



RANGE OFFICER MANUAL

Developed By: Daniel Galea Reviewed By: Geoff Smith 07/22



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.	Page 2
BRANCH ADMINISTRATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES	Page 3
Section 1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RANGE OFFICER.	Page 4
Section 2. RANGE COMMANDS.	Page 6
Section 3. CHARACTERISTICS AND CLEARING OF FIREARMS	Page 8
Section 4. RESPONSE TO RANGE INCIDENTS	Page 12
Section 5. VARIATIONS FOR RIFLE, SHOTGUN AND PISTOL.	Page 15
Section 6. INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION	Page 17



INTRODUCTION

This Manual has been produced in order to standardise the training of Range Officers for the Nowra Rifle Club.

It is incumbent on us to maintain a high and consistent level of skill in our Range Officers to ensure that we provide a safe and enjoyable environment for shooting at our Ranges. The manner in which Range Officers conduct their Ranges will directly affect the image our Club projects to the users of our facilities and the enjoyment or otherwise of people who attend our Range.

In utilising this Manual and following the procedures and instructions contained herein, a consistent standard will be maintained, and all Range Officers will give Range Commands in the same form and manner. This will result in shooters being able to attend at any shooting discipline at our Range and be familiar with the procedures followed at the Range.

It is stressed that this Manual is designed to train and qualify persons to act as Range Officers and is not designed or intended to teach persons in-depth details of the workings of firearms or the procedures for running individual events. The purpose of this Manual is to give the basic knowledge necessary for a Range Officer to safely supervise a shoot in any discipline or with any type of firearm.

It is the function of the Range Officer to safely run ranges varying in use from recreational plinking to international championships. In the case of major events, a Referee and other support staff may be supplied by the discipline involved, to ensure that all technical aspects of the rules are properly followed. However, the Range Officer will need to be reasonably familiar with the appropriate courses of fire. In fact, in a number of disciplines the referee or similar person is required to leave the Firing Line / Shooting Area to check targets, etc, and this is not consistent with the duties of a Range Officer.

A copy of the Rules are posted on each Range and a copy must be available for the use and information of Range Officers, both operating from that Range and visiting that Range. No programmed shooting match may be conducted at the Nowra Rifle Club Range unless a qualified Rang Officer is present and has control of the firing line.



BRANCH ADMINISTRATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Whilst the scope of training and assessment is controlled by the committee of the Nowra Rifle Club the selection, of applicants for accreditation and appointment as Range Officers is delegated to each shooting style or type representative.

Selection: Candidates should be selected on the basis of experience, behaviour and attitude. It is unlikely that a shooter with less than three years' experience will have accumulated sufficient knowledge or skills to make a competent RO.

They must have been observed to undertake their on-range activities in a safe, calm and friendly manner, displaying good interpersonal skills. They must also display an active interest in safety as related to shooting and non-shooting activities on the Range, an acceptance of responsibility and willingness to learn.

Training: The training of ROs is the responsibility of the Nowra Rifle Club and conducted by the nominated Safety officer for the Nowra Rifle Club.

Assessment: Theory assessment is by way of the satisfactory completion of the presentation followed by a Q & A.

Practical assessment is by way of the applicant performing RO duties for shooting typical of that conducted at the Nowra Rifle Club. Where possible, all or most of the disciplines should be covered.

Appointment: Appointment as a RO is the responsibility of the Nowra Rifle Club Safety Officer and the Nowra Rifle Club Committee must be satisfied that each candidate is sufficiently skilled for the task(s) required. In view of the limited experience many shooters may have across all disciplines, the Nowra Rifle Club will consider conditional or provisional appointment, subject to assisting a more experienced RO so as to gain more experience.

Maintaining Skills: RO appointments will be for a two-year period, and re-appointment will be conditional on attending refresher training and accreditation.



Section 1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RANGE OFFICER.

The Range Officer must be immediately identifiable to persons on the Range, preferably by wearing a Range Officer vest, hat, armband or similar.

The Range Officer has the full and final responsibility for the safe and efficient conduct of shooting on the Range. In relation to Safety matters the Range Officer has total authority on the Range, has the power to expel any person or persons who do not obey all Range Rules or who jeopardise the safety of any person on the Range.

On commencement of duty at a Range it is the responsibility of the Range Officer for the day to check the physical features of the Range and ensure that it is safe to use. They must check that all flags are displayed and other visual and / or audible warning devices as required by the Range Rules are operative. This inspection should also extend to matters such as safe access to all parts of the range, the safety of range fittings and hardware and the safe handling of range equipment.

