

North Texas Shooters Association

Range Policies

Revised 5/11/2019

NTSA recognizes and honors Texas state law. Open carry is permitted for those members authorized by law to do so. Open carry firearms must remain holstered at all times unless in use during a live fire on a hot range. Match Directors may declare a cold range during NTSA sanctioned competitions and may prohibit open carry on ranges under a Match Directors control.

NTSA SAFETY RULES

FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL MEMBERS, GUESTS, NTSA CLUB and CLUB PROPERTY
THE FOLLOWING RULES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

1. Always keep your firearm pointed down range, whether it is loaded or unloaded.
2. Always keep your finger OFF the trigger until ready to fire.
3. Always keep your firearm UNLOADED until ready to use.
4. Eye protection shall be worn at all times in designated areas of pistol and rifle ranges, shotgun fields and known shot fall areas. Hearing protection is highly recommended.
5. Firearms shall not be handled by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
6. "Cease Fire" – immediately stop shooting when anyone calls "Cease Fire".
7. To put up/retrieve targets or go down range for any reason on an open range, a cease fire shall be in effect when all shooters are in agreement and warning devices are deployed. No firearms may be handled during a cease fire.
8. YOU are responsible for the clean-up of your brass, hulls and trash.
9. A hat with forward facing brim must be worn at all times in the known shot fall area: which includes all rifle & pistol ranges, maintenance barn, restrooms & their associated parking areas. Hats not required while under cover or inside buildings or vehicles.
10. No full automatic fire is allowed. Any device or modification that simulates full automatic fire is prohibited.
11. Unsafe gun handling is prohibited.

Enforcement and Reporting – The Board of Directors, the Range Manager, and the Range Officers are responsible for ensuring members and other persons comply with the Rules and act in a safe, responsible, and courteous manner. However, all club members who observe a safety rule violation should immediately alert the person(s) to stop the unsafe activity. The unsafe activity should be discussed with the person(s) involved. If the situation cannot be resolved satisfactorily, the member should call a Range Manager or Range Officer to resolve the issue. As the Board's representative, the Range Manager's or Range Officer's orders shall be followed in resolving the safety violation, but also must comply with these Safety Rules. Any questions about the rules should be directed to the Board of Directors or the Safety Committee.

Club members are required to report the following incidents to a Range Manager, Range Officer, and/or member of the Board of Directors as soon as possible, but no later than 12 hours after the incident:

- Any incident involving a discharge of a firearm where there is a physical injury or the potential for physical injury, or
- Any incident involving a discharge of a firearm where there is property damage or the potential for property damage.
- Failure to comply with these reporting requirements shall subject the offender to suspension or expulsion from the club.

In the incidents listed above, the Board shall require all members involved to attend a Board meeting to provide statements and answer questions regarding the incident.

Examples - An example of an incident that shall be reported is a discharge of a firearm with a person down range. Another incident that shall be reported is intentionally shooting club property such as the barrels or barricades. An example of an incident that need not be reported is a person who jerks the trigger while firing at a properly placed target and the bullet impacts into the ground and/or berm, and there is no injury or property damage.

General NTSA Policies – In addition to the NTSA SAFETYRULES listed above, the following policies apply to all NTSA ranges and shotgun fields.

- Firearms safety is the responsibility of each member.
- Members are responsible for their own conduct, their children's conduct, and the conduct of their family and guests while on NTSA Ranges.
- Members must provide direct supervision for children and guests and must remain on the same rifle range, pistol bay, or shotgun field with their children and/or guests at all times. Members and their guests do not have exclusive use of a rifle range, pistol bay or shotgun field. NTSA members take precedence over guests in case of a conflict involving available shooting positions.
- Members and guests must register on the sign-in sheet in the clubhouse upon arrival and before shooting.
- Eye and ear protection shall be worn in accordance with NTSA Safety Rules on NTSA pistol and rifle ranges, known shot fall areas and shotgun fields.
- A hat with a brim facing forward is required in accordance with NTSA Safety Rules
- All shooting must be from established and designated benches, firing lines, or shooting stations, unless specially allowed on specific range(s) during a Board-approved training or practice session, or sanctioned event.
- No loaded firearm may be left unattended or otherwise not in immediate control of the shooter. A firearm in a locked vehicle is considered under control.
- All firearms must be unloaded with actions open when handled or transported on club property, except for persons with lawful authorization to carry a handgun. Actions of uncased firearms on club property shall be open or have a chamber flag in place unless the person is immediately preparing to shoot a target from a bench or firing line.

