

TIOGA COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Standard Operating Procedures and Range Rules



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Purpose

These procedures set forth the rules and regulations governing the use of the outdoor and indoor gun ranges located at the Tioga County Sportsmen's Association (TCSA) facility with the physical address of 1141 Carmichael Rd. Owego, NY 13827. While shooting incidents are rare on ranges, the following range rules and regulations are established to ensure safety and discipline for individuals using the range as well as the safety of our neighbors and surrounding properties.

General

Live firing provides authorized personnel access to a facility where they may become proficient with firearms and practice both individual and group shooting sports. Individuals using the range shall become familiar with these safety rules and procedures prior to using the ranges. The safety rules and procedures help to provide range supervision and allow for enforcement of these rules to reduce or eliminate incidents from occurring.

All users are required to abide by and enforce the rules and procedures set forth herein. Peer safety is the responsibility of each person at a range. All are expected to politely point out to any user in violation of these rules, the nature of the violation, request they stop and if continued violation occurs, report the incident along with the violators name, if possible, to the Range Officer on duty (if applicable) or the TCSA President for further action. For serious incidents or injury call 911.

All members and potential users of the TCSA range must complete a range orientation. The orientation may be one or any combination of a safety video, in-person briefing, or formal classroom training. The amount of training will be determined by the TCSA management and/or RSO on duty.

The use of the TCSA indoor gun range is covered by these Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). These SOPs define what every person engaged in live-fire activities must know prior to being permitted to use the range facilities. These SOPs are available from the TCSA office, and on our website.

Common sense and safe firearms handling are always the policy of the Tioga County Sportsmen's Association.

Guests

Except during scheduled events that are open to the public, any non-member of the Tioga County Sportsmen's Association wanting to use the facilities is required to be accompanied (throughout their stay), by a current TCSA member. Only one guest per member is allowed.

The non-member is required to stop at the front kiosk on the road into the grounds and fill out a TCSA release / waiver form along with paying the required fee for the one day use. That fee is listed on the form. Please follow the instructions on the form.

Please read the posted signage on each range and be cautious, courteous, and safe while using the ranges.

Definitions

- **Armor Piercing Bullets:** Armor piercing ammunition means a projectile or projectile core which may be used in a firearm and which is constructed entirely, excluding the presence of traces of other substances, of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, or beryllium copper. (not legal in NYS).
- **Cold Range:** Declared by RSO. Range is safe, personnel may be down range.
Absolutely NO HANDLING FIREARMS!
- **Hot Range:** Declared by RSO. No personnel downrange; Firearms may be handled.
- **Firing Line:** that part of the range designated as a Live Fire area, may be fixed or dynamic dependent on discipline.
- **COF:** Course of Fire
- **ECI:** Empty Chamber Indicator (flag)
- **Fully Automatic Firearms:** Firearms that are capable of firing in multi shot bursts, or continuous fire by holding the trigger to the rear position.
- **Live Fire Activities:** an activity that involves the firing of a gun. Individuals involved in a live fire activity may include the shooter, Range Officer, and supporting personnel such as score keepers, timers, and other individuals participating in a shooting activity on a Hot Range.
- **Tracer Ammunition:** any ammunition containing flammable substances which are designed to travel along the path of the fired projectile in order to illuminate its path to impact.
 - **WARNING:**
Use of tracer munitions may result in ignition of the vegetation on the berm. The responsible shooter will be held accountable both legally and financially for any damages resulting from the use of prohibited munitions. (Not legal in NYS)
- **Chief Range Safety Officer:** The Chief Range Safety Officer (CRSO) is a designee of TCSA, that is charged with monitoring and enforcing all rules outlined in this SOP as

they pertain to the range use. The Chief Range Safety Officer is the ultimate authority on the range, and oversees the Range Safety Officers.

- **Range Safety Officer:** The range safety officer (RSO) is the individual tasked with continued oversight of the firing line to insure all safety rules are being practiced by users at all times.
- **Uncontrolled Firing:** Firing from the hip, firing a rifle/carbine/shotgun without the butt of the stock against the shooter's shoulder, or any other type of firing in which the firearm may not be aimed by having the shooter's eye aligned with the firearm sights and the sights aligned with an approved target.

Range Safety Officers

Range Safety Officers (RSO) are required as part of open shooting at the indoor range. A designated RSO will be in charge of the firing line(s) and range at all times. Disciplines will designate RSOs for their events.

The RSO on duty is tasked with:

1. Ensuring that all TCSA members, guests, and customers adhere to the rules and SOPs in this document.
2. Stopping and addressing all unsafe behavior. The RSO will address an individual to inform and point out all unsafe behavior and ensure that they are aware of any safety concerns. The RSO may call a "Cease Fire" and address the entire line at his/her discretion.
3. Escorting anyone (to include members) off the range if the person(s) are deemed a safety risk to others on the range. Require anyone deemed a safety risk be given additional training before being allowed to shoot on the range again.
4. Reporting to TCSA President/Board of Directors any incidents on the range to include:
 - Accidental discharges
 - Personal injuries such as slide bites, forehead scope hits, etc. that draw blood.
 - Any other incidents deemed reportable by the RSO
 - The last page of this SOP has an Incident Report Form

The RSO Has Total Control of Range!

Firearms must be NYS legal; allowable guns are the sole discretion of the RSO.

