

## BTSA Gun Safety Rules

**As adopted by the Bridgeton Township Sportsmen's Association (BTSA) on 11 May 2015.**

1. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in the range prescribed SAFE DIRECTION. (Defined below).
2. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
4. ALWAYS assume and treat all guns as loaded.

The **SAFE DIRECTION** is a direction in which no injury or damage will occur as the result of an unintentional discharge.

At the BTSA range the **SAFE DIRECTION** is **muzzle down pointed at the ground and toward the backstop.**

Every time you pick-up a gun or hand a gun to someone else, keep your finger off the trigger and point it in the safe direction, engage the safety if possible, remove the magazine, and open the action and check the chamber to ensure the gun is empty.

Never accept a gun from someone else unless they have opened the action and checked the chamber. AND, check it yourself.

Load and unload the gun with the muzzle pointed in the BTSA designated Safe Direction, down and toward the backstop. Load and Unload at the firing line only.

When using or storing a gun, always follow these NRA rules:

- Know your target and what is beyond. Think First. Shoot Second.
- Know how to use the gun safely.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate. (If you are uncertain, have the gun inspected by a licensed gunsmith prior to use.)
- Use only the correct and serviceable ammunition for your gun.
- Wear of appropriate eye and hearing protection is highly recommended.
- Never consume alcohol or over the counter, prescription or other drugs before or while shooting.
- Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
- Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting events require additional safety precautions (i.e. Muzzleloaders). Know your equipment and its safe operation procedures.
- Before cleaning your gun, make absolutely sure that it is unloaded. The gun's action should be open and the chamber empty during the cleaning process. Be sure that no ammunition is present in the cleaning area.

### BTSA Range Rules and Policies

1. Regardless of the rate of fire (single shot, periodic or semi-automatic) well aimed, controlled shots are absolutely required by all firers at all times. All projectiles MUST enter and be trapped by the backstop directly behind the appropriately positioned target at which they are aimed and fired. Less than carefully aimed firing such as hip or bump shooting is strictly prohibited. Intentional or

unintentional firing of any projectile that misses the backstop, damages range components, or exits the range is a safety violation and constitutes grounds for immediate elimination from the club IAW the process in Article XIII, section 4.

2. Targets shall be placed commensurate with the firers intended firing position to ensure that the trajectory of the bullet fired at the target will unerringly result in impact with, and capture by, the backstop. At no time will targets be placed on the top or beside the backstop. Targets shall be placed directly in front of and below the vertical mid-line of the backstop.
3. Suppressed guns may be fired in up to and including an automatic mode of fire provided the firer is the license holder and personally and physically located with the gun during the firing of that suppressed gun. The member/firer shall ensure compliance with rules 1 and 2 (above) is absolutely assured. Such fire shall occur ONLY at a range of 100 yards or less and under the close observation and control of the club appointed Range Safety Officer and a trained (BTSA approved) spotter in attendance. A BTSA Gun Safety Rule Annex will be maintained with specific control measures.
4. No armor piercing, tracer, incendiary, explosive, or similar ammunition is allowed.
5. Trap shooting shall occur only on the designated trap range area. Backstop requirements do not apply on the trap range, however, the direction of fire shall be from the designated firing positions behind the trap house and into the open field beyond. Shot size shall be limited to 7 1/2 to 9 shot to prevent shot from leaving the range area.
6. Revolvers, Pistols, Shotguns (firing single projectiles), Muzzleloaders (any caliber), and rifles (up to .45 caliber) are allowed on the 100 and 200 yard ranges. 50 Cal BMG, larger, and similar cartridges are prohibited. Bows and arrows only are allowed on the Archery Range. Shotguns (with shot shells of the appropriate pellet size) only are authorized on the Trap range.
7. NO ALCOHOL or intoxicating substances are allowed on the club premise or range, except by advanced written permission of the BTSA board of directors and officers in special circumstances.
8. Hearing and eye protection are required for Youth and Junior Division members, and highly recommended to be worn by all shooters and spectators regardless of age.
9. All shooters must use the same firing line.
10. Load and unload only on the firing line, and only when the range is "Hot".
11. Case and uncase a gun only on the firing line, and only when the range is "Hot".
12. Never handle any firearm at or near the firing line when people are downrange, or when the range is cold.
13. Vehicles are not allowed on the range road in front of the firing line except when the range is closed for maintenance. No discharge of guns is allowed when people or vehicles of any kind are anywhere on the range forward of the firing line.
14. Open the range gate when entering the range and leave it open while firing to allow access by emergency vehicles should the need arise. When departing the range, and no one else is on the range, close the driveway gate behind you and lock the combination lock by scrambling its combination.
15. No swearing. Keep your language family friendly.
16. Clean up after yourself. Police your brass and take it with you or deposit it in the brass buckets provided at the range. Place trash (to include your used targets) in trash cans or take your trophy targets home with you. Do not throw live or misfired ammunition in the trash.
17. Paper, club owned or, BTSA pre-approved, member owned, steel, and tin/aluminum can targets are acceptable in the rifle and pistol ranges. The shooting of golf balls, glass bottles, rocks, range structures, reactive (explosive) targets is strictly prohibited. Trap thrower compatible clay pigeons only will be used as targets on the Trap range.
18. All club members, guests and family members (subject to membership restrictions) must wear their current membership card on the outermost layer of clothing while using the range and display the vehicle placard in their vehicle dashboard so it is visible through the windshield. Individuals

