

# Los Alamos Sportsmen’s Club

## Safety Handbook

Second Edition, October 2008

*Changes in this edition are highlighted in yellow!*

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### Introduction

The Los Alamos Sportsmen’s Club’s (LASC) membership is dedicated and committed to the safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment. This safety handbook has been prepared to provide all shooters, instructors, observers, and spectators with the safety rules that enable us to enjoy shooting without harm or injury to our guests, the public, the environment, and ourselves.

### Responsibilities

While at LASC, each of us is responsible for our actions and the actions of our guests. We must be careful whenever we handle our firearms or archery equipment. We are aware that any of us can make a mistake, so we help each other and watch out for each other on the range. Each of us follows and enforces the safety rules in this handbook strictly, politely, and courteously.

Each individual assumes the full responsibility and risk of handling firearms and archery equipment and the use of the LASC facilities. Violation of any of the safety rules and warnings, stated or implied, could result in severe personal injury or death to the user or bystanders or result in firearm or property damage.

The rules in this Safety Handbook are intended to provide a safe shooting environment. These rules encourage safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment and they are to be interpreted broadly in their application to include all possible circumstances and events to ensure safe and responsible activities at LASC. These rules do not limit LASC to solely enforcing safe and responsible use of the Shooting Ranges. LASC can limit use of the range beyond these rules, as LASC deems necessary for safety, maintenance or administrative reasons.

### Basic Firearms Safety Rules

The following four basic firearms safety rules apply to all ranges, all situations involving firearms, and everywhere firearms are present. **Following these rules will prevent nearly all firearms accidents.**

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. Never point a firearm at anything you are not willing and justified to destroy.
3. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until your sights are on target and you're ready to fire.
4. Know your target and what is behind it before you shoot.

These four firearms safety rules are the basic rules that should be reviewed before each shooting session or match. Apply these four basic firearms safety rules at all times, at all shooting events.

### General Range Safety Rules

*These rules apply to all LASC ranges, at all times!*

1. Firearms must be holstered or cased, or unloaded with the action or cylinder open and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction in all areas of the range except the firing line or shooting points.
2. Firearms may be un-holstered, uncased, or loaded only on the firing line or shooting point.
3. Eye and ear protection is mandatory during firing. This applies to both shooters and spectators. ANSI Z87 rated eye protection with side shields or wrap-around sides is recommended. Earplugs or earmuffs, or both are acceptable.
4. **No shooting** is allowed before 8:00 a.m. or after sundown on the **outdoor** ranges.
5. Keep the muzzle pointed down range when on the firing line.
6. All firearms on the firing line will be unloaded and made safe (the action opened, and if possible placed on safe) before anyone goes forward of the firing line.
7. No firearms will be handled while anyone is down range.
8. Firearms may be loaded only on the firing line.
9. Anyone on the range, whether shooter, observer, spectator, or instructor, has the authority to order a "**CEASE FIRE**" if they observe an unsafe act or condition.
10. All competitors, observers, and spectators must stay well back of the firing line when not shooting and avoid any activity that might distract the shooters on the firing line.
11. Coaches, instructors, safety officers, range masters, and match directors may be on the firing line to perform their assigned duties.
12. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on all ranges.

13. No one is allowed on LASC property if impaired by drugs or alcohol.
14. Do not discard live or defective ammunition on the range or in the trash – place them in the dud canisters provided near each range.
15. Glass, explosive, and pyrotechnic targets are prohibited.
16. Tracer, armor/metal piercing, steel core, and incendiary ammunition are prohibited.
17. Do not climb, drive on, or cross over any of the earth berms.
18. Do not place or shoot at objects on the berms.
19. Do not shoot at target frames, frame holders, barriers, or match props.
20. Never handle another person's firearm or equipment without their permission.
21. Never leave the range without picking up your brass, cleaning up after yourself, throwing your garbage away, and putting away the targets, target stands and movable targets (bowling pins, etc.) you have used.
22. Paintball guns and air-soft guns may be used on the range, but must follow the same firearm safety rules as live firearms. War games, paint-ball wars, or other games where the firearms are pointed at a person are prohibited on all areas of the LASC.

### General Metallic Target Safety Rules (All Ranges)

1. Ensure all shooters and spectators in the proximity of the metallic targets are wearing eye and ear protection. ANSI Z87.1 compliant safety glasses are **strongly** recommended.
2. Never shoot a steel target with a center-fire or rim-fire handgun cartridge at closer than 12 yards.
3. Never shoot a steel target with a shotgun slug or lead bullet larger than 45 caliber from a muzzle-loader (handgun or rifle) at closer than 35 yards.
4. Never shoot a steel target with shotgun shot larger than #7 ½ shot or buckshot at closer than 12 yards.
5. Never shoot a steel target with shotgun shot #7 ½ or smaller at closer than 7 yards.
6. Never shoot a steel target with a center-fire rifle at closer than 75 yards
7. Never shoot a steel target with a rim-fire rifle cartridge at closer than 12 yards.
8. Ensure no one is in the spatter zone of the metallic target.