***** NO ONE Handles guns while anyone is downrange *****

1. RSO will ensure Firearms will be transported boxed or bagged, unloaded.

2. Personal Concealed Carry guns will remain concealed in holster, unless that is the gun you are using. If so with the RSO's permission set it on the shooting position empty with mag out and an ECI (empty chamber indicator) inserted.
3. All boxed and cased guns will be moved to the firing line at the direction of the RSO. Firearm will be unloaded, mag out and ECI inserted, and when moving gun, muzzle pointed up. Firearms will be muzzle pointed down range, actions open, with an ECI inserted in firearm, before the range operations begin.
4. Maximum 2 firearms allowed at shooting station at any given time. Any changing of firearms will be done with permission of RSO only, and with everyone behind the firing line.
5. Eye and Ear protection is required for all within the Range during firings.
6. Target loads recommended, Excessive calibers or Hot loads will not be allowed.
7. When firearms are declared safe by the RSO, and range is declared safe/cold, Shooters may proceed downrange, and targets can be checked or replaced.

***** NO ONE Handles guns while anyone is downrange *****

8. When everyone is behind the firing line, RSO declares range HOT, calls Eyes and Ears, and can then allow shooters to commence firing.
9. A nominal time of about 10 minutes is allowed, then cease fire is called, and request to make line safe. RSO then checks firing line, when safe, allows shooters down range to check/replace targets.

Repeat this process through shooting hours.

During a COLD range time anyone wanting to leave range or change firearms will be cleared by RSO and allowed to remove guns from range with muzzle up and be bagged.

NOTE: The RSO on duty is tasked with the authority to require anyone shooting on the range be given additional training before being allowed to shoot on the range again and revoking their range use endorsement card.

Authorized Matches

It is the intention of the TCSA to attract and host organized shoots and competitive matches. The TCSA management will designate an Event Chairperson to oversee a given shoot/match.

The Event Chair may be a member of TCSA or a designated person from a 3rd party having a vested interest in the shoot/match. If the Event Chair is a designated person from a 3rd party, a TCSA member will be designated as a liaison to the 3rd party in support of the shoot/match.

All events must be scheduled and planned in advance with the TCSA management to ensure the necessary schedule, supplies, resources, and logistics can be obtained and conflicts avoided.

All planned, scheduled, and approved shoot/matches take precedence over any individual or personal activity.

The Event Chairperson is tasked with:

1. Conducting competitive shoot/matches within the planned schedule approved by TCSA management.
2. Ensuring all necessary resources such as RSOs and any other needed safety personnel are in attendance while the shoot/match is taking place.
3. Conducting the shoot/matches with the primary goals of safe shooting for the participants and the prevention of projectiles impacting anything other than the backstop berm.
4. Designating a Match Director, who may be required by TCSA to be a certified RSO.

Range Rules

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction**
 - 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot**
 - 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use**
1. Loaded firearms are not allowed on TCSA property other than on the
 - a. Firing Line under a Hot Range condition
 - i. **NOTE:** Exceptions to this are those who are properly licensed in NYS for Concealed Carry and Law Enforcement personnel. All concealed firearms shall remain concealed unless unloaded and rendered safe and stored and transported appropriately.
 2. Consuming alcoholic beverages or drugs (including prescription and over-the-counter medications) that will affect his or her ability to participate with a maximum state of awareness and in a completely safe manner, before or during live fire activities is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. The Range Officer will deny range access to anyone that is or appears to be in violation.
 3. Phones will be placed on **SILENT**. Disruptive activities, such as loud music or children that are not supervised properly on the firing line may result in the RSO asking your party to leave the property.

4. The minimum age to shoot on the range by oneself is 18. (see Children on the Range)
5. TCSA rules on age and gun possession are in line with federal and state laws. 12-15 y/o undergoing rifle or shotgun instruction, 14-20 for pistol competition or training.
6. At no time will firearms, regardless of whether or not they are loaded, be pointed at or in the direction of any person. (No "Sweeping")
7. All shooters and spectators on the firing lines and staging areas must wear ear and eye protection.
8. All ammunition brought into the indoor range may be inspected to ensure it meets the TCSA allowed ammunition requirements.
9. All guns will be treated as if they are loaded at all times.
10. Loaded firearms must be pointed down range with barrel horizontal at all times.
11. **NO SHOOTING ACROSS LANES!** Firearms will only be fired into the assigned lane. Failure to keep rounds on target may result in termination of membership, and/or banning from the facility.
12. Plastic bottles, glass targets, tin or aluminum cans, explosive targets, steel targets that may cause ricochets upwards, and any other exotic items may not be used as targets at any time. **Each shooter on the range must clean up their bench and targets down range prior to leaving - this will be enforced by the RSO on duty.**
13. Only one shooter's target is allowed per frame, unless approved by the RSO.
14. Intermediate berms on the pistol and silhouette ranges are for the protection of equipment and should NOT be shot into.
15. Accidental discharges will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Range Officer, and Board of Directors. Accidental Discharge of a firearm may result in temporary suspension or revocation of the membership of the responsible person without refund.
16. If there is a misfire, be sure to keep the muzzle pointed down range (preferably on target) for at least 30 seconds, in case it is a hang fire.
17. All shooting will be done from the firing line, or as directed by the range staff during scheduled training, or competitive events.
18. All rounds must impact the target, and backstop. Appropriate personal targets must ensure that bullets passing through them will strike the backstop berm. Shooters whose bullets strike equipment will be asked to leave the range. Depending on the situation; this may result in temporary suspension of membership, termination of the shooter's membership, and/or financial responsibility for any necessary repairs.
19. All range users are required to clean up their brass when finished shooting. Any other brass on the indoor range must be vacuumed with the HEPA vac and collected in a sealed container so as not to transfer lead particulate out of the range. (No Broom Sweeping)
20. All targets and personal target holders are to be removed from the range and disposed of when finished shooting, if you brought it in you should bring it out. Paper and cardboard may be disposed of in the recycling dumpster by the clubhouse after being broken down.

