

Sharon Gun Club  
 Box 329 Sharon ON L0G 1V0  
 TEL: 905-473-2407  
 FAX: 905-473-3541

E-MAIL: [sgcfire@sharongunclub.org](mailto:sgcfire@sharongunclub.org)  
 Club info on INTERNET at  
<http://sharongunclub.org>

## Range Safety and Etiquette Course

Revision April 9, 2006

### INTRODUCTON

#### *Welcome to the Sharon Gun Club*

**This course allows you to be a Range Officer on Ranges 2, 3, 5 and the Trap ranges.** By completing this program you may shoot approved firearms unsupervised on these ranges on a Saturday. You may also attend on a Saturday for the purpose of receiving observations towards completion of your probation. **During the week you still must be with a member who is off probation.** This course is an interpretation of the official range rules that have been approved by the club's board of directors. The rules can be found on the club's web page (<http://sharongunclub.org/range.pdf>). Note: New laws and other concerns may require the SGC board to change the rules at any time. Temporary changes to the Rules may be made by Club officials.

New members are under probation. This course, observations on the Range and participation in a work party are required to be removed from probation and qualify for a gate and club house electronic key fob so you can use the club unsupervised during the week. There is a \$10.00 non-refundable fee for the electronic key fob. The probationary shoot and observation form you have or will receive must be returned to the office with the appropriate signatures so that your name may be brought up at the next scheduled board meeting. If the board believes you have acted in a responsible manner you will be removed from probation.

Signatures may be done by a board member, an instructor, our custodians or a person approved by the board or in the case of a work party also a person in charge of the various work parties. Five of the signatures must be for shooting observations on the Range, one must be for a work party and to indicate supervised completion of this course. Note: You may not bring guests on Saturdays while on probation.

### SHOOTING HOURS

Centerfire Rifle 10:00 a.m. to dusk	NO SHOOTING ON SUNDAYS - This is a local bylaw.
All others 9:00 a.m. to dusk	Red range flag – range is open when this flag is flying.

### PERSONAL SAFETY

Mandatory eye and ear protection. Wear **good** eye glasses and ear protection when firing or going on a range that is live. Spectators included! Don't go out and buy the cheapest sun glasses you can find. Stop by a gun store and see what is available. Stretcher and First Aid Kit in Club House. First Aid Kits also at Range 1 and Range 6. The telephone in the club house can dial 911.

### APPROACHING THE RANGE AND MOVING BETWEEN SHOOTING POSITIONS

Firearms must be in a case or bag or box, not exposed when bringing the firearm to the firing line. When moving between benches the muzzle must be straight up with the action open and the magazine out, or in the case of break-opens, open and pointed down. There are exceptions to this with handguns. They will be covered on the handgun safety course. Practical Pistol has special benches for uncasing. You are responsible for understanding and obeying firearm transportation laws.

## PROVE IT SAFE

To make a firearm safe:

- **Point muzzle** in a safe direction (down range)
- **Remove the source of ammunition** (magazine, tube, open cylinder)
- **Observe** that chamber or chambers are empty
- **Verify the feeding path**
- **Examine the bore** for obstructions.

Leave actions open and ejection port or cylinder up and visible.

**Note:** Some self-loading rifles and handguns do not have a bolt hold open device and must have an object placed in the port to keep the bolt from closing. This must not be an empty cartridge as they slip out and are also confused with live ammunition (wood, plastic, rolled up paper or cardboard are OK). **Single action revolvers** must have the cylinder removed. If this is not possible then the revolver must be boxed. Racked rifles or shotguns must have their actions open.

## RANGE RULES AND COMMANDS

**Range - In Use** signs. Use them. Turn them back to **Range - Not In Use** when leaving the range. There must be a designated range officer at all times when a range is in use. If **The Range Is Live** when you arrive, you may approach the bench. If **The Range Is Safe** when you arrive - You may not approach the bench. Leave the gun in the case at the back of the range and get your targets and put them up. Do not handle a gun anywhere on the range when the range is "**safe**". On ranges with yellow lines painted on the ground you must stay behind the line if the range is safe. Do not go back to the bench from behind the line for anything while the range is safe. You may take something from or put something on the bench from the front while the range is safe. Do not touch any firearm. Range 4 has no yellow line, stay away from benches with guns on them. **If you are not sure, you are responsible to find out who the Range Safety Officer is.**

A more detailed discussion of range rules can be found on page 9. Condensed Rules by Range can be found on page 7. Condensed Rules by Firearm Type can be found on page 8.

