**Club Safety Rules**

1    These Rules govern the conduct of the Club’s activities at Blairadam Range and must be strictly complied with by all members of the Club and by the Club’s visitors, guests and spectators.

2    Each Range Conducting Officer (RCO, see note 4) must have full knowledge of the Range Orders issued by the Blairadam Shooting Association (the “BSA Range Orders”), as well as these Club Safety Rules. In the event of any conflict or ambiguity between the BSA Range Orders and these Rules, the BSA Range Orders shall take precedence.  In addition to these Rules and the BSA Range Orders, the NRA Rules of Shooting and Programme (the “Bisley Bible”) published annually by the NRA shall apply to the Club’s activities at the Range, unless modified by these Rules and/or by the BSA Range Orders.

3    The headings and paragraph numbers in these Rules are for convenience only and shall not affect their interpretation.

**Range Conducting Officer**

4    An RCO or qualified RSO (herein after being referred to as the RCO) shall always conduct proceedings on the Range .  All RCOs must be duly qualified as such by the National Rifle Association (NRA) or by any successor to the NRA who assumes responsibility for the training and certification of RCOs.

5.    The RCO shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with these Rules and the BSA Range Orders at all times while the Club is using the Range.  The RCO shall have the powers set out in, and shall be entitled to act in accordance with, the Range Conducting Officers’ Course Instruction Manual published by the NRA (or any equivalent document published by any successor to the NRA who assumes responsibility for the training and certification of RCOs).

6.    The RCO must control the Range from the Firing Point in use at the relevant time.  An individual shooter may not act as their own RCO.  If an RCO wishes to shoot, then another qualified RCO who is not shooting at the same time must be appointed as RCO instead.

7.    The RCO must have a functional mobile phone available to him or her at all times in order to contact the emergency services, if required.

8.    The RCO shall ensure that one First Aid kit is located at (a) the Firing Point and (b) the Butts at all times during the period of the Club’s use of the Range. The club’s defibrillator is to be located at the butts while they are occupied or at the firing point when the butts are unoccupied.

9.    It is the responsibility of the RCO appointed for the last detail to ensure that the person collecting the red flag from the top of the hill above the Stop Butt has returned safely. The person deploying or collecting the top flags (3 number) is to take a radio with him for use in an emergency.

**Butts Officer and Procedures**

10.    The RCO must nominate another experienced person as the Butts Officer.  The Butts Officer is under the command of and is responsible to the RCO, but the RCO remains responsible for all activities at the Butts, including clearing up at the end of firing.

11.    Proper communication must be established between the RCO and the Butts Officer before firing commences.

**Marking Targets**

12. There are three different marking conditions which are:

1. Electronic targets only, no personnel in the butts.
2. Manual marking only using spotting discs and signal panels with personnel in the butts.
3. Mixed manual marking and electronic targets (in the event of a failure of some of the electronic targets) with personnel in the butts.

Conditions (2) and (3) will be treated together. Condition (1) will be treated as follows.

Note: The floor of the range, between the 300-yard firing point and the bottom of the stairs leading to the butts, is not visible from the 500-yard firing point. In view of that, it is feasible that personnel may be within the danger area when firing commences with the butt’s flag showing silver. To manage that risk a red token (a red diamond shaped board on a short timber batten) is to be used under Condition (1). The red token is stored in the FKFRC target shed.

13. A range radio (set to channel 4) is always to be available at the firing point and the butts.

**Condition (1) - Electronic Targets Only**

14. On arrival at the butts the butt flag is to be erected with the red side showing towards the firing point. The remainder of the range safety flags (7 no. total) are to be set out at the positions shown in the Blairadam Range Orders.

15. Once the targets have been erected and hoisted into position the Butts Officer is to contact the RCO and obtain instructions. The RCO is then to instruct the butts flag to be turned to silver and butts party is to depart towards the firing point.

16. The Butts Officer is to be the last person to leave the butts and he must check that nobody will remain. On leaving, the Butts Officer is to collect the red token and bring it to the firing point and hang it on the fence in view of the RCO. At the end of shooting the Butts Officer is to collect the red token and return it to the butts. This is to happen each time personnel return to unoccupied butts.

17. For Conditions (2) and (3) the butts will be run in the traditional way (see below) with the red token remaining in the butts.

**Conditions (2) & (3)- Mixed Electronic and Manual Targets**

18.    The butts swivelling marker (red one side, silver on the rear, “Butts Flag”) must be displayed at the Stop Butt as soon as practicable during the setting-up of the Range. The Butts Flag is to be turned to the red side until the RCO instructs it to be turned to silver. Firing must never take place when the Butts Flag is showing red.

19.    The Butts Flag must only be turned to the silver side on the instructions of the RCO, other than in the event of a loss of communications between the Firing Point and the Butts, in which event the Butts Officer must turn the Butts Flag to the red side, order all targets to be lowered, and order all members of the butts party to stay under cover.  It is then the responsibility of the RCO to re-establish contact with the butts’ party, via a person delegated by the RCO for this task, after the Firing Point has been fully cleared.

20.    No person may leave the safety of the butts without the permission of the RCO, who must first ensure that the Firing Point is fully cleared and that the Butts Flag remains turned red.

21.    Firing must stop if an aircraft (e.g. a low flying glider) strays within the danger zone over the Butts and is in danger from a possible ricochet.

22.    Smoking is strictly prohibited in the area of the Butts and in the surrounding wooded area to minimise fire risk.

**Range Flags**

23.    The red flags specified in the BSA Range Orders must be hoisted at least thirty (30) minutes before firing commences.

