

LRC Practical Weapons Match Safety Briefing

The Four Rules.

1. Always treat all guns as loaded.
2. Never point your gun at something that you are not prepared to destroy.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard until your sights are on the target.
4. Always be sure of your target and what lies beyond it.

Cold Range. All firearms will remain unloaded at the match site except when directed by a match official.

Eye and Hearing Protection. Eye protection is mandatory for participants, spectators, and range personnel at the match site. Hearing protection is mandatory for participants, spectators, and range personnel while on or near a shooting bay.

Use of Alcohol or Drugs. Participants or spectators may not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the match site.

Safe Areas. Designated areas are provided for the safe handling of uncased, unholstered, and unloaded firearms. No ammunition is allowed in these areas at any time.

Handling Firearms Before the Match.

1. Take your cased firearms to one of the designated Safe Areas.
2. Remove your firearms from their cases and check to ensure they are unloaded.
3. Holster your unloaded handgun.
4. Place chamber flags in your long guns.
5. Carry your long guns muzzle-up to your first shooting bay and place them in one of the racks provided, OR
6. If you use a cart, place your long guns in the cart.

Handling Firearms During the Match.

1. Uncased firearms may only be handled in a designated Safe Area or on the firing line under the direction of a match official.
2. Elsewhere, handguns must remain holstered with the magazine removed and the hammer/striker down.
3. When moving from one shooting bay to another, long guns must be carried muzzle-up with chamber flags inserted.
4. Alternatively, long guns may be transported in a cart with chamber flags inserted.

Handling Firearms After the Match. At the conclusion of the match, competitors must take their firearms to a designated Safe Area, verify that they are unloaded, and place them in their cases.

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The “180 Rule.” Competitors must keep the muzzle of their firearm pointed downrange in a safe direction at all times. A “safe direction” is defined by an imaginary plane extending 180 degrees in all directions (left, right, up, and down) in front of the competitor as he is facing directly downrange. The competitor must not “break the 180” at any time during the course of fire.

Negligent Discharges. Any shot fired in an unsafe direction or at an unsafe time is not allowed. A round striking the ground within two meters of the competitor is generally considered unsafe.

Loss of Control Over Firearm. Dropping or losing control of a loaded firearm is a serious safety violation. If this occurs, the competitor should not pick up the firearm until instructed to do so by a match official.

Disqualification. A competitor will be automatically disqualified from the match if he violates the 180 rule, has a negligent discharge, or loses control over a firearm. At the discretion of the Match Director, a competitor may also be disqualified from the match if he repeatedly engages in any other unsafe or unsportsmanlike behavior.