

BISLEY RANGES REGULATIONS

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General

1. These Regulations govern the safe conduct of shooting on the NRA ranges at Bisley. All users of the ranges are bound by these Regulations, including Bisley Range leaseholders and those that are licensed to use ranges. HM Forces and Government agencies operate under their own procedures with the prior approval of the NRA. The Regulations are augmented by, and should be read in conjunction with, the Rules of Shooting published annually by the NRA. In the interests of safety, any breach of these Regulations is to be reported immediately to Range Control.
2. The NRA disclaims responsibility for any accident, injury, loss or damage arising from non-compliance with these Regulations.
3. Throughout these Regulations, unless the context explicitly makes clear otherwise, the expression "CE" means the Chief Executive or his authorised officers.

Firearms and Ammunition

4. All shooters are responsible for ensuring that their firearms, ammunition and combinations thereof are safe to use. All firearms and ammunition must be made available for inspection and testing whenever required. The regulations concerning dangerous ammunition are laid out in Appendix VI of the NRA Handbook, Rules of Shooting, which is available on request.
5. Unless the CE has given prior permission in writing, use of the following on Bisley ranges is prohibited:
 - a. Tracer; incendiary; armour piercing; armour piercing incendiary (API); depleted uranium; ammunition containing any igniferous or explosive substance.
 - b. Projectiles that are not constructed of pure lead, lead alloy, or a lead core with a jacket of gilding metal or soft iron. Lead-free mono-metallic bullets may be used during specific events that are controlled and planned by the NRA or as otherwise permitted by the CE. They are otherwise forbidden.
 - c. Cartridges which, when normally loaded, would exceed the ME/MV limits of any specific range, may not be used on that range even if downloaded.

Limits as to Calibre, Muzzle Velocity and Muzzle Energy

6. No firearm and ammunition combination which develops a muzzle energy exceeding 7000 J (5160 ft lb) may be used on any of the Bisley ranges without the specific permission of the CE which must be sought in writing well in advance of the planned use. The following limits apply:
 - a. **Rifle ranges**, no specific calibre limitation but:
 - i. a maximum muzzle velocity of 1000 m/s (3280 ft/s)
 - ii. a maximum muzzle energy of 4500 J (3319 ft lb);
 - b. **Gallery Rifle and Pistol ranges**, no specific calibre limitation but:
 - i. a maximum muzzle velocity of 655 m/s (2150 ft/s)
 - ii. a maximum muzzle energy of 2030 J (1496 ft lb).
 - c. **High Muzzle Energy (HME) firearms** (see sub-para g below) the limits are:
 - i. a maximum muzzle velocity of 1000 m/s (3280 ft/s)
 - ii. a maximum muzzle energy of 7000 J (5160 ft lb), special zeroing procedures are required as explained in Para 8 below.

Additional Limits on Muzzle Loading Rifles, Muskets and Pistols

7. The firearms listed above may not be discharged on any electronic targetry, Running Boar, Running Target or any of the Clay, Small-bore or Air Gun ranges;
- a. Permission to discharge Muzzle Loading Rifles/Muskets on any of the pistol ranges must be obtained from the CE in advance.
 - b. NRA Guidance for the handling of propellant powders is included on the Range Regulations page.
 - c. Permission to fire firearms of large calibre whose ammunition is initiated by a black powder or equivalent charge, eg cannons, must be obtained from the CE in advance on each occasion.

Additional Limits on High Muzzle Energy (HME) Firearms

8. A High Muzzle Energy (HME) Firearm is defined as any firearm which, using a particular round, develops a muzzle energy (ME) in excess of 4500 J (3319 ft lb). A special zeroing procedure is required with these firearms before they may be shot at any distance on any range at Bisley. The firearm may be zeroed:
- a. on the NRA Zero Range using a special target supplied by the Range Office.
 - b. under control of an RCO (HME) at the start of the practice for shooting at 200 yards or less .
 - c. at a distance of 200 yards on a special target under the direction of an RCO (HME) (see paragraph 39 below) prior to shooting at greater distances.
9. Muzzle energy can be calculated from the bullet mass and the muzzle velocity. The attached graph may be used to determine whether a particular firearm/ammunition combination is HME or not. If the ME exceeds 4500J then the advice of the Range Office must be obtained before using the rifle.
10. .338" calibre HME rifles may not be fired on the Bisley Ranges due to Weapon Danger Area and Air Danger Height requirements, which exceed the available range safety template and air danger height. HM Forces and Government Agencies are permitted to fire the .338 Long Range Rifle in accordance with their own restrictions and regulations.

