



P.O. Box 2042 Denton, Texas 76202-2042

# Safety Rules and Policies

4-27-2026

# Emergency Medical Equipment is located in the NTSA clubhouse



And often available at specific venues during matches.

# NTSA By-Laws

“I.1.6.4 Safety \* Any member who acts in a manner on NTSA, Inc. property which may cause potential or actual injury to another person or persons or their property (whether on NTSA, Inc. premises or not) shall be suspended.”

*Any action you take while on NTSA property may have an effect on persons or property outside of club boundaries. You are responsible for any injury and or damage that may occur as a result of a round leaving the barrel of any firearm under your 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 a 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 are 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.

## The fundamental rules for safe gun handling are:

### 1. **ALWAYS** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.

### 2. **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.

### 3. **ALWAYS** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, if the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.



The members of the Board of Directors are responsible for the development and enforcement of safety rules and regulations. Range Managers, Range Officers and Match Directors are appointed by the Board of Directors and derive their authority to enforce safety rules by acting as agents for the Board of Directors.

**All club members are responsible for safety.** In the event you observe a violation of any of the 11 safety rules you may elect to address the issue (in a friendly manner) with the offending party or report the issue to the Range Manager on duty, a Range Officer on duty, the Match Director (if the event occurs during a match) or any board member who is in the vicinity.

**If you observe a safety rule violation that involves personal injury or significant risk of personal injury, and/or any property damage, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT THE INCIDENT TO THE RANGE MANAGER OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITHIN 12 HOURS OF THE OCCURANCE.**

# Safety starts on NTSA roads



Obey all posted signs at NTSA

# Eye Protection is a MUST



All members & guests **MUST** sign in at clubhouse



**Each NTSA member may have up to five guests with them. Guests must sign in using the member's number and remain under the member's direct supervision at all times while on club property.**

# Children & Guests on the Range

- Members **MUST** provide direct supervision to children and guests and must remain with their guests and or children on the same rifle range, pistol bay, or shotgun field at all times.
- Each NTSA member # may bring up to five guests.
- Members are responsible for the actions of guests and minors that they bring onto NTSA property.

## **Defensive Firearms on NTSA Property:**

NTSA recognizes and honors the laws of Texas and the USA. Defensive handguns may be carried open or concealed by anyone legally authorized to do so. Defensive handguns 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 activities and may prohibit the carrying of loaded firearms on ranges under that Match Director’s control.

# Mandatory Equipment

- **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.
- **A hat with a forward-facing brim is required at all times in the known shot fall areas**, but not while indoors or when inside a vehicle, a building or under cover on the rifle or pistol range.



# NTSA Safety Policies

- 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.**
- All firearms must be unloaded with actions open when handled or transported on club property, except for persons with lawful authorization to carry a defensive 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 the bench or firing line.
- Before shooting, look downrange and ensure that the range is clear of other shooters and it is safe to fire. 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.
- Any gun that is locked in your car is considered to be in your control. A loaded gun in an unlocked car is not in your control!



# Shotgun Fields

Anyone downrange of the seating area on any shotgun field is required to wear eye protection at all times.

Hearing protection is highly recommended.

- 
- #8 shot is the largest allowed on the Skeet Fields.
  - #7.5 shot is the largest allowed on 5-Stand and Trap fields.

# Shotguns Must be Open and Empty

Unless the shooter is in position and ready to fire



**Range Managers are Responsible for Loading Clay Target Machines.**

**Members who wish to load clay targets must be trained by an NTSA Range Manager prior to entering any trap house. Training will include how to safely and effectively load clay target machines.**



## Pistol Bays and Rifle Range

- **Eye protection must be worn at all times on pistol and rifle ranges.**
- **Hearing protection is highly recommended.**

- All shooters on the rifle and pistol ranges must keep their muzzles parallel to the ground and pointed down range towards the berms.
- Loaded firearms shall not be pointed above berms or down towards the ground.
- Aim every shot and ensure that each shot fired impacts the berm. Do not allow rounds to be skipped off of the ground or walls. Do not shoot at targets on the ground.
- Cross-firing is not allowed. Only targets directly in front of the shooter may be engaged.
- In Pistol Bay 1, only 25 yard and 50 yard targets may be engaged. No shooting from the center bench in PB 1.
- All Projectiles must not impact the walls or ground; they must pass through the backers and stop in the berm.
- Muzzle loading firearms are permitted with specific guidelines that must be followed.

Ensure targets are placed only in the middle of the Black Backers.



No targets may be placed on the top of the backers or on the ground.

Members are required to retrieve and dispose of paper targets.

# General Cease Fire

- When more than one person is using a particular range and someone needs to go down range for any reason, the person needing to go downrange shall be responsible for calling a cease fire and safely clearing the range.
- Notify all shooters present and receive an oral acknowledgement from each person of the cease fire, and deploy the down range warning devices, safety lights and/or orange flags before anyone advances forward of the benches or firing line and goes down range.
- All shooters must ensure, by visibly checking, that all firearms are unloaded with actions opened or the bolt removed or a chamber flag installed. If a firearm is so equipped, magazine shall be removed and safety must be engaged.
- All shooters must visibly check that all persons downrange have returned behind the firing line before turning off the flashing lights, returning the orange safety flags, and giving the command to “commence fire” or “range hot”.



# Orange Flags

Must be posted during any cease fire or downrange activity on any pistol bay.



During cease fire on the rifle range the lights must be activated.



# No Gun Handling During a Cease Fire



Shooters must remain away from the benches during a cease fire.

# Handguns on the Bench



**Firearms placed on the bench must be pointed toward the berm, unloaded with action open.**

NTSA allows the drawing and firing from a ***straight draw holster only.***



**Not allowed**

Competition type speed drawing from a holster is only allowed on closed ranges reserved for such activities.

# Chamber Flags & Weed Eater Line to indicate no round in barrel

- Use chamber flags
- Weed eater line is available at range office
- Cartridges or cases must NEVER be used as a chamber flag!



# NTSA Club owned Barricades



**Barrels, barricades and accessories are stored on the range but are strictly for use during matches**

# Steel Targets

- You must comply with steel target rules posted nearby club owned steel targets or as specified by a Match Director during a club sanctioned match.
- Only lead projectiles may be used with steel targets. Copper plated or jacketed lead is acceptable.
- ***Steel core or steel tip bullets are prohibited and must never be used with steel targets.***
- Steel Targets in Pistol Bay 3 are to be engaged with pistol caliber ammunition only! Wrap type eye protection is highly recommended. Specific minimum and maximum velocities are posted.
- Targets located on the west end of Pistol Bay 3 are designated for .22 caliber rim-fire ammunition only!

# Rifle Range

Eye protection shall be worn at all times on the rifle range.

Hearing protection is highly recommended.

- No armor piercing or incendiary ammo is allowed.
- NTSA allows ammunition up to and including .50 BMG.
- However, .50 BMG is limited to the rifle range with a maximum of 10 rounds per gun per day.
- There must be a minimum of 5 open spaces on the line adjacent to anyone firing a .50 BMG

# Pick up your spent brass



Remember, you are responsible  
for complying with NTSA Safety  
Rules and Range Policies.

Copies may be found in the club  
house and by clicking the Rules  
tab on [shootntsa.com](http://shootntsa.com)