- Those persons lawfully carrying a handgun shall not remove the firearm from its holster or other carrying device until positioned at a bench or firing line and while facing down range. If the person is not immediately preparing to shoot from a bench or firing line, the handgun must remain holstered or unloaded, with the action open, and placed on the bench with the muzzle pointed down range. Upon completion of shooting, the handgun may be loaded and holstered, or placed in a case, while the shooter is on the firing line facing downrange.
- Do not place any targets directly on the ground on the rifle or pistol range. Personally-owned targets must be elevated a minimum of 24 inches off of the ground and be placed within five yards of the base of the berm so that rounds impact into the berm and do not skip off of the ground.
- Each person is required to clean up their firing point, including spent shot shell hulls, cartridge casings, spent primers, cleaning material, trash, etc. and restore equipment to proper storage locations.
- National Firearms Act (NFA)/Title II firearms including short barreled rifles (SBR's) and suppressed firearms are allowed at the NTSA pistol and rifle ranges, but shall not be fired in full automatic mode. They shall only be fired in semi-automatic mode. NFA firearms must comply with all applicable laws regarding legality, registration, etc. Any device or crank capable of causing full automatic-like fire is prohibited.
- Closed ranges will be appropriately marked and/or chained or roped off and must not be used under any circumstance.
- Pets must be under control at all times and fecal matter must be removed promptly. Members are encouraged to leave aggressive pets at home.

General Pistol and Rifle Safety Policies -

- Before shooting, look downrange and ensure that the pistol or rifle range is clear of other shooters and it is safe to fire. In some cases, it may be necessary to walk down the firing line and look to be sure that a range is clear and it is safe to fire. Return the orange flag back into its holder before firing.
- Be aware of the possibility that shooters may be down range and not standing upright. They may be placing or removing targets, picking up brass, or other equipment. Be especially cautious on the 200-yard rifle range and Pistol Bay 1.
- Do not shoot unless you are on a firing line facing down range and aimed at the berm. The firing line is defined as the place on the pistol or rifle ranges where firearms can be safely discharged, such as behind the concrete or wooden benches, and on the prone shooting platforms. However, the firing line can be forward of the benches under certain circumstances such as Board-sanctioned matches or when a shooter has permission to shoot in front of the benches on Pistol Bay 1 or the 50-yard intermediate range in accordance with the "Downrange Policies" below.
- No firearm may be loaded until the shooter is on a firing line and ready to shoot on an active or "hot" range. A firearm is considered loaded if any part of a shell, cartridge, or charge is within any part of the firearm. Detached magazines and clips may be pre-loaded, but not inserted into the magazine well.
- Only one firearm at a time may be loaded and immediately available to shoot. Other firearms may be on the bench or firing line, but they must be unloaded with the actions open, safeties engaged, magazines removed, and chamber flags inserted. The only exception is a Board-sanctioned multi-gun match.
- The correct ammunition for the firearm in use shall be on the bench or at the firing line.
- All shooters on the rifle and pistol ranges should keep their muzzles parallel to the ground and pointed down range towards the berms. Loaded firearms shall not be pointed above the berms or down towards the ground.
- Aim every shot and ensure that each shot fired impacts into the berm. Do not allow rounds to be skipped off of the ground or shoot at targets on the ground. Cease shooting and determine the cause if a round fired does not hit the impact berm.
- Shoot only at the target directly in front of the shooter. Do not cross fire on targets on the pistol or rifle ranges.
- Shoot the designated target from the designated position only. For example, shoot a 100-yard target from the 100 yard designated bench position.