## AUTHORIZED TARGETS

**Any Paper or Cardboard.** R1, R2, R3, R4 and Range 5 in the bullet traps or on a portable stand at the backstop.

**Portable Stands** - Used on Range 1 and 2 and at the backstop of Range 5. Place paper targets in the centre of the stand so you don't shoot out the stands and so the bullets impact into the backstop.

**Permanent Stands** - Range 3 and 4. Range 5 for metallic silhouettes.

**Metallic Targets.** Must be shrouded. May only be of type approved by SGC. No centerfire rifle cartridges to be fired at any metallic target. R1 and R6 only at the discretion of an appropriately qualified Range Safety Officer.

**Frangible Targets** (Clay Pigeons) - Must be placed at target height when placed on the backstop. Allowed on Trap range and ranges 2, 3 and 5. We suggest that you provide your own clay holder for R2, R3 and R5, do not simply lay them on the backstop.

Note: Targets stands may only be placed at the backstops on ranges 3, 4 and 5.

**Range floor:** Do not place any target low enough that it would allow a bullet to hit the range floor. Even the best shoot low on the target once in awhile so higher is usually better. Bullets hitting the range floor may go in almost any direction!

**Backstop:** Targets must be placed so that bullets impact into the backstop.

**Eyebrows:** Range 1, 2 and 3 have eyebrows to catch bullets which bounce up off the backstop. This happens far more in the winter when the backstop is frozen.

**Berms:** The banks on the side of the range. Do not shoot into berms.

**Baffles:** Range 4 has baffles filled with rocks in case a firearm is fired too high. This range has a lower backstop than the others so more care must be taken before firing. You may not use Range 4 until you have completed the separate Range 4 course.

No Unaimed Fire - Does not have to be aimed at a target but must be aimed at backstop. Careless aiming causes many shots to bounce off range floor. Be careful. You may not shoot at anything else. No tins of any kind, no glass, no T.V.'s, no pictures of people etc. If props are left on the range from a match do not shoot at them. Targets are for sale in the cupboards at the north of the clubhouse. There is a price list on the door and a container in the left cupboard for the money. You do not have to buy your targets from SGC.

## SIGN-INS

Always sign in before you go to the ranges to shoot. Enter your name and the ranges you are going to in the book by the office door in the club house. Also note in the book if you have guests. Signing in lets the custodian know that someone is on the range and **the Government will require proof of your visiting the club to get and keep your transport permits for restricted firearms.**

## GUESTS

**Always fill out the guest registration form.** Drop \$10.00 with this form into the office. Non-shooting guests should fill out the form but do not need to pay the \$10.00. Note non-shooting on guest form. You may leave out the street portion of the address, fill out the remainder. Guests are supervised by the member – one-on-one, one at a time. You may have a maximum of three guests, but only one guest may be shooting at a time and you must be at arm's length of the guest at all times while he or she is shooting. You may not shoot while your guest is shooting. At no time are guests permitted to shoot on Range 4.

## HANDGUNS

Unsupervised handgun shooting may only be done by members who have passed the OHA or CSSA **Handgun Safety Course** or have been otherwise approved by the chief handgun training officer. This course is a separate course conducted using materials provided by the CSSA. New members coming from other clubs will have their OHA or CSSA course recognized by our club subject to an observation on the range.

## AMMUNITION

No Incendiary ammunition or any ammo such as tracers, exploding or smoke cartridges. We have the type of forest and grass which would catch fire very easily. Semiautomatic center fire rifles and shotguns will be limited to 5 rounds and handguns to 10 rounds.

## WORK PARTIES

We use a minimum of outside services. Try to attend work parties when they are scheduled. Its also a good way to get to know other members. **Directors and officials are all volunteers - not paid.** We all have families and jobs but try our best to run the club. Things may not always get done fast and we have been known to forget things so help us all you can. If you have any

special qualifications for certain types of work or have time available to help at the club let us know. **Leave all club facilities as clean or cleaner than you found them.**

## MEMBERSHIP CARDS

**Please wear your cards. It shows your qualifications for ranges etc.** It also tells our custodians during the week what you are allowed to do. Neither the custodians nor anyone else should have to look up your qualifications. If you believe your card is wrong see a director in the office. Anyone may request you stop shooting if they believe you are not a member or are not qualified for that type of shooting. **If you receive a new qualification make sure the instructor notes your qualification on your badge with their initials and informs the board so it will be in our records and show up on future badges.** Make sure this Range Safety course is put on your badge. Visitors can get a sticker from the office so they can wander around a little and the members know they have checked in at the clubhouse.