21. ALL firearms must be unloaded, cased, or actions open when taken to and from the firing line. Inexperienced shooters are to advise the RSO if assistance is needed.
22. When a "Cease Fire" is called, immediately stop all shooting, put firearms down and wait for instructions from the RSO.
23. All vehicles shall be parked in the designated parking area, unless authorized by the TCSA management.
24. Range is to be used as posted, or as directed by the RSO on duty.
25. Non-members must sign a waiver each time they shoot.
26. TCSA members must have their membership card in their possession to allow the RSO on duty to identify them as a member while on the range.
27. Smoking is not allowed under any circumstance in any buildings or pavilions.
28. Range Limitations:

General Membership Range:

Rifles: up to any legal rifle.

Pistols: Pistols for hunting use are permitted for sighting in, testing loads, and practicing. "Specialty" pistols like bolt actions or Thompson Center Contenders using rifle calibers are approved for this range ONLY.

Shotgun "slug" sight-ins shall only be on the "high power (100 and 200 yard) ranges."

NO Birdshot or Buckshot. This means NO Shotgun patterning. No exploding targets.

Silhouette Range:

Rifles .22 rimfire only. No pistols.

During matches, pistol caliber rifles.

No exploding targets.

Lowest Pistol Range (With Indoor Shooting Building):

Only pistols permitted outside, under the canopy.

In the building, pistols and .22 caliber rifles are permitted.

Pistol Pits:

Shotguns may be patterned.

Pistols: All pistol calibers. See General Membership Range for specialty handguns.

No High Power Centerfire Rifles. Cowboy Action Rifles are permitted.

Indoor range:

Rifles: .22 rimfire, and non-jacketed pistol caliber target loads

Pistols: all except magnum loads, +P, +P+, and .50 cal.

Trap, Skeet, and 5 Stand:

No shot size larger than 7 ½.

1. **FULLY AUTOMATIC FIREARMS ARE PROHIBITED.**
2. **SLIDE-FIRE STOCKS OR ANY OTHER DEVICE THAT MIMICS AUTOMATIC FIRE ARE PROHIBITED.**
3. **FIRING OF ARMOR-PIERCING OR TRACER AMMUNITION IS PROHIBITED.**

4. **IN ALL CASES THE RSO'S DECISIONS ARE FINAL AND BINDING. HIS/HER DECISIONS ARE BASED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND HIS/HER JUDGMENT. THE RSO'S DECISIONS MAY SUPERCEDE THE GENERAL PRINTED RULES OR SOP.**

Range Commands

Range commands will be given by the RSO tasked with conduction of range activities at any given time. Most often range commands will be used during training, or competitive events. All range users should familiarize themselves with these commands so they understand what actions are expected of them should a situation arise where range commands must be used.

If in doubt, or confused, ASK!

- **"CEASE FIRE"**
May be called by anyone. **Stop All Firing, place guns down on the bench, step back from the firing line and wait for further commands from the RSO.**
- **"MISFIRE"**
Shooter to notify the RSO and other participants that a round did not fire when the trigger was pulled and to alert other shooters along the line that a hazardous condition may exist.
- **"MOVE FORWARD or SHOOTERS TO THE LINE"**
To get shooters into position to prepare to begin shooting. Shooters will move from behind the ready line to their assigned position. **DO NOT TOUCH FIREARM/HANDLE!** Get comfortable, adjust your position; make sure you are on the correct side of the bench.
- **"PROTECTIVE GEAR ON"**
To prepare the shooter for a safe experience. Shooters should put on first their eye protection then ear protection.
- **"YOU MAY PICK UP /HANDLE YOUR FIREARM"**
To prepare line for firing. Shooters will pick up their firearm, sight in on the target, make any final adjustments and prepare to load.
- **"LOAD (NUMBER OF ROUNDS)"**
To notify the shooters that they may load their firearm. Shooters will load their first round and keep your finger off the trigger and stand ready for the next command.
- **"IS THE LINE READY?"**
To determine if all shooters along the line are ready. All shooters NOT ready should indicate their status to the RSO. Sufficient time will be allowed for the shooter to complete his/her preparation.

- **"READY ON THE RIGHT/LEFT?"**
To declare that the shooters have indicated they are ready on the right/left side of the range. Any shooter not ready at this command may choose to either alert the RSO that he/she is not ready or to complete the process of getting ready before the final command has been given.
- **"READY ON THE FIRING LINE?"**
To notify all shooters that the range is about to be under live fire and that if anyone is not ready at that point, he/she should notify the RSO.
- **"COMMENCE FIRING" or "HOT RANGE"**
To declare the range formally open for live fire. The shooters may commence the prescribed course of fire.
- **"COLD RANGE/THE LINE IS SAFE"**
To inform the firing line that the range is safe. The RSO is telling all shooters that all guns are unloaded and verified safe.