24.    Firing must not take place if any of the red flags specified in the BSA Range Orders cannot be clearly seen from the Range Entrance, at the Car Park adjacent to the 500 Yard Firing Point.

**Clear Range Procedure**

25.    The person(s) tasked to position the red flags must inform any persons they may meet that they are within the Range’s Danger Area and that they must immediately vacate the Danger Area and advise the RCO accordingly.

26.    To ensure so far as reasonably practicable that the Danger Area remains clear during firing, the RCO and all other Club members must remain alert to any possible incursions by unauthorised persons into the Danger Area.  If this occurs, the RCO or a shooter is to raise the Stop!Stop!Stop! command. Upon hearing this command all firing is to stop. The RCO is to quickly assess the situation and issue further instructions

27.    Firing must not recommence until the RCO has investigated the unauthorised entry, declared the Danger Area is clear and instructed that firing may recommence.

**Safety and Suitability of Firearms and Ammunition**

28.    The owner is responsible for ensuring that his or her firearms and ammunition are safe and suitable for use, and additionally for complying with all applicable legislation and insurance requirements.  If required by the RCO, a shooter must submit their firearms and/or ammunition to the RCO for inspection.

29.    To the fullest extent permitted by law, neither the Club nor any of its officers shall have any responsibility or liability to any person in respect of any loss of or damage to property, or the death or injury of any person, caused by a defective, damaged or unsuitable firearm and/or ammunition (including without limitation handloaded ammunition).

**Conduct at the Range**

30.    All persons must always remain behind the Firing Point (except where participating in butt-marking or the erection or removal of range safety flags and equipment) and must comply with all instructions of the RCO.

31.    All guests and spectators must always be supervised by a full member of the Club when in the vicinity of the Firing Point or the butts.  Spectators must be advised by the RCO to wear ear protection (which is mandatory) and safety glasses (which are strongly recommended).

32.    Children under the age of 16 years must, in the vicinity of the Firing Point or the Butts, remain under the supervision of a parent, guardian or other competent adult at all times while firing is taking place.

33.    Children under the age of 8 years are not allowed on the Range while firing is taking place, unless permission is given by an official of the Blairadam Shooting Association who is present at that time or by the RCO.

34.    Any person (including without limitation a Club member) who in the opinion of the RCO acts in a dangerous, disturbing or otherwise improper manner shall be forbidden to take any further part in the shoot and may be required by the RCO to depart the Range forthwith.  Such person shall also be prohibited from participating in any further events at the Range until a report has been submitted to the Blairadam Shooting Association and the circumstances fully investigated, both by the Club and by the Blairadam Shooting Association.

**Conduct of Firing**

35.    All persons involved in a shoot at the Range (including persons in the Butts and spectators) must always wear ear defenders while firing is taking place.  This is mandatory under the BSA Range Orders.

36.    No person may move onto or place firearms and/or equipment on the Firing Point unless permitted to do so by the RCO.

37.    Except when the RCO has given permission to place firearms on the Firing Point immediately prior to the commencement of firing on a particular detail, all rifles must have their bolts out, and any detachable magazine removed.  (NB this applies even when rifles are contained in rifle cases or gun slips, including when inside vehicles at the car park.)  In specific situations, the RCO may also permit a bolt to be inserted into a rifle for the purpose of checking trigger pressure and/or for essential armourer repairs.

38.    No firearm may be loaded or fired unless the RCO has given the order to the relevant shooter(s) to commence firing.

39.    Aiming or dry firing a firearm (whether or not unloaded) is prohibited except as part of a properly organised course of instruction, or when in a firing position on the Firing Point, and then only if it would, in all respects, be safe to fire a shot, and permission to do so has been granted by the RCO.

40.    At all times when a firearm is being loaded, unloaded and inspected, it must point horizontally at the shooter’s target.

41.    A loaded firearm must always point horizontally at the shooter’s allocated target.

42.    If a safety-related incident occurs during shooting, the RCO shall immediately order “Stop! Stop! Stop!”.  All shooters shall immediately stop firing and comply with the RCO’s further instructions.

43.    In the event of a misfire or hangfire, the shooter must keep the bolt closed and keep the rifle pointed at the target for at least 30 seconds.  The shooter must also inform the RCO.  After 30 seconds have elapsed, the bolt must be opened with care, ensuring that (a) there is no one immediately behind the rifle, (b) the shooter’s hand is forward of the bolt handle, and (c) the shooter’s face is well clear of the breech when the bolt is being opened.

44.    Once a shooter has finished firing, the shooter has the primary responsibility for checking that his or her firearm is clear and that the bolt and any detachable magazine has been removed.  The shooter’s register keeper or coach must then check the firearm to ensure that firearm is clear and that the bolt and any detachable magazine has been removed.  (If no register keeper or coach has been appointed, the RCO shall perform this additional check.)  If any shooter, register keeper or coach fails to properly carry out these checks, this may be considered by the RCO to constitute dangerous behaviour in terms of Rule 34.

45.    All firearms must be cleared and removed from the Firing Point before the butt party may leave the cover of the butts.

46.    Firing may take place with centrefire rifles only if the acoustic barrels are used, with the muzzle placed 2 inches inside the body of the acoustic barrel.  Centrefire rifles that are fitted with sound moderators may however be used at the Firing Point without using the acoustic barrels.

47.    Safe custody of firearms and ammunition is the responsibility of the individual in charge of them.  For the purposes of these Rules, the road and the car park are public places and all firearms being carried to, from and in the vicinity of the car park or the road must be covered or enclosed by a suitable gun bag or case.  Firearms and ammunition must not be left unattended anywhere on the Range at any time.  In particular, firearms and ammunition should not be left out of sight behind the acoustic fence at any of the Firing Points.