## VOTING

As a club member you have the right to vote in SHARON GUN CLUB elections and other matters which may go to the general membership. If you own a share you may vote in S.R.P.L. elections. Normally our general meeting and elections for both are held December to January at a location which will be named. The elections, in each case, are for the purpose of electing new directors or confirming some or all of the existing directors who are running for re-election or election.

## COMMON SENSE RULES

**Never allow the muzzle to point at any other person or in an unsafe direction.** Leave gun pointed down range on the bench. Always assume the firearm is loaded and handle it as if it were. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until ready to fire. This does not mean you have to remove your finger from the trigger between shots. Any firearm will discharge unintentionally if given the opportunity to do so. Do not rely on safety catches they are mechanical and may fail. New law prohibits the loading of a firearm anywhere it is not legal to use it.

These rules should normally apply anywhere, home, stores, etc. At home guns should be pointed at solid outside walls, not at a wall that could have people behind it. (Many bullets are capable of going through several walls, steel etc.) In the clubhouse guns may only be inspected in the furnace room or in the office pointed towards an outside wall and no ammunition is allowed with the gun. We suggest you find a range to view firearms.

## DURING THE WEEK

Our custodians are the boss. Even if they are wrong, take it up with the board later. It is better for them to be wrong for the sake of safety than to say nothing at all. Police other people. Introduce yourself if you think someone is doing something wrong. Politely tell them what they are doing wrong. If it is something serious or if they continue try to get their name and contact the custodians or a board member.

## KEEP THE CLUB CLEAN

Do not vandalize. It just comes out of our membership dues. Take down unusable targets and put them in the garbage. Put your empty shell boxes in the garbage. If there is brass on the bench put them in the garbage, don't just push them onto the floor. All shotgun shells should be put in the garbage or taken home. If your shells are reloadable and you don't want them, someone else may.

## C.S.S.A.

C.S.S.A (Canadian Shooting Sports Association – formerly O.H.A.) renewals are due January of each year and are your responsibility. Membership in the C.S.S.A. is mandatory for each member of our club. The C.S.S.A provides insurance for any type of shooting, not just handguns and not just at the club. The club also has insurance with the C.S.S.A. The C.S.S.A also has been battling for shooters rights at various levels of government. For more information check their web site (<http://www.cdnshootingsports.org>).

## POLICE USE OF RANGES

Police use range 6 only. They use range 6 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday only. You may hear the sound of automatic weapons. A binder at the clubhouse has the rules that govern the police use of ranges at Sharon. Police will not ask members for names or identification but will provide their names and identification on request. Check Sharon's web site for a range use schedule (<http://sharongunclub.org/use.pdf>).

## LEAD POISONING

Be aware that lead is in the air from cast bullets and also from fired primers. This is not a serious problem on an outdoor range. Lead can build up over a long period of time so don't leave food or cigarettes out on the benches. Washing your hands before eating may also help. The only people we know of that have had high lead levels have been indoor shooters who sometimes shoot thousands of rounds a week.

## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

**No drugs. No alcohol before or while shooting. Positively no shooting while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.** No alcohol is to be brought to the club except for board approved functions such as the Sunday Club Picnic. Ranges will be closed at any of these times.

## MALFUNCTIONS

**Squib load / blocked barrel.** Sound is diminished. Recoil is softer. Make the gun safe. Check the barrel for obstructions. Any blockage do not shoot thinking it will clear it. It will blow up! Clear the blockage before using. This may require taking the gun home or to a gunsmith.

**Hangfire.** Hammer drops on a live round and nothing happens for a few seconds, then the round is fired.

**Misfire.** Hammer drops on a live round and nothing happens. Keep the muzzle pointed down range into the back stop and wait 30 seconds, Eject the round but let it cool before picking it up. Don't put these rounds in the garbage or fire pits. It scares people when they blow up in the fire. (30 seconds is a suggestion.)

**Muzzleloaders and Black Powder.** Smokeless powder burns when not constrained but black powder explodes. Load black powder from a pre-measured container not from a flask or powder horn or one pound container. Burning embers in the barrel could set off new powder.

Muzzleloaders have their own types of malfunctions. If it does not go off try a new cap or powder in the pan. If this does not work, you may have to corkscrew the bullet out or remove the breach plug and dump the powder before the firearm would be considered safe. You should not leave the range with a loaded gun. There are often more experienced shooters around the club to help with this. **No one may go forward of the line while powder is in a muzzleloader.**

On any malfunction if you or the range officer are not experienced enough to handle the problem, try to find someone who is.



