

# **Sheridan County Sportsmen's Association**

## **Forward Shooting Standard Operating Procedure**

### **General Use Rifle and Pistol Ranges Version**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is intended to cover all non-general-use activities at the General Use Rifle and Pistol Ranges. Non-general-use activities include all Match, Multi-Gun, Action Pistol, Training, Steel Challenge, and other activities authorized by the SCSA Rifle Director. Shooting forward of the normal firing lines (Forward Shooting) during non-general-use activities must be conducted in accordance with this SOP.

An SCSA Range Safety Officer (RSO), having authorization from the Rifle Director or their authorized representative, must be present and in charge whenever Forward Shooting for non-general-use activities is conducted at the General Use Rifle and Pistol Ranges.

- ❖ The NRA Basic Gun Safety Rules must be followed at all times.
  - Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
  - Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
  - Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
  
- ❖ SCSA will follow the Safety & Range Rules outlined in this forward shooting SOP, the General Use Rifle and Pistol Ranges SOP, activity rules developed by the Rifle Director or their authorized representative, and during USPSA events: the USPSA Handgun/Multi Gun/Steel Challenge Shooting Rules. Any individual serving as SCSA RSO for these events, must be familiar with the General Use Rifle and Pistol Ranges SOP and all supporting rules. A copy of these rules will be present during all events where shooting is conducted downrange from the normal firing line. USPSA Handgun/Multi Gun/Steel Challenge Shooting Rules can be found at:
  - <https://uspsa.org/rules>
  - [https://uspsa.org/viewer/2022\\_USPSA\\_Rifle\\_Shotgun\\_Multigun\\_Rulebook.pdf](https://uspsa.org/viewer/2022_USPSA_Rifle_Shotgun_Multigun_Rulebook.pdf)
  - [https://uspsa.org/viewer/SCSA\\_Rulebook.pdf](https://uspsa.org/viewer/SCSA_Rulebook.pdf)
  
- ❖ Eye and hearing protection must be worn by all shooters and any other persons present at the range when the range is hot unless they are within a closed vehicle (windows and doors closed).
  
- ❖ Forward Shooting for non-general-use activities at the General Use Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be run under Cold or Hot Range Rules as activities or matches require at the discretion of the Rifle Director or their authorized representative.
  - Under Cold Range Rules, firearms must be brought to a range unloaded (Cold).
    - Firearms arriving at a range controlled by Cold Range/Forward Shooting Rules must be unloaded and in a case (soft or hard sided).
    - If firearms to be used under Cold Range/Forward Shooting Rules are transported to SCSA loaded, the shooter must present themselves to the Rifle Director or the RSO in charge of the activity, so that they may be escorted to an area where the firearm can be safely unloaded.
    - Handguns will be conveyed to and from the Start Position in an unloaded condition and in a case or holster. Long guns will be conveyed to and

- from the Start Position in an unloaded condition and in a case, or carried muzzle up, with a chamber flag installed.
- Under Hot Range Rules, firearms may be brought to a range loaded (Hot).
    - Loaded (Hot) firearms may not be drawn from a holster or removed from a case except under the command of an RSO or RO (Range Officer).
    - Firearms arriving at a range controlled by Hot Range/Forward Shooting Rules in an unloaded (Cold) condition may only be loaded in a designated loading area under the command and supervision of an RSO or RO.
- ❖ A Safety Table and a Long Gun Bagging/Unbagging Table (as needed) will be set up for the range controlled by Forward Shooting Rules.
    - Handgun shooters may transfer their firearm from a case to a holster or vice versa at the Safety Table. All firearms must remain unloaded at the Safety Table and Long Gun Bagging/Unbagging Table.
    - Shooters may work on their firearm at the Safety Table.
    - Shooters may practice their firearm presentation at the Safety Table if the muzzle is pointed directly toward the berm.
    - No handling of ammunition at the Safety Table.
      - Under these rules, the term ammunition will include live ammunition, snap caps, dummy rounds, and spent brass.
    - Any Negligent Discharge at the Safety Table will result in immediate expulsion from the event and range.
  - ❖ Under the direct authorization of the Rifle Director the use of shotguns with shot will be allowed during non-general-use activities at the General Use Rifle and Pistol Ranges. The Rifle Director or their authorized representative must be present at these activities.
  - ❖ Only paper or cardboard targets may be engaged 50 yards or closer with centerfire rifle cartridges. Falling steel targets made from AR 500 Steel or equivalent may be engaged with centerfire rifle cartridges if they are 50 yards and beyond.
  - ❖ The following commands will be used during Forward Shooting Activities.
    - MAKE READY
    - ARE YOU READY?
    - STANDBY
    - STOP
    - BEEP (START SIGNAL)
    - IF YOU ARE FINISHED, UNLOAD AND SHOW CLEAR
    - IF CLEAR, HAMMER DOWN or CLYINDER CLOSED, HOLSTER OR CASED
      - Command will vary depending on the type of firearm.
      - Note - Shooters are not required to drop the hammer on a rimfire pistol or rifle. Rifles and shotguns will be chamber flagged and the bolt closed.
    - RANGE IS CLEAR
      - Once the RSO or RO declares the RANGE IS CLEAR, the shooter can retrieve any items that fell on the ground and leave the Shooting Area. Exception to this rule are matches conducted under USPSA sanction or any other pit activity that the Rifle Director or their authorized representative deems appropriate.

