

Hemswell Shooting Club Rules



Contents

General Club Rules	Page 2
Bench Shooting Rules	Page 4
Range Commands	Page 7

IMPORTANT:

All members including probationary must familiarise themselves with the club rules. Copies are available online, at the club and are posted around the club on notice boards & posters. Not following the rules could result in disciplinary action, your membership being revoked and even an offence.

There are no excuses for not following the rules.

General Club Rules

- 1) Members will observe the club safety rules at all times. They are posted on the club notice boards and copies are available from the Secretary.
- 2) Membership begins from April 1st to the 31st March. All Subscriptions shall become due at the end of March and you must have paid in full by the end of April. Any payment received after this will incur a £15 late payment fee, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- 3) Responsible conduct is mandatory, both off and on the range. Any member acting in an irresponsible manner or being disrespectful towards a fellow member will be asked to leave.
- 4) Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian at all times.
- 5) Members must sign their attendance register log sheet on arrival and wear their ID badge before proceeding onto the range.
- 6) Club ID badges should be visible at all times when on the range. Any member may ask to see anyone's ID badge. Requests must always be in a polite and courteous manner.
- 7) Permission from a club official must be obtained at least four working days before the proposed visit of a guest, and a Section 21 form (Firearms act 1967 and as amended in 1998) must have been completed and signed by the visitor. Visitors and Guests can only attend on specific open/guest days unless they are current FAC holders. The Home Office stipulates a maximum of 12 open/guest days in one year. All non-FAC visitors/guests will be cleared by the Police Authorities before they can attend.
- 8) Members are reminded that it is an offence to carry any firearm exposed in any public place ie back seat of a car, without authority, it is also an offence for any visitor or guest to remove ammunition from the club.
- 9) All persons using Hemswell shooting club, its range equipment, or any part thereof, do so at their own risk. As such the aforementioned Hemswell Shooting Club accepts no liability for loss, damage, deliberate or accidental acts of negligence, by or towards those who use any of the facilities or equipment provided by the said club, or the duly elected members of the Committee, or their appointed agents.

- 10) Any member proved responsible for theft from the club or fellow members will be banned from the club and may be reported the Police and be prosecuted.
- 11) All new members must sign a declaration form to confirm they have received, read and understood all the club rules and range commands. Probationary members completing the probation period of three months must sign to confirm they have completed the probationary period including the safe use and handling of firearms. At the start of their probationary period, probationers will receive a probationer's pack which includes club rules and mini log sheets to enable their training and attendance to be recorded. These packs must be brought with them on each visit. Probationary members must also sign the main log sheet stored at the club and be counter-signed by a full member.
- 12) In the event of a serious accident, the emergency service must be called and a committee/official must be notified. All witnesses must remain on the scene to allow statements to be taken, this is in line with the club's insurance policy.
- 13) In the interest of good public relations, members are reminded that no shooting shall take place before 08.00hrs and after 21.00hrs. This is a goodwill gesture by the club for the peace and comfort of local residents. Please note that these times may be amended at any time.

Bench Shooting Rules

- 1) Safety is the club's major priority and we put safety first at all times. Any unsafe practices will not be tolerated in any form.
- 2) Whenever possible, a qualified Range Conducting Officer (RCO) will supervise all members shooting. In the event of no qualified RCO being available, members present must decide one of their number to act as a designated RCO. The acting RCO must not partake in any form of shooting while supervising, although members can take turns as acting RCO's so everyone can shoot. The person designated must be a full member, not a probationary member, this is in line with recommendations by the National Governing Body and the club's insurers.
- 3) In the interests of safety there must be at least (2) full members present before any shooting can take place. (Probationary members do not count as full members).
- 4) Members must always ensure that the red warning flag (or red warning light if after dusk) is in place before any shooting can commence.
- 5) Only firearms of approved type and having the acceptable proofing, together with the appropriate ammunition shall be allowed. The RCO has the authority to ban any weapon or ammunition if they consider them to be unsafe or un-appropriate and should then report the matter to the Committee.
- 6) Members who re-load their own ammunition shall sign a Re-loading declaration form declaring they are safe and competent in re-loading their ammunition for use at the club. These forms are available in the club room or from the secretary.
- 7) Members shall be responsible for their own weapons and ammunition at all times. No one should leave his or her guns unattended at any time. This should further be remembered when firearms are being loaded and off loaded from vehicles in the club car park. Never leave your car unattended or unlocked with firearms or ammunition inside. Keep them out of sight.
- 8) On range benches all firearms shall be kept unloaded with their actions open at all times and should be taken from their slips/covers/carrying case only when on the shooting bench, not from the seating area. Actions may be closed, if necessary, after being proved safe by another member before they are properly stowed within their slips, covers or carrying case.
- 9) Firearms should only be handled and loaded after the RCO has given the command to commence/resume shooting or has been given specific

permission from the RCO. Whether loaded or unloaded all guns must be pointing down range.