Additional Limits on Section 5 Firearms

11. The use of Section 5 firearms is only permitted with prior permission in writing from the CE personally. Such permission will rarely be given. The request to fire Section 5 firearms must be in writing and must detail the type of firearms and the personnel attending.

Additional Limits on Shotguns

12. Shotguns may be used on Clay Target ranges. Solid shot or slug is not permitted on Clay Target ranges, unless specifically authorised by the CEO. Restrictions on the size of shot which may be used on Clay Target ranges may have to be applied from time to time.
13. Shotguns may be used on Winans Range in accordance with range specific regulations.
14. Shotguns may be used on Time Limit range with the prior permission of the Chairman BSRC.
15. Shotguns may be used on Stickledown, Butt Zero, Century, or Short Siberia ranges provided that the intention to do so is notified to and approved by the Range Office in advance. On these ranges, projectiles other than solid shot or slug (i.e. shot) may generally only be used on Butt Zero unless the match conditions of an event authorised by the NRA requires their use elsewhere. All such use must conform to range safety parameters.
16. Plastic wad ammunition may be used on the NCSC layout. Plastic wads designed to remain attached to the projectile may be used when firing slug. Plastic wads are otherwise prohibited.

Additional Limits on Black Powder Firearms, Muzzle Brakes and Tables/Benches

17. Firers who wish to use Black Powder firearms or muzzle brakes, or who wish to shoot from a table or bench must inform the Range Office at the time of booking so that appropriate separation on the firing point is allocated. Any firer who does not give advance notice of such requirement may find that proximity of other firers prevents their desired activity.

Ranges and Permitted Firearms

Rifle Ranges

18. Ranges and the firearms permitted on them are as follows:

- a. **Stickledown** (Gallery, 800 – 1200 yards). Rifles; gallery rifles. Shotguns and pistols by special arrangement only.
- b. **Butt Zero** (5 – 75 metres, turning targets and moving target) All firearms within range limits may be fired. Firearms and courses of fire must be specified at time of booking; unusual combinations may be subject to additional constraints.
- c. **Century** (Gallery, 100 – 600 yards). Rifles; gallery rifles. Shotguns and pistols by special arrangement only.
- d. **300m** (Butt 10) (Gallery, 100 yards – 300 metres). Rifles; gallery rifles. Shotguns and pistols by special arrangement only.
- e. **300m Shed** (electronic) (Gallery, 300 metres only). Target rifles and rifles conforming to ISSF Regulations not exceeding 8mm, limited availability due to priority days.
- f. **Short Siberia** (Gallery, 100 and 200 yards only). Rifles; gallery rifles. Shotguns and pistols by special arrangement only.
- g. **Winans**
 - i. **Bay A** (No Danger Area Range, up to 25 metres). Rifles and pistols (including in both cases airguns) (maximum muzzle velocity of 655 m/s (2150 ft/s), maximum muzzle energy of 2030J (1496 ft lb)). Shotguns within Target Shotgun limits.
 - ii. **Bay B** (No Danger Area Range, up to 25 metres).
 - **Rifles** - A maximum muzzle velocity of 1000 m/s (3280 ft/s)-A maximum muzzle energy of 7000J (5160 ft lb).
 - **Pistols** - A maximum muzzle velocity of 655 m/s (2150 ft/s) -A maximum muzzle energy of 2030J (1496 ft lb).
 - **Airguns** are permitted.
 - **Shotguns** within TS limits – slug only
 - iii. **Bay C (Zero Range)** (No Danger Area Range, 71' 7"). Fullbore rifles only. The prone or supine (back) positions only may be used.

