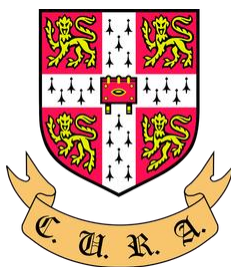


CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RIFLE ASSOCIATION



(Registered Charity 258396)

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

1. Background

All CURA shooting operates under the safety rules set forth by the National Rifle Association of the United Kingdom, supplemented where necessary by the relevant Home Office and Police regulations and guidance concerning firearms and ammunition. The Association is also in possession of the *Health and Safety Guidance for University Sports Clubs* issued by the University and the *Notes for the Guidance of University Clubs and Societies* from the Junior Proctor's office. All of these can be consulted on matters relating to Health and Safety (hereafter H&S).

CURA members, particularly Committee, should be aware of the relevant University, NRA and Government documentation about H&S and ensure its implementation.

2. Responsibilities for Health and Safety

Every shooter has a responsibility to ensure their own H&S, and that of those around them, as far as is practicable. The Association elects annually a Safety Officer, usually the Secretary, who is specifically charged with ensuring the safety of CURA activities and equipment. On the range, the range officer has the responsibility to ensure safety in all matters. The Captain is ultimately responsible for ensuring the overall administration of H&S within the Association.

An experienced member of the club shall act as range officer in line with National Shooting Centre range regulations, except when a Range Conducting Officer/Range Safety Officer is provided.

In the case of unforeseen circumstances or an emergency on the range, the range officer is to take control of the situation, inform Range Control or the emergency services if required, and oversee the process of remedying it. In case of a H&S incident away from the range, any member may take control if necessary but the incident must be reported to the Captain or a member of Committee. After any H&S incident or 'near miss', the relevant paperwork, including an Incident Report Form, must be filled in and submitted, which is the responsibility of the Secretary. This is a requirement of NRA Standing Orders.

3. Equipment

All CURA equipment is to be stored securely at all times when not in use. Rifles and ammunition in particular must always be stored, as required by law, in approved lockers, of which the Association keeps several at Bisley. In transit, as required by the Firearms Acts, all reasonable precautions must be taken to ensure the security of rifles and ammunition.

All rifles undergo annual servicing by a qualified and experienced armourer. Any mechanical defects or safety concerns surrounding a CURA rifle must be brought to the attention of a Committee member who must ensure that the rifle is inspected and if necessary repaired before further use. Members using private rifles must ensure that these are regularly serviced and free from mechanical defects which might create a safety issue. Rifles known or suspected to have a fault which may impair safety must not be used until the fault has been corrected.

Rifles and ammunition must emphatically not be held by non-Committee members away from organised CURA shooting and should only be held outside secure storage by Committee members for the purpose of transporting them between shooting, maintenance and secure storage.

It is the responsibility of individual members of the Association to ensure that their personal equipment is securely kept and properly maintained, particularly privately owned rifles and ammunition.

4. Ammunition

Handloading must only be conducted under the supervision of a qualified expert by individuals who have been trained in the practice. The materials used for handloading must be supplied by a similarly competent individual and conform to all applicable NRA regulations and guidance.

Ammunition purchased by the Association must come from reputable retailers and manufacturers and be safety tested to the industry standard. Individuals purchasing their own ammunition are strongly advised to take the same precautions. Only ammunition purchased or handloaded by the Association is to be used in CURA rifles.

5. First Aid

All CURA shooting takes place on ranges which have full First Aid provision. On such ranges there is always a qualified First Aider on duty although it is desirable that CURA should have as many of these as possible.

CURA is in possession of a complete First Aid kit which is to be used *in extremis* as a back-up to this provision. The Safety Officer must see to it that it is kept well-stocked and that its components are fit for purpose.

6. Conduct on the Range

Shooters must abide at all times by the NRA's safety regulations and the Association's Code of Conduct, Safety Policy and Constitution. A rifle is never to be pointed anywhere except in the direction of a target and must not be loaded unless the range officer has given permission and it is in all respects safe to fire. Once the bolt is closed the rifle must remain pointed at the target. If a shooter hears the words of command 'STOP!' or 'STOP, STOP, STOP!', or several blasts of a siren while shooting, they must remove their finger from the trigger, keep the rifle pointed at the target and await further instructions. In the event of a misfire or light strike, the shooter must make the range officer aware of the situation, whereupon the range officer is to act as dictated in the NRA's safety regulations.

Shooters, particularly range officers, should be aware of the dangers inherent in shooting in severely inclement weather, especially heavy rain or thunderstorms, and avoid exposure to such conditions.

The range officer has the authority at any point to add further rules and restrictions to increase the safety of the range.

7. Personal Protective Equipment

All shooters must wear serviceable ear protection when on or in the vicinity of the Firing Point or the Butts. During shooting it is highly recommended that shooters wear either electronic earmuffs or both plugs and muffs. It is the responsibility of the Safety Officer, in co-ordination with CUSBC's Equipment Officer, to ensure that all ear defence owned by the Association is of serviceable quality. Regular audiograms are recommended for all those involved in shooting.

Eye protection is not routinely used in shooting and need only be worn in matches whose conditions specifically call for it, as laid down by the NRA/CPSA guidance.

8. Novices

New members who join the Association shall carry probationary status. Members with probationary status must only shoot under the direct supervision of a senior member, and may not do so until they have been trained in range and firearm safety. New members are required to have shot with CUSBC and to provide a declaration from their Tutor

stating that the College has no information which would suggest their unsuitability to join a shooting club. They must further affirm, as required by law, that they have not been convicted of any offence which would render them ineligible to possess firearms and ammunition nor had an application for an FAC/Shotgun Certificate refused by the Police.

Probationary Members must pass a safety test (administered at Easter Bisley) and demonstrate adequate competence in shooting and safety before being allowed to act as Full Members of the Association.

It is strongly advised that members advise the Captain in confidence of any medical condition which may influence their H&S during shooting activities, for example asthma, panic attacks or severe allergies. Members with such conditions are strongly advised to ensure that they carry any appropriate medication with them on all CURA activities.

9. Travel

It is the club's policy that those driving members to and from CURA activities be experienced drivers with clean licenses. It is advisable that a non-travelling Committee or Association member keeps in contact with the team when away, for example at Bisley.

10. Accommodation

Care is to be taken over all potential hazards while staying at Bisley, including food safety. Cooking must be carried out according to the rules of good hygiene and common sense.