

Action Rifle Founding Fundamental Rules
v2.0 October 2022

GENERAL SAFETY:

Shoots are designed, constructed, and conducted with due considerations to safety.
A Safety Briefing will be conducted before the shoot begins.

Attendees are only authorized to shoot after receiving a safety briefing. Wristbands, or another suitable means of identification, will be issued as proof of safety briefing attendance.

All attendees are responsible for their actions and agree to the club waiver and release.

Shooters will sign-in providing a name and phone number. Club members will also provide their membership number.

Each person present is responsible for the safe status of their weapons at all times.

ROs maintain authority and accountability.

Performing any action that an RO deems unsafe or detrimental to a safe environment will result in a disqualification (DQ).

COLD RANGE:

Action Rifle will be run on a COLD RANGE.

Definition: When the condition of the firing range requires all firearms to remain unloaded at the event site, except under the direct supervision of a Range Officer (RO) during the course of fire (COF).

SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

Eye and Ear protection must be worn during the COF.
Spectators must have eye and ear protection.

TARGET PLACEMENT:

Metal Targets minimum distances in feet:

Handgun	24
Shotgun(bird/buckshot)	16
Shotgun(slug)	150
Rifle	150

Paper Targets will be hung so that fired rounds will impact the berm or backstop.

SAFE AREAS:

Safe Areas will be clearly marked with signs and unloaded firearms may be handled and or displayed in Safe Areas.

Note 1: Loaded firearms and loaded magazines cannot be handled in the Safe Area.

Note 2: Live ammunition and dummy/inert ammunition cannot be handled in the Safe Area.

Exception: Closed or sealed boxes of ammo can be handled.

Note 3: Violation of this rule will result in a Disqualification (DQ).

Un-Holstering away from the safe table or outside the COF will result in a DQ.

Inappropriately displaying weapons outside the COF or away from the safe table will result in a DQ.

TRANSPORTING FIREARMS:

VEHICLE TO RANGE upon ARRIVAL and
RANGE to VEHICLE upon DEPARTURE:

All firearms (handguns and long guns) must be cased and transported in a case while carrying them from vehicle to range, and from range to vehicle.

No matter the level of protection or retention it provides, a holster is not a case.

BAGGING & UN-BAGGING / CASING & UN-CASING:

All firearms are to be verified clear in the safe area when they come out of a case, and when they go into a case. Ammo and loaded magazines must be kept separate from the firearm (same case or bag, but in another compartment is acceptable).

While in the designated safe area, all participants shall first verify the safe status of each of their firearms and place each into the required safe condition.

Once verified clear and in the appropriate safe condition, Firearms will then be positioned on the safe table in the appropriate condition, or be safely holstered while remaining in the designated safe area, or be immediately positioned on the rifle rack in the required safe condition.

All firearms shall remain in the required safe condition until instructed by an RO.

TRANSPORTING FIREARMS BETWEEN STAGES:

HANDGUNS:

Once verified clear in the safe area as described above, and holstered within the safe area, participants may move about with a holstered unloaded handgun. Handguns will remain holstered and unloaded.

LONG GUNS:

Long Guns must be transported between stages in the required safe condition. Regardless if they are slung or not slung, long guns must remain pointed in a safe direction. No attendee may possess an uncased long gun in a parking area.

REQUIRED SAFE CONDITIONS:

RIFLES:

Magazine Removed and the Chamber will be verified empty
The bolt will be locked to the rear
Safety will be on
Stored on the rifle rack

SHOTGUNS:

Magazine Tube Unloaded/Magazine Removed
Action will be fully opened
Chamber will be verified clear
Magazine Tube follower will be verified visible as verification that there is no ammo present in the feed tube.
Safety will be on
Stored on the rifle rack

PISTOLS:

Magazine removed, chamber will be verified empty, Slide will be forward, and the trigger will be pulled with muzzle pointing at the berm.
Hammers and strikers will remain down/released
Holstered Preferred, if a suitable holster is not available
Safe Table – Lock the slide to the rear and leave the slide open on the table; no magazine present.

REVOLVERS:

Hammer is down
Cylinder open and verified clear

If above conditions cannot be met due to design, the firearm will be made as safe as possible by following the above guidelines for pistols.

CCW:

Shooters may NOT have a loaded concealed carry CCW weapon. Shooters must see a range officer immediately upon arrival and upon departure for unloading and reloading any CCW.

