

## **JROTC Indoor and Outdoor Range Policy**

1. **PURPOSE:** This SOP prescribes safety procedures and precautions for handling of fire arms and ammunition, and conduct of range firing either in Marksmanship Training or Rifle Team firing.
2. **GENERAL:** Marksmanship Training/Competition will be conducted in accordance with applicable ROTC Instructor guides, FORSCOM/TRADOC supplements and AR's 145-2, 190-11, 350-6, 622-10, 920-20, 920-30 and TRADOC REG. 350-8 and JROTC REG.
3. **APPLICATION:** This SOP applies to all Cadre and JROTC Cadets at Spalding High School. The use of all air rifles used in conjunction with the ROTC program, whether the property of the U.S. Government, local institutions or a private individual.
4. **SAFETY:** Safety is paramount in the conduct of all forms of marksmanship training (e.g. Preliminary, Familiarization, Qualification, and Competitive Firing). Firearms in the hands of untrained people are dangerous and may easily result in serious or fatal injury. Remember safety applies before, during, and after firing.
  - a. Cadets are not allowed to participate in live fire exercises unless they have attended all marksmanship training classes to include make-up classes if required. They must demonstrate a satisfactory knowledge of all weapon and range procedure prior to actual firing.
  - b. The Range Officer in Charge (OIC), or Range Safety Officer (RSO), prior to all range firing exercises, will make it clear that anyone can call "Cease Fire" or "stop firing" to stop what is perceived as an unsafe act on the range and halt all firing on the range.
  - c. The Range OIC/RSO will position himself where all firers may be observed. If he can only observe two firers, then only two persons will fire. Additional cadre members may be needed as RSOs if this is the case.
  - d. Upon completion of a firing order, firers will be instructed to place their weapons on safe, lock the bolts to the rear and remain in position until their weapons are physically inspected and cleared by the Range OIC/RSO. Once a weapon is cleared by the OIC/RSO, the weapon will be grounded. The firer and coach will be instructed to move to the rear of the firing point. Weapons must remain under constant surveillance of the Range OIC/RSO. These steps must be completed prior to allowing cadets or cadre down range.
  - e. Personnel not directly involved in firing will be instructed to wait outside the firing range or be seated and remain quiet at all times to allow the Range OIC/RSO to devote his full attention to range safety.
  - f. All weapons will be cleared and inspected by the Range OIC or RSO before and after use as explained below.
5. **ISSUE AND HANDLING OF MARKSMANSHIP WEAPONS:**
  - a. At all time during the issue of Marksmanship weapons, a member of the Military Cadre will be present.
  - b. When a weapon is issued to an individual cadet, the cadre member will insure that the weapon is cleared and the bolt is open. The receiving individual will insure that the weapon is cleared by visually inspecting the chamber.
  - c. Individuals handling weapons will keep the muzzle pointed up in the air and or away from other individuals.
  - d. No aiming, dry firing or position work will be conducted outside the firing area.
  - e. Ammunition will be issued only on the firing range (and only on the command of a member of the Military Cadre). A member of the Military Cadre will maintain visual control of ammunition at all times.

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- f. All personnel engaged in Marksmanship Training or Rifle Team firing will receive a safety briefing at the start of each period of instruction.
6. CLEARING AND TURN-IN OF MARKSMANSHIP WEAPONS:
- a. The Range OIC or RSO will clear all weapons before they are removed from the firing line.
  - b. The weapons will be returned to the cadre member receiving them with the bolt open. Cadets will visually check the chamber prior to handing the weapon to the cadre member.
  - c. The cadre member will inspect the weapon to insure that it is clear before placing it in the racks.
7. GENERAL: The first consideration in any marksmanship training program is safety. Firearms in the hands of an untrained person are, as you know, deadly. In any school environment, as in the JROTC program, student safety must always be the first priority. As you progress in the JROTC marksmanship program, safety with weapons, both on and off the rifle range, will be reviewed and practiced continually.
8. ORIENTATION: Regardless of the degree of experience of the shooters, they must all be oriented on safety regulations prior to their marksmanship training. Safety must be a primary consideration at all times, and even experienced competitors must be reminded periodically of their responsibilities on and off the range. The rules of safety can be divided into three groups. Those rules which apply behind the firing line, those rules which apply on the firing line, and general safety rules which apply to any situation on the range.
- a. Rules to be observed on the range behind the firing line are as follows:
    - (1) Rifle will be cleared at all times. The bolt will be open, CHAMBER CLEARED, and the safety locked.
    - (2) When handling rifles, keep the muzzle pointed up in the air and downrange.
    - (3) There will be no aiming, dry firing, or position work behind the firing line.
    - (4) Draw ammunition according to range rules.
    - (5) When called to the ready line, inspect the bore to insure that it is clear.
    - (6) Do not run on the range.
  - b. Rules and precautions to be observed on the firing line are as follows:
    - (1) Inspect ammunition for cleanliness, serviceability, and proper caliber.
    - (2) Keep rifle clear and pointed downrange until the range has been declared safe for firing.
    - (3) Load only on the command of the range officer/instructor.
    - (4) After firing, remain in position until the rifle is cleared and permission to leave the firing line has been granted. In many matches and in training, shooters must remain in position until the firing line is clear.
    - (5) After firing, each shooter while still in position must open the bolt, inspect the chamber, and, if appropriate, lock the safety.
    - (6) No one will go forward of the firing line before the firing line is cleared by the Range Officer.
    - (7) Upon hearing the command "Cease Fire," shooters will immediately lock and clear all rifles except for those people who need alibis verified.

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(8) Everyone must wear earplugs while firing.

(9) In addition, Range or Match Standing Operation Procedures (SOP's) will be followed.

c. General safety regulations and precautions are as follows:

(1) Any person who observes an unsafe condition on or in front of the firing line will give the command "Cease Fire." Also, he will correct any unsafe condition observed behind the firing line.

(2) All rifles should be inspected before conducting dry firing exercises.

(3) Before firing on any range, the Range Officer or instructor must insure that Range Regulations/Rules are fully understood and observed by all firers.

(4) All personnel, shooters as well as instructors, are to refrain from smoking while on the range.

(5) There will be no consumption of food or drink on the range.

(6) All firers or ammunition handlers will thoroughly wash hands immediately afterward.

9. Accidents result from violations of "common sense" safety rules. Any violation can result in the disqualification of the shooter or his team. Safety consciousness can only be developed if all instructors and experienced shooters set the example and insist that everyone adheres to these same rules.

**REMEMBER NEVER ASSUME A RIFLE IS EMPTY!**