- On Pistol Bay 1, use only the 25 and 50 yard frames provided to place paper or cardboard targets. Do not shoot the 25 or 50 yard frames from the middle bench because the round may strike the walls. The middle bench is reserved for personally-owned targets placed directly in front of the shooter and the within five yards of the berm. If not shooting from the middle bench, seek permission from the range manager as stated below in the Downrange Policies to shoot forward of the benches and place personally- owned portable targets within 5 yards of the berm. Likewise, on Pistol Bay 2 and 3, shoot the 7, 10, or 15 yard target frames from the designated 7, 10, or 15 yard benches, respectively.
- On the 50-yard intermediate range, use the target frames provided at 50 yards and do not place any targets closer than 50 yards. If a shooter wants to shoot closer distances, and the range is unoccupied, display the orange flag and pivot the target frames out of the way and set up personally-owned targets within 5 yards of the berm.
- On the 100 and 200 yard range, use the target frames provided at 100 and 200 yards. Any personally-owned portable target shall be placed within 5 yards of a berm.
- Prone Shooting Platform – The NTSA has a permanent concrete shooting platform on the rifle range and a portable wooden platform on the 50-yard Intermediate Range. Prone rifle shooting on the 100 or 200 yard ranges shall only be done from these platforms at targets directly in front of the platform. Do not crossfire on other target frames such as the 50-yard targetframe on the rifle range. No prone shooting is allowed on Pistol Bays 1, 2 and 3. When shooting prone from either platform, ensure that the rounds fired impact into the berm.
- Downrange Shooting Policies - Downrange shooting is only allowed on Pistol Bay No. 1 and the 50yard intermediate range using the following procedures. Anyone intending to shoot downrange on Pistol Bay No. 1 or the 50-yard Intermediate Range must inform the Range Manager or Range Officer before shooting. The range or bay must be unoccupied by other shooters. All four hanging safety signs in Pistol Bay No. 1 must be placed in the down position and secured with the chains provided. On Pistol Bay 1 or the 50-yard intermediate range, the orange safety flag(s) must be displayed. Shooters must supply their personally-owned portable target stands, sticks, targets, etc., and they must be placed within five yards of the berm. Do not uncase, handle, or load a firearm at the benches on Pistol Bay 1 when the signs are lowered and shooters are downrange. Do not move the target frames closer to the benches than the 50-yard position. Be aware that there are now three sections to Pistol Bay 1 and be especially cautious of shooters that may be on the west or middle bays. When using the middle or west bays, display an orange flag in the bracket provided at the entrance to the middle or west bays, and return it to its holder when finished. On the 50-yard intermediate range, shooters must pivot the two metal target frames out of the way against the concrete walls, and set their personally-owned targets within five yards of the berm. Return the target frames at the 50-yard position when finished.
- Carrying and drawing from a holster is allowed under the “Down Range Rules” listed above when shooting downrange on personally-owned targets. This activity is limited to Pistol Bay 1 and the 50-yard intermediate range. It is also limited to direct draw holsters. Cross draw and shoulder holsters are not permitted.
- No quick or fast draw, hammer “fanning”, or hip firing is permitted. However, “shooting from retention” is permitted.
- During sanctioned pistol matches, all handguns shall be unloaded in holsters (with the magazine removed, if so equipped) while not on the firing line.
- Do not shoot at club structures including, but not limited to, cameras, clay target houses, fences, posts, barrels, barricades, target frames and supports, Porta-Potties, target sheds, Conex boxes, scoring sheds, metal covers, etc.
- To minimize the chance of bullets striking the target frames, all targets must fit entirely within the area of the backer board and must not overlap the target frame.
- Ensure that rounds fired do not strike the walls or steel supports.
- Unless shooting from a rest or other stable position, targets must be centered on and within the backer to avoid frame or post damage.
- On the rifle and pistol ranges, remove your targets from the backers and place used targets in the barrels provided. Targets left on the backers eventually fall off and blow into the neighbor's property or litter the club property.