Other Common Commands:

- **"ON THE FIRING LINE"**
To tell shooters to take their assigned place at their firing point and prepare to fire, but do not load.
- **"RANGE IS HOT, YOU MAY HANDLE YOUR FIREARMS"**
Shooters may approach the firing line and handle their firearms since no personnel are down range.
- **"MOVE OUT OF POSITION AND REMOVE YOUR EQUIPMENT FROM THE FIRING LINE"**
Show clear, magazines out, actions open, ECI in place. Authorizes shooters to remove their gear.
- **"POLICE YOUR FIRING POINT"**
Shooters are to pick up their spent ammunition and clean their firing point of all debris.
- **"AS YOU WERE"**
Means to disregard the previous command just given.
- **"CARRY ON"**
Means to proceed with whatever was being done before the interruption occurred.
- **"REMOVE PROTECTIVE GEAR"**
Shooters may remove protective gear.
- **"MOVE BACK BEHIND THE READY LINE/STEP BACK"**
Means to move behind the ready line and wait for further instructions from the RSO.

Firearms Carry & Handling/Transport

1. Firearms should remain in a bag or case when transporting them between the parking lot, and range.
2. Once you have reached your firing position; uncase the firearm with the muzzle pointing downrange ensuring the action is open, only take magazines and ammunition out of the case for the firearm to be shot.
3. When you have completed firing you must clear all firearms and stow them properly in their cases prior to exiting the shooting booth and range area. Those who are carrying a concealed firearm must keep it holstered and concealed.

DO NOT UNHOLSTER YOUR FIREARM FOR ANY REASON UNLESS INSTRUCTED BY AN RSO.

Cease Fire Procedure

1. When a verbal "Cease Fire" is called all shooting must stop immediately. Place firearm on bench/table and step back. **When directed** by the RSO, unload firearm ensuring the chamber is empty and remove magazines.
2. Fix actions open and insert Empty Chamber Indicator.
3. Place firearms on the bench with muzzles pointed downrange, or in a proper rack with muzzles pointing up.
4. Before anyone moves downrange, all persons must move behind the firing line and acknowledge the cease fire verbally or visually to the RSO.
5. Absolutely **no firearm handling** during a cease fire.
6. Anyone handling a firearm during a cease fire or carelessly sweeping people on a Hot Range should be reported to the RSO.
7. **AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:**
 1. **Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
 2. **Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
 3. **Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Children On the Range

Rules to follow regarding children under the age of 18 years old in TCSA facilities.

1. Children under the age of 18 will not be allowed on the firing ranges without one-on-one supervision from an adult member, parent, or guardian.
2. Adults in charge of watching each child will not be allowed to shoot.
3. Young Children must be positively controlled at all times.

4. All children must be fitted with eye and ear protection while visiting the ranges. Earmuffs, ear plugs and safety eyewear are available in the clubhouse.

First Aid Procedures

If you must call 911, the TCSA address is 1141 Carmichael Road, Owego, NY. You may need to ensure the gate is open for First Responders. (County EMS has gate codes and should be able to access the property).

Keep in mind that if a shooting injury is mentioned the police may respond as if there is criminal activity. This may delay medical help.

All personnel rendering first aid should be aware that all blood and bodily fluids must be treated as potentially infectious.

Government guidelines can be found at www.OSHA.gov, search for OSHA Occupational Exposure to Blood borne Pathogens.

Hygiene Guidelines

All users of the TCSA facilities are strongly encouraged to follow these guidelines to ensure minimal exposure to lead particulate.

1. Refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, applying makeup, or otherwise placing hands in proximity to the mouth or nose while on the range or cleaning a firearm.
2. Wash your hands and face with soap and cold water after leaving the range or cleaning area before eating, or drinking.
3. Change and wash clothing after a shooting or gun cleaning session to minimize exposure to airborne particulate lead or solvent and cleaning product residues.
4. When shooting indoors consider wearing a mask that will filter lead and powder smoke.

NOTE: NRA Rule Books for many of the following disciplines can be found at:
<https://competitions.nra.org/competition-resources/rule-books/>

Chapter 1 Bullseye Pistol

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use**

Short Description: Bullseye pistol is an accuracy shooting competition, traditionally fired in three stages, Slow, Timed, and Rapid Fire. Slow fire is 10 rounds fired in 10 minutes or less. Timed fire is 10 rounds fired in two five-shot strings at 20 seconds per string. Rapid fire is 10 rounds fired in two five-shot strings at 10 seconds per string. Conventional “bullseye” pistol is fired from the standing position using one hand. Turning targets at 50 feet are utilized for the matches.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- Any safe rimfire, centerfire revolver or semi-automatic pistol may be used.

Special Safety Rules:

- NRA Pistol Rules will apply, except where specific exceptions are made.
- Metallic, telescopic, or electronic sights are permitted, with the exception of any sight that projects an image onto the target.
- Participants are not allowed to remove their firearms from their gun boxes/bags until given the command to do so. Unloaded firearms, with actions open magazines out, and chamber flags (ECI) in place, are required any time a person goes down range to set/change targets. The RSO will inspect each shooting point to verify compliance before anyone is allowed down range.

Chapter 2 Sporter Rifle

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: NYS Sporter rifle is a postal target competition using .22 caliber Rimfire rifles. The shooting position is off-hand standing with the target at 50 feet. A match consists of three (3) completed targets with 10 shots per target. Shooters are given 10 minutes to complete each target. The target used is the NRA Official 50 ft. Light Rifle Target A-32. The maximum score per target is 100. A perfect match score is 300.

League and all matches are conducted in accordance with N.Y.S. Sporter rifle Inc.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- .22 caliber rimfire rifles.
- There is a maximum weight limit on scope/gun of **7.5 pounds**.
- Slings or other devices that provide artificial support are not allowed.