RANGE COMMANDS & SHOOTING POSITIONS

COURSE OF FIRE:

Shooter and RO will ensure the COF is understood and verify the range is clear and ready.

“RANGE GOING HOT, EYES AND EARS!”

The Course of Fire (COF) begins with the "MAKE READY" command and ends after the command “RANGE IS CLEAR”.

Note: The most powerful command on the range is: “STOP!”:

The “STOP” command may be issued by any RO assigned to the stage at any time during the COF.

The shooter must immediately cease firing, stop moving and wait for further instructions from the RO.

Note: This command means the RO has determined something occurred that requires all shooting to cease.

“MAKE READY”:

The “MAKE READY” command signals the official start of the COF, and everything moving forward must be done under an RO’s direct supervision.

“ARE YOU READY?”:

The “ARE YOU READY?” command will be issued by the RO after the competitor has settled into their starting position.

There is NO response necessary from the competitor to proceed after this command if they are ready.

If the competitor is not ready, they must indicate as such. If they indicate they are not ready, the RO will pause, and then repeat the command “ARE YOU READY?”

“STAND BY”:

The RO will give the “STAND BY” command, verify the range and spectator area remain safe, and then issue the start command, or activate the start timer initiating the COF within one to four (1-4 sec) seconds, following no response from the competitor.

“IF YOU ARE FINISHED, UNLOAD AND SHOW CLEAR”:

When the shooter has finished shooting, the RO will give the command, “IF YOU ARE FINISHED, UNLOAD AND SHOW CLEAR”.

If they are finished, the competitor MUST place their firearm into the required safe condition and present it for inspection by the RO with the muzzle pointed down range.

The magazine will be removed or tube emptied, slide/bolt locked or held open and the chamber empty.

The shooter will verify the firearm is clear before presenting it for inspection by the RO. The RO then verifies the firearm and chamber are clear.

“IF CLEAR, HAMMER DOWN”:

Once the RO has inspected the firearm, the following commands shall be issued.

“IF CLEAR, SLIDE Forward, HAMMER DOWN, HOLSTER”

Repeat for all firearms; the shooter and RO together ensure all firearms are clear and in the appropriate safe condition. Once all firearms are clear...

“RANGE IS CLEAR”: or “RANGE IS COLD”

The “RANGE IS CLEAR” command CAN only be issued after the competitor and the RO have cleared all firearms.

Once this command is given, it indicates the official end of the COF and officials and shooters may then move down range to score, paste and restore targets.

PROPER TRIGGER DISCIPLINE AND PROPER USE OF SAFETY:

The competitor's fingers must remain visibly outside the trigger guard and any manual safeties must be immediately engaged when not actively shooting, including while moving, and while changing shooting positions.

The competitor must run all firearms and holsters as intended and as designed. All levels of holster retention must be utilized and engaged while holstered.

Any manual safety MUST be "Operational" and MUST be engaged.

If a firearm contains a de-cocking lever or button, it MUST be engaged and the hammer, striker or firing mechanism must be fully de-cocked during, and throughout the COF, and anytime the shooter is not actively engaging legitimate targets.

RE-HOLSTERING:

Shooters CAN re-holster their pistol during a COF as long as it is done slowly and safely.

SAFETY CONDITION LOADED WITH SAFETY/DE-COCK ENGAGED, The competitor's fingers remain visibly outside the trigger guard.

Any manual safety MUST be "Operational" and MUST be engaged.

ADDITIONAL VERBAL SAFETY WARNINGS:

The competitor's fingers must be visibly outside the trigger guard when loading, reloading or unloading during a COF, and while clearing a malfunction.

"FINGER": This verbal warning may be issued anytime in the COF before stopping a competitor for a trigger discipline violation.

"SAFETY ON": This verbal warning may be issued anytime during the COF before stopping a competitor for a manual safety discipline violation.

"MUZZLE": This verbal warning may be repeated at different locations in the COF as needed when the competitor's muzzle approaches the 180-Degree Safety Plane.

START POSITIONS:

PISTOL: Unless otherwise specified, the competitor must stand erect, facing downrange, with arms hanging naturally at the sides. The Ready Condition for all Pistols shall be magazine and chamber loaded and holstered, unless stipulated otherwise.

