

# Sanborn County Shooting Sports

## Safety Test Study Guide

### Ten Shooting Safety Rules

**Airguns and BB guns are real guns, not toys. You or others can be killed or seriously injured if these rules are not followed.**

**1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.**

There are several safe "carries" depending on the situation. NEVER ALLOW THE MUZZLE TO POINT IN THE DIRECTION OF A PERSON.

**2. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.**

You can never be positive that you were the last person to handle the gun. Never take anyone's word about whether or not a gun is loaded. Always check a gun to see if it is loaded when removed from storage or received from another person. Even if you have fired an airgun one or more times and no pellet or BB was expelled from the barrel, it does not mean that the magazine of the gun is empty of ammunition. Any airgun can fail to feed for any number of reasons. Continue to treat the airgun as loaded and ready to fire. ALWAYS TREAT A GUN AS IF IT IS LOADED EVEN IF YOU KNOW IT ISN'T.

**3. Only load or cock a gun when you are shooting.**

A loaded gun has no place in your home or other place.

**4. Check your target and beyond your target.**

Be sure all persons are well clear of the target area before you shoot. Check behind and beyond your target to be certain you have a safe backstop and that no person or property could be endangered.

**5. Anyone shooting or near a shooter should wear shooting glasses.**

Also, all other persons should remain behind the shooter.

**6. Never climb or jump with a gun.**

You can't control the direction of the muzzle if you stumble or fall. You should safely lay the gun down or hand it to a companion while you climb or jump over anything.

**7. Avoid ricochet.**

Never shoot at a flat hard surface or at the surface of water. Ammunition can ricochet off of water **just like a skipped rock.**

**8. Keep the muzzle clear.**

Never let anything obstruct the muzzle of a gun. Don't allow the muzzle to come in contact with the ground.

**9. Guns not in use should always be unloaded.**

Keeping guns unloaded when not in use is critical to the safety of you and others. When you are finished shooting, put the trigger safety in the "on" position and unload the gun. Store guns so that they are inaccessible to untrained shooters and store ammunition separately from the gun.

**10. Respect other people's property.**

Whether you're target shooting or hunting, if you're a guest on others' land, you should leave it exactly as you found it.

The most dangerous part of ANY gun -- is the end of the barrel called the muzzle. Remember this rule:

\*\*\*\*\*  
ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE OF YOUR GUN  
POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION!  
\*\*\*\*\*

Most guns have something called a "safety" which is supposed to keep the gun from firing when the safety is "on". However, a safety is just another piece of metal, and it CAN break or malfunction, so having the "safety" "on" does NOT GUARANTEE that the gun will not shoot! NEVER depend on a safety!

\* TREAT EVERY GUN AS IF IT WERE LOADED AND READY TO SHOOT

\* NEVER CARRY A LOADED OR COCKED GUN INTO A HOME, CAMP, OR PUBLIC PLACE OR PUT IT INTO AN AUTOMOBILE.

\* BE SURE YOUR GUN BARREL IS CLEAN AND CLEAR (NOT PLUGGED)- if it is plugged, it is not safe to shoot it to clean it out. Something in a barrel may cause the barrel to burst and will probably HURT you and ruin your whole day!

\* NEVER SHOOT AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR THE SURFACE OF WATER - Bullets, pellets, and BB's can bounce? Bullets can also bounce off of rocks and other hard surfaces; this is called a RICOCHET. Bullets skip off of water too. Just as rocks skip off of water, so bullets can, too. Never shoot across water.

What are the four shooting positions for BB gun: Prone, Sitting, Kneeling, Standing

What are the three shooting positions for air rifle? Prone, Kneeling, Standing

In which position are you not allowed to use a sling? Standing

In the sitting position the weight of the body is supported on the buttocks and the feet or ankles, and no other portion of the body touching the ground.

While in the kneeling position if the kneeling roll is not used, the foot may be positioned at any angle, to include placing the side of the foot and the lower leg in contact with the ground.

If you are dominant right-eyed, shoot with your right hand pulling the trigger. If you are dominant left-eyed, shoot with your left hand pulling the trigger, even if you are right-handed.

How many shots belong in each bull of the B-40 target? 5

What is the distance between the shooter and the BB gun target? 5 meters

What is the distance between the shooter and the air rifle or air pistol target? 10 meters

Dry firing is firing the gun without ammunition in the gun. This helps you to practice your shooting form and concentration skills and also warms up the gun.

The five most important things to remember in firing a shot are: proper sight alignment, proper sight picture, breath control, trigger jerk, and follow through.

When shooting a BB gun, for a good sight picture, center the front hole in the rear hole.

For correct breathing, take a larger than normal breath, then let half of that breath out.