- Rifles that need to be checked for point of aim versus point of impact (sighted-in) shall be shot at closer distances such as 15 or 25 yards before shooting at longer ranges such as 50 or 100 yards. Likewise, a rifle must be sighted-in for 100 before moving to the 200 yard frames. In all cases, the rifle must be able to hit near the center of the target before progressing to the next distance. Bore sighting a rifle is encouraged, if possible, when shooting a rifle with new or altered sights, but may not be sufficient to ensure hitting the center of the target. The use of a secure rest is encouraged.
- Pistols that need to be checked for point of aim versus point of impact (sighted-in) shall be shot at closer distances such as 7 or 10 yards before shooting 15, 25, or 50 yards. In all cases, the pistol must be able to hit near the center of the target before progressing to the next distance. The use of a rest is encouraged when sighting-in.
- General Cease Fire - When more than one person is using a particular range and another person needs to go down range to place or retrieve a target, the person needing to go downrange shall be in charge of calling a cease fire and safely clearing the range. That person shall:
 - Notify all shooters present and receive an oral acknowledgment from each person of the cease fire;
 - Ensure, by visibly checking, that all firearms are unloaded with actions opened or the bolt removed and a chamber flag installed. If the firearms is so equipped, magazines shall be removed and safeties engaged;
 - Allow the removal of firearms or other equipment from the bench or firing line prior to allowing a shooter to advance downrange and forward of the benches;
 - Ensure that all shooters step away from the bench or firing line, and remain away, while shooters are down range;
 - Activate the safety lights on the rifle range and set the orange flags on all ranges before anyone advances forward of the benches or firing line and goes down range;
 - Visibly check that all persons downrange have returned behind the firing line before turning off the flashing light, returning the orange safety flags, and giving the command to “commence fire” or “range hot”;
 - During the cease fire and only on the rifle range, a firearm may be handled away from the bench and behind the firing line when the bolt has been removed and the chamber flag is inserted. Firearms may NOT be brought to or removed from the bench or firing line during cease fire periods when shooters are downrange;
- Setup or Prep Period - When more than one person is using a range and another person needs to go down range to set up or remove equipment such as wind flags, chronographs, rests, etc., the person needing to go downrange shall be in charge of calling a set up or prep period and safely clearing the range in accordance with the rules listed above under General Cease Fire. In addition, that person shall:
 - Ensure that no ammunition is on the firing line or bench while persons are downrange during a set up or prep period;
 - Allow shooters to advance forward of the firing line to set up wind flags, chronographs, etc. and work with unloaded firearms with the bolts removed on the bench or firing line;
 - Ensure that all other shooters who are not setting up or picking up equipment step away from the firing line;
 - Station himself, or a designated person, to be in a position to watch the entire firing line and ensure compliance with the safety rules.
- Firearms chambered for the .50 BMG cartridge are limited to test firing only or sighting-in only on the rifle range (with no more than 10 rounds total fired per day regardless of the number of shooters), limited to week days only, and shall be fired from a bench that is located no less than five firing positions away from other shooters. Shooters should be aware of the range and power of the .50 BMG round and ensure the rounds fired impact into the berm. Shooters must notify the range officer when shooting a firearm chambered for .50 BMG.

Muzzleloading Firearms

- No smoking or other lighted materials may be on the firing line or within 15 feet of loading benches.
- No source of ignition should be present during loading.

- No open powder containers may be on a range except to load powder measures behind the firing line.
- No powder containers may be on the firing line.
- Flasks, horns or other small containers are allowed on the firing line. A small container may be used to prime flintlock firearms.
- Firearms must be firmly supported in an upright position during loading with the muzzle not pointing at the loader's body or in an unsafe direction.
- Firearms may be loaded, except priming or capping, at the loading benches to the rear of the firing line. Firearms using prepared cartridges may be loaded at the firing line.
- No capping or priming until on the firing line and ready to fire.
- Firearms must be unloaded; including unprimed/uncapped, and made safe prior to being placed on a bench. Uncased firearms should be carried muzzle up when transporting to and from the firing line.
- After announcement of cease fire periods, shooters shall be given the opportunity to complete loading and discharge their firearms.

