

SSA Black Powder Rifle League Standard Operating Procedures

Welcome to the Shongum Sportsmen's Association (SSA) Black Powder Rifle League Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). It will be our pleasure to help you apply the following procedures at our monthly events.

SSA Black Powder Rifle League (BPRL)	
Meets	FIRST SUNDAY of EVERY MONTH
Start	10:00 AM (typical)
Stop	12:00 PM (typical)
Range	100 yard range

Mission Statement:

The SSA BPRL is organized to promote the natural fellowship within the Muzzle Loading Community by the safe and regular target practice to develop marksmanship proficiency of America's Original Assault Weapon.

Firearms:

Any NJ legal and SSA Range Rules compliant, modern or antique firearm originally intended to shoot Black Powder or substitute propellant. The Range Safety Officer (RSO) has the final approval of any firearm used.

Propellant:

Black Powder or modern substitutes are allowed, as per manufacturer's recommendations. Duplex Loads are prohibited from club sponsored activities.

Projectiles:

Only LEAD projectiles, with a maximum 100-yard target impact velocity of 2,800 FPS are allowed for use at club provided Steel Plates. Paper target projectiles are only limited as per SSA Range Rules.

Event Range Status:

To be determined by 9:00 AM day of event. It is recommended to sign up for text message alerts as noted:

http://www.rainedout.com/receive_msgs_follow

Four Easy Steps to Receive Messages from your Organization:

1. Search for SSA-BPRL using the search box above, under SHOOTING category
2. Select SSA-BPRL
3. Opt-in to your Organization
4. Validate your phone or email

Safety:

1. Absolutely no smoking or vaping at anytime, anywhere on the line, during an event by anyone.
2. As per SSA Range Rules, anyone (participant or observer) near the line must have eye and ear protection on. Double plugging and side shields are recommended, especially for shooters under the age of 18.
3. For a Breech Loaded Firearm, an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) is to be inserted into the chamber to indicate the firearm has an empty, unloaded chamber.
4. For a Muzzle Loading Rifle, an ECI or Ram Rod is to be inserted into an upright barrel to indicate the rifle has an empty, unloaded chamber. It is recommended to use a vinyl coated screw-in "Y" tool hanger to keep rifle upright and a carpet piece to protect butt stock. Please only use existing screw holes in bench.
5. Large powder or percussion cap containers are to be stored in separate, spark safe containers away from firing line during an event. Use additional accoutrement type, smaller capacity dispensers during event.
6. **Any unsafe condition or questionable practice is to be immediately brought to the RSO's attention.**

Loading:

1. Traditional Loose Powder - After each loading, all Flasks, Horns, Pre-Loads, Pan Primers, etc. must be resealed and removed from the front of the line as far as practical and or secured in a separate container.
2. Non Standard Firearms (defined as not typically found in a retail store) as per RSO approval.
3. Paper Wrapped Loads may be loaded from North South Skirmish Association (NSSA) or similar approved accoutrement cases and loaded while standing at the line. Inform RSO of intensions.
4. Brass Cartridges (including Burnside reproductions) may be loaded at shooters discretion.

Basic Instructions & Chronological Range Commands:***PRE-EVENT INSTRUCTIONS:***

Upon approaching the range for any scheduled event, please assume the range is active and approach with mandatory eye & ear protection in place. As much as the range is assumed active, DO NOT uncase any firearms or set up until expressly approved by the RSO, even if you think you are the only person on the line.

PREPARATION TIME:

NO ONE IS ALLOWED DOWN RANGE or IN FRONT OF THE RED (FIRING) LINE

Firearms can be uncased and handled but are NOT to be LOADED at this time. When handled, all firearms must remain pointed down range. Any accessories may be readied. When you are done with preparations, uncased firearms are to either remain placed on the bench, still pointed down range, with ECI visible and inserted in chamber or positioned upright, held in place with vinyl coated tool hook, with a ram rod inserted in barrel. Stand AT READY (means to NOT HOLD FIREARM).

The LINE IS HOT:

NO ONE IS ALLOWED DOWN RANGE or IN FRONT OF THE RED (FIRING) LINE.

After visual inspection of line and impact area, the RSO declares down range is clear the line is HOT, you may snap caps, clean, load or otherwise handle your firearm. Stand AT READY when done, but DO NOT SHOOT.

FIRE AT WILL:

NO ONE IS ALLOWED DOWN RANGE or IN FRONT OF THE RED (FIRING) LINE.

Ready on the Right, Ready on the Left, All Ready on the Firing Line? "FIRE AT WILL" starts the event.

MAKE THE LINE SAFE:

NO ONE IS ALLOWED DOWN RANGE or IN FRONT OF THE RED (FIRING) LINE.

To facilitate Target Changes during events, all firearms are to be unloaded and made safe by either placed on the bench, pointed down range, with ECI visible and inserted into chamber or positioned upright, held in place with vinyl coated tool hook, with ram rod inserted in barrel. Stand AT READY.

The LINE IS SAFE:

NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO HANDLE ANY FIREARM.

After visual inspection of line, the RSO declares the line SAFE, you may remove ear protection and go forward to change or retrieve targets. Upon return, Stand AT READY.

CEASE FIRE:

If a CEASE FIRE command is heard, all shooting must stop immediately, all firearms are made safe and or unshouldered, shooter to Stand AT EASE (means to lower FIREARM) and await further instructions. ANYONE can declare a CEASE FIRE anytime they observe any Safety Hazard.

All Compliance interpretations are subject to RSO approval and remember - Keep Your Powder Dry