The trigger itself should be squeezed using the first joint of the first finger. The trigger squeeze is a steady pull on the trigger, straight back toward the eye of the shooter.

In 4-H shooting sports, you qualify for the State Shoot by receiving a passing score on a safety test and by shooting a qualifying score in one postal or match shoot.

A range officer is responsible for everything that happens on the line, and most importantly safety.

**DOMINANT EYE:** Each person has a DOMINANT eye. The dominant eye looks directly at objects, while the non-dominant eye mostly helps measure distances. The MOST-IMPORTANT aspect of shooting is to shoot from the same shoulder as your dominant eye. If you have a RIGHT-dominant eye, you should shoot from your RIGHT shoulder. If you have a LEFT-dominant eye, you should shoot from your LEFT shoulder EVEN IF YOU ARE RIGHT HANDED!

**SAFETY ON THE LINE:** If ANYONE sees a DANGEROUS SITUATION at ANY time, yell CEASE FIRE, and ALL shooters must IMMEDIATELY ground their guns. IMMEDIATELY! Do NOT try to finish your shot, even if you are already holding your breath!

**FOUR VERY IMPORTANT things to remember in firing a shot:**

- \* Breath control
- \* Proper sighting
- \* Trigger squeeze
- \* Follow through

Correct breathing is VERY important.

The way you do it is: take a larger-than-normal breath, then let about HALF of that breath out, HOLD the remaining half, sight, and squeeze the trigger while holding your breath. The reason you don't breathe while shooting is that the movement of your chest causes your body to move, when your body moves, your gun moves, and when your gun moves, it's not pointing at the target anymore!

The second thing to learn is how to SIGHT the gun. People who can't hit their targets are very UNSAFE shooters, and we want you to be a SAFE shooter, so you must be able to hit your target! And to hit your target every time, you must learn correct sighting.

Different guns have different kinds of sights; our BB guns have APERTURE sights ("aperture" is a fancy word for HOLE, and most people call them PEEP sights.

Looking through the rear peep sight, you line up the front sight so it is perfectly centered, and then you move the barrel until your dominant eye can see the bullseye through BOTH holes at the same time. When you can see the bullseye through BOTH holes and the front sight is centered in the rear one, squeeze the trigger and shoot the bullseye.

TRIGGER CONTROL is also very important. The trigger should be SQUEEZED – NOT JERKED -- very slowly using your pointing finger. Some people touch the trigger with the JOINT, others touch the trigger with the PAD at the end of the finger - experts say that using the PAD is better. A proper SQUEEZE is a STEADY/EVEN pull on the trigger, straight back toward the stock. If you jerk, or pull too quickly, the gun barrel will move toward the hand that's pulling the trigger and your shot will hit to one side of the bullseye. Experts say you should squeeze the trigger so slowly that you are SURPRISED when the bullet fires! Of course, you can't be TOO slow, because you can only hold your half-breath a few seconds.

Bullets are fast, but it does take a LITTLE while for the bullet to leave the muzzle after the trigger sets the shot in motion. Even though the time is very short (about one THOUSANDTH of a second with these guns), any gun movement during this time will affect

where the shot hits the target. So you MUST WAIT just a little time before moving; this waiting time is called FOLLOW THROUGH.

### **What is sighting?**

Different guns have different kinds of sights, so let's talk about a couple: First we will talk about the sight on an air pistol. Think of what a lollipop stick looks like. If the front sight is a lollipop stick, then the rear sight must be a lollipop-stick finder. To use this kind of sight properly, look through the stick-finder (the rear sight) to find the lollipop stick (the front sight). Once we find the lollipop stick, move the barrel until the round candy (the bullseye) is sitting on the TOP of the stick where lollipop candy belongs.

When the TOP of the front post sight is in the MIDDLE of the peep rear sight and the TOP of the front sight is on the BOTTOM of the bullseye, squeeze the trigger and shoot the bullseye.

Our BB guns have an APERTURE front sight; "aperture" means HOLE. Looking through the rear peep sight, you line up the front sight so it is perfectly centered, and then you move the barrel until you can see the bullseye through BOTH holes at the same time. When you can see the bullseye through BOTH holes and the front sight is centered in the rear one, squeeze the trigger and shoot the bullseye.

### **What is a grouping?**

When you shoot your practice shots, if you have all of your shots pretty-much together, your shots are what we call a GROUP. If you HAVE a group, but the group is NOT in the center of the bullseye, we can fix that! My sights need to be adjusted correctly. My group is on the RIGHT when my rear sight is too far to the RIGHT, and my group is on the LEFT when my rear sight is too far to the LEFT. Also, my group is high when my rear sight is too high and my group is low when my rear sight is too low. What DIRECTION should you move the rear sight? IN THE SAME DIRECTION THE HOLES SHOULD MOVE!

