

## **SAFETY AND MATCH RULES**

You know how Smokey the Bear says: “Only YOU can prevent forest fires”? He is reminding us that we must understand what we’re dealing with and be careful in potentially dangerous situations. That warning is particularly applicable to shooting activities. Real guns and real ammo present an obvious potential risk of serious injury – or worse. So when participating in any of the Big Sky Practical Shooting Club (BSPSC) matches or practice sessions, safety must be our first concern! We must learn and abide by all rules governing our sport. If you have any questions concerning rules, procedures, equipment, etc., 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 you will not be allowed to continue the competition.

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

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	<b>1. Always treat all firearms as if they are loaded.</b>
	<b>2. Never point a firearm at anything you are not willing to destroy.</b>
	<b>3. Be sure of your target and what is beyond your target before firing.</b>
	<b>4. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until your sights are coming on to your target..</b>

All BSPSC matches are conducted in accordance with the United States Practical Shooting Association ([USPSA Competition Rules](#), [USPSA Multigun Rules](#)), or the Steel Challenge Shooting Association ([SCSA Competition Rules](#)).

The Deer Creek Shooting Center is a Cold Range. Handguns must be carried unloaded – in a holster or a zipped up pouch, with hammer down on an empty chamber. Long guns must be carried unloaded - in a case, or on a shooting cart with muzzle pointed down and a chamber flag inserted. Firearms may only be loaded when on the firing line, under the direct supervision of a Range Officer.

**Designated Safety Areas** are provided at the range. When not on the firing line under the direct supervision of a range officer, all gun handling – including cleaning, making repairs, etc. – must be done in a Safety Area! This includes casing, uncasing, holstering and unholstering a firearm (which should NOT be done at your car). Note: **No ammunition** may be handled in a Safety Area!.

**Eye And Ear Protection** is mandatory for each participant in the match and for any spectator. Shooting glasses should be industrial safety glasses or genuine shooting glasses; because most sunglasses lack the strength needed to afford adequate protection.

**Alcohol, Marijuana and Other Mind Altering Drugs** are not allowed at the Deer Creek Shooting Center (the range). Anyone who, in the opinion a range official, is under the influence of any drug, including alcohol, will be asked to leave the range.

**A Final Thought:** In our household we have rule numbers as a shorthand 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.**