Special Safety Rules:

- The minimum age to participate is 12 years of age
- Single round loading only.
- Participants are allowed to remove their firearms from their gun boxes/bags and place them on the shooting position with chamber flags (ECI) in place before the start of the match. ECI's are required any time a person goes down range to set/change targets. The RSO will inspect each shooting point to verify compliance before anyone is allowed down range.

Chapter 3 Five Stand

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: 5-stand has similarities with trap, skeet, and sporting clays. 5-stand tends to be more action-packed than trap, has more crossing/flying patterns than skeet, and is faster than sporting clays. As with sporting clays, no two 5-stand venues are the same. A typical round includes 5 windows with each window consisting of a single clay target (2 shots may be taken), a report pair and a true pair. Each shooter takes a turn shooting the single target followed by each shooter in succession attempting to break the report pair and then continuing the pattern for the true pair.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- Shotgun – 12 gauge shotgun or smaller – any type, as long as it fires at least two (2) shells.
- Ammunition – 25-30 shells 7 ½ shot or smaller (8, 8.5, 9) target loads, same gauge as your gun.
- A shell holder you wear to carry your ammo as you move between stands.

Special Safety Rules:

- Actions open until it's your turn to shoot and while changing windows.
- Firearm may only be loaded while the muzzle is out of the window and pointing downrange.
- If there is a live round in your firearm after hitting the single target, the muzzle must remain outside the window until either the round is removed or another round is loaded and the next pair is shot.
- If trap maintenance is required during a round, all firearms are to be unloaded and actions are to be open.
- It is acceptable to rest the muzzle on one's toe while waiting to shoot. While doing this the action shall be open and the chamber(s) shall be empty.
- Muzzle control is key whenever inside the 5-stand building, as there is limited space to maneuver.
- Eye and Ear protection is required for everyone, including spectators.

Chapter 4 Trap

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: Trapshooting is a specific form of clay target shooting. Trapshooting is a game of movement, action and split-second timing. It requires the accuracy and skill to repeatedly aim, fire and break the 4 ¼ inch disc which are hurled through the air at a speed of 42mph, simulating the flight path of a bird fleeing a hunter. Trap at TCSA traditionally follows the rules of the Amateur Trapshooting Association. A round of Trap consists of 25 clay targets and shots, five from each of five positions.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

No shot size larger than 7 ½, and no more than 1 ⅛ oz shot.

Target loads only—No field loads.

Trap is generally shot with a 12 or 20 ga shotgun but any gauge is ok.

Special Safety Rules:

- Actions open and firearm unloaded until it's your turn to shoot.
- Load only the number of rounds required at that station.
- Be quiet and courteous during the round. Trap is a game of rhythm and concentration.
- Even out on the line, all guns must be unloaded whenever changing posts or any time shoot personnel are headed to or from a trap house.
- With a break action shotgun, it is acceptable to rest the muzzle on one's toe while waiting to shoot. Chambers must be empty.
- Eye and Ear protection is required for everyone, including spectators.

Chapter 5 Skeet

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: A round of skeet consists of 25 clay targets, with 17 shot as singles and 8 as doubles. The first miss is repeated immediately and is called an option. If no targets are missed during the round, the last or 25th target is shot at the last station, low house 8. The shooting sequence is as follows:

- Stations 1 and 2: High house single; Low house single; High house/Low house pair
- Stations 3, 4, and 5: High house single; Low house single
- Stations 6 and 7: High house single; Low house single; Low house/High house pair
- Station 8: High house single; Low house single

Skeet is shot in squads of up to five shooters. They move from station to station around the half-moon, ending up in the center, at the end of the round.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- Any gauge shotgun may be used, of any type, as long as it can fire at least two shots.
- The preferred shot size is #9, but nothing larger than 7-1/2 can be used at TCSA.
- Target loads only—No field loads.

Special Safety Rules:

- Do NOT load until it is your turn.
- Hands off your shells until you are standing on the concrete pad.
- You can load one or two shells for high and low house singles, or just load one at a time.
- On Station 8, you load only one shell.
- With a break action shotgun, it is acceptable to rest the muzzle on one's toe while waiting to shoot. Chambers must be empty.
- Eye and Ear protection is required for everyone, including spectators.

Chapter 6 Cowboy Action

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: Cowboy Action Shooting in accordance with Single Action Shooting Society rules and procedures. The object is to engage all targets in the designated sequence, with no misses, in a short amount of time. Targets are generally steel plates or clay targets. Shooters generally fire five or more stages, which constitute a Match. In each stage shooters engage designated targets in a specific sequence, and may be advancing from firing position to firing position.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- Three gun competitions include two Single Action revolvers, a rifle and a shotgun.
- Generally calibers range from .32 to .45, although .22 LR may be used. Muzzleloading (black powder) firearms may be used.
- All loading is done at the designated loading table.
- All firearms must be unloaded/cleared at the designated unloading table.
- Shooters are accompanied by a Timer Operator who records time and looks for compliance with all safety and SASS rules.

Special Safety Rules:

- All matches are In Accordance With SASS rules.
- Muzzles up.
- No one may break the 170 degree rule (85 deg. Left, right [170 deg] and in elevation)
- Shooting over any berm with a pistol or rifle is a Match Disqualification.
- The firing line is dynamic, stage briefings will clarify shooting positions.
- No loaded guns anywhere except the loading table and the firing line.
- Revolvers are loaded with five (5) rounds each, hammer resting on an empty chamber.
- Once revolvers are loaded and holstered, you must stay within arm's reach of the loading table until called to the firing line.
- Rifles are loaded with the required number of rounds, chamber closed and empty, and hammer down.
- After the course of fire, you must proceed directly to the unloading table to unload all firearms and have them verified as unloaded.

