

# **Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club**

**GUEST TRAINING MANUAL**

# A word to the Member:

- Properly introducing new people to the sport is of great importance!
  - Please ensure that your guest has;
    - A **Positive** experience
    - A **Learning** experience
    - A **SAFE** experience

Our expectations of a guest are the same as our expectations of members.

# A word to the Guest:

- The Member is responsible for every bullet you fire.
- The Member is responsible for any range damage caused by you.
- The Member is responsible for your safety and the safety of those around you!
- Please follow any directions given to you by your host!

# Primary causes of gun accidents

- **Ignorance**

- Not familiar with gun safety rules
- Not familiar with proper operation of pistol

- **Carelessness**

- Failure to apply the rules for safe gun handling
- Failure to observe proper procedures for safely operating a pistol

# NRA Fundamental Safety Rules

1. **ALWAYS** KEEP THE GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION
2. **ALWAYS** KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT
3. **ALWAYS** KEEP ACTION OPEN AND THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT

# **ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION**

- **Safe directions at DRP Club will be described by the member.**
- **Muzzle pointing “level and down range” is the only safe direction when on the firing line.**

**Safe direction can be dynamic!**

**ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF  
THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE  
READY TO SHOOT**

- **Your finger can be on the trigger when you can see your sights and the target simultaneously**

# **ALWAYS KEEP THE ACTION OPEN AND THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT**

- Open the action to visually verify that the chamber(s) are empty.
- Firearms on the firing line bench must have action open, magazines out and chambers empty with a chamber safety flag in place.
- A loaded gun should **NEVER** be placed on the bench!



# Additional Gun Handling Rules

- **Know how to use your firearm safely**
  - Don't handle any firearm until you are familiar with its operation (read the owners manual!)
- **Be sure the gun is safe to operate**
- **Wear eye and ear protection**
  - (mandatory at DRPC for everyone on the range when shooting is going on)

# **Your Guest should be able to**

## **SAFELY;**

- **Load** the firearm
- **Handle** the firearm (muzzle direction)
- **Unload** the firearm (make the gun safe)
  
- Exhibit safe and courteous behavior on the firing line.
- Your guest must follow all DRP Club rules.

# Main Parts of a Semi-Automatic Pistol



# Safe Handling of Firearms

- The Member will explain and demonstrate safe gun handling.
- Your guest will practice/demonstrate safe gun handling prior to going out on the range for live fire
- **Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction!**

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# Cartridge Malfunctions

- **Misfire** – failure of cartridge to fire after primer has been struck (common in rimfire ammunition)
- **Hangfire** – delay in ignition of cartridge after primer has been struck
- **STOP** –wait 30 seconds, clear the firearm

# Cartridge Malfunctions

- **Squib load** – less than normal pressure or velocity after ignition of a cartridge.
  - You will hear a “pop” instead of a “bang” and/or feel less than normal recoil.

**You must stop shooting immediately and check the bore for obstructions!**

# **Marksmanship Fundamentals**



# Dominant Eye Exercise

- Extend both hands forward of your body and place the hands together making a small triangle between your thumbs and the first knuckle.
- With both eyes open, look through the triangle and center something such as a doorknob or the bullseye of a target in the triangle.
- Bring your hands in toward your face while looking at the object.
- The eye that you brought your hands to is your dominant eye.

Fig #1



Fig #2



# Shooting Fundamentals

- **Stance** –stable, comfortable, relaxed
- **Grip** –firm, comfortable, relaxed
- **Breath control** –to maximize stability, hold your breath (but relax while doing it!)
- **Sight alignment**
- **Trigger control** –smooth, continuous pressure straight to the rear

# Stance

- Athletic Stance: Knees slightly bent, feet spread apart approximately shoulder width apart. Good example: same stance as playing basket or baseball in the ready position. Stability is the goal.
  - **Isosceles Stance**
    - Shooter “square’ to target –toes pointed at target
    - Arms form a triangle

# Fundamentals of Pistol Shooting



- PISTOL HELD WITH PROPER GRIP
- FEET SHOULDER WIDTH APART
- WEIGHT EVENLY DISTRIBUTED
- LEGS STRAIGHT
- BACK STRAIGHT OR LEANING SLIGHTLY FORWARD
- HEAD ERECT
- ARMS FULLY EXTENDED
- PISTOL BROUGHT TO EYE LEVEL
- SHOOTER IS RELAXED AND COMFORTABLE

# Fundamentals of Pistol Shooting



**DON'T Be a "Turtle"!**

# GRIP

- Fit the “V” formed by the thumb and the index finger of the shooting hand (strong hand) as high as possible on the back strap portion of the frame.
- Grip the pistol using the base of the thumb and the lower three fingers of the shooting hand. The pressure of the grip must be directed straight to the rear (sort of like a pair of pliers).
- The thumb should lie relaxed along the side of the frame at the level above that of the index finger.
- With your support hand (weak hand) overlap the three fingers of your strong hand. Sixty percent of your grip should be from your weak hand.

# Grip



- **Finger should be OFF the trigger until you are ready to shoot.**
  - Ready to shoot means that you can see the front sight, rear sight, and target simultaneously.

# Proper Sight Alignment

- The Front sight should be in sharp focus
- Target and rear sight should be blurry





# Breath Control

- Minimize body movement by holding your breath.
- Before each shot, take a breath, relax to let out about half, then squeeze the trigger.
- Don't hold too long –your stability decreases over time.

# Trigger Control

## **The most important of the marksmanship fundamentals!**

- The trigger must be squeezed straight to the rear with continuously increasing pressure.
- Trigger squeeze must not disturb sight alignment.
- Follow through is an important part of trigger squeeze.

# Trigger Control

- **Take up the trigger slack**
  - Trigger slack is the free movement of the trigger before mechanical action starts.
- **Begin applying steadily increasing pressure straight to the rear**
- **Follow through as the gun fires**
  - Follow through is continuing to do everything you did before the gun fired.

# **Last Words for Guests**

- **All firearms should remain cased until on the firing line.**
- **Firearms will NOT be touched when the range is SAFE.**
- **You must follow all range commands immediately.**
- **You are NOT allowed to call any range commands except “Cease Fire” in an emergency.**

# **Last Words for Members**

- **Targets for guests MUST be hung on cardboard, with aiming area centered on the backstop.**
- **Observe your guest's shots –if they are having trouble hitting the target, move to a closer distance and/or use sandbags.**
- **Inspect the range for damage before and **AFTER** shooting.**

**Have FUN out on  
the range!**

**Shoot Safely!**