Gallery Rifle and Pistol Ranges (unless excepted max MV 655 m/s, max ME 2030 J)

19. Fullbore centre fire rifles other than gallery rifles may not be used on pistol ranges unless approved in advance by the CE.

- a. **Melville** (Gallery Rifle and Pistol, turning targets up to 50 metres). Gallery rifles and pistols; muzzle loading rifles and .22" target rifles for prone or 3-position shooting by special arrangement only. Firearms exceeding the GR MV and ME limits only in exceptional circumstances with prior written permission of the CE.
- b. **Cheylesmore** (No Danger Area Range). (Gallery Rifle and Pistol, ISSF Targetry at 25m, turning targets at 25m, Overhead Retrievable Targets at 25m only). Rifles within GR ME and MV

limits. Pistols other than air pistols.

c. **Time Limit** (Gallery Rifle, 10, 25 and 50 metres). Gallery rifles, shotgun within GR MV and ME limits, air rifles and air pistols only. Administered by the British Sporting Rifle Club.

Moving Target Ranges

20. HME firearms are not to be fired at moving targets. Permitted firearms:

a. **Butt Zero** - All firearms within normal range limits may be fired. Firearms and courses of fire must be specified at time of booking and may be subject to additional constraints.

b. **Running Deer** (Running and Static Targets). Administered by the British Sporting Rifle Club.

c. **Running Boar** (Running and Static Targets at 50 metres only). GRCF, GRSB and small-bore rifles only. Administered by the British Sporting Rifle Club.

d. **Running Target** (Running Target at 10 metres only). Air rifles only (in the Clubhouse). Administered by the British Sporting Rifle Club.

Clay Target Ranges

21. **National Clay Shooting Centre (NCSC)** Target Ranges. Skeet, Olympic Trap, ABT, DTL and Practice. Shotgun only – no solid shot/slug permitted

Range Use

22. No rifle or pistol ranges may be used without the prior permission of the NRA. For routine use, not requiring the prior permission of the CE, the allocation of range space by the range office constitutes permission.

23. The ranges are reserved for the use of NRA members and members of Associations and Clubs affiliated to the NRA. Other persons or bodies may only use the ranges with the prior permission of the CE. Individual members of the NRA may, subject to booking, or by arrangement with the entity that has booked, and subject to holding the relevant Shooter's Certification Card, use any approved target on any range directly controlled by the NRA. Members of affiliated organisations may only use targets when use has been arranged by their organisation except that such members may, as individuals, use the Zero Range on the day prior to, and on, any day when their organisation has a booking on Stickle-down, Century or Short Siberia ranges.

24. All users of NRA ranges must be in possession of a current Shooter's Certification Card, or be supervised on a one-to-one basis by the holder of such a card. Such a card is only valid if it bears the signature of the individual's Club Chairman or the Secretary General of the NRA. The card must be valid for all the firearms that the user intends to fire on Bisley ranges. The card must be produced to the Range Office staff when signing-in. ROs must certify that all members of their group comply with the above.

25. No shooting is permitted other than on approved ranges, except with the permission of the CE.

26. On the NRA ranges firers must only use the targets and the distances allocated to them by the Range Office. Any concerns or queries in connection with the targets provided must be reported to the Range Office before firing commences.

27. A firer whose equipment (including firearms) or dress are thought inappropriate or likely to bring the Association into disrepute may be challenged by the RO or NRA staff and may be required to withdraw.

28. When shooting static and in echelon, on Century or Stickle-down ranges, shooters are to wear clothing which ensures that they are visible to other shooters at greater distances.

29. On the NCSC Clay Target ranges the layouts to be used will be as allocated by the National Clay Shooting Centre. Only shooters and supporting personnel authorised by the National Clay Shooting Centre are permitted on to the firing point/line.

Dates and times of shooting

30. The rifle and pistol ranges are normally closed to non-commercial users on Mondays (except Bank Holidays), Good Friday and between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day inclusive. The Clay ranges may be open during the Christmas holiday period and at times other than those stated for the rifle and pistol ranges. Other closure periods will be notified on the NRA Website.