Chapter 7 Rimfire Challenge

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Handgun and rifle must remain cased until directed by the RSO (Range Safety Officer) to unpack and handle the firearm.**
- 4. Always keep the gun unloaded until directed by the RSO to load and make ready.**

Short Description: Shooters will compete using a rifle and handgun from any manufacturer chambered in .22 Long Rifle caliber. This is a timed event where a shot timer is used to keep time. Scores are recorded on a Practiscore tablet. Under the direction of the RSO, the shooter will approach the shooting position in front of a table. They will place both their handgun and rifle in their cases on the table. All magazines have been preloaded. The RSO at their discretion may have all shooters shoot one firearm at a time, then the second as a group later. At this time the shooter will follow all the RSO commands.

- The RSO will direct the shooter to unpack and handle the firearm to be used.
- The RSO will state you may take a sight picture if desired.
- RSO will command shooter to load and make ready.
- When the shooter indicates ready and is pointing the firearm at the ready position reference cone.
- The RSO will indicate standby and will activate the shot timer which will activate a buzzer indicating start fire.
- When shooting is complete the RSO will command show clear and case it.

The range director will develop a 5 stage COF (course of fire) and publish it prior to the match. The match is held using 5 pistol pits. Each stage consists of 5 to 7 static steel targets that are no smaller than 8" in size. The competitor will shoot 3-5 strings with one plate being designated as the stop plate. The 2 lowest-scored strings will be totaled as your score. A competitor can compete in Open (any optic) and/or Limited (iron sights) Divisions. Shooters register for the match using Practiscore.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- .22 LR Rifle and Handgun
- It is recommended to use semi auto rifles vs lever action or bolt action rifles to be competitive in this rapid target transition timed event.

Special Safety Rules:

- Current Rimfire Challenge Shooting Association (RCSA) Rules are in effect.
- You may not leave the shooting position until firearms are unloaded and verified safe and cased.

All steel targets shall be placed no less than 7 yards from the shooting position.

Chapter 8 Action Pistol

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: TCSA Action Pistol is open to all individuals who are interested in “Action” courses of fire, which combine speed and accuracy while shooting at multiple targets of steel and cardboard/ paper. TCSA Action Pistol is a dynamic discipline within the “Action Pistol” shooting sports. It is a combination of speed and accuracy, weighing more on the accuracy aspect, with speed still playing a major factor in your ability to put up a good score.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- Semiautomatic handguns, Revolvers and Pistol Caliber Carbines (PCC) are permitted.
- Holsters and magazine/speed loader carriers are required.
- Extra magazines/speed loaders are required.

Special Safety Rules:

- There is a cold range policy for TCSA Action Pistol, meaning no loaded pistols may be carried during the match.
- The holster must be capable of securely retaining the pistol.
- When not in use, PCC must be cased or carted with an empty chamber indicator in place (ECI).
- Steel Targets must be engaged from 10 yards or more.
- Firearms can only be handled in the safety area/at the safety table. No ammunition or magazines may be handled in the safety area.
- Loading of magazines may be done outside the safety area. Loading of the firearm will only be done under the direction of the safety officer at the start of a Course of Fire (CoF). Safety rules followed in both USPSA and IDPA are followed at TCSA Action Pistol matches.

ACTION PISTOL MATCH SET-UP AND REGISTRATION: Tioga County Sportsmen Association (TCSA) Action Pistol Matches take place on the fourth Saturday of the month, April through October weather permitting. There is no match held in August. There is a page at the TCSA website giving an overview of the action pistol match, needed equipment and divisions. Setup for the match occurs on the Friday before the match starting at 10 am.

Participants are required to register for the match via Practiscore. An account will be needed for this which requires a user ID and password.

SQUADDING AND SCORING: New, first-time shooters will be required to attend a safety orientation prior to the match. Check-in for the match begins at 9 am and closes at 9:45 am on Saturday morning. At this time a shooter briefing will be given. Prior to this, safety officers (SOs) will be assigned to the squads. Scoring for TCSA Action Pistol follows IDPA scoring; raw score plus points down and penalties. IDPA cardboard targets are used in the matches with some steel.

DISQUALIFICATION: The following actions will result in match disqualification (DQ):

1. Unsafe gun handling.
2. Not following the safety officer's instructions/commands.
3. Repeatedly placing the finger on the trigger during loading, unloading, reloading during the course of fire (CoF) and when moving from one shooting position to another.
4. A negligent discharge. The gun fires when the shooter didn't intend for the gun to fire. This includes when loading, holstering or unloading the firearm.
5. Discharging the firearm and the round passes over the berm.
6. The muzzle of the shooter's gun breaks the 180 degree plane to the target.
7. Shooting any stage prop.
8. Dropping a loaded or unloaded firearm.
9. Drawing the gun while facing up range.

SHOOTING THE MATCH: After the shooter briefing the squads will proceed to their assigned stage to begin the match. The SO or score keeper will read the stage description to the squad. Shooters in the squad will have an opportunity to ask questions. The score keeper will read the shooting order to the squad so as to avoid any unnecessary delays due to confusion. The shooters are expected to be ready when their name is called. When the shooter completes the CoF and has cleared and holstered his or her pistol, the SO will move forward to score targets. Except for the shooter on deck or the shooter who just shot the stage, all others in the squad are expected to paste cardboard targets and reset steel once scoring is completed. When all shooters in the squad have shot the stage, the squad will move onto the next stage.

