

## Shooting and Safety

Rifle shooting is, in general, a relatively safe sport – it is extremely rare for anyone to be injured while taking part. However, as with any sport involving projectiles (throwing the javelin being another example), it is only made safe by following a few simple rules: -

- **NEVER** point a rifle at anyone.  
*Even if you know it isn't loaded. Even if you're "just joking". And when you carry it, carry it pointing at the ceiling, and then you can't point it at someone by accident.*
- **ALWAYS** make sure that the bolt or action is open and fitted with a breech flag when not firing.  
*If you can see that someone else's breech flag has fallen out or been forgotten, it is both good practice and good manners to tell them.*
- **DO NOT** load until
  - ✓ You are on the firing point with the rifle pointing down the range.
  - ✓ You can see that the range is clear of people and obstructions.
  - ✓ You can see that the rest of the detail are in position, have applied their ear defenders and are ready to start.
- **DO NOT** move forward of the firing point unless you can see that everyone in the detail has finished and that all rifles have breech flags fitted.
- **DO NOT** adopt a firing position if there are still people downrange.  
*You may know that you are not about to whip your breech flag out and start firing, but they do not!*
- **ALWAYS** stop shooting immediately on hearing the word "Stop!" Open your bolt or action, insert your breech flag and wait until the problem has been resolved before you re-load.
- **DO NOT** attempt to shoot under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- **DO NOT** attempt to dismantle the ammunition.
- **ALWAYS** wear ear defenders if you are in the range when firing is taking place.  
*If you are wearing a hat, make sure it does not affect the fit of your ear defenders – they should form a firm seal over each ear.*
- **ALWAYS** wash your hands after shooting.  
*Lead is not a sandwich filling.*

## **Range Etiquette**

- If you are not shooting within the current detail, move into the clubroom and keep noise to a reasonable level. Leave mobile phones in the clubroom.
- If you finish shooting before the rest of the detail, stay quiet and lie still until everyone else has finished.
- If you are left-handed, use the right-most position on the firing point – this will prevent your position obstructing anyone else.
- When you have finished shooting, remove yourself and your equipment from the firing point quickly, efficiently and before changing targets. Change your target as quickly as possible.
- Put your rubbish in the right bins – recycling boxes for paper (including unwanted used targets) and plastic, “general rubbish” bin for everything else.