Tidworth Rifle & Pistol Club

www.tidworthrpc.org

PROBATIONERS GUIDE

ISSUED TO: .....

DATE: .....

COMPLETED.....

SECTION 1: HANDLING OF FIREARMS & AMMUNITION

This Section covers safety instruction on the handling of firearms and ammunition. An introduction to the law in relation to the handling and possession of firearms by probationers. Ranges, range procedures and range orders for the safe conduct of shooting activities.

To complete this unit you must show that you can:

- Prove that a firearm is clear
- Move on and off the firing point and range in a safe manner
- Comply with all instructions relating to safety from your coach

Continuous assessment of this section will take place throughout the probationary course.
To understand the contents of this unit and activities it is important that you understand the terms used within this unit. The definitions below should help you with this:

Home Office Approved Club: A rifle club with a licence from the Home Office. Only HO approved clubs may have probationary members
and run guest days

Firearms certificate: A legal document issued by the local Police Firearms Authority which entitles the holder to be in possession of firearms and or ammunition

Range: An area of land or building which has been approved for shooting and has a range safety certificate

Range Standing Orders: Safety regulations that detail the way in which the range must be used.

Range Conducting Officer: The person who is responsible for the safe running of the range. The RCO controls all persons on the range.

Performance criteria
You must:
1. Demonstrate safety awareness at all times when on the range.
2. Prove that a firearm is clear when asked to do so.
3. Move on and off the firing point correctly with due regard for other range users.
4. Use personal safety equipment; hearing protection and eye protection as detailed in the range orders.

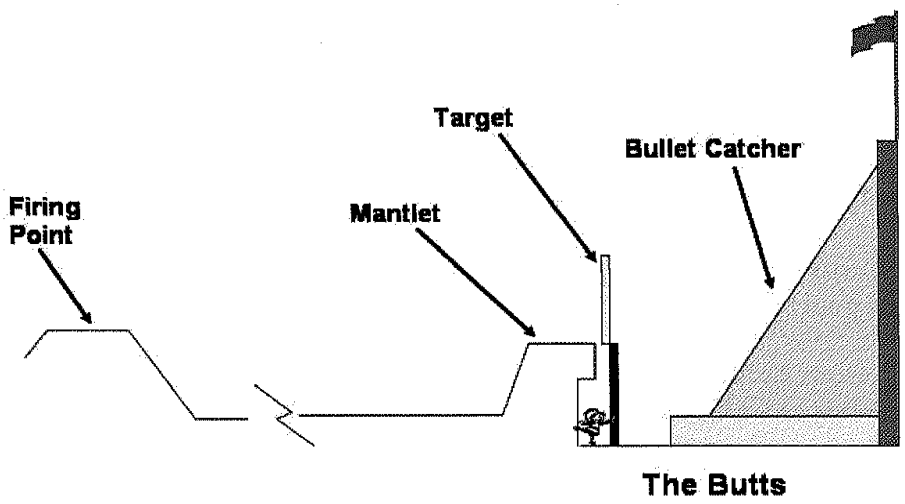
Knowledge and Understanding
You must know and understand:
(a) How the law defines the possession of firearms.
(b) How the regulations for Probationary Membership of a rifle club affect you.
(c) How and why you must be able prove that a firearm is clear.
(d) Security of firearms and ammunition both on the range and when travelling to and from the range.
(e) Basic range design: e.g. firing point, markers' gallery, target, stop butt, danger area.
(f) The Emergency procedures whilst on a range.
(g) Range signs, flags and signals.
(h) The regulations relating to range safety can be found in Range Standing Orders.
(i) All activities on a range are controlled by the Range Conducting Officer.
(j) Range etiquette and protocols.

<u>Supporting Information</u>

Firearms: In the UK, ownership of firearms is strictly controlled. A good reason is necessary for a Firearms Certificate.
Good Reasons:
1. Membership of a Home office Approved Club, e.g. NRA/Local Club
2. Field shooting e.g. British Deer Society

SAFETY
1. Always assume a firearm is loaded
2. Prove it is clear
3. A firearm in your possession is your responsibility
4. Never leave firearms unattended or on view when in transit
6. Never handle another person's firearms without permission
7. Never leave firearms or ammunition unattended on the range

Gallery Range layout



Firing Point
Shooting may only take place from the Firing point. Numbered pegs place along the forward edge of the of the firing point indicate the individual target lanes. A firer may only shoot at his/her own target and may not cross fire onto another firer's target.
Firing points are located at different distances from the target, e.g. 100, 200, 300 & 400 yds.

The Butts
The stop butt or bullet catcher is a high bank of sand into which the bullets are fired. The targets are made of paper and mounted on wooden frames positioned in front of the stop butt. The target frames move up and down on a pulley system so that the shot holes can be easily marked and patched as necessary by the markers working in the Markers Gallery. The Mantlet is a low mound of earth that protects the Markers Gallery. Large numbers boards that are visible from the firing point indentify each lane.

