

**FIFE & KINROSS FULLBORE RIFLE CLUB  
CLUB RANGE SAFETY RULES FOR BLAIRADAM RANGE**

*Foreword: These Rules are not in any way intended to reduce the enjoyment of Club members or their guests, but to promote the safety of all those present at the Range.*

**Club Safety Rules**

1. These Rules govern the conduct of the Club's activities at Blairadam Range and must be strictly complied with by all members of the Club and by the Club's visitors, guests and spectators.
2. Each Range Conducting Officer (RCO) must have full knowledge of the Range Orders issued by the Blairadam Shooting Association (the "BSA Range Orders"), as well as these Club Safety Rules. In the event of any conflict or ambiguity between the BSA Range Orders and these Rules, the BSA Range Orders shall take precedence. In addition to these Rules and the BSA Range Orders, the NRA Rules of Shooting and Programme (the "Bisley Bible") published annually by the NRA shall apply to the Club's activities at the Range, unless modified by these Rules and/or by the BSA Range Orders.
3. The headings and paragraph numbers in these Rules are for convenience only and shall not affect their interpretation.

**Range Conducting Officer**

4. An RCO shall conduct proceedings on the Range at all times. All RCOs must be duly qualified as such by the National Rifle Association (NRA) or by any successor to the NRA who assumes responsibility for the training and certification of RCOs.
5. The RCO shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with these Rules and the BSA Range Orders at all times while the Club is using the Range. The RCO shall have the powers set out in, and shall be entitled to act in accordance with, the Range Conducting Officers' Course Instruction Manual published by the NRA (or any equivalent document published by any successor to the NRA who assumes responsibility for the training and certification of RCOs).
6. The RCO must control the Range from the Firing Point in use at the relevant time. An individual shooter may not act as their own RCO. If an RCO wishes to shoot, then another qualified RCO who is not shooting at the same time must be appointed as RCO instead.
7. The RCO must have a functional mobile phone available to him or her at all times in order to contact the emergency services, if required.
8. The RCO shall ensure that one First Aid kit is located at (a) the Firing Point and (b) the Butts at all times during the period of the Club's use of the Range.
9. It is the responsibility of the RCO appointed for the last detail to ensure that the person collecting the red flag from the top of the hill above the Stop Butt has returned safely.

**Butts Officer and Procedures**

10. The RCO must nominate another experienced person as the Butts Officer. The Butts Officer is under the command of and is responsible to the RCO, but the RCO remains responsible for all activities at the Butts, including clearing up at the end of firing.
11. Proper communication must be established between the RCO and the Butts Officer before firing commences.

12. The orange or red swivelling marker ("Butts Flag") must be displayed at the Stop Butt as soon as practicable during the setting-up of the Range, prior to the commencement of firing. Firing must not take place when the Butts Flag is displayed.
13. The Butts Flag must only be turned or displayed on the instructions of the RCO, other than in the event of a loss of communications between the Firing Point and the Butts, in which event the Butts Officer must display the Butts Flag, order all targets to be lowered, and order all members of the butts party to stay under cover. It is then the responsibility of the RCO to re-establish contact with the butts party, via a person delegated by the RCO for this task, after the Firing Point has been fully cleared.
14. No person may leave the safety of the butts without the permission of the RCO, who must first ensure that the Firing Point is fully cleared and that the Butts Flag is displayed.
15. Firing must stop if an aircraft (e.g. a low flying glider) strays within the danger zone over the Butts and is in danger from a possible ricochet.
16. Smoking is strictly prohibited in the area of the Butts and in the surrounding wooded area to minimise fire risk.

### **Range Flags**

17. The red flags specified in the BSA Range Orders must be hoisted at least thirty (30) minutes before firing commences.
18. Firing must not take place if any of the red flags specified in the BSA Range Orders cannot be clearly seen from the Range Entrance, at the Car Park adjacent to the 500 Yard Firing Point.

### **Clear Range Procedure**

19. The person(s) tasked to position the red flags must inform any persons they may meet that they are within the Range's Danger Area and that they must immediately vacate the Danger Area.
20. To ensure so far as reasonably practicable that the Danger Area remains clear during firing, the RCO and all other Club members must remain alert to any possible incursions by unauthorised persons into the Danger Area. If this occurs, the RCO must be notified immediately.
21. On receiving information that an unauthorised entry into the Danger Area has taken place, the RCO must immediately order a ceasefire. Firing must not recommence until the unauthorised entry has been investigated and the Danger Area has been confirmed clear.

### **Safety and Suitability of Firearms and Ammunition**

22. The owner is responsible for ensuring that his or her firearms and ammunition are safe and suitable for use, and additionally for complying with all applicable legislation and insurance requirements. If so required by the RCO, a shooter must submit their firearms and/or ammunition to the RCO for inspection.
23. To the fullest extent permitted by law, neither the Club nor any of its officers shall have any responsibility or liability to any person in respect of any loss of or damage to property, or the death or injury of any person, caused by a defective, damaged or unsuitable firearm and/or ammunition (including without limitation handloaded ammunition).

