

Dutchess County Pistol Association's NRA matches follow NRA rules as outlined in the current copy of the NRA Conventional and International Pistol Rules books. The Chief Range Officer (CRO) and match director have copies of these NRA rule books and they are also available on line at:

<http://www.nrahq.org/compete/nra-rule-books.asp>.

This quick reference guide helps you to perform your range officer duties.

## General Guidelines

Range Officers are responsible for the safety and discipline of range personnel, competitors and spectators. Range Officers supervise the scoring procedure.

Each Range Officer is assigned a particular sector of the range. Usually this consists of 10 – 20 firing points. You are responsible for all functions within that sector and should remain in that sector. Assistance may be given to other Range Officers when necessary.

Ensure you have:

- Masking tape
- Overlays
- Plugs (.22, .38, .45 for Conventional pistol, and .177, 9mm, 32, .357, 38 for International pistol)

It would be convenient if you carry a target and stapler in case a shooter forgets to bring them down range. This just saves time.

Targets are placed on the benches at each end of the range for the competitors. Ensure the correct targets are available before competitors go down range. For example, change the stack of targets from slow fire to timed fire when appropriate.

After the CRO gives the command to "Clear and bench all guns; make sure the line is safe." At this time you check each gun on the line to ensure the slide is back, cylinder is open and the gun is pointing down range. The CRO will ask, "Is the line safe?" At that time, if you observe any competitor still handling a gun, or if the slide is not back or the cylinder is not

out, raise your hand and say, "The line is not safe." Your hand remains raised until the condition is safe, meaning all guns are benched, slides are locked back and cylinders are out. When the condition is safe, put your hand down and say, "The line is safe."

When competitors go down range to score, you also go down range. Check to ensure all targets are refaced and all bullet holes are patched. Remain down range until all competitors return to their target positions. Then return to the shooting shed and signal to the CRO that everyone has returned from down range and say, "The line is clear."

## Alibis

If a competitor raises his hand to indicate an alibi or problem, raise your hand, wait until the string has ended, and **then** approach the competitor to determine the nature of the problem.

Competitors are not allowed an alibi if they attempt to clear the guns before they raise their hand and get the attention of a Range Officer. When a competitor raises his hand during timed or rapid fire to indicate he has a problem:

- Raise your hand.
- Wait until the firing has ended.
- Approach the competitor to determine the nature of the problem.

If the problem occurs during slow fire, raise your hand and approach the competitor. However, be careful not to speak loudly or disturb nearby competitors. Observe the nature of the problem (improper ejection or chambering, faulty ammunition, disabled gun) and then tell the competitor to "clear the gun." (The first thing he should do is remove the magazine.) Determine the problem and make the decision if the alibi is legitimate. When the CRO asks, "Are there any alibi's," you say, "Alibi on target number XX (identify the competitor's target number), X away (state the number of shots that were fired)."

## Plugs

It is the **scorer's** responsibility, **not the Range Officer's**, to assign a value to each shot. **Scorers** must score shots as they see them and *cannot* call for a plug. If the person being scored does not agree with the scorer, then the person who owns the target calls for a plug.

Plugs are restricted to range personnel. When a plug is called for, you carefully insert the plug, then stand back and allow the scorer to make his decision. Under no circumstances should you express an opinion.

**Plugs can be inserted only once, so ensure the scorer and competitor agrees before removing the plug.**

## Challenges

If the competitor does not accept the scorer's decision he may challenge it. You should try to tactfully speed up the "debate" process to avoid holding up the entire line.

If the competitor is challenging the value of a shot, which has been plugged, **the plug remains in the target** and the target and backer are carefully removed from the frame. Insert a clean target and backer in the frame (usually extra targets are placed on the ground at each end of the target firing line). Take the target to the jury or CRO. Do not allow the jury to see the competitor's name or score card until the jury makes a decision.

It is your responsibility to clearly understand what is being challenged. You should be able to accurately tell the jury the nature of the challenge. For example, is the target being challenged for:

- Excessive hits
- Number of shots
- Value of the shot

## Skid Shots

A skid shot is when a bullet enters the target while the target is turning. The bullet hole of the skid shot is depicted as a horizontal elongated shape. When a bullet enters the target from the back side, it is scored as a miss.

In Conventional pistol, the shot is scored as “point of entry plus 1.” This means if a shot entered the target in the 7 ring and “skidded” across the target into the 10 ring, the shot is scored as an 8 (point of entry is the 7 ring, plus one more scoring ring is 8). For International shooting a skid gauge is used to determine if the shot is scored or is a miss. A skid gauge is on the overlay. Be sure to use the appropriate gauge – one is for .22 caliber rimfire (7mm in length) and the other one is for Center Fire (11mm in length). The skid gauge looks similar to this: |-----|

## Excessive Hits

If a competitor notifies you that there are excessive hits on his target, you must be able to clearly explain the competitor’s options. They are:

1. The competitor may accept the 10 lowest shots.
2. The competitor may choose to refire all 10 shots. If the competitor chooses to refire, get the original target and keep it. On refring, the competitor **cannot receive a score higher than the 10 highest shots on the original target.** If his score on the refired target is higher than the 10 highest shots on the original target then the **original target will be scored using the 10 highest shots.** However, if the score on the refired target is **lower than the 10 highest on the original target, then the refired target is used for score.**

## Disabled Gun

If a competitor notifies you that he has a disabled gun during any shooting stage, you should promptly notify the CRO of the problem (for example, a light out on an electronic sight, a rear sight that has fallen off, or a broken firing pin). The competitor should be

asked whether he has another gun immediately available or if he needs to repair his gun.

If the competitor has another gun and won’t have to leave the line, he is allowed additional time to complete the string for slow fire or be allowed an alibi run if it is timed or rapid fire.

If a competitor must leave the line to repair the gun, when the string of fire has ended:

- Remove the target (which has been partially fired on).
- Note on the target the competitor’s name, target number, and how much time remains.
- Replace with a fresh target. The competitor’s target is kept until backer.
- his refire takes place. If he cannot borrow a gun or get his fixed, he must claim a disabled gun and the remaining shots are scored as misses (zeroes) on his score card and indicate disabled gun.

## Range Malfunctions

Competitors may receive a “range alibi” if something happens that makes it impossible for them to complete their string of fire. Allowable reasons could include the CRO’s failure to allow full time, improper commands, targets failing to operate properly for the entire string, and targets failing to remain in position on the cardboard backer or in the frame.

When a situation like this exists, you should immediately notify the CRO and an appropriate decision will be made, usually by the CRO.

However, if a competitor’s shot hits the target frame or target carrier causing the target to fall or be dislodged, this is not a range alibi. The shot will count and the target will be re-hung. For slow fire, the competitor is allowed to continue to fire any unfired shots with appropriate additional time permitted. For time and rapid fire, the competitor refires the string on the same target, as an alibi string.

# DUTCHESS COUNTY PISTOL ASSOCIATION

## Range Officer’s Quick Reference Guide



*This guide describes the responsibilities and duties of a Range Officer for Conventional 2700 Matches and International Pistol Matches*

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