The Range Officer needs to ensure they have a clear and unobstructed field of view of the firing line and that any instructions given are heard and easily understandable by all users of the range. The Range Officer is responsible for the calling of all Cease Fires and other instructions to shooters. The Range Officer must be familiar with the layout of the particular Range prior to commencing duty there.

Regardless of the discipline being conducted the Range Officer must remain on the Firing Line at all times during the running of a shoot and when firearms are on the Line. This is both a safety and a firearm security requirement.

The number of shooters to be under the control of a Range Officer on a particular Range shall be at the discretion of the Range Officer. This number may vary with the physical characteristics of the particular Range and the type and skill of shooters utilising the Range on that occasion. Major events may require the appointment of a number of assistant Range Officers.

It is the responsibility of the Range Officer to check the validity of each shooter's firearms license for the particular range and / or event being run.

It is at the Range Officer's discretion whether or not a shooter may use a muzzle break on the General Practice Range. In allowing a shooter to use a muzzle break the Range Officer must insure that the use of the muzzle break does not affect other shooters on the range.

A shooter may use a Moderator, (silencer,) on the General Practice Range. The Range Officer must verify the Police Commissioner's Prohibited Weapons Permit for the moderator prior to its use by the licensed shooter named in the Police Commissioner's Prohibited Weapons Permit.

In the event of an incident / accident on the firing line the Range Officer must immediately call a cease fire and render the situation as safe as possible for all concerned. If an incident results in personal injury, appropriate first aid and/or medical assistance should be sought as soon as is possible as per the emergency plan. The range officer must then inform a committee member as soon as reasonably practicable.



It is the responsibility of the Range Officer, or delegated assistant, to personally check and clear the firearms of each shooter on the firing line prior to any person moving forward of the firing line or any person removing a firearm from the firing line.

When calling a Cease Fire for any reason other than for persons to go forward of the Firing Line it is the Range Officer's discretion whether shooters must clear their firearms and move back from the Firing Line.

The Range Officer is also responsible for the conduct of shooters off of the Firing Line and when not actually engaged in duties in relation to shooters on the Firing Line. Observation around the Range area in relation to the carriage of firearms, etc, should be conducted as and when practicable. Most Range Rules should refer any problems found on the Range to a Range Officer in the first instance.

KEY POINTS FOR SECTION ONE.

- The Range Officer has total control on the Range in relation to matters of Safety.
- The Range Officer must stay at and remain in control of the firing line at all times during a shoot when firearms are present.
- The Range Officer may caution any person they believe has contravened any Range Rule or breached safety in any way.
- They also may expel any person from the Range if they believe such action is necessary in the circumstances.
- The Range Officer must check the physical layout of the Range and the Safety equipment prior to the commencement of shooting and familiarise themselves with the Range Rules.
- The Range Officer must ensure that only approved targets are used and that they are placed so that all projectiles from aimed shots are captured by the backstop or intermediate mound.
- The Range Officer must check and ensure all firearms are unloaded before they are removed from the firing line.
- The Range Officer has precedence over any discipline referee on safety matters.
- The Range Officer is responsible for safety and compliance with Range Rules on and off the Firing Line.



Section 2. RANGE COMMANDS.

Where a competition is being run in a particular discipline then the Range Officer, or referee in the case of championships, will brief the competitors on the next course of fire prior to the Range Officer giving the appropriate directions for shooters to move to the firing line with their firearms and equipment. Checks required by discipline rules may be made and the commands required for preparation, adopting the required shooting positions and loading then given.

The Range Officer will then conduct a last visual check of the range and impact area to ensure it is clear of all people, and announce in a loud clear voice: **"COMMENCE FIRE"** (or such other command or signal as the discipline rules may prescribe) When a normal Cease Fire is to be called, announce in a loud clear voice: **"CEASE FIRE"** (or such other command or signal as the discipline rules may prescribe) The Range Officer will give the appropriate directions for shooters to: **"Open all actions. Remove all magazines and stand clear of firearms."**

Conduct a check of all firearms at the Firing Line to ensure all firearms are unloaded and safe. If necessary a manual as well as visual check should be conducted. The Range Officer or delegated assistant should call "Clear" after checking each firearm and being satisfied that it is in an unloaded and safe condition. When satisfied that all firearms are in a safe condition and that all shooters are clear of the firearms and the range is safe, announce in a loud clear voice: "There will be no handling of firearms during the Cease Fire. Range Clear. You may proceed onto the Range."

