

SHOOTING HABITS

A. GENERAL. In the process of devoting a great deal of time to marksmanship, a competitor will, through his own experience, find that there are a number of helpful hints which he can pass on to newer shooters. Some of the items contained in this chapter are in the form of shooting safety while others may pertain to such varied areas as etiquette and shooting procedures.

B. SAFETY.

1. Before any individual is exposed to the use of firearms he should receive a period of instruction on safe handling of weapons. This instruction should include knowledge of range commands and range procedures.
2. Do not attempt to work on any piece of shooting equipment unless you are highly qualified. This is especially true of tampering with the intricate mechanical components of such items as triggers or telescopes.
3. Do not attempt to hand load ammunition unless qualified to perform the operations safely.
4. Learn how to properly care for all of your equipment. Most of it is expensive and preventative maintenance is important. This includes the cleaning of the bore after shooting.
5. Never touch another competitor's rifle or equipment without his permission.

C. PROCEDURE.

1. Read and know the rule book for the type of shooting you are to participate in and keep abreast of recent changes.
2. Prepare for oncoming matches. Get a copy of the program and read it carefully! Send in entries early. Make arrangements for living accommodations at out of town matches. Make a list of all items of equipment and check the list before you depart from home. Inspect your shooting gear.
3. If you have never been to the range before, always go to the range the day before the match. Some ranges are extremely difficult to find and many shooters have missed their relay because they became lost on the way to the range.
4. Arrive at the range early enough to greet all your friends and set up your equipment behind your designated firing point.
5. Test and select your ammunition before you go to a match. Keep the ammunition in a cool and dry place, not for example, in a hot car trunk.
6. Police your brass and clean up trash around your firing point before leaving the range.
7. Insure that your target is the correct one for the match being fired, and that you have entered the appropriate information on it.
8. Double check your target and backing target to be certain they are securely fastened to the frame and will not blow loose.

9. Place the backing target in the correct location and be certain that it is correctly marked.
10. You will normally not be permitted to handle your own target after you have fired on it.
11. Know what to do in case of a crossfire or a shot outside the scoring ring of the sighting bull's-eye.
12. Before shooting for record, fire about five fouling shots through your barrel, and then at least five sighting shots. This gives you and your gun a chance to "settle down".
13. Load the round into the chamber with your fingers. Pushing it in with the bolt can result in lead being stripped from the bullet.
14. Keep accurate count of the number of rounds you have fired at each bull.
15. Don't worry about looking at other competitor's targets until you have finished firing your own.
16. Keep an accurate account of the time in a match.