## MISCELLANEOUS

**Note: Concessions belong to the custodians (not to SGC). Please pay them promptly.** If you take something during the week please leave the money on the counter or in the cash drawer.

NOTE: Members may come up and wander around the property on Sundays and at other times. There are trails for hiking and skiing and archery to the north of the ranges. Probationary members coming up during the week, please let the custodians or a board member know so they don't think you have sneaked in to use the ranges. Watch out for **poison ivy**. The areas around the ranges and the club house are sprayed to kill it. There are sometimes matches during the week which you may come up and watch. Please bring your membership cards even on Sundays. Sometimes **bug repellent** is also good to bring, especially for evenings.

There is not to be any recreational use of off-road vehicles on club property.

Note: There are course requests in the office for **pistol** (needed for a transport permit for a handgun). There are also requests for **Practical Pistol** and **Practical Rifle/Shotgun** courses needed before you can shoot forward of the line unsupervised and for the **Range 4 qualification** test.

Sheets are available showing priorities on ranges including "from the line" and practical/IPSC and PPC shooting. Sheets are available showing which Badges issued by other organizations and the Sharon Gun Club are recognized for use on our ranges and what they qualify for. "From the line" shooters generally have priority over other shooters on R2, R3, R4 and R5. This can be found in the on-line range rules on the web site (<http://sharongunclub.org/range.pdf>).

Note: For Practical and PPC shooters. Ammo must not be handled at the **safety areas**. These Safety areas are benches at the side of the ranges used by practical shooters for casing and uncasing guns.

Schedules and Club Info available on the Internet (<http://sharongunclub.org/sgc.html>). Club E-MAIL: [sgcfire@sharongunclub.org](mailto:sgcfire@sharongunclub.org)

## CONDENSED RULES BY RANGE

Trap Range: Shot size should be #7 1/2, 8 or 9. Portables and hand throwers should be set up far enough forward that clays fall in front of trap houses when hit.

Range 1: 50 yards. Practical Pistol or P.P.C. qualified shooters only. Case and uncase at the safety tables only. No ammo at the safety tables. Dry firing permitted at primary safety tables not at secondary safety tables. Steel plates and poppers can be used on this range if properly shrouded.

Range 2: 50 yards. All handguns, rifles in pistol calibers, shotguns and semi-automatic submachineguns (in pistol calibers) As the targets and stands are shot out several times a day there are 2x2's and necessary items on this range to build new supports for targets. Certain steel plates can be used on this range if properly shrouded.

Range 3: 100 Yards. All firearms allowed but best suited to rifles. Experienced shooters would find it interesting with handguns and shotguns with slugs. Target stands only at the back stop.

Range 4: 200 and 300 Meters Rifles only. (handguns using rifle cartridges also qualify) Members must qualify to shoot on this range. This consists of a short written test on adjusting sites and a practical test requiring shooting for a required score at 200 and 300 Yards. Most average shooters would have no problem with this qualification. If you qualify with optical sights you will be limited to using optical sights on this range. If you qualify with open (iron)sights you may use either. Rifles should be sighted in at 100 Yards before using on this range. We cannot afford to have bullets bouncing off the range floor or go over the backstop.

Guests are not allowed to use range 4 except for invitational competitions.

Range 4 has a fold down sign that is used to tell if someone is down range.

The range off to the west side of range 4 part way down is for special use only. (R7)

The use of .22 rimfire rifles requires the completion of the range 4 200 yard rim-fire qualification course.

Range 5: .22 Rimfire only. You may use silhouettes or put targets in bullet traps. You may use portable stands on this range only at the backstop. No .22RF Magnums, they damage the silhouettes and the posts they sit on. Approx. 100 meters.

Range 6: Practical Rifle or Shotgun Black Badge holders during week . Weekly club matches on Sat. for Rifle or Shotgun do not require Black Badge. Metal plates and poppers can be used with shotgun shot loads only at a minimum distance of 10m.

\*Note: Range 6 practical rifle or practical shotgun events. You may compete in these events even without taking our practical rifle course as you will be going through the match with a range officer beside you. Find a competitor to show you proper uncasing and handling procedures used during these events. Check the Web site calendar to see ahead of time which match is on which Saturday.

\*Note: Except for the above matches firing ahead of the line is not allowed except for qualified Badge holders. We have separate Black Badge courses for handguns and rifle/shotgun.