Authorized Targets on the Rifle and Pistol Ranges

- Targets set directly on the ground are prohibited.
- All shooters on the rifle and pistol ranges shall ensure that the rounds fired pass through the black plastic backers and impact into the berms. Place paper or cardboard targets only in the center of the plastic backer and avoid shooting the wood frames or the metal posts. Do not place any targets on top of the wooden frames or metal posts.
- Paper or cardboard targets should be affixed to the black plastic backer in such a way that rounds fired do not impact into the wood supports or the metal uprights.
- Anyone shooting steel targets of any kind must have completed the NTSA's Steel Target Training Course. No steel targets are to be shot in Pistol Bays 2 or 3. Steel targets may be shot in Pistol Bay 1, the 50-yard intermediate rifle range, and the 100 and 200 yard rifle ranges. All targets must be placed at the base of the berm or not further than 5 feet from the berm. Shooting on the 50-yard range must be conducted from behind the benches or from the left side adjacent to the benches, unless permission was granted to move forward of the benches.
- Clay targets may be used on the rifle and pistol ranges if supported by a personally-owned cardboard backer or other approved target holder. It is permissible to place clay targets directly on the berms, but not on the ground in front of the berms.
- Bowling pins are prohibited on NTSA ranges.
- No tin cans or glass bottles shall be shot on NTSA ranges.
- Exploding and other reactive targets that leave glass, metal, or hazardous remains are prohibited.
- Tannerite targets are prohibited.
- No personally owned target shall create an unsafe condition. Personally owned targets must be removed at conclusion of each shooting session.

Authorized Ammunition on the Rifle and Pistol Ranges

- Full metal jacketed centerfire rifle ammunition may be used on paper, cardboard, and clay targets but is prohibited on steel targets.
- Jacketed soft point, plastic ballistic tip or open tip match projectiles are required when shooting centerfire rifle cartridges on steel targets.
- Armor piecing ammunition is prohibited on NTSA ranges.
- Steel-tipped, steel-cored, or copper-washed steel bullets such as green-tipped ammunition are prohibited on steel targets.
- Full metal jacketed centerfire pistol ammunition is allowed on steel targets if the minimum velocity is 750 feet per second and less than 1200 feet per second.
- Frangible centerfire rifle and pistol ammunition is allowed on any target.
- Cast or swaged lead bullets are allowed in rimfire and centerfire rifle and pistol.

General Shotgun Policies

- Members must pay for all rounds (25 targets) of skeet, trap, or five-stand shot and are responsible for ensuring that their guests pay the appropriate target and guest fees.
- All shotgun actions must be open and empty at all times, except when the shooter is on station and ready to call for target.
- Shotguns must be unloaded and the action opened before leaving the station.
- Muzzles shall be pointed in a safe “downrange” direction at all times.
- Maintain physical control of the muzzle at all times. This can be done with break-open shotguns by draping the stock over the shoulder and grasping the barrel pointed down. Do not drape the barrel over the shoulder with the muzzle pointed behind. For shotguns that do not break-open, such as semi-automatics or pumps, place the shotgun over your forearm with the stock tucked under your arm pit and the muzzle pointed down at the ground.
- No slug gun, pistol or rifle is allowed on the shotgun ranges.
- Any shotgun that malfunctions must be unloaded on the shooting station and made safe. This may require the shotgun to be cased before removal from the shooting station. Repairs shall not be done on the shooting field, but may be done in a safe area such as one of the pistol ranges.
- Only authorized and trained personal are allowed to load or adjust any trap machines. If you don't KNOW that you are authorized, you're not!

The practice of tracking targets behind a shooting squad with a shotgun is considered unsafe, disconcerting to the shooters, and is not permitted.

- Shooters are responsible for removing all of their spent hulls after a round is finished and all stations are clear of shooters.
- Spectators will remain at a safe distance behind the range when there is shooting in progress.