31. All ranges except **Cottesloe Heath, British Field Target Organisation, Long Siberia, NSRA Ranges, NCSC Clay Ranges, Cheylesmore, Winans and Zero Range**:

a. **Low Season**

Weekdays: 08:30 to 12:30 and 13:30 to 16:00

Weekends: 08:30 to 12:30 and 13:30 to 16:00 (16:30 March)

b. **High Season**

Weekdays: 08:30 to 12:30 and 13:30 to 16:30

Weekends: 08:30 to 12:30 and 13:30 to 17:30

32. **Cheylesmore, Winans and Zero Range** - As authorised by the Range Office.

33. **NCSC Clay Target Ranges** - The NCSC staff in consultation with the Range Office will arrange shooting times.

Signals Indicating Commencement and Cessation of Firing

34. Unless prior permission has been granted, the commencement and cessation of shooting will be indicated by siren and must be strictly observed. One blast on the siren is the signal to ROs that they may permit shooting to commence. A cease fire at the end of a shooting period will be notified by two blasts on the siren at an interval of about 15 seconds. All shooters must cease fire and unload.

Emergencies: All ranges

35. Should an immediate cease fire be required at any other time this will be indicated by four (or more) blasts of the siren: all shooters must cease fire at once. All ROs and radio users must select the Control channel on their radios and await instructions. If general permission to continue firing is granted, it will be indicated to ROs by one long blast on the siren. Specific permission to continue may be granted range by range by telephone or radio.

Restrictions on Targets

36. Unless prior permission has been obtained from the CE only targets from the NRA approved set may be used. The more commonly used targets are detailed in the NRA Handbook Appendix IV, and the full target set may be consulted on application to the Shooting Division NRA. Targets are to be used in the frames or holders provided and are to be engaged only from the recognised firing points and appropriate shooting station or peg. Snap targets are to be exposed in or in front of target frames. No laterally-moving target may be used on gallery ranges. Skittles, falling plates or other hard targets may not be engaged at a distance of less than 25 yards (22 metres) without the permission of the CE. Clearance to use such targets, set out in range-specific orders constitutes permission.

Restrictions on Firing

37. Indiscriminate firing is forbidden. Regardless of the time constraints of any particular practice, firers must prioritise the requirement to hit the target over the need to meet any time limit.

a. **Stickledown, Century and Short Siberia**, firing is to be carried out from the prone or supine position or from a bench except where expressly provided by the conditions of a particular discipline or approved competition rules. The intention to fire from any other position must be notified to the Range Office at the time of booking to allow suitable target allocation on the range. Notification is required notwithstanding that a booking is made to carry out a particular discipline or competition.

b. The use of non-standard or improvised firing points is forbidden except with the prior

authority of the CE.

- c. Courses of fire that involve movement (other than changing firing position eg from standing to kneeling) with a loaded firearm are forbidden except with the prior authority of the CE.

Range Officer (RO) – appointment and duties

38. An Association, Club or group of 2 or more persons intending to shoot on any range must appoint a Range Officer (RO) who signs on to the range and will be present whilst shooting is in progress. The RO is responsible for ensuring that range activity is conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with these Regulations. An individual shooter may act as his own RO if no other RO is formally appointed and if the following conditions are met:

- a. Shooting is to take place on Winans Bay C (Zero Range) or Winans Bay B when being used as a zero range alternate to Winans Bay C.

Or

- b. If aged 18 or over and an individual member of the NRA, when shooting a deliberate supported or static discipline on a range other than Cheylesmore Bay B or Winans Bay A.

39. A shooter acting as his own RO may not, during his practice, supervise another shooter.

40. Before commencement of shooting the RO must sign the register in the NRA Range Office, thereby accepting responsibility to ensure that range activity under his supervision is conducted in accordance with these Regulations. He must also sign off when shooting is completed, thus certifying that he has completed all actions required by these Regulations. Having signed the register, the RO acts as an official under orders of the CRO.