Pistol black badges do not qualify you to shoot rifle or shotgun during the week except for matches supervised by qualified people, i.e rifle or shotgun black badge holders.

Range 7: When available will be for Practical courses and practicing

Access to range 7 (The Alcove):

- Make sure range 4 is safe.
- Put sign down (Shooter down range – Alcove in use)
- Range 4 shooters should check alcove when going down range to put targets up.
- To exit the alcove, put gate out 90 degrees and wait. Range 4 users should make their guns safe and stand back from their benches.
- Exit alcove, shut gate and walk up range.
- There is no access to the alcove from range 6.

## CONDENSED RULES BY FIREARM TYPE

### CENTERFIRE RIFLE

All allowed on Range 3 and Range 4 (3 and 6 IPSC). On range 3 the standing position is now allowed as is prone.

**Rifles in Pistol Calibers allowed on Range 2** along with Range 3 and Range 4 (1,2,3,5, 6, and 7 ( IPSC). Black Powder Muzzle loading rifles are treated as centerfire rifles for the rules. Range 4 requires qualification and no guests are allowed.

### HANDGUNS

Ranges 2,3,5 (1,2,3,5,6 and 7 IPSC)(1 and 2 PPC). Not R4 (unless in acceptable rifle cartridge). Not on trap range. Range 2 is most suitable. May fire unsupervised only if you have passed an CSSA safety course with our club or have passed a CSSA or OHA course with another club and have had one of our CSSA instructors give you a safety check. The instructor will let us know so we can update our database. A letter from the board of directors is required for a Authorization to Transport (ATT). In the case of handguns the course or the safety check is required and the

name then goes to the board of directors for approval. For a restricted rifle letter we will issue one after the probation period with board approval.

## **.22 RIMFIRE RIFLE**

Range 2,3,4 and 5 (1,2,3,5 and 6 IPSC). The use of .22 rimfire rifles on Range 4 requires the completion of the range 4 200 yard rim-fire qualification course. No guests are allowed.

## **SHOTGUNS**

Trap range and Range 2 and 3 (1,2,3,5,6 and 7 IPSC or club practical matches).

## **S.M.S.A. IN PISTOL CALIBERS**

Range 2 and 3 (1,2,3,5 and 6 IPSC or practical). Sub Machinegun (semi-automatic), generally a short barreled rifle that uses handgun ammunition. If you are not sure what you have use range 3 only.

## **RANGE COMMANDS**

There must always be a range officer. The range officer is in charge on the range! Find a volunteer to take the range when you leave. No disagreements on the range. Take any arguments off the range or to the board.

### **The Range Is Live You May Approach The Bench And Commence Firing**

Make sure you have checked the range ahead of the firing line is clear before giving this command. Watch to see people have ear and eye protection.

### **Last String**

The range is about to be called safe. Finish firing what is in your gun but do not load anymore.

### **Make Your Gun Safe and Stand Behind The Yellow Line**

Muzzle down range, magazines out, actions open, chambers visible and empty. (Chamber may not be visible on a semi-auto which requires something in it to hold the bolt open. This is ok.) Range officer checks all firearms on the line for above items before calling the range safe. If a gun needs to be moved so you can see the chamber etc. or is not made safe ask the owner do it. This may help the person to remember it next time and also do not touch other peoples guns without their permission. Occasionally check guns which may be in the racks, they should be safe. This could be checked anytime by anyone.

### **Range Is Safe You May Go Forward And Check Or Change Targets**

You may go ahead of the firing line to check or change targets. You may not go back to the benches. Stay behind the yellow line. You may take or put something on the bench from the front at this time. Normally this is not necessary and you should make sure you have your targets, stapler etc. before the line is called safe.

### **Cease-Fire**

This is used at Sharon for emergencies only (and as a test for students during handgun courses). It is self explanatory. Do not fire. Anyone can call a cease-fire command if a dangerous situation exists (someone in front of the firing line etc). Put your gun down and step back from the bench. If your gun has a safety you may put it on but don't bother fumbling with the gun trying to get the

bullets out and so on. The range officer will then give instructions on returning to the bench to make the guns safe or returning to the bench and continuing firing.

**Memorize the range commands:**

THE RANGE IS LIVE, YOU MAY APPROACH THE BENCH AND COMMENCE FIRING.

LAST STRING

MAKE YOUR GUNS SAFE AND STAND BEHIND THE YELLOW LINE.

THE RANGE IS SAFE, YOU MAY GO FORWARD AND CHECK OR CHANGE TARGETS