Skeet Range Policy

- A round consists of 25 targets.
- Keep all loaded guns pointed in a safe direction (between the houses).
- Never load until you are on your position and ready to call for your target.
- Never load more than two (2) shells in your shotgun at any time except on Station 8, where only one round may be loaded.
- The maximum load allowed is three (3) dram equivalent.
- The largest shot size allowed on the skeet fields is #8. The preferred shot is #9. No steel shot is allowed.
- Unload your shotgun and open the action before leaving or moving between shooting stations.
- Unload and move back away from the station if a house must be entered

Trap Range Policy

- A round consists of 25 targets.
- Always keep the action open and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Never load your shotgun until you are on your position and ready to call for your target.
- Load only one shell at a time when shooting singles, (two only if shooting doubles or wobble).
- Unload your gun and open action when leaving or moving between stations, or when there is a disruption of the Squad such as a misfire, equipment failure, etc. ***Note: It is especially important when moving from station 5 to station 1, that the action be open, the muzzle pointed down and kept parallel to the 16-yard line and not pointed backward toward the benches.***
- Unload and leave action open if it becomes necessary for someone to enter a trap or skeet house.
- A bright orange signal device must be used when entering the Trap House.

5-Stand Policy

- A round consists of 25 targets.
- No gun shall be loaded until shooter is in the shooting station.

- The muzzle shall remain in the cage window and pointed in a direction that will not endanger other field personal or spectators.
- Always keep the action open and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction when out of the cage.
- If shooter is on station with loaded gun and a delay occurs all guns must be unloaded. □ Never load more than two (2) shells in your shotgun at any time.
- Traps may be moved and/or adjusted only by persons with specific authorization from the Range Manager or Skeet/5 Stand Chair.

Authorized Ammunition on the Shotgun Fields

- All ammunition being used on club property is to be made available for inspection upon the request of a range officer. The use of any ammunition not conforming to club rules or any deemed to present a safety hazard must be discontinued immediately.
- Only clay targets provided by the club are permitted for use in NTSA equipment. Paper and cardboard are allowed on the patterning board only.
- No live birds, animals, or other objects will be used as a target.
- Only un-plated lead bird shot, sizes 7 ½, 8, 8 ½ and 9 standard target loads may be fired at the pattern board. Copper or nickel plated shot and buck shot must be fired at paper targets. Steel shot and other non-lead shot is prohibited.
- Number 7 ½ shot is the largest shot allowed in shot shells, and this is on the trap fields and the 5stand field. Number 8 shot is the largest allowed on the skeet fields.
- Shotgun slugs may be used at a reasonable distance on paper, cardboard and clay targets on the pistol and rifle ranges. The minimum distance for slugs on steel targets is 50 yards. □ No slugs or single projectile ammunition shall be shot on the pattern board.

Policies for Commissioned Law Enforcement Officers

- Commissioned law enforcement officers (LEO) in uniform or in plain clothes may carry their loaded handguns in their holsters on NTSA ranges.
- Plain clothes officers with firearms exposed must wear their badge on their belt next to their holstered handgun.
- LEO's intending to target practice with their duty handgun shall not draw the handgun unless on a bench or firing line and facing downrange.
- If the LEO is competing in a sanctioned match, the LEO shall move to a "safe area", remove the handgun from the holster and unload it before re-holstering, or secure the loaded handgun in their vehicle and use another handgun. Pistols in holsters must be unloaded and have the magazine well empty. A "safe area" is a designated area in another shooting bays where a firearm may be safely handled.
- Commissioned LEO's intending to shoot a rifle, carbine, or shotgun, shall not remove the loaded firearm from their vehicle unless it is cased. The firearm must be taken to a safe area to unload, or to the firing line to uncase and shoot. Action matches are conducted under a "cold" range.

Policies for Licensed to Carry (LTC) Holders

- LTC holders shall not draw their loaded handguns unless they are on a firing line or in a safe area.
- If the LTC is competing in a sanctioned match, the LTC shall move to a safe area, remove the handgun from the holster and unload it before re-holstering, or secure it in their vehicle and use another handgun.