### Rifle Range-Specific Rules

1. Shotguns allowed only with slug ammunition
2. Handgun practice/shooting at less than 40 yards will be done at the Handgun Range.
3. Do not shoot at the silhouette stands
4. Do not shoot the gongs with .50 BMG, metal/armor piercing, incendiary, tracer, or steel core rounds.
5. When going down range, walk on the center or right side of the range to avoid the over-flight of shotgun pellets.

### Indoor Range-Specific Rules

1. Shooting is allowed on the indoor range from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
2. Rim-fire and handgun caliber firearms only.
3. The velocity of any cartridge used must not exceed 2200 fps.

4. No center-fire rifles allowed.
5. No black powder firearms allowed.
6. No armor piercing ammunition allowed.
7. Food **should** not be prepared or consumed inside of the clubhouse due to the lead residue from shooting on the indoor range.
8. Turn the ventilation fan on before firing, and turn it off before you leave.
9. Verify that the door to the right, downrange is closed and locked.
10. Never shoot from closer than 7 yards to the bullet trap/backstop. If you need to shoot at shorter distances, move the target closer to the 7-yard line.
11. The indoor range may not be used when a scheduled class or meeting is in session in the classroom.

### **Bull's-eye Handgun Range Rules**

1. Only handgun caliber handguns and rifles, and rimfire handguns and rifles may be used on this range.
2. No shotguns, rifle caliber handguns, center-fire rifle caliber rifles, or full-automatic firearms may be used on this range.
3. Mount only one (1) bull's-eye target per target frame.

### **IPSC Handgun Range Rules**

1. Only handgun caliber handguns and rifles, and shotguns using #7 ½ or smaller shot are allowed on this range.
2. Do not shoot steel targets on this range with rifle calibers.
3. Paper targets may be shot with pistol caliber rifles and shotgun slugs on this range.
4. Special steel shotgun targets for shot appropriate for cowboy action shooting and 3-gun action matches may be used on this range. Maximum shot size of #7 ½ only.

### **Practical Pistol Range Rules**

1. Only handgun caliber handguns and rifles, and shotguns using #7 ½ or smaller shot are allowed on this range.
2. Do not shoot steel targets on this range with rifle calibers.
3. Paper targets may be shot with handgun caliber rifles and shotgun slugs on this range.
4. Special steel shotgun targets for shot appropriate for cowboy action shooting and 3-gun action matches may be used on this range. Maximum shot size of #7 ½ only.

### **Steel Handgun Range Rules**

1. Only handgun caliber handguns and rifles are allowed on this range.
2. The .22 plate rack may only be shot with .22 caliber rimfire rifles and handguns.
3. Do not shoot the .22 plate rack with hyper-velocity 17 HM2 or 17 HRM.
4. Only handgun-caliber rifles (for example, lever-action .38 Special) are allowed on this range.

### Shotgun Range-Specific Rules

1. No guns shall be loaded until the shooter is on the shooting station. "Loading" is putting any part of a loaded shell in any part of the gun.
2. The gun shall be unloaded before leaving the station or changing stations.
3. When not on station, carry your gun with the breech open. Pumps and automatics will have their bolt open. Fixed breech guns will be broken open.
4. Store all guns in racks or in your vehicle.
5. ONLY active shooters, designated pullers, shooting instructors, and referees are allowed "on the field."
6. Be alert for range personnel entering or leaving the trap houses.
7. Shooters will pick up their hulls **after all members of the squad have finished shooting!**
8. Stay clear of the low-house trap when picking up empties.
9. Rules of the shooting sports for skeet, trap, and sporting clays, establish a MAXIMUM SHOT SIZE of 1-1/8 oz., #7 1/2 shot. No shotgun slugs, buckshot, or shot larger than #7 1/2, or any handgun or rifle shooting on the shotgun ranges.
10. The bunkers and trap houses are NOT TARGETS or target stands!
11. Do not attempt to operate the target throwers until you are trained and authorized to do so.
12. Do not rest the muzzle of your shotgun your foot.
13. **Do not drive on the trap and skeet ranges including gravel or asphalt surfaces.**

### Bunker Trap Range-Specific Rules

1. No guns shall be loaded until the shooter is on the shooting station. "Loading" is putting any part of a loaded shell in any part of the gun.
2. The gun shall be unloaded before leaving the station or changing stations.
3. When not on station, carry your gun with the breech open. Pumps and automatics will have their bolt open. Fixed breech guns will be broken open.
4. Store all guns in racks or in your vehicle.
5. ONLY active shooters, designated pullers, shooting instructors, and referees are allowed "on the field."
6. Be alert for range personnel entering or leaving the trap house.
7. Shooters will pick up their hulls **after all members of the squad have finished shooting!**
8. Rules of the International shooting sports for trap establish a MAXIMUM SHOT SIZE of #7-1/2 shot. No shotgun slugs, buckshot, or shot larger than #7-1/2, or any handgun or rifle shooting on the Bunker trap range.
9. The bunker house is NOT A TARGET – don't shoot it!
10. Do not attempt to operate the target throwers until you are trained and competent to do so.
11. Do not rest the muzzle of the shotgun on your foot.