ADDITIONAL RANGE COMMANDS:

1. Make Ready- When the shooter has proper eye and hearing protection, the SO will issue the Make Ready command. The shooter will prepare the firearm and magazines to match the required start position for the stage given in the stage description. Typically, this is to load the firearm and holster. After loading the firearm, holstering will be performed by the shooter while standing with the proper care to insure the firearm is free of anything inside the trigger guard and the muzzle is oriented away from the shooters body for safety. Additional options may include non-typical loading or staging of equipment. The shooter will then assume the starting position necessary for the stage.

- 2. Are You Ready?-** After “Make Ready,” the SO will ask the shooter “Are You Ready?” If ready, the shooter should respond verbally, or by obvious nodding of the head, but may also choose to stand ready. If there is no response from the shooter in approximately 3 seconds, the shooter is considered to be ready. If the shooter is not ready when this question is asked the shooter must respond “Not Ready”.
 - 3. Standby-** This command is given after the shooter is ready. This command will be followed by the start signal within 1-4 seconds. The shooter may not move or change positions between the “Standby” command and the start signal, unless required to do so by the CoF.
 - 4. Finger-** This command is given when the shooter’s finger is not obviously and visibly outside the trigger guard when it should be. The shooter is not required to hear or acknowledge the command prior to scoring.
 - 5. Muzzle-** This command is given as a warning when the muzzle of the shooter’s firearm is about to cross the 180 degree plane. The shooter must correct the errant muzzle and continue with the stage.
 - 6. Stop-** This command is given when something unsafe has happened or is about to happen during a stage, or when something in the stage is not correct. The shooter must immediately stop all movement, place the trigger finger obviously and visibly outside the trigger guard, and await further instruction. Failure to immediately stop and remove the trigger finger from within the trigger guard will result in Disqualification from the match.
 - 7. Unload and Show Clear-** This command will be issued when the shooter has apparently finished shooting the stage. If the shooter is finished, all ammunition will be removed from the firearm and a clear chamber/cylinder will be shown to the SO. If the shooter is not finished, the shooter should finish the stage and the command will be repeated.
 - 8. Slide Forward or Close Cylinder-** Once the SO has inspected the chamber/cylinder and found it to be clear, this command will be issued, and the shooter will comply.
 - 9. Pull the Trigger-** The shooter will point the firearm at a safe berm and pull the trigger to further verify that the chamber is clear. If the firearm fires, the shooter will be disqualified from the match. This requirement also applies to firearms with a de-cocker or magazine disconnect. For firearms with a magazine disconnect, an empty magazine, or dummy magazine must be inserted before the trigger is pulled, and then removed again. This command is not needed for revolvers.
 - 10. Holster-** The shooter will safely holster the firearm.
 - 11. Range is Clear-** This command indicates to everyone within the stage boundaries that the range is clear. This command ends the CoF and begins the scoring and resetting of the stage.
- SCORES:** Shooters may view their score and standing in the match on Practiscore. **GENERAL MAINTENANCE:** The Match Director (MD) should make every effort to ensure that all items used in an action pistol match are in good condition and safe as used. This includes permanent fixtures in the shooting bay, the bays themselves, berms, props, static and moving targets, target holders, doors, walls, barrels, tables, reactive targets, etc

Chapter 9 IDPA

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) courses of fire fall into two categories: Self-defense scenarios or Standard exercises. The self-defense scenarios are simulations of actual or possible real-world confrontations. These scenarios typically require shots from 3 – 20 yards and often require the shooter to change firing points and shoot from awkward positions. Standard exercises do not attempt to simulate a potential threat situation but are designed to test specific shooting and gun handling skills. IDPA matches offer diversity and truly test both accuracy and speed.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- There are multiple Handgun and Pistol Caliber Carbine divisions. Each has its own allowable firearms, modifications, and limitations.

Special Safety Rules:

- Current IDPA Rulebook Rules and procedures are in effect.

Chapter 10 High Power Service Rifle

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: High Power Service Rifle competition (NRA/CMP) generally consists of shooting four legs:

1. Slow fire standing or offhand shot loading one round at a time.
2. Rapid fire sitting shot as a string of 10 shots in a time limit of 60 seconds with one magazine change.
3. Rapid fire prone shot as a string of 10 shots in a time limit of 70 seconds with a magazine change.
4. Slow fire prone shot loading one round at a time.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- Any past or present military rifle.
- You can shoot your favorite woodchuck/deer rifle, provided it is able to function safely.
- Maximum caliber is .35.

Special Safety Rules:

- Once shooters arrive, they will set up on the firing line.
- Rifle actions open, no magazine inserted, empty chamber indicator inserted.
- Upon Command to Cease Fire, Rifles down, actions open, empty chamber indicators (ECI) inserted.
- Range officer visually verifies all rifles are down, actions open, no magazines inserted, eci inserted, then allows shooters to police brass and/or go forward of the firing line.

Chapter 11 Silhouette

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: Metallic silhouette shooting is a series of shooting disciplines that involves shooting at steel targets representing animals at varying distances, seeking to knock the metal target over. The targets used are rams, turkeys, pigs, and chickens, which are cut to different scales and set at certain distances from the shooter depending on the specific discipline.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- Depending on the match, air pistols, air rifles, .22 caliber rimfire, or Lever action rifles in center fire pistol caliber (NRA Silhouette) may be permitted.