Sanctioned Matches

- Sanctioned matches are those matches authorized by the Board of Directors to be held on a certain dates and times, and on certain ranges for the benefit of the members.

- At the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, an event meeting all, or most of the criteria below, with participation of 7 or more competitors, shall be deemed a “Match” and be subject to the Sanctioned Match policy as outlined in this section.

A Sanctioned match is:

1. a contest in which individuals and/or teams compete against each other in a particular sport,
 2. scheduled for a particular time and date,
 3. advertised; which may be via the club calendar, digital or physical flyer posting, word of mouth, email, social media or other method,
 4. scored,
 5. one in which a winner or winners are recognized
- The Board authorizes the Match Director to be in charge of the designated range(s) and the match until the match is completed.
 - Sanctioned matches are to be listed on the official calendar on the NTSA website and open to all NTSA members.
 - All sanctioned matches involving action shooting with pistols, carbines, or shotguns are held on a “cold” range, which means that all firearms are unloaded until the shooter is called to the firing line by a Safety Officer. All firearms handling will be done on the firing line or in the designated safe area. A shooter may load rounds into magazines at any appropriate time but shall not load magazines into the firearm until the shooter is on the firing line and is instructed to uncase or unholster and load by the Safety Officer.
 - During action shooting matches with pistols, carbines, or shotguns, unless the shooter is actually firing at target(s), the manual safety shall be ON when the firearm is loaded. The shooter’s finger must be outside the trigger guard and off of the trigger until the shooter is aimed-in at the target and ready to shoot. When a shooter is required to move from one firing point to another during a stage, before moving, the safety shall be ON, the finger outside the trigger guard, and the muzzle pointed down range towards the targets and the berm.
During action shooting with pistols, carbines, or shotguns, the shooter must know where his or her muzzle is pointed at all times and not violate the 180 degree rule. For example, while facing the target(s), the shooter must not point the muzzle beyond 90 degrees either left or right side of the target(s).
 - Match Directors may impose additional firearms safety rules as appropriate. Likewise, Match Directors can modify certain rules to accommodate operating procedures for their specific matches provided the modifications are safe. For example, during benchrest matches, it is customary for benchrest rifles to be handled off of the firing line with the bolts and/or firing pins removed.

NTSA Steel Reactive Target Policy

Shooters may use club owned steel reactive targets that have been placed on open ranges by NTSA staff for general use. Specific rules for the use of club owned steel targets, on open ranges, shall be listed on signs placed in proximity to the steel targets and shall be enforced.

Prior to shooting, it is the user’s responsibility to inspect all targets for damage and functionality. If the target faces are damaged, or the target does not operate as designed, do not shoot the target. Notify the Range Officer immediately.

Club owned steel targets placed on a closed range may be used only under the direction of a board approved Match Director.

Shooters may use personally owned steel targets when in compliance with this policy and after completing a NTSA training course, but are limited to .22 rim fire and number 7 ½ or smaller shotgun ammunition only.

1. Use of personally owned Steel Reactive Targets

1.1 Steel reactive targets are limited to the 100 and 200 yard rifle ranges, the 50 yard intermediate range, and Pistol Bay 1.

1.2 Steel reactive targets must be placed at the base of the berm whenever possible and under no circumstances placed greater than five yards from the berm regardless of the minimum distances listed below.

1.3 The minimum shooting distance from the steel reactive target when using .22 rim fire is 15 yards.

1.4 The minimum shooting distance from the steel reactive target when using shot shell cartridges is 15 yards.

1.5 Targets faces shall not be placed directly on the ground.

1.6 Target faces that are cratered, pitted, pockmarked, or damaged shall not be used.

1.7 Targets should be placed with a 3 foot lateral and deep offset from the adjacent target.

1.8 If shooting multiple targets, the angle of engagement should not exceed 20 degrees.

1.9 Hearing protection and wrap-around shatter resistant eye protection are recommended.

1.10 Shooters and observers should wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, a cap or hat with a brim, and closed toe shoes when shooting steel.

