



M C C TARGET SHOOTING SECTION INC.

Rules and Regulations for Members of MCC Target Shooting Section Inc. (MCCTSS)

This document covers the Rules & Regulations, Range Rules & Behaviour, Safety Procedures & Safe Firearm Handling, Risk Management & Emergency Procedures and other Obligations for Members of the MCCTSS. If any Member is in doubt as the responsibilities and requirements of membership of MCCTSS, then that person should immediately consult with a Committee Member of the relevant subsection.

Membership

Applicants must follow the appropriate membership procedure. All Members are bound by the Constitution, Rules, and Regulations of MCCTSS and subsections (as appropriate), as amended from time to time.

MCCTSS is a Sporting Section of the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC), and all Members of MCCTSS must be mindful of the high standards of behaviour expected from Section Members by the MCC Committee.

All Members must follow instructions as given by Committee members, appointed Range or Safety Officers and Instructors.

Juniors, Novices and unlicensed shooters must be closely supervised whilst participating at events.

Firearms Licence & Firearms

Upon being accepted as a Member of MCCTSS it is expected that within THREE MONTHS a Member (if not already done so) will obtain the appropriate Firearm Licence (except in the case of the Handgun subsection where a minimum membership period applies).

It is also expected that upon joining MCCTSS a Member will work towards obtaining an appropriate firearm as soon as is practicable, for use at shooting events. This includes any appropriate Firearm Safety course and minimum range attendance requirements as stipulated by legislation.

Social Events

Where family, friends or prospective new members have been invited to attend and/or participate at a shooting event, those visitors must be made aware of all procedures, safety aspects and requirements before participating in any shoot. Additional care and supervision is required to be exercised by all Members when visitors are present on the range. Members are responsible for the actions of their guests at MCC events.

Other Associations

By the nature of the sport and the application process, Full Bore Rifle, Small Bore Rifle and Handgun subsection Members are joined (respectively) to Victorian Rifle Association, Target Rifle Victoria and the Victorian Amateur Pistol Association.

Clay Target subsection Members are encouraged to join Field & Game Australia Inc. and the Australian Clay Target Association Inc. to further their interest in the sport of clay target shooting, and to obtain a handicap in order to participate in competitions arranged by the Club.

Disciplinary Action

It is imperative that everyone is fully aware of firearm procedures, particularly novices. A novice who is about to handle a firearm must be instructed by an experienced MCCTSS Member. Anybody who does not abide fully by the rules, or whose actions are deemed as unsafe, inappropriate or in breach the Rules of MCCTSS may be referred to the Committee for disciplinary action. If a Member or visitor is considered to be behaving irresponsibly on a range, that person may be asked to leave the range immediately in the interests of safety, and may be suspended/expelled from membership of MCCTSS.

Firearm Owners' Responsibilities

It is the individual firearm owner's responsibility to understand and follow all laws regarding firearm purchase, ownership, storage, transport, ammunition purchase and storage, etc. Contact your local police District Firearms Officer or the Licensing Services Branch (Victoria Police) for information regarding such laws. If you own a firearm and do not know how to operate it, do not experiment with it. Point it in a safe direction, keep your finger off the trigger, and store it securely. Seek competent assistance and instruction at once.

Firearms and ammunition must be stored securely so that they are inaccessible to children and other unauthorized users. Firearms and ammunition must be stored in separate containers. Firearm shops sell a wide variety of safes, cases, and other security devices. While specific security measures may vary, a firearm owner must in every case, assess

the exposure of the firearm and ammunition to others and absolutely ensure that they are inaccessible to a child.

Firearms Licences and Unlicensed Shooters

Firearms Licences are to be carried at all times, and must be shown to any officiating person on a Shooting Range upon demand. Unlicensed persons wishing to participate in a shooting event must specifically request to shoot, and must be supervised at all times by a person with the appropriate firearms licence.

Section-owned Firearms

The four subsections have available various MCCTSS-owned firearms for use by Members and prospective members. These firearms are stored under control of the Committee of Management of the subsection and may be used by request.

Any person borrowing an MCCTSS-owned firearm must record their longarm licence (or other proof of identity) with the custodian of the firearm and sign for the firearm in the Register maintained for that purpose.