### Match-specific Safety Rules

1. **Always conduct a safety briefing before the beginning of a match.**
2. **Review the four basic firearms safety rules first.**
3. **Cover the LASC range rules relevant to the match.**
4. **Event-specific rules may be adopted for LASC sanctioned events.**

5. **Cover any additional safety and match rules applicable to the specific match and its course(s) of fire as directed by your organizational affiliation, such as SASS, IPSC, IDPA, ATA, NSSA, and NRA etc.**

### Concealed Carry Rules

1. Loaded carry guns may not be drawn or handled except at a firing point or on the firing line in a manner consistent with normal range or match rules or in the event the use of deadly force is necessary and justified to protect yourself or another person from deadly force or great bodily harm.
2. Only persons licensed to carry a concealed firearm by the State of New Mexico or issued a concealed carry permit recognized by the State of New Mexico are allowed to carry concealed firearms on the range.
3. IDPA or other sanctioned matches designed for the use of concealed firearms are allowed.
4. Match-specific rules will be followed as dictated by the courses of fire and the rules of the match's organizational affiliation, such as SASS, IPSC, IDPA, NSSA, ATA, NRA, etc. If the organization we are affiliated with for a match prohibits bringing concealed firearms to the match or to the firing line, then you have to follow their rules.

### Archery Range-Specific Rules

*These rules apply to the target range and the backcountry stalking range.*

1. Do not shoot the targets with broad-heads.
2. No bow handling when people are retrieving arrows or downrange.
3. When searching for arrows beyond the archery targets on the backcountry range, lean your bow upright against the target to inform people you are down range behind the target.
4. Do not shoot at the archery targets or silhouettes when someone's bow is leaning against the target.

### Non-LASC Event-Specific Rules

1. All organizations conducting non-LASC sanctioned or for-profit events, matches, training, etc., are required to fill out and submit an "LASC Range Use Agreement" package.
2. This package with applicable forms can be obtained from the LASC President or Vice-President, or can be downloaded from the LASC web site.
3. After this package has been approved and signed by the LASC President or designee, the contracting organization may conduct its specific event(s) using its specific rules provided all participants are properly briefed (**see the preceding Match-specific Safety Rules**).

### Fire Safety

1. Fire safety rules during **high** or **extreme** fire danger conditions:
  - a. No smoking at the Range except in vehicles.
  - b. Don't throw your **cigarette or cigar** butts out.
  - c. No fires in the pavilion area by the archery range.

- d. Muzzle loading rifles with patched balls are restricted to the firing positions with bare ground in front of them.
  - e. If you see or start a fire, call 911 and report the fire, then put it out if you are qualified to do so, or if you feel it is safe to do so.
2. Fire safety rules during **low** or **moderate** fire danger conditions:
    - a. Be careful when smoking and disposing of butts.
    - b. Do not leave fires in the pavilion area unattended.
    - c. If you see or start a fire, call 911 and report the fire, then put it out if you are qualified to do so, or if you feel it is safe to do so.

### Emergency Response

1. In the event someone is injured:
  - a. Assess the injury.
  - b. If the injury is serious:
    - i. call 911 or have someone call 911
    - ii. apply first aid or CPR as appropriate. (First Aid kits are located in the range house and in the target/storage sheds on or adjacent to each range.)
  - c. Have someone open the gate nearest the injured person, and stand at the entrance to direct emergency responders to the injured person.
  - d. Work with the emergency responders as they direct.
2. In the event of a crime:
  - a. Call 911 and report the incident
3. After a serious injury, crime, or safety violation, please notify:
  - i. Ken Laintz, LASC President, at 672-3507 or [klaintz@msm.com](mailto:klaintz@msm.com), or
  - ii. Howard Hall, LASC Vice President, at 672-0006, or
  - iii. Jay R (Skip) Andersen, Chief Range Safety Officer, at 662-4173 or 412-5976 or [skip.andersen@comcast.net](mailto:skip.andersen@comcast.net)

### LASC Range Evacuation Plan

1. In the event of fire, bad weather, or other disaster that makes remaining at the range unsafe:
  - a. Call 911 when appropriate.
  - b. Notify others present.
  - c. Take your firearms, lock up, and leave the range.
2. In the event of fire, bad weather, or other disaster that blocks the road to Los Alamos, and makes remaining at the range unsafe.
  - a. Verify the road to Los Alamos is impassable.
  - b. Call 911 and report the situation, requesting San Ildedefonso Pueblo assistance to open the gate to Highway 501.
  - c. Make sure all personnel at the range are notified and accounted for.
  - d. Evacuate down Rendija canyon, turning right down Guaje canyon.
  - e. Once you've reached safety, notify the police department and the pueblo.
3. In the event of heavy rains or snow that cause flooding above or below the range, do not attempt to cross flooding arroyos. It is safer to take shelter in your vehicle or in the clubhouse

at the range, and wait until the flooding water recedes. Many vehicles have been destroyed or damaged in Rendija canyon during floods.

Questions or comments on this Safety Handbook may be directed to Jay R (Skip) Andersen, Chief Range Safety Officer, at [skip.andersen@comcast.net](mailto:skip.andersen@comcast.net), or at 662-4173.

The End