It is good practice to remind shooters to change their targets and return as quickly as possible.

Once all persons have returned from down range of the Firing Line and the Range is safe shooters can be given permission to return their firearms to the firing line or change squads. Announce in a loud clear voice: **"Range is HOT/LIVE. You may move forward to the firing line." "Next detail may move forward.**"

In the event of an emergency during the conduct of an event or practice, such as a person entering the impact area, immediately call out in a loud clear voice: "STOP STOP STOP" or "CEASE FIRE CEASE FIRE CEASE FIRE" Any audible and/or visual warning devices should also be activated.

During standard courses of fire it may be necessary for a time warning to be given prior to a cease-fire and this should be done by a designated timekeeper or by the RO if an automated timing system allows him to do this without diverting his attention from the range.

During supervised practice sessions, the Range Officer should to give a warning call prior to the Cease Fire command such as, "Cease Fire coming up. Last round, please." All commands given by the Range Officer must be given in a loud clear voice. All persons on the firing line should be wearing ear protection so it is extremely important that commands are given in a manner that all shooters can hear and understand them. If a second (or more)



Assistant Range Officer is being utilised, then commands should be repeated by the assistant Range Officer(s) for the shooters for which they are responsible.

When more than one Range Officer is required on the Firing Line then, when the firearms are checked by the Assistant Range Officers, they must report to the Range Officer that all firearms checked by them are clear.

The manner in which the Range Officer conducts the Firing Line will have a great effect on the enjoyment or otherwise for the people using our Range. At all times the Range Officer should be polite and courteous.

When action must be taken regarding a breach of rules the Range Officer should be firm and fair in dealing with the offender. A reasoned, firm approach is much better than shouting at the person at fault and if the error is due to lack of knowledge or experience, then remedial action may only necessitate some advice on the proper conduct to prevent future incidents.

KEY POINTS FOR SECTION TWO.

- Range commands must be consistent.
- Cease Fires must be called regularly to allow for changing of targets and rotation of shooting squads.
- All firearms must be checked by a Range Officer or designated assistant, and where necessary a manual check should be conducted to ensure the firearm is unloaded and in a safe condition.
- Emergency Cease Fire Procedure.
- All commands must be given in such a manner that all shooters on the Firing Line can hear and understand them.



Section 3. CHARACTERISTICS AND CLEARING OF FIREARMS.

Range Officers are required to be capable of checking firearms on the Firing Line and other areas of the Range to ensure they are in a safe condition and clear of ammunition. In order to properly carry out this function they must have a basic knowledge of the types of actions available and how they operate and can be cleared.

However, variations in the design of actions, magazines, safety catches and firing mechanisms make some firearm designs more prone to accidents if handled carelessly or without adequate knowledge of their mechanical functions. These differences in design also make it more difficult for the Range Officer to check the firearms for safety and to clear the firearms on the Firing Line.

BASIC FUNCTIONS OF CARTRIDGE FIREARMS.

There are seven basic functions of a cartridge firearm and these basic functions can be applied to all of the different action types available.

FEEDS: Inserts a live round or cartridge into the chamber.

COCKS: Compresses the firing pin main spring and engages the firing pin to the trigger mechanism.

LOCKS: Locks the bolt tight to the breech ready to fire when the trigger is squeezed.

FIRES: Discharges (or shoots) one round.

UNLOCKS: Unlocks the bolt from the breach face.

EXTRACTS: Removes the case (fired or unfired) from the chamber.

EJECTS: Throws the case clear of the firearm.

The following lists are of different design features commonly found in modern firearms, in order of ease of safe operation and ability to be simply cleared.

BREAK ACTION - SINGLE SHOT. Once fired this action is safe until reloaded. It can be easily checked and carried safely. It has the added advantage of being able to be seen to be safe from a distance. This action should be carried 'broken' at all times on the Range when not at the Firing Line prepared to commence shooting.

BOLT OR LEVER ACTION - SINGLE SHOT. Once fired this action is safe until reloaded, which requires the manual placing of a cartridge in the breach. These actions should be carried on the Range with the actions 'open' and in the case of a bolt action the bolt should be removed if possible. Lever action firearms do not have removable bolts so it is good practice for a coloured peg to be placed in the open action to show the firearm is safe.

BOLT, PUMP (SLIDE) OR LEVER ACTION REPEATING. Once fired these firearms only require the action to be cycled to chamber another round from a number of rounds stored in a magazine. It is easy for the shooter to cycle the action and then forget they have done so.



Nowra Rifle Club Inc.