**What is rifling?** Rifle barrels are NOT just round tubes; they have grooves, called RIFLING, cut into the inside of the barrel. Rifling makes bullets spin as they pass through the barrel.

### **RANGE OPERATION**

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- \* ALL SHOOTERS TO THE LINE. IS THE LINE READY? (If not, holler out "NO!"....)

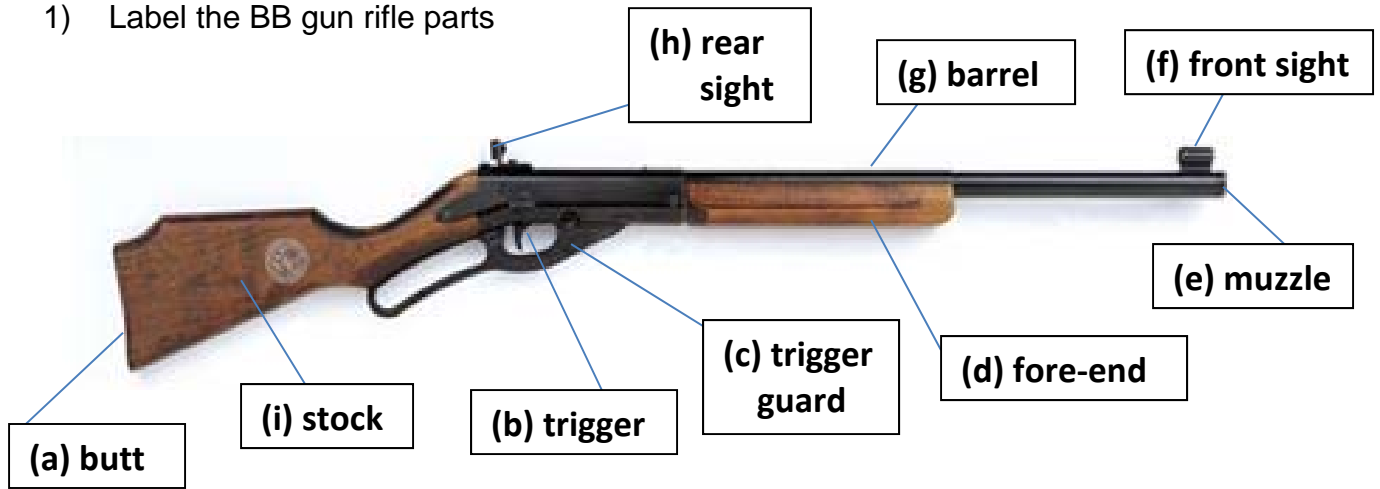
- \* YOU MAY NOW COMMENCE FIRING

When time is up or all guns have been grounded:

- \* CEASE FIRE! MAKE YOUR GUNS SAFE. ARE ALL GUNS SAFE? (If not....)

- \* SHOOTERS, CHANGE YOUR TARGETS AND POSITIONS

1) Label the BB gun rifle parts



\_\_g\_\_ Barrel

\_\_f\_\_ Front sight

\_\_b\_\_ Trigger

\_\_a\_\_ Butt

\_\_e\_\_ Muzzle

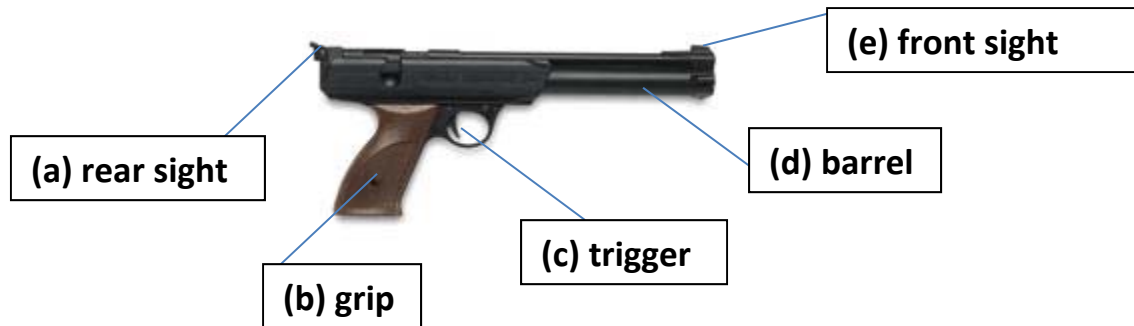
\_\_c\_\_ Trigger guard

\_\_d\_\_ Fore-end

\_\_h\_\_ Rear sight

\_\_i\_\_ Stock

2) Label the pistol parts



\_\_d\_\_ Barrel

\_\_e\_\_ Front sight

\_\_b\_\_ Grip

\_\_c\_\_ Trigger

\_\_a\_\_ Rear sight

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OF RESPONSIBILITY