In deciding preference for use of the MCCTSS-owned firearms, the following shall be the order of precedence:

- Prospective members attending a range day for the purpose of trying out the sport;
- Newly joined members with less than three months membership;
- Members of longer standing in the process of selecting a suitable firearm to purchase for themselves.

In addition, Members with the suitable category of Firearms Licence may be permitted to borrow an MCCTSS-owned firearm to take to an approved shooting event. This is totally and absolutely at the discretion of the Committee of Management of the subsection.

Any person borrowing an MCCTSS-owned firearm is responsible for returning it in the same condition as when borrowed, and is liable to pay for any repairs that may be required as a result of that person failing to maintain proper care of the firearm.



Range Rules

When visiting to participate or observe at a shooting range or Firearm Club, all persons present are bound by the rules and safety procedures of that range or club. Different shooting disciplines have differing rule and regulations, but the following is a good template to follow.

- The Range Officer must be obeyed implicitly at all times.
- Ear protection is to be worn at all times.
- It is highly recommended that eye protection be worn at all times. This requirement is mandatory at some shooting venues.
- Know and obey all range commands.
- Know where others are at all times.
- Shoot at authorised targets only.
- If a designated range officer is not present, designate a person in that capacity.
- Use of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited at all times prior to, and during shooting.
- Whilst waiting to shoot, firearms must be unloaded, actions opened, magazines (if applicable) removed and the firearm grounded or benched.
- Do not stand at the firing line, or handle any firearm whilst other persons are down range.
- Firearm muzzles to be kept pointed in a safe direction at all time.
- Firearms are not to be pointed in a direction that would allow the escape of a projectile (s) from the range in the case of an accidental discharge.
- Know the procedures and course of fire for each event in which you participate. If in doubt, ask the Range Officer for clarification.
- Do not move from your designated firing position without express permission of the Range Officer (if appropriate to the event) and never without ensuring that the firearm is unloaded and the action remains open at all times.
- Any person can call ceasefire at any time if that person believes that continuation of shooting creates an unsafe situation.
- If a ceasefire is called during shooting, all shooting must stop immediately, actions opened and firearms cleared, and the shooter must remain with firearm pointed down range with finger removed from the trigger and await further instructions from the Range Officer. If the firearm is a semi automatic and/or has a detachable magazine, the magazine is to be removed and the slide locked in the open position.
- Ensure that when the firearm is not being used, it is kept in a secure place.
- It is expected that Members will wear clothing in keeping with the aims and image of the Melbourne Cricket Club. Clothing considered unsuitable by the Committee of MCCTSS or a host Range is prohibited. MCC Shooting Jackets in MCC colours are available for Clay Target Members from our supplier.
- At many shooting venues, open-toed footwear is prohibited, and we strongly recommend that closed footwear should be worn at all times on shooting ranges.
- It is strictly forbidden to handle any firearm at any time without the express permission of the owner.



Safe Firearm Handling

The fundamental rules for safe firearm handling are:

1. **ALWAYS keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction.**
This is the primary rule of firearm safety. A safe direction means that the firearm is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.
2. **ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**
When holding a firearm, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the firearm. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.
3. **ALWAYS keep the firearm unloaded until ready to use.**
Whenever you pick up a firearm (and then only with the explicit permission of the owner) immediately open the action, check to ensure that the breech is clear of any ammunition (i.e. the firearm is unloaded), and if the firearm has a magazine, remove it. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the firearm alone and get help from someone who does.

When using a firearm, always follow these rules:

•**Know your target and what is beyond.**

Be absolutely sure you have identified your target beyond any doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap. Think first. Shoot second.

•**Know how to use the firearm safely.**

Before handling a firearm, learn how it operates. Know its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action and remove any ammunition from the firearm or magazine. Remember, a firearm's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. Nothing can ever replace safe firearm handling.

•**Be sure the firearm is safe to operate.**

Just like other tools, firearms need regular maintenance to remain operable. Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the firearm's general upkeep. If there is any question concerning a firearm's ability to function, a knowledgeable gunsmith should look at it.

