

**Precision Rifle Series Safety**  
**[Section Extracts]**

**1.3 Safety SOP for the Conduct of a COF**

The following rules apply to shooters who are actively participating in a COF.

**1.3.1 ECI's will remain in the rifle until the RO gives the command of "Load and make ready."**

1.3.2 If there is no movement involved to the first firing point, upon MD's stage design and discretion, rifles may be in a "Hot" status meaning a round in the chamber, magazine inserted, bolt closed, and weapon on "Safe". It is the shooter's and RO's responsibility to fully understand the COF and how to prepare their rifle prior to starting. 1.3.3 All transitions and movements during a course of fire must be done with open bolts and an empty chamber. An exception will be made for Semi-Automatic Rifles but only at the discretion and approval of the Match Director. If the MD does permit transitions and movements with a hot rifle, the weapon must be on safe and the shooter must give an audible "Safe" before moving; NO EXCEPTIONS.

**1.3.4 The 120 degree rule must be adhered to at all times. No shooter will point their muzzle any more than 60 degrees off of the direction of fire in either direction.**

1.3.5 Shooters must maintain positive control of a firearm during a stage (loaded or unloaded). Positive control is defined as maintaining at least one point of bodily contact with the rifle or a sling type attachment to the body of the shooter.

1.3.6 Negligent/Accidental Discharges (AD/ND's) are taken very seriously at any PRS event. An AD/ND is defined as any round unintentionally discharged from a firearm. A competitor who causes an accidental discharge must be stopped by a Range Officer as soon as possible. An accidental discharge is defined as follows:

1.3.6.1 A shot, which travels over a designated backstop, a berm or in any other direction outside the range span, specified in the written stage briefing or match rules as determined by the match director.

*Note that a competitor who legitimately fires a shot at the wrong target or with incorrect data, but remains within the established range span, will not be disqualified.*

1.3.6.2 A shot which occurs while actually loading, reloading or unloading a firearm.

1.3.6.3 A shot which occurs during remedial action in the case of a malfunction.

1.3.6.4 A shot which occurs during movement/transition, except while actually shooting at targets.

1.3.6.5 A shot which occurs when the shooter is not under glass with an established sight picture.

1.3.6.6 A shot which occurs before the shooter intended to shoot, regardless if the shot remains in the range span, target berm or the target itself.

1.3.6.7 A shot which occurs during a cease fire period.

1.3.7 If it can be established that the cause of the discharge is due to a broken or defective part of the firearm, the competitor has not committed any safety infraction in this Section, and a disqualification may not be

invoked(at MDs discretion), but the competitor's scores for that stage will be zero. The firearm must be immediately presented for inspection to the Match Director or his delegate, who will inspect the firearm and carry out any tests necessary to establish that a broken or defective part caused the discharge. A competitor may not later appeal a disqualification for an accidental discharge due to a broken or defective part if they fail to present the firearm for inspection prior to leaving the course of fire.

## **Appendix 1: PRS Safety Brief**

The following Safety Points should be included in every PRS competition briefing, and Competition booklet.

### **General Safety Rules**

- Keep muzzles pointed in a safe direction at all times regardless of the status of the weapon. Do not point any weapon at anything you do not wish to destroy. This is considered “flagging” and will not be tolerated.
- Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.
- All PRS events will be run on cold ranges. A cold range is defined as keeping firearms unloaded until it is the competitor’s turn to shoot.
- Safety SOP: Conduct of a Match.
- The following rules apply to all participants of a PRS event, while not actively shooting a COF.
  - While conducting any movement with a firearm at a PRS, the participant will ensure all of their weapons are pointed in a safe direction at all times.
  - All participants will ensure all of their weapons are cleared with the magazine out at all times.
  - Chamber flags or other Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) will be utilized at all times.
  - Rifle Staging: Match Directors are encouraged to designate locations near each stage where shooters can safely stage their rifles. The location should be marked with two flags or property markers 15 to 30 feet apart oriented in a direction or manner whereas rifles will all be safely pointed in the same direction. When made available, shooters shall stage rifles in this designated area.
  - No person shall consume or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the match. Any person found to be impaired and unsafe as a result of legitimate prescription drugs may be directed to stop shooting and requested to leave the range.

### **Safety SOP: Conduct of a COF**

- The following rules apply to shooters who are actively participating in a COF. ECI’s will remain in the rifle until the RO gives the command of “Load and make ready.”
- If there is no movement involved to the first firing point, upon MD’s stage design and discretion, rifles may be in a “Hot” status meaning a round in the chamber, magazine inserted, bolt closed, and weapon on “Safe”. It is the shooter’s and RO’s responsibility to fully understand the COF and how to prepare their rifle prior to starting.
- All transitions and movements during a course of fire must be done with open bolts and an empty chamber. An exception will be made for Semi- Automatic Rifles but only at the discretion and approval of the Match Director. If the MD does permit transitions and movements with a hot rifle, the weapon must be on safe and the shooter must give an audible “Safe” before moving; NO EXCEPTIONS.
- The 120 degree rule must be adhered to at all times. No shooter will point their muzzle any more than 60 degrees off of the direction of fire in either direction.
- Shooters must maintain positive control of a firearm at all times
- Negligent Discharges (ND’s) are taken very seriously at any PRS event. A ND is

defined as any round unintentionally discharged from a firearm during a transition, movement, and/or weapons manipulation; or a round intentionally discharged during a cease fire period.

### **Appendix 3: PRS Skills Stages**

PRS Skills Stages are intended to serve several purposes. The first purpose is to provide a standardized way in which to deal with ties. If two shooters are tied for the same position, the sum of the two scores will be used to determine the winner. If the shooters have the same combined score, the shooter with the fastest combined time will receive the higher (better) placement.

The stages are also meant to serve as a training tool for shooters.

Stage 1 is meant to stress the skill of transitioning from target to target and rapidly engaging targets. It has an unlimited round count which allows the shooter to push the speed envelope without having to worry about being penalized for a miss.

Stage 2 is meant to stress the skill of transitioning from position to position as well as shooting from alternate positions. Because there is a limit to the number of rounds that can be shot from each position, the shooter will need to take more time with each shot than was necessary on Stage 1.

Finally, the Skills Stages are meant to serve as a barometer for shooters. All the scores for the Skills Stages will be kept and posted on the PRS website. This will provide the shooters with solid metrics by which they can judge themselves against other shooters they would not have otherwise had an opportunity to compete against. It will also allow them to see how they stack-up against the best shooters in the world.