



THE SOUTHPORT INDOOR PISTOL CLUB

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MEMBERS RANGE SAFETY RULES

1. Range Officers have total control of the range and their instructions must be obeyed. Failure to follow Range Officers' instructions will result in the person being removed from the premises. These rules are for your safety as well as that of other range users.

This power is bestowed by the Weapons Act 1990 (Qld). The Range Officer must be obeyed.

2. Members and guests must sign the Attendance Register. By so doing they have accepted and endorsed the Range Rules and agree to obey them.

The register is located at the front counter and is the major means of tracking attendees by the Range Officers, the Police/Weapons Licencing Branch and the SIPC Inc. It is also a legal requirement of the Weapons Act 1990 (Qld).

3. By signing the register you declare that you have not been charged with, in the past 5 years; drug offences, violence (or threatened violence) offences and that you have no mental illness or domestic violence orders outstanding against you.

Firearms in the wrong hands can be used inappropriately and we all have a responsibility to prevent this.

4. Visitors are to produce valid photo ID (drivers licence, shooters licence,, etc)

The Weapons Act 1990 (Qld) requires all unlicensed persons using the range to fill in a Form 33, which the Range Officer must sign, Licensed shooters MUST present their licence to the Range Officer.

5. Visitors to the range who are 17 years old or less must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, unless they hold a minor's licence, or are a member of the club.

As outlined in the Weapons Act 1990 (Qld) minors aged 13-17 may, in the presence of a parent/guardian, use the range. Minors who are in possession of a valid minor's licence are not required to have a parent/guardian present with them.

6. A loaded firearm must not be taken onto the range. Law enforcement members are exempt from this rule.

Uncased weapons should have the action OPEN. Aside from range safety issues, your licence only allows the transport of a firearm from your secure storage facility to a range, or with a 'reasonable excuse' (e.g. to a gunsmith), in a safe, unloaded condition. Ammunition must be carried separately, and the firearm must be in a locked gun case or a locked container, and stored in the boot of your car. Never expose a firearm to view in public, even in an obvious carry case. You could find yourself charged with 'going in public armed so as to cause fear', amongst other things.

7. Eye and ear protection must be worn at all times whilst on the range. When leaving the range, do not remove eye and ear protection until you are outside both exit doors.

Workplace Health & Safety require that all persons on the range wear ear and eye protection whilst the range is in use. Gunfire is surprisingly loud, especially on indoor ranges.

8. Enclosed footwear must be worn by all people on the range.

A shooter with a hot shell between the toes can be deemed a real safety hazard, especially whilst they're holding a loaded firearm – not to mention the fact it's rather painful.

9. No person under the influence of alcohol or drugs is allowed on the range.

Alcohol and/or drug consumption prior to attending the range is not allowed, because of possible impaired function and safety is paramount. This is also covered by the Weapons Act 1990 (Qld).

10. No smoking, eating or drinking on the range.

Smoking is a real fire hazard, with the draft from air ventilation and the accumulation of unburnt powder. All shooting activities require some precautions regarding lead contamination, as lead is a health hazard.

11. Mobile phones are to be switched off on the range.

Phones can distract shooters especially in timed events.

12. Pregnant women are not allowed on the range due to the risk of exposure to lead residue.

13. No black powder firearms or full bore rifles are permitted on the range.

The Club is only approved for certain types of firearm by the Weapons Licencing branch. Rifles of handgun caliber (i.e. 22, .357 Magnum etc.) and shot guns loaded with shot smaller than 00SG can be used on the range. No other type of rifle can be used on the range. If in doubt, check with a Range Officer. Black Powder firearms (muskets and pistols) are absolutely prohibited from being used on the range, due to the fire hazard they pose.

14. Holsters may only be used by persons deemed competent to do so following a demonstration to the Club Manager.

The Club has a responsibility to ensure that all persons wearing a holster are sufficiently competent to do so. A holstered weapon must be unloaded whilst not on the firing line. A weapon may be holstered within the range confines but the magazine must be removed and the chamber clear. In the case of revolvers there must be no rounds in the cylinder.

15. All club guns must be used with club ammunition only, for insurance reasons.

16. Guns can only be removed from range bags/gun cases at the firing line or the safety area. Range bags can then be placed against the back wall or on chairs behind the shooting bays on the back wall. Similarly, guns can only be placed into range bags/gun cases at the firing line, or the safety area.

Safety is paramount. Accidents do happen. They are caused by an unsafe condition or act.

