

Phoenix Rod & Gun Club  
Practical Range Safety Briefing Topics

1. Primary Safety Rules:
  - a. All firearms are always loaded.
  - b. Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
  - c. Keep your finger OFF the trigger until your sights are on the target.
  - d. Know your target and what is behind it.
  
2. This is a COLD RANGE. This means that firearms are only handled on the firing line under the direction of a Safety Officer (SO) or at a designated Safe Area.
  - a. Firearms cannot be handled except in a designated safe area or at the Safety Officers direction on the firing line. NO AMMO is allowed in the safe area.
  - b. Firearms should be transported to the safe area either in a case or in a holster.
  - c. Firearms are not to be handled in the parking lot.
  
3. When on the firing line:
  - a. Follow the SO's instructions. If the SO calls out any of the following commands, correct yourself immediately.
    - i. MUZZLE
    - ii. FINGER
    - iii. STOPFailure to immediately obey these commands may result in a disqualification (DQ). A DQ ends your shooting for that day.
  - b. MUZZLE: Remember the 180-degree rule; if the muzzle of the firearm points up-range more than 90 degrees on either side of the shooter from straight downrange, the shooter is subject to disqualification (DQ). 90 degrees on either side adds up to 180 degrees, hence the "180-degree rule." The 180-degree rule also applies to "Up" and "Down" as well as left and right.
  - c. FINGER: Your finger must stay out of the trigger guard when not directly engaging targets, such as when drawing, reloading, or any movement during the course of fire.

4. While waiting your turn in a bay:
  - a. Be Aware of your surroundings. Pay special attention to the shooter. For your own safety, you need to be aware if unsafe actions are occurring.
  - b. Never approach the SO and shooter while the range is hot. Do not distract the SO with stage or scoring issues once the command to “Make Ready” is given. Hold questions until the shooter is finished and the SO has called the Range is Clear.
  - c. If you see an unsafe action, call out “Stop” and point the issue out to the SO. The SO will handle it from that point. Please help the match move along by picking up brass, taping targets and generally resetting the stage.
  
5. Other Potential Reasons to Earn a “DQ” (and end your shooting day):
  - a. Accidental Discharge of the firearm. This could be during loading, movement, reloading, holstering, etc.
  - b. Unsafe firearm handling. This includes handling a firearm when not on the firing line or at the safe area.
  - c. Dropping a firearm whether loaded or not while within the stage boundary. A dropped firearm should only be retrieved by the SO who will clear the firearm and then place it back in the shooter’s holster. Anyone else who touches the dropped firearm will be DQ’d.
  - d. Unsportsmanlike conduct such as failing to comply with reasonable directions from a SO or match official or interfering with a shooter during a course of fire.

If you have any questions at all, please ask. Be an active participant not simply a spectator. You will become a safer shooter through participation. Your skills will improve faster and you will enjoy the sport more.