- 10) On the command "Cease Fire" all guns will be unloaded immediately and placed with actions open and on the bench with the muzzles pointing down range towards the targets. In addition, the bolt or action of the rifle or pistol must be open with the chamber entrance either open or preferably have a breech safety flag inserted.
- 11) At the firing point, no gun will be touched or loaded during a "cease fire" and members will be asked to stand behind the white line on the ground.
- 12) Should there be any emergency or accident, causing shooting to be interrupted the, call from the RCO will be "STOP, STOP, STOP, this must be obeyed immediately and all weapons put down pointing downrange and then await any further instruction from the RCO.
- 13) In the event of a misfire, you should wait 30 seconds with the weapon still facing down range then inform the RCO. Do not eject the round in case of hang-fires, then carefully eject the round ensuring the weapon still is pointing down range and is horizontal with the ground, carefully ensuring that your hand is not behind the bolt/slide and that no one is standing behind the gun or in line with the ejector port. Do not put the round back in the gun, keep it separate from your other ammunition and later dispose of it safely, don't throw it in the waste bin or the empty brass bin.
- 14) Any person pointing or waving a gun at another person, loaded or otherwise or removing a gun to the seating area with it not in its slip or case or someone using a gun in an aggressive or irresponsible manner constitutes an immediate threat to personal safety. Anyone guilty of such dangerous and reckless behaviour will be reported to the Committee and may be liable to expulsion from the club.
- 15) Any member or guest who appears to be intoxicated will not be allowed entry, furthermore, anyone seen to be consuming alcohol while on club premises will be asked to leave.
- 16) Anyone who arrives at the range under the influence of illegal drugs or anyone observed to be using illegal drugs will be asked to leave immediately, reported to the Committee and will be expelled from the club. There would be no "Second chance". A report would then be forwarded to the Firearms Licensing Office.
- 17) All prospective new members, as well as guests must receive basic safety information and instruction in the safe handling and operation of a club firearm. This instruction should be a one-to one session.

- 18) Until a Probationary member has undergone their three-month probation period, including training in the handling and safe use of firearms, he/she will be required to be supervised by a full club member at all times and they must comply with all the instructions given.
Coaches/Instructors/Supervisors should only supervise one probationer at any one time.
- 19) Mobile Phone should be switched off at the firing points, especially if other members are taking part in shooting competition cards.
- 20) Target and frames must only be used in their designated positions in front of the sand butt, NO targets should be placed higher up in the sand butt, furthestmost no items are to be placed on the top of the wooden stumps in front of the frame tubes under the full-bore canopy. Anyone contravening this safety rule will be asked to leave and may face disciplinary action.
There are five full bore positions under the canopy.
- 21) In the event of a gun becoming damaged after being discharged and/or a third party/parties becoming injured, the RCO has the power to instruct the owner of the gun to take it, with all the ammunition to a Registered Firearm Dealer (RFD) for repair or safekeeping. The RCO, the owner and any witnesses will immediately make written statements as to what occurred that day and forward them without delay to the club Committee. The Committee and the said RCO may require written confirmation from the RFD as to the gun's safety on its return to the club range. This is in line with the club's insurers requirements.
- 22) On arrival log sheets must be signed and countersigned by a full member. There must be a minimum of 4 entries for each calibre in 12 months.
- 23) The Committee impresses on members that it is one of the conditions of their membership that they should help maintain a tidy range, clear away used targets and frames, remove any staples used, pick up and dispose any used brass with particular care being taken to avoid leaving any live ammunition unaccounted for, if uncertain, hand it to an official for disposal. In addition, with work commitments, health or physical ability that may allow, your help with the upkeep and repair of the range helps us all. So please help whenever you can, it will be very much appreciated.
- 24) Rules and procedures are there to protect everyone, please do not assume that you know better, or that you can ignore them. It's better to follow the rules than a visit from your Firearms Enquiry Officer trying to explain how you thought your gun was empty, or how you thought it would be ok to shoot before you were told to.

Note: Hemswell Shooting Club strictly adheres to the Data Protection Act 2018 & GDPR. Copies are available from the club Secretary.

Range Commands

HEMSWELL R.C.O RANGE COMMANDS FOR STANDARD PRACTICE
DETAILS

"NO MORE TARGETS!"

DOWNRANGE AREA TO BE CLEARED AND NO MORE TARGETS ARE TO BE
PUT UP

"REPLACE BARRIERS!"

THE RCO WILL ENSURE THE CHAINS ARE REPLACED AT EACH END OF
THE FIRING POINTS AND VISUALLY CHECK THE DOWNRANGE AREA

"MAKE READY!"

ALL ON RANGE TO PUT ON EAR DEFENDERS/PLUGS AND SAFETY
GLASSES WHERE NECESSARY

"LOAD AND FIRE WHEN READY!"

DETAIL, FIRING TO COMMENCE

"CEASE FIRE!"

ALL GUNS TO BE PLACED ON FIRING POINT FACING DOWNRANGE

"MAKE SAFE!"

ALL GUNS TO BE UNLOADED, MAGAZINES REMOVED AND UNLOADED,
BOLT/ACTIONS OPENED AND BREECH FLAGS INSERTED

"RANGE CLEAR!"

GUNS HAVE BEEN PROVED SAFE AND CLEARED BY THE RCO

"REMOVE BARRIERS!"

THE RCO AND/OR DESIGNATED OTHER WILL OPEN THE CHAINES AT
EACH END OF THE RANGE

"CHANGE TARGETS!"

ONLY AT THIS POINT CAN YOU GO DOWN DOWNRANGE AND CHANGE
TARGETS AND FRAMES

"STOP, STOP, STOP!"

**NOT A ROUTINE COMMAND ONLY USED IN EMERGENCY CEASE FIRE FOR
EVERYONE ON THE RANGE**