Special Safety Rules:

- Lever action rifles are the firearm of choice for the matches.
- When the rifles are muzzles up in the ready rack or at the firing line with the lever open, it is obvious that the chamber is open and ECIs are not required.

Chapter 12 Outdoor Pistol

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: Directly related to Bullseye Pistol, all courses of fire are from a standing position using a one-handed grip at two different targets depending on the distance and type of match. The slow-fire targets have the 8–10 rings inside the bullseye and the rapid fire targets have only the 9, 10 and X rings inside the black.

Depending on the match format, the competitor may be required to shoot as many as 90 rounds using as many as three different handguns. Each shot scores a maximum of 10 points. Hence, a one-gun competition is often referred to as a "900" whereas a three-gun competition is a "2700". A shorter form is the National Match Course consisting of a single Slow Fire, a Timed and a Rapid Fire target, 30 shots for a maximum score of 300. Single gun competitions using only the rimfire pistol are common, as they provide an inexpensive entry into the sport.

Outdoor competitions are typically fired at 50 yards (46 m) for slow fire courses and 25 yards (23 m) for timed and rapid fire courses. A "short course" shoots only at 25 yards and uses a reduced-size target for the Slow Fire segment.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- Bullseye specifies three classes of pistol; a .22 caliber rimfire, a centerfire handgun of .32 caliber or greater; and a .45 caliber pistol.
- Since the format includes a sustained fire stage, a semi-automatic pistol or revolver with a capacity of at least 5 rounds is needed.
- Any type of sight can be used, except laser sights.

Special Safety Rules:

- Current NRA Precision Pistol rules are in effect.

Chapter 13 NRL 22

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description: The purpose of the National Rifle League (NRL) 22 program is to make tactical rifle shooting more available to shooters who can't regularly shoot at 100+ yards. All it takes to shoot NRL22 is a .22lr rifle and a scope. A DOPE (data on previous engagement) card must be developed prior to the match. This card lists the scope setup required to shoot at specific ranges within 100+ (150) yards. Stages include shooting from barriers such as a 6 ft A frame ladder, cinder blocks, 55-gallon drum, tank trap, tires, folding chair, pyramid, saw horse, 5 gallon bucket, 2 gallon bucket, simulated rooftop, and a tripod. The targets, placed at various ranges, consist of 1 to 6 inch circular steel mounted on target hangers and a KYL (know your limit) rack with swinging targets from 1 to 1/4 inch. The goal of the stages is to keep things as simple as possible while still challenging shooters. Each stage is timed for 2 minutes under the direction of the RSO (Range Safety Officer). Scores are recorded on a Practiscore tablet. Each shooter called, shall follow the directions of the RSO at all times. The RSO shall ensure that the shooter understands the COF and directs load and make ready. When ready the RSO will declare engage and start the timer. When shooter is done or the timer has elapsed, the shooter will cease fire and show empty and insert the ECI. At this point the RSO shall declare the range is safe. The same COF (course of fire) is used every month across the country. The COF consists of 5 stages and is published at the beginning of each month on nrl22.org under downloads. Shooters register for the match using Practiscore. Come shoot, learn, and have fun!

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

- .22 LR rifle and a scope.
- Recommend bolt action rifle to be competitive in this timed high precision event. Semi-auto rifles are allowed.
- The scope must support graduation marked elevation turrets and/or graduation reticle for hold over/under to support rifle setup at various ranges within 100 yards.
- Rifles with removable magazines must be used.
- Rifles with fixed tubular magazines are not allowed as they are more difficult to make safe.

Special Safety Rules:

- Current NRL 22 Rules will be followed. (nrl22.org)
- NRL22 competitions are always cold ranges. All rifles are unloaded, with magazines out, actions open, and ECI (empty chamber indicator) in place pending RSO direction.
- Rifles shall only be loaded, or magazines inserted when directed by the RSO.
- Store rifles in a proper rifle rack, or on a unused rifle bench with barrel pointed down range.

Appendix A, Incident Report

Type of Incident: _____

Date of Incident: _____ Time: _____

Weather conditions: _____

Shooting Event: _____

Name of Injured person: _____

Address: _____

Contact Info: (Phone): _____ Cell phone: _____

Witness's names and phone numbers: _____

Type and Make of firearm (if a shooting injury): _____

What happened? _____

Where did the incident occur? _____

Exactly what body part was injured? _____

Was EMS notified: _____

How could this incident have been prevented? _____

Any other comments you would like to make? _____

Please complete this form so the club officers can review this incident and make any necessary changes if needed to prevent this from happening in the future.

Please call one of the club officers to report incident.

Check website for contact information.: tiogasportsmen.com

Mail completed form to: TCSA, P.O. Box 598, Owego, NY 13827

NOTE: Forms and addressed envelopes are available in the entry kiosk and clubhouse porch. Club phone # 607 687-3168, rings through to club president when clubhouse is unoccupied.

Appendix B, Template

Chapter 1XX Name (Template)

AT ALL TIMES THESE GUN SAFETY RULES MUST BE OBSERVED:

- 1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**
- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
- 3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.**

Short Description:

Firearms, Ammunition, and Limitations:

Special Safety Rules:

This Standard Operating Procedures and Range Rules Manual is adopted by the Tioga County Sportsmen's Association Board of Directors this day, effective immediately 07/02/2024 :

Mark Mancini

J. E. Boh

Bob Camp

Gregg R. Boh