LONG GUN: Standing erect and relaxed, long gun mounted to the shoulder, safety engaged, loading port and / or magwell facing downward, muzzle lowered from aiming at targets. The Ready Condition for all long guns shall be magazine and chamber loaded with safety engaged, unless stipulated otherwise.

FIREARM CONTROL:

A Shooter that drops or loses control of a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, at any time after the "Make Ready" command and before the "Range is Clear" command is issued will receive a match DQ.

Note: This includes any firearm, loaded or unloaded, that falls to the ground during the COF.

Exception: Dropping an unloaded firearm before the "Make Ready" command or after the "Range is Clear" command will not result in disqualification provided the firearm is retrieved and verified safe by a Range Official only.

NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE:

Definition: An unintentional shot (including a slam-fire). When a shooter discharges a round when they did not intend, or when not authorized to do so by an RO. Drastically violating the established course of fire or repeatedly missing a target by a wide margin. Also, any shot which travels over a backstop, a berm, or impacts anything deemed by the ROs or event organizers to be unsafe.

A negligent discharge that occurs while loading, reloading, unloading, while transitioning a long gun off or back to the shoulder, during malfunction and remedial action, clearing a firearm, transferring a firearm between hands, or during movement (except while shooting at legitimate targets) will result in a match DQ.

Note: In the case of a negligent discharge, the RO will stop the competitor as soon as safely possible.
Exception: A competitor who fires a shot at a legitimate target, which impacts and travels in an unsafe direction, through ricochet or bounce will NOT result in a match DQ.

180-DEGREE SAFETY PLANE:

A Competitor that allows the muzzle of a firearm to break the 180-Degree Safety Plane will be issued a match DQ.

Exception: Except with a pistol while holstered, drawing and re-holstering.

Definition: The 180-Degree safety plane is defined by an arc both horizontal and vertical that is created when the competitor is standing facing squarely downrange and parallel to, the designated backstop used on the bay to define the 180-Degree safety line on that particular stage.

Note: Any position where the muzzle points back towards the mouth of the bay past the designated 180-Degree safety line is a violation of this rule and considered an unsafe action.

Shooters can "turn around" during COF as long as the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction. Preferred safe examples are SUL position or temple index.

SWEEPING:

A Shooter that allows the muzzle of a firearm to sweep over or past one's self including but not limited to their hands, fingers, legs and feet while moving, shooting or reloading a firearm will be issued a match DQ.

Definition: Sweeping is defined as, allowing the muzzle of the firearm (loaded or unloaded) to cross or cover any portion of a person or an object a person might reasonably be assumed to occupy, such as a car, portable toilet, or structure that is not a prop within the current stage.

TRIGGER DISCIPLINE:

The Shooter's fingers must be visibly outside the trigger guard when moving, loading, reloading or unloading during a COF and while clearing a malfunction. Failure to comply with any Verbal Warnings will result in a Match DQ.

Exception: When actually aiming or shooting at targets or while complying with the "Make Ready" command to lower the hammer of a pistol without a de-cocking lever.

MULTIPLE FIREARMS:

During a COF a competitor can handle and move with multiple firearms at the same time.

While handling firearms, neither firearm may be discharged until one is safely slung or holstered.

Shooters starting with long guns can transition to pistol only if the long gun is out of ammunition or in a malfunction state.

Failure to transition under the given conditions will result in a DQ.

HOLSTERS & SLINGS

HOLSTER REQUIREMENTS:

Holsters must be a practical strong side carry style and must be able to safely retain the pistol during vigorous movement.

The holster material must completely cover the trigger on all pistols.

The belt upon which the holster is attached must be secured at waist level.

Tactical thigh holsters are permitted and must be secured at waist level.

Shoulder holsters and cross draw holsters are specifically not allowed.

SLING REQUIREMENTS:

Slings must be adequate to retain the firearm during vigorous movement during the COF. It is not permitted to wait or stand around with a slung long gun. Long guns must be positioned on the rack, except while traveling between bays.

GEAR/EQUIPMENT/FIREARMS:

All gear, equipment, and firearms setups are subject to safety inspection.

Range officer decisions are final.

SHOOTER DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

Match DQ

Written Warning

6 month suspension

12 month suspension

Terminated/Barred from the club

RO DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

6 month suspension

12 month suspension

Terminated/Barred from the club