The Range Danger Area – RDA
This is an area of land/sea extending beyond the stop butt that will contain any ricochets providing that all shooting on the range is conducted in a safe manner. There is no access to the RDA when shooting is taking place.

At all ranges, a Red Flag indicates when firing is taking place.

The RCO is responsible for the safe running of the range detail.

SECTION TWO: PARTS OF A RIFLE

This section relates to the names & main parts of the full bore rifle, and the other items of equipment required by the shooter. You will be shown how this equipment should be set out and used on the firing point.

Performance criteria
You must be able to:

1. Set up your equipment on the firing point with due regard for other range users, following the range protocols. (The actual items of equipment may vary according to your particular shooting discipline. Your coach will be able to advise you).

2. Identify the names and functions of the main parts of the full-bore rifle.

SECTION THREE: LOADING, FIRING & UNLOADING PROCEDURES

This section refers to the safe method of loading, firing and unloading the rifle. Practical range work will include: loading, live firing and unloading under one to one supervision.

To complete this section, you must show that you:
• Know when you may load a firearm and how to load it safely
• Know when you may fire and how to fire correctly
• Know when and how you should unload and prove clear.
• Comply with the "bolt out & breech flag in "NRA rule (if applicable to your discipline).

Performance criteria
You must:
1. Unload the rifle correctly.
2. Fire the rifle ensuring that you are taking carefully aimed shots at your own target.
3. Unload the rifle correctly and prove that it is clear.
4. Either remove the bolt or insert a breech flag before leaving the firing point. (NRA rule if applicable to your discipline).

Knowledge & Understanding
You must know and understand:
1. When it is permissible to load a rifle.
2. How to load a rifle safely.
3. Why the barrel must always be horizontal when closing the bolt (or opening the bolt) on a live round.
4. How to take carefully aimed shots at your own target.
5. How to operate the trigger correctly.
6. The maximum elevation of the barrel above the horizontal must not exceed 70mils (4 degrees) or there is a danger that any shots fired could pass over the stop butt and travel beyond the range danger area.
7. When you should unload the rifle.
8. How to unload the rifle safely.
9. How to prove that the rifle is clear.
10. The "bolt out /flag in" rule before leaving the firing point (if applicable).

Supporting Information

Loading:
1. Only when permission is given by the RCO.
2. Rifle is held or supported in the horizontal position, or as directed by the RCO.
3.Aim at your own target.

Firing:
1. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.
2. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.
Unloading:
1. On the orders of the RCO, the firearms magazine, if applicable, must be removed and the weapon proved clear.
2. The firearm must not be removed from the firing line until it has been cleared by the RCO
3. Once removed from the firing line the firearm should be bagged, or stored in a provided gun rack with the breech open.

SECTION FOUR: MISFIRE PROCEDURE

This section covers the procedures which must be taken in the event of a round not firing when you squeeze the trigger — a misfire. There may be a number of reasons for a misfire, and it is important for you to act in a safe manner to minimise the risk to yourself and others around you.

To complete this section, you must show that you are able to:

1. Recognise when a misfire has occurred
2. Complete the misfire drill safely

To understand this section and activities it is important that you understand the terms used within this unit.

Primer: Found at the base of a round of ammunition, it has a thin metal wall. When struck firmly by the firing pin it initiates a chemical reaction within the round that results in the bullet being fired out of the rifle.
Firing Pin: A thin metal rod projecting from the face of the bolt. It is held under tension until the trigger is squeezed. When the firing pin is released, it strikes the primer which results in the round being fired.
Hang fire: A shot that is not fired immediately the trigger is squeezed but fires after a short time lag.
Blow back: When some of the gas and particles generated during firing travel backwards out of the base of the round instead of going forwards to push the bullet up the barrel (possibly the result of a damaged primer).

Performance criteria
You must:
1. Recognise when a misfire occurs.
2. Declare the misfire to the RCO and your shooting partner.
3. Release the bolt in a safe manner.
4. Remove the misfired round.
5. Recognise if the primer has been struck and what action to take if it has not been struck.
6. Know how to dispose of a misfired round.

