurate and fair scoring of that competitor’s target.

- **For .22 Rimfire Pistol EIC Matches:** You are reminded that the ready position for timed and rapid-fire series is with the pistol down at a 45-degree angle. If the bench does not permit you to hold the pistol down at a 45-degree angle, the pistol must be held as low as possible, without touching the bench.
- Anyone who observes an unsafe condition may call **CEASE FIRING** at any time
- If any competitors have medical issues (bee sting allergy, etc.) that the CRO should be aware of, please inform us.

SAFETY DEFINITIONS AND REGULATIONS:

- **Safety Flag.** A safety flag is an empty chamber indicator (ECI) with a probe that inserts into an empty chamber when the action is open. The safety flag must have a yellow or orange-colored flag that extends out from the open action so that it can readily be seen by match officials and competitors to confirm that the pistol is clear.
- **Unloaded Pistol.** A pistol with an open action, magazine removed (or cylinder out) and chamber empty with a safety flag inserted.
- **Cleared Pistol.** A pistol with an open action, magazine removed or cylinder open, with chamber empty and safety flag (ECI) inserted to confirm that the pistol is cleared and has been checked by a Range Officer.
- **Cleared Range.** A range where a Range Officer has confirmed that all pistols on the firing line are cleared, benched with safety flags inserted and checked by a Range Officer, with no pistols being handled by any person.
- **Loaded Pistol.** A pistol is loaded when a cartridge is inserted in the chamber or brought into contact with the pistol, or when a magazine/clip containing cartridges is brought into contact with the pistol. Pistols may only be loaded after the Range Officer commands **LOAD**.
- **Firing Line.** A designated area on the range with separate firing points where competitors stand while firing. Pistol firing lines usually have a bench immediately to the front of the firing line where competitors may place their pistol boxes or cases, ammunition, and other equipment. Only competitors on a relay that is firing, and match officials are permitted in the area immediately behind the firing line.
- **Call to Firing Line.** No one is permitted to move pistol boxes, pistols, or equipment to the firing line until the Range Officer instructs them to do so. After a relay of shooters is called to the firing line and the Range Officer will instruct them to unbox or uncase their pistols. After pistol boxes or cases are opened, competitors must insert safety flags, set up their equipment and handle their pistols. Safety flags must remain inserted until the preparation period begins. Approximately two minutes is allowed between the call to the firing line and the beginning of the first preparation period.
- **Preparation Period.** Two minutes after a relay is called to the firing line, targets will be turned to face competitors and the Range Officer will announce the beginning of a three-minute preparation period. During this period, competitors may handle their pistols, remove safety flags, and dry fire. No one may load a pistol during the

preparation period. Targets are turned away from competitors at the end of the preparation period.

- **CEASE FIRING.** A range command that directs competitors to stop firing immediately. Targets are normally turned in coordination with the **CEASE FIRE** command.
- **Loading.** Loading pistols for all firing series is done by inserting five rounds in a magazine (or cylinder), placing the magazine in the pistol and closing the action. Competitors may pre-load magazines. Magazines containing cartridges may not be inserted in pistols until the command **LOAD** is given.
- **IS THE LINE READY?** This is a question asked by the Range Officer after the command **LOAD**. Any competitor who is not ready or whose target is not in order must immediately call "Not Ready." This is the last opportunity for a competitor to claim that they are not ready or that their target is not in order. The Range Officer will declare **THE LINE IS READY** after determining that all competitors are safely loaded.
- **IS THE LINE CLEAR?** This is a question asked by the Range Officer after they command **CEASE FIRE, UNLOAD, MAGAZINES OUT, SLIDES BACK, INSERT SAFETY FLAGS, PLACE PISTOLS ON THE BENCH**. The Range Officer will declare **THE LINE IS CLEAR** after determining that all pistols are cleared and benched with safety flags inserted.
- **THE LINE IS CLEAR, GO FORWARD...** After confirming that all pistols on the firing line are cleared, the Range Officer can declare the range is "clear" for competitors and other personnel to go downrange to place targets, score, replace or retrieve targets.
- **Malfunction.** A malfunction is the failure of the pistol or ammunition to function properly. A competitor will normally be given a refire if the malfunction is not the fault of the competitor. If the malfunction is the fault of the competitor, no alibi or refire is allowed.