

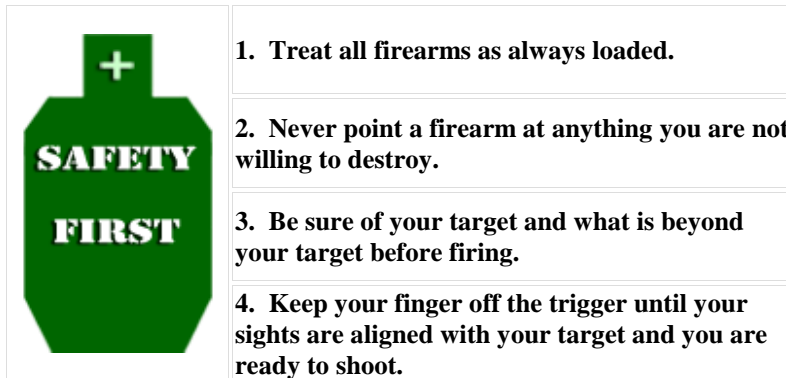
## **SAFETY AND MATCH RULES**

So this is where we get serious. While participating in any of the Big Sky Practical Shooting Club (BSPSC) matches, practice sessions, or any other shooting activities, remember that **SAFETY** must be **YOUR** first concern as we are using real guns and real ammo and when done in an unsafe manner can cause serious injury or worse. So for that reason, it is imperative that **YOU** learn and abide by **ALL RULES** governing our sport, and that, if you have questions concerning any rules or procedures or the equipment you are allowed to use, ask them prior to the start of the match. A safety infraction carries the very harsh penalty of match **disqualification**, or “**DQ.**” This means you must put your gun away and will not be allowed to continue the competition. For egregious infractions, you may be asked not to return.

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### **THE BASIC FOUR OF SAFE GUN HANDLING**

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All BSPSC matches are conducted under the rules of the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) as set forth in its most recent [rulebooks](#). The only exception is our Steel Challenge matches. Those matches use the same rules except that there is no power factor and any safe belt/holster arrangement is allowed.

BSPSC range rules require a **COLD RANGE**. Firearms may be loaded only on the firing line at the Range Officer's direction. Auto loading guns must have an empty magazine well and the hammer must be down on all guns.

**CASING, UNCASING, HOLSTERING AND UNHOLSTERING** your gun may **not** be done at your car. **All** gun handling, including cleaning, must be done in the safety area or on the firing line under the direction of a Range Officer. Gun handling on bays not being used in the match is subject to the Western Montana Fish & Game Association (WMFGA) rules.

A **SAFETY AREA** is provided for your convenience. **No ammunition** shall be handled in the safety area. Violations will result in match disqualification.

**EYE AND EAR PROTECTION** is mandatory for each participant in the match and for any spectator. Shooting glasses must be industrial safety glasses or genuine shooting glasses; most sunglasses lack the strength needed to afford adequate protection.

**ALCOHOL AND OTHER MIND ALTERING DRUGS** are not allowed at the Deer Creek Shooting Center (the range). Anyone who, in the opinion of the Match Director or Range Master, is under the influence of any drug, including alcohol, will be asked to leave the range.

**UNSAFE GUN HANDLING DURING THE MATCH** will result in a match disqualification. Examples of this include:

Allowing the muzzle of your gun to break the 180 degree plane (an imaginary plane based on a line straight down the middle of the bay/stage and 90 degrees perpendicular in either direction, left or right, as viewed by the shooter). This is called “**BREAKING THE ONE-EIGHTY.**”

Having your **FINGER IN THE TRIGGER GUARD** during loading, reloading, or moving with a loaded firearm if you are NOT engaging targets.

Allowing the muzzle of your loaded gun to point towards any part of your body (hand, leg, foot), also known as “**SWEEPING.**”

Allowing your gun to **ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGE**. Usually this is associated with the gun going off while drawing or reloading, or a round that is fired outside of the boundaries of the range, or a round fired while you were not purposely engaging a target.

With the sole exception of Steel Challenge Matches, your **AMMUNITION** is subject to **UNANNOUNCED TESTING** over a chronograph to insure that you are competing at your declared power factor. Should you fail to make declared power factor your scores will be adjusted. Detailed information on testing can be found in the USPSA Handgun Rules.

**SCORING** will be done by computer using the latest version of the USPSA-approved PractiScore program.

**MAGNUM PISTOL LOADS** and **RIFLES** are not allowed on steel targets because these loads may damage the targets. Exceptions are allowed for sanctioned matches and other USPSA/BSPSC events. Should any course require use of a shotgun, we recommend No. 6 or larger lead shot. Steel shot and slugs are not allowed on steel targets.

**ALL DIMENSIONS AND DIAGRAMS** should be considered estimates and are subject to change due to range safety or other considerations except for USPSA Classifier Stages. Some stage diagrams do not include dimensions. Dimensions are only for the convenience of the setup crew and are not included on any course for which we have a scale drawing. Targets will always be close enough to hit and distant enough to be safe.

**POPPER CALIBRATION** will be done prior to the start of competition. If you believe a good hit with legal ammunition failed to knock down a popper, you may request that the calibration be tested if it is still standing. If the target is out of calibration you will be awarded a reshoot. Under no circumstance will you be awarded credit for the target.

**ARBITRATION FEES** will always be equal to the match fee.

**MATCH FEES** will be as noted below and there will be no prize tables. Trophies will be awarded at all regular matches for High Overall and First Place in class for all Divisions.

Individual match fee for regular pistol matches - \$20.00

Individual match fee for USPSA Special Classifiers - \$30.00

Volunteers who help with setup - \$10.00 for regular pistol matches, \$15.00 for Special Classifier matches

Special fees will apply for multigun matches

**A FINAL THOUGHT:** In our household we have rule numbers as a short hand for important aspects of life. Rule # 45 is “Don’t shoot yourself, don’t shoot anyone else, don’t let anyone shoot you, and don’t shoot anything that isn’t a target.” It’s my spouse’s quick way of saying have fun and **be safe**.