

# Firearms Safety Instructions Relating to Torfaen Smallbore Rifle Club

## **I. The Fundamentals of Firearm Safety**

### **The three basic general rules of safe gun handling.**

1. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction; never point a firearm at anyone or anything you don't want to shoot.
2. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.
3. Keep the action open and the gun unloaded until you are ready to use it.

## **II. Additional specific rules of safe gun handling**

### **Safety Rules Related to the Shooter and His/Her Behaviour.**

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. Never pass a firearm to another person, or accept a firearm from another person, until the cylinder or action is open and you've personally checked that the weapon is completely unloaded.
3. Before handling any firearm, understand its operation.
4. Never rely on any mechanical device for safety.
5. Think before shooting: once you pull the trigger you can't take back the shot you've just fired!
6. Never joke around or engage in horseplay while handling or using firearms.
7. Be alert at all times; never shoot if you're tired, cold or impaired in any way. Don't mix alcohol or drugs with shooting.
8. Safeguard your sight, hearing and health. Always use ear protection. Endeavour to limit your exposure to heavy metal particulates and gases, and minimize your contact with aromatic organic solvents (such as those commonly used in gun cleaning products).
9. If you see unsafe behaviour any time when firearms are being handled or used, speak up and take action to correct the unsafe behaviour at once.
10. Receive competent instruction from a qualified person before beginning to shoot. If questions arise later, after you've been shooting for a period of time, get answers to those questions from a competent authority.

### **Safety Rules Related to Your Target.**

1. Positively identify your target before firing at it.
2. What's behind your target? Always make sure that a stray shot, or a bullet which penetrates its intended target through and through, will be safely stopped.
3. Never shoot at a hard surface, or at water -- your shot may glance off, ricochet and injure someone.

4. Never shoot a rifle or handgun directly upwards, or at a high angle of elevation. Even a rimfire .22 bullet fired at an angle into the air can have enough energy a mile and a half away to accidentally kill someone!

### **Safety Rules Related to Your Firearm.**

1. Make sure your firearm is in good mechanical condition before firing it.
2. Never try to fire a gun which may have a plugged or partially obstructed barrel.
3. Insure that any modifications made to a firearm are made by a qualified individual, and that those modifications don't interfere with your firearm's safety features.
4. Be sure all accessories, such as hand stops, are compatible with the firearm and won't interfere with its safe operation.
5. It is your responsibility to insure that your firearm is always under your personal control, or positively secured from access by children or other unauthorized parties. Prevent tragedy: lock down your firearms when they aren't in use.
6. When storing a firearm for a long period of time, consider storing the slide, bolt, or other critical components of the firearm separately under separate lock and key.

### **Safety Rules Related to Ammunition.**

1. Be sure your gun and ammunition are compatible. Shooting incorrect ammunition in a firearm may cause it to be damaged or even make it blow up.
2. Use only ammunition recommended for your firearm by its manufacturer. Never fire ammunition which exceeds industry standard pressure specifications. Over-pressure ammunition will reduce the service life of your handgun, and puts you and those around you at risk of a catastrophic firearm failure.
3. Store ammunition that isn't being used under lock and key, inaccessible to unauthorized parties and children.
4. Dispose of unwanted ammunition safely.

### **Miscellaneous Safety Rules.**

1. At a range, obey the commands of the range officers, or any individual calling 'cease fire,' at once. Read, know and follow any rules peculiar to a particular range which you may be using.
2. In the event of a misfire, keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction, remove your finger from the trigger, wait ten seconds, then eject the cartridge and dispose of it properly.
3. If you hear an unusual sound upon squeezing the trigger or feel an unusual recoil, stop shooting and investigate. You may have experienced a "squib" load (or under-powered cartridge), and it may have caused a bore obstruction. Keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction, remove your finger from the trigger, wait ten seconds, then unload the firearm and safely examine the barrel, checking carefully for any possible obstructions before reloading and resuming shooting.
4. Never transport a cased loaded firearm
5. Always carry your firearms in a way which will allow you to control where the muzzle is pointing, should you stumble or fall.
6. Circumstances may require additional safety rules unique to a particular situation.

### **III. Safe Gun Storage.**

When you are not using your firearm, you should insure that it is stored safely. Use of a simplex-type locking box for securing firearms which need to be kept loaded yet available for ready-access defensive use, and

Also note that:

7. Gun security devices which rely solely on physical strength to secure firearms from unauthorized use are generally undesirable since ingenious children can potentially employ leverage or tools to overcome those devices.
8. "Hiding" a firearm won't secure it from discovery and possible misuse by curious children or intruders.
9. Metal gun cabinets or gun safes can be used to safeguard firearms from unauthorized access or theft in many circumstances and metal gun cabinets or gun safes are generally preferable to open racks or glass-front cabinets.
10. Firearms should be stored unloaded and separate from ammunition when the firearm isn't needed.
11. You may want to store critical components of a firearm (such as the gun's bolt or slide) separately from the rest of the firearm when the gun won't be used in the immediate future.