Knowledge and Understanding

You must know and understand:

1. A misfire occurs if a round is not fired when the trigger is squeezed.
2. Misfires must be treated with caution.
3. Remain on aim for at least 30 seconds in case of a hang fire.
4. Declare the misfire to the RCO and your shooting partner.
5. Ensure that the immediate area around and behind is clear; tilt the rifle to the side before releasing the bolt with care, ensuring that no part of your hand is behind the bolt in case it blows back. Check that the cartridge comes out complete with the bullet.
6. A misfired round should be examined to see if the primer has been struck by the firing pin.
7. A misfired round should not be used again as the primer could be weakened which may cause a “blow back” if the round is fired again.
8. If the primer has not been struck, further investigation will be required (e.g. it may mean that the firing pin is damaged).
9. A misfired round must be disposed of safely

SECTION FIVE: THE RIFLE SIGHTS

You will learn how a bullet in flight is affected by both the distance to the target and by the wind blowing on it. By adjusting the sights, these effects maybe counteracted. There are many different types of sighting systems, which may be fitted to rifles, e.g.
• a leaf back sight on historic service rifles which can be adjusted for firing at different distances (elevation), but the firer must "aim off' for wind.
• twin zero back sights on target rifles which adjust for both elevation and wind,
• Match rifles, F class rifles and sporting rifles have telescopic sighting systems which can be adjusted for elevation and wind.
You will learn that tiny changes in angles are measure in units called minutes.
Target rifle sights have vernier scales graduated in minutes, which allows small changes in angles to be set accurately on the sights for both elevation and windage.
For TR you will practice adjusting and reading the elevation and windage verniers.

To complete this unit, you must show that you can:
• Accurately read the elevation (and windage) settings on your rifle sights
• Alter your sights to the correct elevation settings for the distance you are shooting from.
• Begin to make adjustments to your sights (or aim off if applicable) to counteract the effect of wind on the bullet.

Performance Criteria
You must:
1. Accurately read the settings on your rifle sights.
2. Set the correct elevation settings to your sights for the distance you are shooting from.
3. Make appropriate adjustments for wind on your sights, or aim off (as applicable).

Supporting Information

These definitions should help you to understand this section

Minute of angle: This is a sixtieth of a degree. Over a distance of 100 yards, a change of one minute of angle is approximately equivalent to a change of one inch in the position of the shot hole on the target, thus one minute of angle at 500yds is approx = five inches etc.
Vernier: A vernier is a device that is used to measure the subdivisions on a scale accurately.
Elevation: The angle to which the barrel must be raised above the horizontal so that the shot will hit the target. For range safety, the maximum angle of elevation at which a shot may be fired is 70 mils (known as the Quadrant Elevation)

Knowledge and Understanding

1. The flight path of a bullet from the rifle to the target is not a straight line because of the effects of gravity, air resistance and wind on the bullet.

2. The barrel of a rifle must be elevated above the horizontal as the distance from the target increases.

3. Sights enable changes in elevation angle to be set, and on some rifles can also be adjusted to counter the effect of wind on the bullet.

4. Subdivisions on the TR sights are measured accurately using vernier scales.

5. When these sight knobs are rotated the movements can be felt as discrete "clicks". Many sights used for full bore TR shooting have quarter minute clicks (i.e. a movement of four clicks causes a change of angle on the sights of one minute)

SECTION SIX: RANGE COMMUNICATION

To complete this unit you must show that you can:

1. Use the range radio or telephone to establish communications between the firing point and the butts
2. Pass simple messages to the butts
3. Use the following messages in their correct context;
    a. Message 1
    b. Message 4
    c. Message 10

NRA Code Messages

A list of 14 standard messages.
For example, if a shooter on lane 1 has fired at a target but no shot has been indicated:
“Firing point to butts, lane 1 message 4 over”

Message 1: Firing about to commence
Message 2: No spotting disc visible
Message 3: Spotting disc disagrees with signalled value
Message 4: Shot fired –no shot signalled
Message 5: Firer challenges for higher score
Message 6: Radio number of hits (SR & Cadet)
Message 7: Miss challenged
Message 8: Firer challenges score
Message 9: Marking/shooting too slow
Message 10: Stand easy. Half mast target
Message 11: Wrong shot hole patched out
Message 12: Stand easy. Patch out. Put target back up
Message 13: All targets down. Blow off shots (MR only)
Message 14: Suspect second hole on target

TR&PC PROBATIONARY COURSE
Teaching & Assessment Summary Sheet

	DATE	SIGNATURE
1. Demonstrate the correct method of proving that the following types of firearms are clear:		
Bolt action Rifle		
Self loading rifle		
Lever action rifle		
2. Demonstrate the correct method for receiving a firearm		
3. Identify the component parts of a range		
4. Identify the component parts of a rifle		
5. Set up your equipment on the firing point at:		
25/50m (Old Sarum or Andover) Range		
Military/Bisley Range		
6. Demonstrate the correct method for safely loading & unloading the following types of firearms:		
Bolt action Rifle		
Self loading rifle		
Lever action rifle		
7. Demonstrate safe use of a firearm during a range detail.		
8. Demonstrate the misfire procedure for the following firearms:		
Bolt action Rifle		
Self loading rifle		
Lever action rifle		

Course Result: PASS/FAIL* (* retest after further training)

Signed..... Date.....