- ❖ Once the range has been declared clear it is safe for people to move downrange to score, paint, or repair targets. Following shooting their course of fire the shooter will transport:
  - Holstered, unloaded, handguns with magazine removed.
  - Cased, unloaded, handguns back to the Safety Table.
  - Cased or uncased, unloaded, flagged, rifles or shotguns back to the Long Gun Bagging/Unbagging Table.
  
- ❖ Holster specific considerations.
  - For the purposes of SCSA, holsters must be approved by the Directors to be suitable and safe for the activity being conducted or meet Match Rules.
  - Holsters must cover the trigger and must safely hold/retain the firearm.
  - No Behind the Back, Serpa, or Shoulder holsters allowed.
  - All shooters using a holster must comply with NRA's procedure for drawing out of a holster. They must have attended an SCSA training session or demonstrate competency to the satisfaction of the Rifle Director or their authorized representative.
  
- ❖ Movement with Loaded Firearms - Specific Considerations.
  - All shooters must have attended an SCSA training session or demonstrate competency to the satisfaction of the Rifle Director or their authorized representative in the proper procedure for moving with a loaded firearm through a course of fire including muzzle control and safe reloads.
  - No movement with a loaded firearm may occur unless the trigger finger is outside the trigger guard unless actively engaging a target.
  
- ❖ Additional Safety Considerations.
  - Sweeping of anyone will result in disqualification.
  - The 180-degree muzzle rule will be strictly enforced.
    - Definition: If at any time during the course of fire a shooter allows the muzzle of their firearm to point rearwards, that is further than 90 degrees from the median intercept of the backstop, or in the case of no backstop, allows the muzzle to point up range, whether the firearm is loaded or not it is a violation of the 180-degree muzzle rule.
  - Loaded firearms should be controlled by the shooter. A firearm can only be placed at the dump table or placed into a dump barrel in the condition set forth in the Stage Description.
    - A dropped firearm can only be picked up by an RSO/RO and if loaded is an automatic disqualification, anywhere on the range, not just on the course of fire.
  - Any firearm placed on a dump table shall have the muzzle pointed in a safe direction as defined by the Stage Description. No shooter shall cross in front of any firearm's muzzle while continuing through the course of fire.
  - Shooters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
  
- ❖ Failure to comply with any of these rules will result in disqualification.
- ❖ First Aid Kit – A first aid kit, including trauma equipment, is located on the inside wall of the outdoor toilet. An AED is in the Clubhouse behind the counter. If any first aid items are used, notify the Range Director so they may be replaced.

- In case of a serious injury, call 911. You will likely have to leave the General Use Rifle and Pistol Ranges to get cell coverage. Make sure someone is designated to meet the ambulance at the gate. If people are available, it is advised to have someone located at the intersection of Soldier Creek Road and Keystone Road to provide directions to the EMS personnel.
- Any serious injuries must be reported immediately to the Rifle Director, Caretaker, or any SCSA Executive Committee member with details of incident date, people involved, and contact information of those involved. An incident report must be written up. Incident report forms are located with the First Aid Kit.