

# **2021 Mesquite Shooters Pistol Club Member Handbook**

We are an NRA (www.nra.org) Affiliated Club. Our primary emphasis is practicing safe, responsible gun handling. Because we are an “ACTION” pistol club, our activities and procedures may be different than other range experiences you may have had. We are not shooting certified National matches and may not follow the exact protocols of any Association or other range. When shooting with our Club, observe and adhere to our club procedures. Strict compliance with our safety standards is mandatory.

## **NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAFETY HERE ARE THE RULES**

### **We Operate A Cold Range Which Begins At The Chain Link Gate**

- 1. FIREARMS WILL ONLY BE HANDLED AT THE SAFE TABLE OR UNDER DIRECT RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO) SUPERVISION**
- 2. No loaded guns except under the direct supervision of a Range Safety Officer (RSO)**
- 3. Eye protection, ear protection and a brimmed hat are required for everyone**

### **The 4 Universal Rules of Gun Safety**

- 1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded**
- 2. Never point a gun at something you are not prepared to destroy**
- 3. Always be sure of your target and what is behind it**
- 4. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target**

### **Safe Table Procedures**

**Guns will be carried to and from your vehicle in a closed case, zipped bag or holster which covers the trigger.** Before beginning each club event, each gun will be cleared at the SAFE TABLE:

- 1. Stay on the up range side of the table pointing the gun away from range activities.**
- 2. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction confirming there is no magazine in the gun and the chamber is empty. Revolvers will be checked to confirm the cylinder is empty.**

3. The cleared gun will be carried in a closed case, zipped bag or holster when leaving the safe table. The closed case or zipped bag will contain nothing but the unloaded gun and will remain closed except at the firing line under the RSO supervision or at the safe table.
4. When done shooting for the day, return to the safe table, clear the gun again and secure before departing; **OR**, secure your gun under RSO supervision at your final stage.

**Be prepared before approaching the SAFE TABLE.** Have your holster on (if using one) so you can open your case/bag at the table, clear the gun and put it in your holster. You may practice your draw briefly at the safe table to confirm proper function/fit of the holster. Keep conversation to a minimum to avoid distractions. Stay focused on safety. You may use the table during the event to work on your gun or holster or to show the gun/holster to another member but please keep your time at the table as brief as necessary.

**No ammunition will be handled at the Safe Table.** Don't even place it on the table. It may be in a closed bag, your pockets or in magazines or speed loaders on your belt.

**Range Safety Officers** oversee all range operations. They are identified by a red name tag and/or a red hat or hat band. Any questions about safety or general range procedures should be directed to them. When on the firing line with an RSO, give them your full attention. Wait for their instructions and comply. Remember they are human and can make mistakes. If any procedure or instruction isn't clear to you or seems to conflict with a safety rule, simply stop and ask for clarification while keeping your finger off the trigger and your muzzle pointed safely down range. **When you are on the firing line, everything moves at YOUR SAFE PACE.** Don't feel rushed and don't hesitate to ask the RSO to slow down, or provide assistance/clarification if necessary to proceed safely.

**ANYONE CAN YELL CEASE FIRE/STOP IF YOU SEE AN UNSAFE SITUATION**

When it is your turn to shoot, be waiting at the firing line when the RSO returns from scoring the previous shooter. The RSO will ensure everyone is safely behind the firing line and declare "THE RANGE (OR LINE) IS HOT." At that point he or she will direct their attention to you. Wait for the following instructions & comply.

**Do you have any questions?** Ask the RSO for clarification if anything is unclear. Explain what you believe is the correct sequence for the stage if you like.

**Load and make ready.** You may now remove the gun from the case, bag or holster and load the weapon keeping it pointed safely down range. Be sure to chamber a round. If you are using a holster and the stage description requires it, carefully holster the weapon, SAFETY ON. If you are not using a holster, assume the “low ready” position with the gun pointed at the orange safety cone, or at a point on the ground about 12 feet ahead of your position. Check your stance, take your gun off safety.

**Are you ready?** If you are prepared to begin say, “Ready,” nod your head or both.

**Stand by.** The RSO will then wait 1-4 seconds before activating the buzzer which is your signal to begin the stage. At the buzzer, draw your weapon or point from “Low Ready” and engage the targets as prescribed by the stage scenario. Keep the gun pointed safely down range when finished. The shooter may request permission from the RSO to safely fire an extra round or rounds before clearing the gun to clear a chambered round or perform a function check.

**Unload and show clear.** The shooter may initiate these actions at the end of the stage or wait for RSO instructions. Remove your magazine, place it in a pocket or pouch then lock or hold the slide to the rear (revolvers – eject all rounds, leave cylinder open). Inspect the chamber/cylinder, then show the empty chamber/cylinder to the RSO.