without the membership identification card displayed will present one upon request. If unable to do so, they shall immediately leave the range.

19. The use of the range is restricted to MEMBERS ONLY. Standard member access includes accompanied spouses, children (under 18). Standard members may have up to two guests per visit. Family Range members and their registered/listed family members are allowed. Spouses may join the club independently. Children 18 years old and over may also establish their own membership in the club.
20. Violation of club rules can result in fines and/or revocation of membership. Safety violations are of critical importance and may result in immediate termination of membership in accordance with Article XIII, Section 4.
21. Fishing, or other use of the pond, is for members and family members only. Watercraft left on the premises must be marked with the name, address and phone number of the owner.
22. The board of directors and officers must approve in advance and in writing any use of the club property other than prescribed by these rules. These may be permanent Annexes, or rule deviations of limited duration as one time actions. These include specific events, venue specific rules and procedures, and range expansion/improvements which require new or expanded controls and management. Permanent changes to the BTSA Gun Safety Rules shall be identified as Annexes as prescribed in Article XIV.

#### **RANGE HOURS OF OPERATION**

**As follows, EXCEPT during Specially Scheduled Events. (See Club Calendar on the club Website)**

**Monday through Saturday – 9:00 am to 30 Minutes before Sunset**

**Sunday – 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

**The gun ranges are closed Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Easter in order to comply with the Bridgeton Township Noise and Nuisance Regulations.**

**Due to the lack of noise created, the Archery Range is subject to the above hours but is not closed on the cited Holidays.**

#### **Range Etiquette**

1. Cooperate and communicate with other shooters and persons using the ranges. Following the rules above will help ensure safe and efficient range operations.
2. Use the following commands and actions to coordinate and ensure safe range operations. Remember all shooters and spectators are wearing hearing protection, LOUD commands are essential.
  - a. Before the initiation of any firing on any range, check to ensure no one is (still) between the firing line and the backstop or in close proximity of the lateral borders of the range. (If anyone is seen, they are too close.)
  - b. Check that all shooters and spectators have hearing and eye protection.
  - c. If these conditions are satisfied, call out "READY!"
  - d. Others repeat back "NO, NOT READY" **IF** there is any reason the range should not go "Hot".

- e. Once the condition is resolved, call out “READY!” **Or**, after no objection is made, a reasonable amount of time and a visual scan of the range and firing line, announce loudly, “THE RANGE IS HOT!”.
- f. You and other firers may now uncase, handle, load and commence firing always ensuring the muzzle safe direction is maintained.
- g. Never move forward of the firing line while the range is “Hot”.
- h. If something occurs that causes continued firing to be unsafe, i.e. a person or animal wanders onto or near the range forward of the firing line, call out loudly “ CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE!” to alert the other shooters to the problem to reduce potential harm. All firing is to cease immediately, the guns placed on safe, the actions open (do not unload), the guns put down on the bench while always pointed in the defined safe direction. All shooters will step back from the bench/firing line. As soon as all shooters are standing behind the benches, declare the range “CLEAR”.
- i. The individual who called the “CEASE FIRE” will assume control of the resolution of the safety problem as the Range Safety Officer. All shooters and others on the range will follow the directions of the Range Safety Officer to resolve the unsafe condition. Once the safety problem has been resolved, the Range Safety Officer will call out loudly “MAKE THE LINE SAFE”. This command allows firers to move back to the guns on the benches to render them safe, by removing their magazines, emptying the chambers and placing the gun back on the bench. Actions open and muzzles pointed in the safe direction. Once this is done, the range is declared “COLD” by the Range Safety Officer.
- j. With the range now coordinated with all as “COLD”, you and others may proceed down range to check and repost targets.
- k. If during shooting (Hot), you wish to move downrange to check or repost targets, call out “CLEAR”. Other shooters may complete shots in process, so patience and situational awareness is required. As each shooter on the line stops firing and renders their gun safe and are no longer handling their guns, they should each declare “CLEAR”. When all shooters are standing and moved back from the firing line away from their guns, Call out, “THE RANGE IS NOW COLD”.
- l. Accessing the firing line or leaving the firing line may only occur when the range is cold. However, no handling of the gun may occur outside of a case or holster until the range is coordinated and declared “Hot” via the step by step process beginning with step a above. Arriving at the range during a COLD range condition (while others are downrange) is an opportunity for you to post your target. If in doubt, verify the “COLD” range status with a shooter already on the line.