More modern actions of these types have become quite well enclosed and this creates two problems. Firstly, it becomes more difficult to check if the firearm is loaded. This can involve attempting to look into dark internal areas to ensure that the magazine is empty. In some cases it is almost impossible to check that the magazine is empty without stripping the firearm. Secondly, whilst they may be better protected from rain or dirt, they are harder to clean and any stuck rounds are more difficult to clear. These actions are harder for the Range Officer to deal with. Some of these actions cock on opening and some cock on closing. For this reason, among others, it is important that if the bolt can be removed then this should be done. If not then the action should be locked open where possible or held open by means of a coloured peg where not possible manually. They should always be carried with the action open and bolt removed where possible.

BREAK ACTION - MULTI SHOT. Once fired these actions still have another round loaded ready to fire without any working of the action. These are a very common action amongst shotguns, but are also available in rifles and rifle and gun combinations. They only require, especially in the case of single trigger firearms, the trigger to be pulled to fire a second shot.

SEMI-AUTOMATIC OR SELF-LOADING ACTION. Once fired this action automatically reloads ready to fire the next shot until the magazine is empty. This is the most difficult firearm for the Range Officer to deal with. Due to their means of operation the action is enclosed and difficult to check to be clear of ammunition. The difficulty with these firearms is compounded by the fact that some self-loading firearms are cocked and ready to fire with the action open (e.g. Gevarm) whilst most are cocked and ready to fire with the action closed. Range Officers must note the type of mechanism on firearms on their range and have them carried and handled accordingly. In general they should be carried with the action peg.

MUZZLELOADING ARMS. These may only be definitively proven unloaded by measuring the internal length of the barrel with the ramrod to ensure no charge or projectile is present.

MAGAZINES. There are three main types of magazines utilised by modern firearms. They are listed below in order of preference for safe handling.

BOX, REMOVABLE As the magazine can be removed from the firearm this type allows for much easier unloading and checking of the safety of the firearm.

BOX, FIXED This type can be fairly easily checked but is harder to unload, especially if it is a fixed-base type, which may require the cartridges to be cycled through the action.

TUBULAR This type of magazine is hard to unload and very often requires the cartridges to be cycled through the action. It is often very difficult to verify that they are unloaded - the cartridge follower must be sighted, as they are prone to hanging up a cartridge through either damage or fouling. This cartridge can later be bumped free allowing the firearm to be inadvertently loaded. When clearing firearms on the Firing Line it is often necessary to work the action a number of times in an effort to ensure the firearm is unloaded. If it is not possible to sight the cartridge follower, the firearm must be considered to be in an unsafe condition.



Nowra Rifle Club Inc. Serving the Shoalhaven since 1888

As can be seen from the information already given, the utmost care must be taken when Range Officers check and clear firearms on the Range. For this reason it is stressed that **both a visual and manual check** may be needed if the Range Officer is to be satisfied that each firearm is unloaded and safe. Look first then feel with a finger to be sure. In this way each time you check a firearm you are actually double checking it. Some actions are difficult to check visually so by also conducting a manual check by feeling inside the action or the use of flags the check is more thorough and reduces the likelihood of mistakes. In the case of a firearm action type not familiar to the Range Officer, the shooter should be required to prove the firearm is safe and to leave it in such a manner as it can be seen to be safe.

AMMUNITION. It is important that Range Officers are aware that there are a number of cartridges available, which will chamber and fire in the incorrect rifle. This can cause results ranging from split case necks and gas leaks to totally demolished firearms and extensive injuries to any person in the immediate area. The following is a list of some, which may be incorrectly chambered.

Original Chamber.	Will also accept.
6mm & .244 Rem.	.250 Savage.
.270 Winchester	7mm Mauser (7 x 57).
8mm Mauser (8 x 57)	35 Remington.
.257 Roberts	.22-250 Remington
.25-06	.308 Winchester

The mixing of different gauges of shotgun ammunition can also have catastrophic results as some of the smaller gauges can slip down into the forcing cones of a 12 gauge and cause both extensive damage and serious injury if the shotgun is fired in that condition.

It is important to note that many old shotguns still in circulation were not manufactured to use modern smokeless powders. Some have old 'Damascus' type barrels, which will not stand up to modern cartridges. If, as Range Officer, you are doubtful as to whether an old shotgun is suitable for use on the Range then insist on a Certificate from a licensed Gunsmith stating that the firearm is suitable for use with modern cartridges before allowing its use on the Range.

