

Rochdale Air Gun Club Safety Policy

Safety with any type of firearm is everyone's responsibility. Shooting is one of the safest of all sports. The reason for this is that there are safety rules that **MUST** be observed at all times.

The two most fundamental of these rules are:

NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYONE
ALWAYS TREAT A GUN AS IF IT WERE LOADED

The majority of the rules arise from the application of these two rules in different circumstances.

1. Handling Guns

- 1.1 When you get out your gun check it is unloaded and that it is not cocked
- 1.2 Show that the gun is unloaded before handing it to another person
- 1.3 When you put your gun away check it is unloaded and is not cocked. Never put a gun away that is loaded
- 1.4 When you are given a gun first check that it is unloaded and it is not cocked. If you don't know how to do this ask somebody who knows
- 1.5 Never pick up a gun without the permission of the owner
- 1.6 If you see someone who has bad gun handling habits, **ADVISE THEM OF THE CORRECT HANDLING SKILLS.** (If they take offence for a short time it is far better than somebody being injured permanently)

Remember: It is better to check your gun is unloaded a hundred times too often, than once not enough

2. Operating the gun

- 2.1 Keep your gun pointed downrange when in use
- 2.2 Load the gun pointing downrange
- 2.3 If you are using a break barrel rifle or underlevers, where the breech could snap shut on your fingers, keep hold of the barrel / cocking lever when inserting the pellet

3. Moving around with guns

- 3.1 Never move between lanes or ranges with a loaded gun
- 3.2 When moving between lanes open the breech and remove any magazine from the rifle
- 3.3 When carrying a gun, it must not be cocked, the breech must be open, the magazine must be removed & the gun carried vertically
- 3.4 Keep the gun in a case when not in use
- 3.5 On leaving the club premises all guns **MUST** be in a case

THINK SAFE – ACT SAFE- KEEP SAFE!

Remember that 90% of so-called "Accidents" occur as a result of sheer carelessness, recklessness, stupidity or ignorance

4. Range Commands

- 4.1 One long blast of the whistle is the signal to “Cease Fire”. If you hear a single blow on the whistle or the command to “STOP” you must stop IMMEDIATELY. Guns must then be discharged to the ground (if outdoors) and the shooter must raise a hand to acknowledge that the signal has been heard and complied with.
- 4.2 Always obey instructions from the club officials IMMEDIATELY
- 4.3 Never go forward of the firing line without permission of a club official
- 4.4 Two short blasts of the whistle will signify that shooting may resume

5. General

- 5.1 Don't rely on safety catches to keep you or your companions safe
- 5.2 Don't try to attract people's attention when they are shooting or handling a loaded gun
- 5.3 Observe all the usual safety rules when dry firing
- 5.4 All Horseplay with guns is STRICTLY forbidden
- 5.5 All shooters are reminded that they have the duty to bring to the attention of the club officials if they consider a target to be positioned unsafely. That is, if a target is set too close so that ricochets could occur, or is positioned so that a missed shot could go outside the boundaries of the shooting range area, or a target does not have a safe backdrop. If in any doubt of a target's safety never attempt to shoot at it

6. Safety with Compressed Air

Many modern air rifles use compressed air as a power source. It provides convenient and effortless shooting, but we must never underestimate the amount of energy that is stored up inside a cylinder. A compressed air cylinder is a potential bomb if handled incorrectly

- 6.1 Store bottles away from any source of heat
- 6.2 Avoid dropping bottles and hard knocks to the cylinder or decanting set
- 6.3 Do not use any bottles and fittings that appear to be damaged
- 6.4 Always check the charge pressure of unknown bottles
- 6.5 Make sure your bottle is in test
- 6.6 When tightening bottle fittings use a minimum of pressure, hand tight is generally enough
- 6.7 When using buddy bottles or other removable cylinders never stand in front of the bottle as it is charged
- 6.8 Always keep control of buddy bottles and hoses when charging
- 6.9 Avoid looking directly at gauges as you fill cylinders
- 6.10 Always charge your gun slowly, don't put full pressure onto the gun
- 6.11 Avoid contact between skin & high pressure air
- 6.12 Avoid getting oils and greases in the high pressure air system

7. Safety with CO2 Cartridges / magazines

CO2 Cartridges provide a convenient power source for modern rifles & pistols. However they require special care in operation, in addition to the normal safety rules.

- 7.1 When installing CO2 cartridges & magazines the gun must be pointing downrange
- 7.2 When exhausting spent CO2 cartridges the gun must point downrange
- 7.3 Take care when handling exhausted CO2 cartridges as they can become very cold
- 7.4 Before leaving the firing point remove the magazine & make sure it is empty
- 7.5 Before leaving the firing point remove the CO2 cartridge
- 7.6 Put the gun in it's case