### **MATCH RANGE CONTROL**

1. A significant change to range operations during a match is that all range operations will be controlled by a Range Safety Officer.
2. All shooters, spotters, and spectators within the confines of the range will follow the directions of the Range Safety Officer at all times.
3. In addition to the basic commands in the section above, two additional commands are used to move one group of shooters off the range and a second (preparing to compete) to enter the range.

These commands are given in a range cold condition to move groups onto and off of the range:

- a. “MAKE THE LINE SAFE.” Upon hearing this command, all shooters, under the pre-existing condition of a cease fire, will remove the magazine, open the action, ensure the

chamber is empty, place the gun on the bench with the muzzle in the safe direction, allowing visual confirmation that the chamber is empty by use of an empty chamber indicator. Once the Range Safety Officer is certain the line is safe, a command of "CLEAR THE LINE" is given causing the shooters to move their guns from the bench to a gun rack or removal from the range. Once all guns are in the rack or removed, the shooters wait for the Range Safety Officer to direct their movement downrange for the checking and retrieval of targets.

- b. "SHOOTERS TO THE LINE". Upon hearing this command, a group waiting to compete will move to the firing line to conduct preparation for the first or next round of shooting by placing the gun on the bench and setting up other equipment. Guns will remain unloaded, with actions open, empty chamber indicators in place, muzzles in the safe direction, and on the bench. No one may move forward of the firing line until told to do so by the Range Safety Officer for the posting of targets. Guns will remain on the benches untouched until "THE RANGE IS HOT" command is given by the Range Safety Officer.

**RANGE COURTESY.** It is expected that members, family, and guests will coordinate, cooperate and communicate effectively and with civility during co-use of the BTSA ranges to ensure a SAFE and enjoyable outing. In cases that this does not occur, or range violations occur, notification of the BTSA governing body may become necessary. In such cases, please contact:

**Terry Kuntz 732-691-3737**

**Roger Smith 610-417-3531**

**Robert Torok 484-358-0881**

**Ed Wismer 610-847-5903**

## **BTSA Gun Safety Rules, Amendment 1. Steel Targets. Effective 12 October 2015.**

This document does not alter any existing requirement of the BTSA Gun Safety Rules of 11 May 2015. It is intended to provide instructions and rules for the safe use of Steel Targets by the members of BTSA.

**Safety First:** Firing distance, bullet strike angle, and bullet size/power/composition are prime considerations in the use of our steel targets. It is critical that bullet types prohibited by the BTSA Gun Safety Rules are not used on steel targets to prevent harm to people via high velocity bullet splatter upon impact or ricochet, and potential perforation/damage to the targets. No armor piercing, explosive, hard alloy, or incendiary rounds may be used. To ensure safety, all rounds will be checked with a magnet located at the 100 and 200 yard range covers to detect bullets containing steel or iron. If the magnet is attracted to the bullet when held close, the bullet may not be used on steel targets due to a high probability of harm to firers, spectators and targets.