SAFETY CATCHES. Safety Catches are at best a supplement to safe handling. They are mechanical devices and as such are prone to wear and failure. A firearm can only be considered safe when it is unloaded and the action is open. As Range Officers, every firearm must be treated as if it does not have a safety catch and, in fact, a number of competition firearms do not possess a safety catch. The application of the safety catch does not change the state of readiness of a firearm to fire.



KEY POINTS FOR SECTION THREE.

- Range Officers (or delegate) are responsible for PERSONALLY checking each firearm on the Firing Line is unloaded and safe before removal from the line or persons moving forward.
- Seven Basic Functions of Firearms.
- Differences between the different types of actions. Differences between different types of magazines.
- Be aware that mixtures of ammunition can be dangerous.
- Safety Catches are not to be relied on.
- Actions must be open at all times off the Firing Line.
- When clearing firearms both a VISUAL and MANUAL check may be required, depending on the firearm type. The Range Officer must ensure that each firearm is clear.



Section 4. RESPONSE TO RANGE INCIDENTS.

This matter has already been discussed in Section One - Responsibilities of the Range Officer. However this area involves certain administrative procedures to be followed.

1. All firing Ranges are to be under the control of a Qualified Range Officer whilst in use, unless other arrangements are made in the following situations.

(a) Where the Range is utilised by individuals for unsupervised practice where allowed by the club committee.

(b) Where range rules allow alternative arrangements.

(c) Where Ranges are used by other bodies for shooting sports. (i.e. Other Clubs and / or Police - Commercial users.)

2. In the event of an incident / accident on the Firing Line the Range Officer will immediately call a cease fire using the command "STOP STOP STOP" or "CEASE FIRE CEASE FIRE CEASE FIRE" and render such situation as safe as is possible for all concerned.

3. If such an incident results in personal injury, the injured person or persons shall be made comfortable and stabilised (within constraints of the environment), making use of the First Aid Kit and any facilities available on the range.

4. Medical assistance, and where applicable, ambulance evacuation must be sought as soon as possible and if possible a person should meet the ambulance at the gate to direct them to the area of the injured person.

5. In some emergency's such as chemical spills or fire it may be necessary to have people leave the area they are in and if this is the case you should direct those persons to go to one of the two muster points located at either the range entry gate or the front of the 10metre indoor air rifle range building. They should stay in the muster point location until directed otherwise.

If the incident involves the use of a firearm a report to Police will normally be necessary for any incident involving an injury resulting from a firearm discharge. The scene of the accident should not be disturbed until any investigation has been completed.

6. The Range Officer and Committee Officials must conduct an investigation of the incident, interview and get written statements from all witnesses where able, secure any physical evidence and prepare a written report in a form suitable for submission to the insurers. This should only be done if Police are not necessary or they have completed their enquires.

7. (a) Where a breach of safety has been committed by a shooter, the Range Officer may caution or ask the person to remove themselves from the range.

(b) In the case of having a person remove themselves from the range, a report of the incident and the name and address of the individual (Membership number if applicable) must be forwarded to the committee within seven days.



8. The Range Officer shall be the final arbiter of safety whilst in charge of the Firing Line.

In cases where a minor breach of the Range Rules is detected or minor safety breaches and the Range Officer believes it is due to lack of knowledge or experience, a quiet explanation of the correct procedure will usually correct the situation.

Other incidents that may require intervention and reports by the RO are inappropriate behaviour by or between people on the range property. These may involve the use of extreme bad language, insults, threats or violence. Unacceptable behaviour should not be tolerated.

It is important that Range Officers carry out their duties in a friendly manner and that commands and instructions are given clearly. You are an ambassador for the Nowra Rifle Club and your actions will reflect on the club as whole.

One of the most difficult and dangerous situations that a Range Officer may have to deal with is a stuck live round in a firearm.

In the event of a shooter experiencing a jammed live round (stuck live case), the firearm is to be made safe by removal of the bolt if applicable, or by some other method if the firearm is not a bolt action. The Range Officer is to ensure that the firearm remains pointed down range. Where applicable, the bolt is to remain out of the firearm whilst the stuck case is in the chamber. The Range Officer may decide to use the club's stuck case remover or recommended that the firearm be taken to the nearest gunsmith as soon as possible.

If a live round becomes stuck in a firearm chamber, the worst thing you can do is to try to bump it out with a cleaning rod, a length of wire, or a similar implement.

This practice can cause the cartridge to ignite. The projectile will then impale itself on the rod at some risk of injury to the holder. Fragments of brass, powder particles and hot gas will be forced from the open breech. The case head in particular can become a lethal projectile.