## Conduct at the Range

24. All persons must remain behind the Firing Point at all times (except where participating in butt-marking or the erection or removal of range safety flags and equipment) and must comply with all instructions of the RCO.
25. All guests and spectators must be supervised by a full member of the Club at all times when in the vicinity of the Firing Point or the butts. Spectators must be advised by the RCO to wear ear protection (which is mandatory) and safety glasses (which are strongly recommended).
26. Children under the age of 16 years must, in the vicinity of the Firing Point or the Butts, remain under the supervision of a parent, guardian or other competent adult at all times while firing is taking place.
27. Children under the age of 8 years are not allowed on the Range while firing is taking place, unless permission is given by an official of the Blairadam Shooting Association who is present at that time or by the RCO.
28. Any person (including without limitation a Club member) who in the opinion of the RCO acts in a dangerous, disturbing or otherwise improper manner shall be forbidden to take any further part in the shoot and may be required by the RCO to depart the Range forthwith. Such person shall also be prohibited from participating in any further events at the Range until a report has been submitted to the Blairadam Shooting Association and the circumstances fully investigated, both by the Club and by the Blairadam Shooting Association.

## Conduct of Firing

29. All persons involved in a shoot at the Range (including persons in the Butts and spectators) must wear ear defenders at all times while firing is taking place. This is mandatory under the BSA Range Orders.
30. No person may move onto or place firearms and/or equipment on the Firing Point unless permitted to do so by the RCO.
31. Except when the RCO has given permission to place firearms on the Firing Point immediately prior to the commencement of firing on a particular detail, all rifles must have their bolts out, and any detachable magazine removed. (NB this applies even when rifles are contained in rifle cases or gun slips, including when inside vehicles at the car park.) In specific situations, the RCO may also permit a bolt to be inserted into a rifle for the purpose of checking trigger pressure and/or for essential armourer repairs.
32. No firearm may be loaded or fired unless the RCO has given the order to the relevant shooter(s) to commence firing.
33. Aiming or dry firing a firearm (whether or not unloaded) is prohibited except as part of a properly organised course of instruction, or when in a firing position on the Firing Point, and then only if it would, in all respects, be safe to fire a shot, and permission to do so has been granted by the RCO.
34. At all times when a firearm is being loaded, unloaded and inspected, it must point horizontally at the shooter's target.
35. A loaded firearm must at all times point horizontally at the shooter's allocated target.
36. If a safety-related incident occurs during shooting, the RCO shall immediately order "Stop! Stop! Stop!". All shooters shall immediately stop firing and comply with the RCO's further instructions.

37. In the event of a misfire or hangfire, the shooter must keep the bolt closed and keep the rifle pointed at the target for at least 30 seconds. The shooter must also inform the RCO. After 30 seconds have elapsed, the bolt must be opened with care, ensuring that (a) there is no one immediately behind the rifle, (b) the shooter's hand is forward of the bolt handle, and (c) the shooter's face is well clear of the breech when the bolt is being opened.
38. Once a shooter has finished firing, the shooter has the primary responsibility for checking that his or her firearm is clear and that the bolt and any detachable magazine has been removed. The shooter's register keeper or coach must then check the firearm to ensure that firearm is clear and that the bolt and any detachable magazine has been removed. (If no register keeper or coach has been appointed, the RCO shall perform this additional check.) If any shooter, register keeper or coach fails to properly carry out these checks, this may be considered by the RCO to constitute dangerous behaviour in terms of Rule 28.
39. All firearms must be cleared and removed from the Firing Point before the butt party may leave the cover of the butts.
40. Firing may take place with centrefire rifles only if the acoustic barrels are used, with the muzzle placed at least 9 inches inside the body of the acoustic barrel. Centrefire rifles that are fitted with sound moderators may however be used at the Firing Point without using the acoustic barrels.
41. Safe custody of firearms and ammunition is the responsibility of the individual in charge of them. For the purposes of these Rules, the road and the car park are public places and all firearms being carried to, from and in the vicinity of the car park or the road must be covered or enclosed by a suitable gun bag or case. Firearms and ammunition must not be left unattended anywhere on the Range at any time. In particular, firearms and ammunition should not be left out of sight behind the acoustic fence at any of the Firing Points.

## **Range Messages for Target Rifle / F Class Shooting**

The following messages should be used for communication between the RCO and the Butts Officer (preceded where appropriate by the relevant target number).

- Message 1      Firing about to commence
- Message 2      No spotting disc visible
- Message 3      Spotting disc unmistakably disagrees with signalled value. Check that the spotting disc shows the last shot and signal its correct value. (RCO to view target before passing Message 3 to the Butts Officer.) Confirm result by radio / phone.
- Message 4      A shot has been fired but no signal has been made. Examine target carefully and signal the shot if found or a miss. Confirm result by radio / phone.
- Message 5      Shooter has challenged for a higher value for his or her shot. Examine the whole target and signal the correct value. Confirm result by radio / phone.
- Message 7      A miss has been signalled but the shooter has challenged for a scoring shot. Re-examine the target carefully and signal the shot if found or a miss. Confirm result by radio / phone.
- Message 9      Marking / shooting appears to be unduly slow. Butts Officer / RCO to check and correct where necessary.
- Message 10     Stand easy. Half mast.
- Message 11     It is suspected that the wrong shot hole has been patched out. (Message 11 should only be sent after Message 4 or Message 7 has been sent.) Butts Officer to consult marker and confirm correct value. Confirm result by radio / phone.
- Message 12     Stand easy. Lower target, patch out and put target back up.
- Message 14     It is suspected that there is a second shot on the target. Inspect the target and indicate any further shot found, in addition to the shot presently shown. Confirm result by radio / phone.