•**Use only the correct ammunition for your firearm.**

Only ammunition of the correct calibre and powder load designed for a particular firearm can be fired safely in that firearm. Most firearms have the ammunition type/calibre stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge. Do not shoot the firearm unless you know you have the proper ammunition. Ensure that different calibres and sizes of ammunition are

kept in clearly labelled, separate containers, and ONLY take to the firing point ammunition suitable for the firearm that you are using.

•**Wear eye, ear and appropriate footwear protection as appropriate.**

Firearms are loud and the noise can cause hearing damage. They can also emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. For these reasons, shooters and spectators should wear shooting glasses, hearing protectors and enclosed footwear.

•**Never use alcohol or performance affecting drugs before or while shooting.**

Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions, must not be used before or while handling or shooting firearms.

•**Store firearms so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.**

Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store firearms. A person's particular situation will be a major part of the consideration. There are many firearm storage devices as well as locking devices that attach directly to the firearm. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into firearms, can fail and should not be used as a substitute for safe firearm handling and the observance of all firearm safety rules. Ammunition must be stored in a container separate from the firearm.

•**Cleaning**

Regular cleaning is important in order for your firearm to operate correctly and safely. Taking proper care of it will also maintain its value and extend its life. Your firearm should be cleaned every time that it is used.

A firearm brought out of prolonged storage should also be cleaned before shooting. Accumulated moisture and dirt, or solidified grease and oil, can prevent the firearm from operating properly.

Before cleaning your firearm, **make absolutely sure that it is unloaded.** The firearm's action should be open during the cleaning process. Also, be sure that no ammunition is present in the cleaning area.



EMERGENCY PROCEDURE FOR ACCIDENT/ INJURY

In the event of an accident quick notification to the appropriate authority is required. This may be the MCCTSS Committee members, the Committee Members of the Club at which you are shooting or the Ambulance Service.

Depending on the severity of the accident:

- Recover firearm and make safe, ensuring you do not endanger yourself.
- Assess situation, apply first aid but do not attempt to move the casualty. First aid is provided by the shooting grounds.
- Phone for medical assistance if necessary, there should be a mobile phone present at every shoot, and send someone to direct the ambulance on its arrival. If any additional information is known about the casualty, especially medical conditions, then the ambulance service should be informed accordingly.
- Try to make the casualty as comfortable as possible, keeping them warm with coats and blankets and reassuring them.
- Send at least one committee member to the hospital either in the ambulance or private car.
- Report the accident, filling in any appropriate forms.
- Seek advice about contacting the relatives of the casualty.
- Record the exact time and details of the accident and reassure any witnesses that may be suffering from shock.
- The Chairman and Secretary are the **ONLY** persons authorized to make any comment to the media regarding an accident or incident

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Remember The Basics Of Firearm Safety

- 1. ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION**
- 2. FIREARMS MUST BE UNLOADED WHEN NOT ACTUALLY IN USE**
- 3. DO NOT RELY ON YOUR FIREARM'S "SAFETY"**
- 4. BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT**
- 5. USE CORRECT AMMUNITION: KEEP AMMUNITION OF DIFFERENT CALIBRES/LENGTHS IN SEPARATE CONTAINERS, AND CLEARLY LABELLED.**
- 6. BE SURE THE BARREL(S) ARE CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS BEFORE SHOOTING.**
- 7. IF YOUR FIREARM FAILS TO FIRE WHEN THE TRIGGER IS PULLED, HANDLE FIREARM WITH CARE, ALWAYS POINTING MUZZLE DOWN RANGE. IF YOU BELIEVE THE FIREARM HAS MALFUNCTIONED, OPEN THE GUN, REMOVE ALL AMMUNITION AND CHECK BARRELS FOR OBSTRUCTIONS.**
- 8. AT MCC SHOOTING EVENTS IT IS MANDATORY TO ALWAYS WEAR EAR PROTECTION WHEN SHOOTING AND THE WEARING OF EYE PROTECTION IS HIGHLY RECOMMEND**
- 9. DO NOT ALTER OR MODIFY YOUR FIREARM YOURSELF, AND HAVE FIREARMS SERVICED REGULARLY**
- 10. LEARN THE MECHANICAL AND HANDLING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FIREARM YOU ARE USING**
- 11. NEVER USE ALCOHOL, OR DRUGS BEFORE OR WHILE SHOOTING**