

# **Cambridge Gun Club Air Rifle Safety Rules**

Range safety is every individual's responsibility.

All air gun shooters need to read and fully understand these rules and guidelines before shooting at the range and if they are unsure then they should raise their questions with a member of Cambridge Gun Club staff.

The 4 overriding rules for safety:

- 1. Always prove an airgun is unloaded whenever you pick it up, take it from anyone, or hand it to anyone; assume it is loaded until proven otherwise**
- 2. Always point the airgun towards your target; be aware of where the muzzle is pointing at all times**
- 3. Do not place your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot**
- 4. Never point an airgun at anyone**

## ***General Rules***

Only air rifles with muzzle energy of less than 12 ft/lbs and air pistols with muzzle energy of less than 6 ft/lbs may be used at the air gun range.

Muzzles must be kept pointing in a safe direction at all times. The safe direction is either down at the ground, or down range if preparing to take a shot. This includes when being removed from their case, cocked or loaded. Due to their short barrels particular care needs to be taken with air pistols.

Airguns must remain unloaded in their case or gun slip whilst not being fired on the range. Wherever possible, an airgun should not be removed from its case until a shooter has moved it to a shooting bench at the firing line. Alternatively, an airgun may be moved muzzle down, un-cocked and unloaded.

Airguns must be unloaded before moving away from the shooting bench. This means magazines removed, even when empty.

If conducting any form of maintenance to an airgun whilst at the club range the airgun should be checked that it is clear at the firing line before being taken to a bench for maintenance. When on the bench it should remain un-cocked with a breach flag inserted and the muzzle kept pointing away from all personnel.

## **Range Control**

No one is permitted to cross the firing line or proceed downrange whilst firing is underway. If a shooter wishes to initiate a cease-fire for anything other than a safety reason, to change a target for example, they should make this known to the other shooters on the range to agree a cease-fire at an appropriate moment.

Where a situation on the range warrants it, i.e. it is likely to cause danger or injury if allowed to continue, then any shooter is empowered to shout "Stop, Stop, Stop!" to cause a cease-fire. This verbal signal may be used at any time to prevent an accident or hazardous situation from developing.

On hearing the signal to stop shooting, all airguns are to be immediately unloaded and actions cleared into the ground at least 10 yards ahead of the firing line or towards the range backstop. Any magazines should be removed.

During a cease-fire airguns must remain unloaded and rested with hands and fingers away from triggers. Only once all shooters have put down their airguns is anyone to move forward of the firing line.

During a cease-fire no airguns are to be held, shouldered or aimed downrange.

Only when all shooters have moved safely back behind the firing line may shooting recommence.

## **Equipment**

Only lead, copper coated lead, tin, zinc, alloy and frangible pellets/BBs may be used at the range. Under no circumstances is ammunition containing steel or plastic to be used. This is to reduce the risk of ricochets. Shooters may wish to reduce this risk further by wearing eye protection.

Shooters may bring their own targets to use at the range but must ensure they pose no risk to other shooters. No targets are to be placed closer than 8 yards from the shooting line to reduce the chance of ricochets.

When cocking a piston or spring powered air gun the cocking lever or barrel must be kept under firm control at all times, to reduce the risk of injury should the gun be discharged during the loading process.

You must know how your airgun works in order to use it safely. Always read the manual for your airgun. Understand how it functions, what safety features it has incorporated in the design and also how to recognise and rectify common faults.

Check your airgun regularly for signs of damage, for loose bolts, rust etc and to ensure that all the controls are working correctly. If something 'doesn't feel right' it probably isn't. If you are ever in any doubt about the serviceability of your gun and your ability to fix it then you should make it safe and take it to a reputable gunsmith.

Having learnt how your airgun works and the safety features incorporated never rely on them. Safety catches, anti-bear traps, anti-double loading devices etc have all been known to fail. They are there to enhance good gun handling not replace it.

## **Behaviour**

Shooters should not shoot or handle an airgun at Cambridge Gun Club whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs; this includes prescription and off-the-shelf medications. If you are taking any form of medicine check the potential side effects for drowsiness or an impairment to operate vehicles or machinery. If in any doubt, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

No alcohol is permitted on the range.

All children brought to the range by members or guests shall, at all times, remain under the control of a responsible adult and shall not be allowed to roam around the range complex.

Shooters must ensure any litter is cleared and placed in the waste bin before leaving the range.

Any injuries caused or sustained by shooters, and any damage to club or personal property must be reported at the earliest possible opportunity to a member of Cambridge Gun Club staff.

Any malicious damage caused by members or visitors will be investigated by the club and may result in the permanent expulsion of the responsible person from the club.

Smoking/vaping is not permitted on the range.

## **Rule Breaches**

If a breach of these safety rules and guidelines occurs, or if it appears they are about to be breached, then the matter should be raised with a member of staff immediately by whoever sees it.

All humans make mistakes from time to time and shooters are no exception. Highlighting safety issues allows the individual(s) concerned and all shooters to learn from mistakes. By being honest and open about accidents, incidents and near misses we can understand what caused them and work to prevent them being repeated.

**Please remember that if you are ever unsure of anything at the club then it is always better to ask. The staff are always willing to help you and answer any questions you may have. Thank you! 😊**