

## **2022 Mesquite Shooters Pistol Club Rules**

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. 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 entry to each of our bays.

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.
3. Eye protection and ear protection 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 on our ranges unloaded in a closed case, zipped bag or approved holster. Before beginning each club event, each gun will be cleared at the SAFE TABLE:

1. Point the gun towards the near berm, away from range activities.
2. Confirm 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 case or bag will contain nothing but the unloaded gun and will remain closed except at the firing line under 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. Avoid distractions. 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 brief.

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.

RSOs oversee all range operations. They are identified by a red name tag, a red hat or red hat band. Any questions about safety or general range procedures should be directed to them. On the firing line give them your full attention. Wait for their instructions and comply. 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. 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 to proceed safely.

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

When it is your turn to shoot, wait at the firing line for the RSO to return from scoring the previous shooter. The RSO will ensure everyone is safely behind the firing line and declare "RANGE IS HOT." At that point, he or she will direct their attention to you and ask if you have any questions. Ask for clarification if anything is unclear.

The RSO will give the following commands:

**MAKE READY.** Remove the gun from the case, bag or holster and load the weapon keeping it pointed safely down range. Holster the weapon, SAFETY ON. If you are not using a holster, assume the "low ready" position with the gun on SAFE pointing to the ground about 12 feet ahead of your position.

**ARE YOU READY?** Tell the RSO if you are not ready.

**STAND BY.** The RSO will wait 1-4 seconds before activating the buzzer which is your signal to begin the stage.

**START SIGNAL** is the buzzer. Draw your weapon or point from "Low Ready." Disengage the SAFETY and engage the targets as prescribed by the stage scenario. Keep the gun pointed safely down range when finished.

**UNLOAD AND SHOW CLEAR.** The shooter may initiate these actions at the end of the stage or wait for RSO instructions. Remove the 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.

**IF CLEAR, HAMMER DOWN, HOLSTER** or **IF CLEAR, CYLINDER CLOSED, HOLSTER.** Self loaders release the slide and pull the trigger (except 22s). Engage the SAFETY. Revolvers, close cylinder. Holster or bag the gun.

**RANGE IS CLEAR.** The course of fire has ended. It is safe to move down range.

#### 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 instruction. An unsafe condition needs immediate correction.

**FINGER.** Remove your finger from the trigger. Place your finger outside the trigger guard. Always keep your finger outside the trigger guard during loading/reload/unload or while moving.

**MUZZLE.** Your gun is pointed in an unsafe direction. Point immediately down range toward the backstop.

If you drop ANYTHING while you have a gun in your hand, Do Not Pick It Up. If it is a magazine you need for the stage, just STOP and await instructions from the RSO. If you can continue without the dropped item, simply proceed with the stage.

Equipment Information.

Your holster must cover the trigger and be worn on your strong side in a secure manner. Wear on a sturdy belt through the loops on your pants or secure a gun belt to a belt on your pants with at least 2 keepers (one on either side of the holster). A velcro style belt may also be used. Belt/holster equipment is subject to approval by an RSO or Club Officer. The holster must secure the gun during shooter movement either by holding the gun securely by friction or with a retention device. A retention device must be used if present on the holster. The holster must completely prevent access to the trigger while the gun is holstered. The heel of the butt of the gun must not be below the gun belt when holstered. NO SERPA or button release holsters are allowed even if modified to deactivate the button. Magazine holders and speed loaders may also be worn on your belt. Those who wish to use a cover garment to practice concealed carry technique may do so with RSO approval.

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.

We do not allow offensive or objectionable clothing, camouflage (military or hunting) clothing or hats. Club Officers have final authority.

Finally, an 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.

Firing over a protective berm.