1. BTSA steel targets are for the use of all members and accompanied guests pursuant to these rules.
  - a. Each time you set up the steel targets in preparation for shooting, **check the bolts** to ensure they are tight. If found to be loose, tighten them using the club's target tool kit which is located with the targets. Target damage may occur if the target bolts are loose when struck by a bullet.
  - b. **Eye protection** shall be worn when firing rifles, pistols and shotguns at distances of 50 yards or less, no exceptions. It is recommended that eye protection be worn at all times.
  - c. **Pistols** (calibers and bullet types) magnum or standard, allowed by the BTSA Gun Safety Rules, are allowed for use on steel targets, but at engagement distances of not less than 10 meters due to the potential for harm to the firer. ALSO, see paragraph e (below) for additional engagement requirements.
  - d. **Rifle calibers and bullet type**, allowed by the BTSA Gun Safety Rules, are allowed for use on steel targets subject to the **Safety First** note above and the following:
    - i. **Standard rifle calibers** up to and including 30-06 may be used on steel targets at ranges of a minimum of 50 yards. Standard rifle cartridges above 30-06 have a minimum target engagement range of 75 yards.
    - ii. **Magnum calibers**, allowed per the BTSA Gun Safety Rules, may be used on steel targets at a minimum target engagement range of 100 yards.
    - iii. **Heavy Magnums** (.375 H&H and up), allowed per the BTSA Gun Safety Rules, may be used on steel targets at a minimum target engagement range of 200 yards.
  - e. BTSA Steel Targets have a declination angle of 15 degrees to direct the bullet, or its splatter, in a safe (downward) direction. Engagement of the steel targets from a wide left or wide right firing position can cause a bullet ricochet and trajectory beyond the confines of the range. Therefore, **engagement should occur not more than 10 degrees left of right of the center line of the target.**
  - f. Physical security of the targets is important. Steel targets (silhouette, plates, post and base) will be secured in the target shed when not in use in a fully assembled configuration. **Steel Targets shall not be left unattended on the range to prevent theft and weather damage.**
  - g. **Shotguns firing a single projectile may be used on Steel Targets at a minimum engagement distance of 25 yards** and in accordance with paragraph e above. Multiple pellet shot shells will not be used on the rifle/pistol range per the basic BTSA Gun Safety Rules, or on Steel Targets due to the increased aerosolized cloud of lead produced as a human and environmental hazard.
  - h. As is the club standard, positioning of the targets and the firer's aim must ensure the bullet is either destroyed by hitting the target (steel), or safely captured by the backstop after passing through a paper target or missing the intended target.

2. It is requested that members contact the club president through the club website [bridgetonsportsmen.com](http://bridgetonsportsmen.com) when damage is detected to range target systems to allow repair actions and investigation of the cause(s).

## **BTSA Gun Safety Rules, Amendment 2. Target Frames. Effective 11 April 2016.**

This document does not alter any existing requirement of the BTSA Gun Safety Rules of 11 May 2015. It is intended to provide additional instructions and rules for the safe use of Hanging and Intermediate Standing Target Frames by the members of BTSA.

**Safety First:** As prescribed in the BTSA Gun Safety Rules, regardless of the target used, bullets passing through or missing targets must in all cases hit and be trapped by the earthen backstop at the far end of the range. To promote this, targets placed on the target frame face material shall be placed in consideration of the position of the firing position. For the prone position, the target shall be placed slightly below the intermediate target hanger face center line. From a kneeling or bench position, the target shall be placed on the center of the intermediate Target Hanger Face. From the Standing position, the target shall be placed slightly above the center line of the intermediate Target Holder Face. Targets shall be positioned in the center of the hanging target frame face (suspended from the cable across the face of the berm) regardless of firing position.

1. BTSA target frames are for the use of all members, family and accompanied guests pursuant to the following rules:
  - a. With the implementation of the target frame system, ground mounted sockets (at 10, 25, 50 and 75 yards) and a cable hanger (at 100 yards) are arranged in shooting lanes and will be engaged from the corresponding lane bench or firing position to ensure bullets are fired down the lane and through a properly displayed target, into and captured by the berm.
  - b. One frame per lane only is allowed to minimize damage to frames which would occur if bullets strike multiple frames in a single lane.
  - c. To prevent steel target splatter damage to frames, a minimum of 5 yards distance between the frame and steel targets must be maintained.
  - d. Target frames shall be stored (suspended on a pin) and secured in the target rack at the back of the 100 yard cover when not in use. All targets and tape shall be removed before returning to storage.
  - e. Intermediate target frame ground mounting slots in concrete filled buckets exist at 10, 25, 50 and 75 yards in defined lanes. The 100 yard target frame is of a hanging type, suspended on a cable stretched across the front of the berm.
  - f. Concrete filled buckets shall be kept covered by a properly sealed bucket lid whenever a target frame is not in use to prevent rain, snow, freeze damage and clogging with debris.
  - g. Self-adhesive or masking/painters tape shall be used to attach targets to the Target frames. Use of nails, staples, or other fasteners into the wood part of the frame will cause damage and are prohibited.
  - h. Placing target objects (cans, plastic bottles, etc.) on the top of the target frames is prohibited.
  - i. The engagement of targets from the 200 yard cover shall be limited to the target frame which is hung from the cable across the face of the berm only. Intermediate target frames may not be engaged from the 200 yard firing line.
2. Use of these target frames can be expected to last years if property cared for and IF targets are mounted in the middle of the target frame face allowing for distance between the wooden frame and the target allowing for near misses without causing damage.
3. It is requested that members contact the club president using "Contact Us" on the club website [bridgetonsportsman.com](http://bridgetonsportsman.com) when damage is detected to range target systems to allow repair actions and investigation of the cause(s).