

SWISS RIFLE CLUB

RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

Never fool around or play with guns. Guns are dangerous when they are not handled or used properly and can easily injure or kill you, or those around you. There are no second chances with a gun and the rules for safe gun handling must always be followed to avoid accidents.

THE 4 UNIVERSAL RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY ARE:

1. Always treat every firearm as if it is **always loaded**.
2. Never point the firearm at anything you **aren't willing to destroy**.
Always point the firearm in a **safe direction** (i.e. at the ground or downrange).
3. Always keep your **finger off the trigger** and outside the trigger guard until your sights are on the target and you have made the decision to shoot.
4. Always be **sure of the target**, what is **beyond it**, and **where the bullet will stop**.

IN ADDITION:

5. Always know **how the firearm works**, and how to use it safely.
6. Use only the **correct ammunition** for the firearm.
7. **Never use alcohol** or other drugs when handling a firearm.
8. Always keep the firearm **unloaded until you are ready** to use it.
9. Always secure your own firearm, and ensure that it is **inaccessible to unauthorised persons** whenever it is not under your direct control.

SAFETY ON THE RANGE

1. Always listen and do what **the Range Master tells you** to do.
 2. The Range Master has the authority to remove a person from the firing line if that person is **behaving in an unsafe manner**.
 3. No person may handle a club-owned firearm until they have been officially **familiarised** with its safe use, unless under the **direct supervision** of a competent club member.
 4. No person may handle or use a privately-owned rifle unless they have been officially **familiarised** with its safe use and have the licensed **owner's express permission** to do so.
 5. While shooting is taking place, no observers may move amongst the shooters and **nobody may step over, nudge, kick or otherwise disturb the shooters**. There may be no unnecessary loud conversations or behaviour which may otherwise **disrupt the concentration of a shooter**.
 6. Firearms must be shot from **the firing line only**, and nowhere else.
 7. While shooting is taking place, **nobody may move forward of the firing line**, even if far to one side of it. If somebody must move forward of the firing line, they must first **notify the Range Master** and wait until he has **declared the range safe**.
 8. Never shoot at anything except the **prescribed targets**.
 9. Always wear **hearing protection** when shooting, assisting or observing at the firing line.
 10. Always **unload**, make the firearm **safe**, where possible leave the **action open**, and **move away** from the firearm **before anyone moves downrange**.
 11. Always keep the firearm **unloaded, safe**, where possible leave the **action open** and keep the firearm pointed in a **safe direction** when **moving around** with it.
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This list is made freely available to you by the Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg.
It is free to download, print and duplicate.

This resource is intended as a quick reference and instructional aid and may not be sold or used commercially.

