

Rules of Safe Shooting

Football, baseball, rock climbing, sky diving, canoeing, car racing and archery (to name a few) all have one thing in common. As fun and as exciting as they are, each sport has explicit rules of safety that must be followed at all times. Everyone must know the rules and everyone must follow the rules. If you decide that you do not like the rules **or** that you cannot follow all the rules, then there is only one outcome: You cannot participate in the sport because you endanger yourself and those around you.

And so it is with shooting sports of any type. From the youngest BB gun shooters to the oldest Grand National Shooting Champion with 10 Olympic Gold Medals. Everyone must follow the rules of safe shooting. No one is “special” enough to be exempt from the rules. The rules apply to all equally.

The 4 Rules of Safe Shooting

- **Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.** On a range, that usually means pointed “down range” at the target. If the gun must be carried, then the gun must be pointed straight up toward the sky.
- **Always keep your finger off the trigger.** Whether the safety is “ON” or “OFF” makes no difference. The finger is never inside the trigger guard unless the target has been acquired through the sights and you are ready to shoot. Never put your finger on the trigger while carrying or handling a gun.
- **Always keep guns unloaded.** To insure everyone that the gun is unloaded, the bolt shall be kept open so that you (and others) can see it is unloaded. Never load the gun until you are in position and ready to shoot. If the gun's action is closed and you do not know how to check it, then don't touch the gun.

This rule can also be stated in the opposite way. Always assume every gun is loaded unless you check it. Seeing someone else check it is not good enough. You must check every gun you touch for yourself.

- **Always know what's behind your target.** Since bullets can travel several miles, it's important to know where the bullet will land. The bullet will not be stopped by target paper, and may not even stop if you shoot a deer. You always want something large and solid, like a hillside, behind the intended target.

There are no numbers to these rules, because each rule is just as important as the others. Together they form a plan that keeps everyone (shooters, assistants, and range personnel) as safe as possible. If you see a violation of these rules then it is your duty to report it immediately. Safety is the number one job of everyone on the range.

It is the duty of each shooter to know and understand these rules before they shoot. Cherokee Gun Club (CGC) reserves the right to test each shooter to make sure they know and understand the safety rules before allowing them to shoot.

Lastly, for the safety of all shooters, major violations or repeat minor violations will not be tolerated on CGC property. CGC is a private gun club and reserves the right to ask any guest to leave should their actions not display a proper respect for the 4 Rules of Safe Shooting or the safety of others.