**Slide forward, pull the trigger, safety on.** Release the slide & dry fire the gun (except 22s) keeping muzzle pointed safely down range, engage safety. Revolvers – close cylinder.

**Holster or bag.** Carefully, slowly holster/bag the gun keeping the muzzle pointed down range and safely away from your body during the process. Keep your support hand away from the holster as you reinsert the gun and be careful not to catch the trigger on any loose clothing or retention devices if present.

**The line is safe (or clear).** The RSO is satisfied your gun is secure and it is safe to move down range past the firing line. Accompany the RSO and scorekeeper forward to score the targets. If you question the score at any target, ask for clarification immediately. Protest politely if you think a mistake was made.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS AN RSO CAN GIVE YOU**

**Stop.** Take your finger off the trigger, immediately stop if moving, keep the gun pointed down range and await RSO instruction. An unsafe condition needs immediate correction.

**Finger.** Remove your finger from the trigger. Place your finger straight ahead on frame at loading/reload/unload or while moving but could happen any time when not on target.

**Muzzle.** Your gun is pointed in an unsafe direction – up, down, to the side. Point immediately down range toward the backstop.

## **General Info and How to get the most out of your range time**

**Equipment.** Keep gun & gear clean/serviceable. Your holster must cover the trigger and be worn on your strong side. Recommend wear on a sturdy belt through the loops on your pants. A double magazine holder on your belt on the opposite side of your holster is also helpful. Electronic hearing protection makes the experience more enjoyable. Look at what others have and ask about their experiences with guns & gear. If you don't use a holster, a zippered/padded gun bag is fine. Two magazines are required. Extras are helpful on some stages. Load magazines with ten rounds unless told otherwise in stage description.

**Range Protocol.** Everyone benefits by efficiency. Cooperate and pitch in to make things move along quickly so we can spend less time standing around and more time shooting. Arrive early to sign in & pay, help set up stages and get your equipment ready/magazines loaded. Have your gun cleared & holstered or bagged. Be ready on the hour for notices and the safety briefing during which there will be no conversation or distracting activity.

When you are with your squad, pay attention to the shooting order to know when you should be on the line, ready to shoot. The scorekeeper will announce who is the Shooter, who is On Deck and who is In The Hole. When you are the next shooter (On Deck) do not go down range. When the shooter ahead of you moves down range for scoring, move to the firing line and have your ammunition ready on your belt or the barrel. Place your **CLOSED** gun bag (if you use one) on the barrel so you are in position when the RSO returns from scoring. After you shoot, accompany the RSO to score your targets.

After scoring, go back to the table and reload your magazines if you have other stages to shoot. When you are not the shooter or on deck, pitch in to help tape or paint targets or pick up brass. When the firing line is hot, observe from behind the black spool to allow free movement of the shooter, RSO & score keeper. Keep voices low and move back to the tables for conversations to minimize distractions to the shooter & RSO.

If you are unsure about a stage, feel free to have the scorekeeper move you down in the lineup so you may observe other shooters. Also, if you need to leave early, ask the scorekeeper to move your score sheet up in the lineup.

Keep the range atmosphere casual and fun within the constraints of safety. Feel free to make good natured comments to the shooters and accept their comments gracefully.

Our sport is serious but we should enjoy our time together. It is club policy to avoid political, religious or offensive language during our events. Confrontational or abusive language or behavior to any member at the range will not be tolerated. This extends to clothing as well as conversation. We do not allow camouflage (military or hunting) clothing or hats. We want to protect our image as a family friendly club and not give a casual observer, member of the press or prospective member the impression we have any resemblance to any militia-type organization.

We strongly encourage each member to wear their name tag and have Medical Condition/Medication List and Emergency Contact information available at the range. Suggested methods are to have that info as an insert to your club name tag and/or on a tag displayed on your shooting bag.

Finally, a Range Safety Officer (RSO) or Club Officer can disqualify any member or guest from participation based on safety or behavior considerations. Anyone acting in an unsafe manner or causing a disruption may be asked to clear and secure their weapon for the remainder of the event or leave the range for that day or permanently depending on the behavior.

Reasons for disqualification can be subjective but automatic disqualification is required under the following circumstances:

- Dropping a loaded firearm at any time
- Dropping an unloaded firearm during the timed scenario up to gun being cleared
- Discharging a firearm (1) inside the holster, (2) striking up range of the shooter or (3) into the ground down range closer to the shooter than two yards unless engaging a target within two yards.