41. An RO is to carry out his duties and exercise authority in accordance with NRA Handbook para 126. In particular, and mindful that the senior member of the NRA Range Services staff acts as CRO if one is not formally appointed, an RO is to:

- Report all breaches of Regulations and all Range Occurrences to Range Control as soon as practicable.
- If a Range Occurrence constitutes a Range Incident: stop all firing under his control, ensure the situation is safe, isolate the persons and equipment involved, inform Range Control and carry out any direction before permitting firing under his control to recommence.
- If a Range Occurrence constitutes a Range Accident: stop all firing under his control, ensure the situation is safe (which may involve calling an emergency stop), give immediate first aid, summon assistance through Range Control and carry out any direction given, do not handle or permit to be handled any items involved other than the minimum essential to make the situation safe and to give first aid

42. The RO's responsibility and authority extend to the safety and supervision of any person assisting in the shooting activity, such as instructors, register keepers and range rigging team. The NRA will train and supervise its own staff and accepts the associated responsibilities. The RO should exercise his authority over NRA staff, including NRA provided Target Markers, through the Range Office and Butts Supervisor as appropriate. The RO is responsible both personally and as representative of his Association Club or group for the training, competence and supervision of any person other than NRA staff employed (whether for payment or otherwise) to work in the butts on targets under his control.

43. The RO is to ensure that persons under his control are fully covered by insurance, including third party public liability cover. Individual NRA members and NRA staff on duty are so insured. Members of affiliated clubs who are not individual NRA members may only shoot when their club has booked the range space, (other than on the Zero Range as described in Para 23 above) either directly or through another club by mutual arrangement on an official club day.

44. If the RO intends to conduct zeroing practices with an HME firearm (see Para 8 above) he must hold the RCO (HME) qualification. Once the HME firearm has been correctly zeroed, firing at any other distance

or on any other range may be conducted by any RO, who need not hold the RCO (HME) qualification.

Safety Regulations

45. Alcohol is not permitted on any of the Bisley Ranges unless specifically agreed, in person, by the CE. This authority cannot be delegated.

46. Firearms are not to be placed on the firing point, loaded or fired before the siren has indicated the commencement of a shooting period. Range Control will conduct a check that all NRA staff, operating in the range area, are clear of danger areas prior to sounding the siren. The siren is the indication that all movement forward of the firing point has ceased.

47. Equipment, including ammunition, may be placed on the firing point at the (C)RO's discretion.

48. No firearm shall be loaded or fired until the (C)RO has given the order to do so.

49. Aiming or "snapping" an unloaded firearm is NOT allowed in any public place except as part of a properly organised course of instruction, or when in the firing position on a firing point with the permission of the RO, and then only if it would, in all respects, be safe to fire a live round.

50. At no time may any part of the body be placed in front of the muzzle of a loaded firearm.

51. Except when otherwise prescribed in the conditions of a discipline or competition:

a. Firearms may not be placed on the firing point except under the direction of the RO and where it is safe in all respects to fire.

b. No firearm is to be loaded until the shooter is in the firing position on a recognised firing point.

c. A loaded firearm must point directly towards the butts at all times.

d. When loading, unloading or checking a firearm, the barrel must at all times be pointed directly towards the butts horizontally and laterally aligned with the target lane..

52. Individual firers are responsible for ensuring that their firearm is safe at all times. On the conclusion of a shoot or stage, or on the order of the RO, all firers must:

a. Unload their firearm and inspect the chamber, action, boltface and magazine (if one is fitted) to ensure that the firearm is clear.

b. If requesting inspection by a person other than the CRO or a range official, dismantle their firearm to the extent necessary to permit a clear view through the chamber and barrel.

c. Present their firearm to the designated person on the firing point and have them inspect and confirm that the firearm is clear.

d. For a Service Weapon complete the unload in accordance with the current Service procedure.

e. Keep the bolt removed or insert a breech flag (or both) for any bolt-action rifle, or carry out the equivalent procedure for other firearms (which may include casing in accordance with GR&P procedure).

prior to leaving the firing point and before anyone goes forward of the firing point.

53. A firer using a bolt-action rifle must carry it either with the breech open and a breech flag, which must protrude into the chamber, clearly inserted, or with the bolt removed from the rifle, except when on the firing point. Civilian Service Rifles or practical rifles which are able to utilise a magazine fitted loading block which locks the working parts to the rear may do so.