17. Load and unload firearms inside the shooting bay only (not behind the line).

Your concealable weapons licence only allows you to have a loaded weapon at an approved pistol range, and this club requires that you only load your firearm at the firing line. However, you may load semi-auto magazines and/or revolver speed loaders prior to going to the line.

Any infringement on this will have you expelled from the range and possibly from the club.

The only exception to this is/are police officers and persons with a carry licence.

18. When the range officer declares the range safe, no weapon is to be handled. No loaded magazines are to be on the table and firearms on the table must be declared safe by the range officer. In the

case of loaded magazines, it is acceptable to place them in your pocket or a case\bag away from the table. No ammunition is to be loaded or unloaded in the gun safe area.

When the range is declared safe, shooters may proceed forward of the firing line. To maintain this safe situation, all firearms must be declared safe and no firearm is to be handled whilst the range has been declared safe. Failure to obey this will mean expulsion from the range. During competitions when the range officer declares a firearm safe, it must either be boxed, or the member must stand one metre (3ft) behind the bay.

19. Only 1 person to shoot at any one time in each bay (only 1 gun at any time).

The only person in the bay should be the shooter. The main reason for this is to prevent the handing of a weapon to a second person which is the primary cause of firing line shootings. The only second person to ever be in the booth is a range officer clearing a weapon or an instructor or competent person giving instruction or advice.

20. Never pass your firearm from one person to another. Always place the firearm on the bench, step back and let the other person pick it up from there.

This is a fundamental rule that applies to all firearms. Handling a firearm outside of the safety areas (the bay, or the safe handling area at the end of bay 20) will be viewed as a safety infringement by the club.

21. Keep firearms always pointing down range, whilst loading, unloading and shooting

This is a fundamental rule that applies to all firearms. Other than the safety aspect, inappropriate handling can scare people and will be viewed as a safety infringement.

22. If your firearm malfunctions, or you require the range officer's assistance for any reason, press the range officer call system and a range officer will be with you shortly. If the shooter has a problem that is beyond the shooter's capability or knowledge, there is a "help" switch which displays a red light above the bay. Place the firearm on the bench, pointing down range, press the switch, and await the range officer's help or advice.

23. Shoot only at your own target, not at other people's targets, also do not shoot at any range sign, light or anything on the range floor.

Aside from courtesy (you did not pay for the other person's target) there is a safety risk factor; Shooting across the range dramatically increases the risk of ricochets. The above action could have you expelled from the range and the club strongly disapproves (and punishes) intentional vandalism.

24. Never remove a firearm from the firing line without having that firearm cleared by a range officer. Prior to leaving the range always switch on the range officer call system and wait for the range officer to clear your firearm.

Carrying a loaded handgun outside a shooting range is a criminal offence, unless you have a "carry" licence. Your pistol licence only allows you to load your weapon on a pistol range and nowhere else - not even at home (other than for temporary maintenance and cleaning purposes). At the Club, the only place you are allowed to have a loaded firearm is in the shooting bay. By having the range officer clear your firearm you are assured of not accidentally breaking the law in this regard and you can avoid making your gun and the situation unsafe.

25. You cannot take club brass (spent shells) from the range. Aside from the safety aspects involved in going onto the range proper, the sale of used brass helps to subsidise the reduced ammunition prices to club members.

26. Exit the range from the exit door only, not the emergency exit door - except in the event of an emergency.

Leave the range through the double door system from the foyer that you entered. Remember, both doors are not to be opened at the same time. The emergency exit is through the reloading room which is normally restricted to staff only except in emergencies.

27. Place your used targets and ammunition boxes in the cardboard recycling bin provided in the airlock (ante-room) when leaving the range.

This is/should be common courtesy.

28. Where possible, especially with revolvers, all spent or dead ammunition must be placed in the bins within the bays.

29. Please wash your hands upon leaving the range to remove any lead residue.

Lead can be absorbed from the air - the easiest way is by mouth via food or cigarettes.

30. The Range Officer on duty is the only person who can sign your competition or participation records and will only do so on the date of the competition.

This is to ensure accuracy of all participation and competition records.

31. All firearms must be held correctly and used with appropriate ammunition

Semi-automatic firearms must be held with thumbs on the same side to avoid "slide bite". Revolvers must be held by the grip only as hot gas escapes from the ends of the cylinder as well as the muzzle. At no time is any part of a person to extend past the barrel of any firearm. Incorrect ammunition is a danger and can cause unknown side effects.

32. It is your responsibility to ensure that your competition score is recorded on the appropriate records, so that they can be entered into the official register for regulation and record keeping.

The only reason to hold a competition handgun licence is for competitions. If you do not compete you do not have a licence.