Obviously we need to know two things: How to eliminate the common causes of stuck cartridges and what to do if presented with one on the Firing Line.

Avoid the use of cartridges loaded by other people.

Watch for shooters using excessive force to chamber rounds. If it is difficult to chamber then it could be difficult to extract, and a stuck cartridge could result.

If the extractor breaks or the rim pulls away leaving a live round jammed in the chamber, treat in accordance with the Stuck Live Round Rule.

Note: No similar Rule exists as yet for the situation of loaded muzzleloader, which fails to discharge with the original or subsequent firing of cap or flint/match priming. In the interim, the RO must ensure that the firearm is kept pointed in a safe direction until the possibility of a hang fire has passed and then consider whatever unloading proposal the shooter requests. This may involve pulling the projectile or the use of gas pressure.



KEY POINTS FOR SECTION FOUR

- All firing Ranges are to be under the control of a qualified Range Officer.
- Policy on Range Incidents.
- Policy for dealing with a stuck live round.



Section 5. VARIATIONS FOR RIFLE, SHOTGUN AND HANDGUN.

RIFLE. The information in this Manual is based on rifle shooting as that is the most common form of shooting conducted on this range.

The particular disciplines shot will not affect the accuracy or relevance of the information contained herein as to the duties of the Range Officer.

In events run in disciplines where the shooters move position rather than the targets being set at varying distances (such as service rifle) then the Firing Line becomes the position at which the shooters are firing for the particular part of the event. The safety rules do not change and the role of the Range Officer is identical regardless of the point from where the shooters are firing.

The Range Officer will have to be even more vigilant, particularly when moving back from close ranges to further ranges. However, if the basic rules outlined in this Manual are followed, then the firearms, when carried between firing positions will have been cleared and carried in a safe and proper manner.

When disciplines involve shooting from the prone position Range Officers should take into account the difficulty of taking up a proper prone position when calling for Cease Fires, which involve the moving away from firearms. At no stage, however, shall persons be allowed to move down range whilst shooters or other persons are handling firearms.

SHOTGUN. All of the shotgun events conducted on the Nowra Rifle Club range involve the shooter moving between shooting stations during the course of an event. In events such as Trap Shooting, shooters move between stands after each shot fired.

Range Officers must ensure that guns are unloaded prior to turning from the shooting platform and not loaded until the shooter is standing on the next shooting platform and facing down range. It is a breach of firearm safety rules to point a firearm at any person. There is also the added responsibility of ensuring that any persons operating the 'traps' are at all times in a safe position and protected from falling shot. In some events where clay targets pass over the heads of the shooters the shooting station should be constructed in such a manner that the shooter cannot swing his gun past the 12.00 position or around to any position which could endanger trappers, other shooters or spectators.

In such events the Range Officer must also ensure that the spectators and other shooters are not in an area where they can be injured by pieces of broken clay targets.



HANDGUN. There is no significant difference in the safety procedures for handgun shooting from rifle shooting. The important difference is that due to the shorter length of handguns in comparison with long arms, the danger of the handgun being pointed in an inappropriate direction is multiplied. Therefore, Range Officers must be extremely vigilant when conducting shoots involving handguns.

Persons wishing to be the range officer for handgun events must be approved by the club and have Cat H on their fire arms licence.

KEY POINTS FOR SECTION FIVE.

- Events involving moving the Firing Line instead of the targets require extra care particularly when moving to longer ranges.
- In shotgun events where the shooters move between stands the Range Officer (or delegate) must ensure guns are not loaded prior to the shooter being on the stand and must be unloaded prior to the shooter leaving the stand.
- The safety of spectators and others behind the shooters must be considered in relation to fallout from broken clay targets.



Section 6. INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION

At the completion of the Theory section, candidates will be tested on their knowledge.

The persons selected for training as Range Officers must have previous experience with firearms and have demonstrated an ability to safely handle firearms on the Range. When selecting persons for training the Branch should look to persons who have a temperament suitable to the duties they will have to carry out on the Range.

The accreditation of a range officer is for two years at which time a refresher must be completed by the person conducting range officer duties.

A person's accreditation as a range officer will be noted by the club safety officer and the removal of a range officer accreditation can be revoked at any time by the range Safety officer or club Capitan

Lastly I wish to thank all club members who put their hand up to conduct range officer duties as it is a task that is necessary for the running of the club and without people volunteering this thankless task our ability to provide such varied shooting disciplines to our members would be greatly impacted.