2. Target Specifications

2.1 The minimum hardness for all target faces for use with center fire pistol or rifle is 500 Brinell AR steel

2.2 Targets for .22 rim fire may be commercially manufactured and sold specifically for use with .22 rim fire ammunition, or they may be made of any steel that is a minimum of ¼ inch thick.

3. Ammunition

3.1 Jacketed soft point or hollow point projectiles are required when shooting center fire rifle cartridges.

3.2 Ammunition that exceeds 3,100 feet per second at 10 feet from the muzzle is prohibited.

3.3 Ammunition that travels below 750 feet per second at 10 feet from the muzzle is prohibited.

3.4 Number 7 ½ shot is the largest shot allowed. BB's, steel shot, or air gun pellets are prohibited.

3.5 Armor piecing, steel-tipped, steel-cased or steel-cored ammunition is prohibited.

3.6 Full metal jacketed center fire rifle ammunition is prohibited on steel targets.

3.7 Full metal jacketed center fire pistol ammunition is allowed on steel targets if it conforms to the velocity requirements. 750 FPS minimum, 1500 FPS maximum.

3.8 Frangible center fire rifle and pistol ammunition is allowed.

3.9 Cast or swaged lead bullets are allowed in center fire rifle and pistol.

3.10 The minimum shooting distance from the steel target when using center fire rifle cartridges is 100 yards.

3.11 The minimum shooting distance from the steel target when using center fire pistol cartridges is 15 yards.

3.12 The minimum shooting distance from the steel reactive target when using shotgun slugs is 50 yards.

4. Responsibilities and Approvals

4.1 Prior to shooting, it is the user's responsibility to inspect all targets for damage and functionality. If the target faces are damaged, or the target does not operate as designed, the target shall be resurfaced or replaced before it can be used.

4.2 Any steel target can be inspected at any time by the NTSA Range Manager for compliance and removed from use, if necessary.

4.3 The NTSA Range Manager will approve all steel targets to be used at the NTSA Range that meet the requirements listed in this policy. However, no steel targets will be used unless approved by the Range Manager.

4.4 Match Directors will request approval for all steel targets to be used during sanctioned competitions or other events. This can be done by allowing the Range Manager the opportunity to inspect the purchase documents and the targets prior to using them in a competition. This procedure will apply anytime a new target is purchased.

4.5 When steel targets are used on closed ranges, Match Directors and Range Officers shall ensure that all shooters are using the specified ammunition and comply with all instructions and restrictions listed in this policy including placement of the targets. In addition, Match Directors and Range Officers must comply with all of the manufacturer's safety instructions.

4.6 Upon NTSA Range Manager approval, shooters may use personally owned steel reactive targets on Pistol Bay 1 and the 50-yard intermediate range, but are limited to .22 rim fire and 7 ½ or smaller shotgun ammunition. To receive approval for personally owned .22 rim fire or shotgun targets, the user must take the required training course, sign a document that states that the user understands and agrees with the Steel Reactive Target Policy, and allow the Range Manager the opportunity to inspect the targets prior to use. The Range Manager will then sign the same document indicating that the user has received approval.

4.7 The shooter is at all times responsible for the safe use and the proper maintenance of his or her personally owned steel reactive targets.

4.8 Failure to comply with the policy will result in losing the privilege to shoot steel reactive targets, and may result in losing his/her membership.

5. Training Course

5.1 A NTSA subcommittee will develop an approved training course for use by Match Directors and Range Officers, and approved by the Board of Directors.

5.2 This course will include all the instructions, restrictions, and responsibilities listed in the steel target policy.

5.3 This course will require that the user sign a document stating that he/she has read and will comply with this policy.

5.4 The document will certify that the Range Officer has received the required block of training and provide signature blocks for the Range Officer, the person providing the training, and the Range Manager.

5.5 The Range Manager will keep the original certification to be filed at the NTSA clubhouse and provide a copy to the Range Officer.