54. Unless GR&P rules apply, a firer using a self-loading rifle must carry it unloaded, ie no magazine on

it, no round in the chamber, working parts forward, not cocked and safety catch at 'safe'.

55. Firearms specified in the NRA GR&P, TS or CSR/PR Handbooks (published separately) must be carried in accordance with specified rules.

56. All other firearms must be carried in a manner such that they are as clearly unloaded as is possible for that type of firearm.

57. A shooter acting in a dangerous manner will forthwith be forbidden to fire again or take further part in any shoot at Bisley until a report has been made to Range Control and the circumstances have been fully investigated. Where considered appropriate the matter will be reported to the Secretary General for possible disciplinary action.

58. Care must be taken when changing distance or crossing a range. Any person must immediately call an emergency cease fire ("Stop, Stop, Stop") if it appears that a person is likely to enter the danger area.

Safe Custody

59. Firearms and live ammunition are not to be left unattended on the ranges. When not in the personal care of the person responsible, they are to be secured in accordance with Home Office guidance. Responsibility for the safe custody of firearms or ammunition lies with the individual owner.

Butts

60. The RO is responsible for the Target markers manning his targets (see Para 37).

- a. Markers are to enter and leave the butts by the covered and recognised safe approaches provided. Passage within the butts is to be under cover of the markers gallery; on no account are markers to use the roads in the butts while firing is in progress. Markers and all others in the butts must remain within the protection of their gallery and under the mantlet while shooting is in progress. All personnel working in the butts are to wear hearing protection.
- b. Objects are not to be thrown or placed upon the face of the butt or mantlet.
- c. Target areas are to be clean and tidied prior to the marker leaving his position.
- d. The minimum age for Target Markers is 15 years of age. At age 15 markers are only permitted to work on a Saturday.

Minors

61. Persons under the age of 14 must remain under the supervision of a parent or guardian or other competent adult at all times whilst on the range floor. Their hearing must be fully protected. They are not permitted to mark targets.

62. There is no minimum age limit for persons to shoot on Bisley ranges. However, for persons under the age of 14 an application for permission to shoot must be made to the NRA well in advance of the planned visit. This is not applicable to cadet or other recognised youth organisations whilst shooting at an official event.

Spectators

63. Spectators are to remain behind the firing point at all times and are to comply strictly with the instructions given by the RO or any NRA official. The RO is to ensure that all spectators wear hearing protection and where appropriate eye protection.

Animals

64. Owners are responsible for any animal they bring to Camp and must not allow it on or forward of the firing points during shooting periods or to cause a nuisance at any time. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times in the domestic area of the Camp and on the ranges when shooting is taking place. Animals are explicitly prohibited from any enclosed range. Owners must clean up after their animal and make good any

damage it causes. Failure to comply with these rules may result in the CE banning the animal from Camp.

Use of Radios and Emergency Procedures

65. Communications on the ranges are normally maintained by radio. The control channel on NRA radios is on the furthest clockwise stud on the frequency knob. In the event of an emergency ROs should switch to the control channel and pass the message:

- **Emergency, Emergency, Emergency,**
- **Hello Control this is ***** Range, I am on Lane *** at *** yards, firer injured and requires . . . ”.**

All other radio users are to remain off the air until the emergency is concluded.

66. First Aid equipment and trained first aiders are available from Range Control. All injuries are to be reported immediately to a member of the Range Office staff who will, if necessary, initiate the NRA Range Action Safety Plan (RASP) which is available in Range Control.

67. A full Incident Report is to be completed in all cases and an entry made in the Accident Book. The control channel is monitored continuously when the ranges are open, and is the simplest and fastest method of contacting the NRA staff and of obtaining help in an emergency.

Health

68. In view of the potential permanent damage which can be caused to hearing, all persons involved in a shoot, or in close proximity when shooting is taking place, must wear hearing protection. The wearing of hearing protection is mandatory when in the butts.

69. The wearing of eye protection by all shotgun, pistol and gallery rifle shooters and by spectators on such ranges, is highly recommended at all times and is mandated in several circumstances. See the NRA Eye Protection Policy at Appendix III to the NRA Handbook.

70. Recreational drugs are not permitted on any Bisley range.

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