



## CESSNOCK RIFLE CLUB INCORPORATED

Formed 1908 – “Semper Fides”  
[www.cessnockrifleclub.org.au](http://www.cessnockrifleclub.org.au)

### Cessnock Rifle Club Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is not an all-encompassing document covering all rules and regulations but is intended as a summary of the most fundamental day to day activities within the club and on the range. It is provided as a reminder and affirmation for existing members but also as an initial reference point for new members as a head start on participating in our sport and the protocols of the Cessnock Rifle Club and the Cessnock Rifle Range.

If you are a new member, welcome to The Cessnock Rifle Club inc.(CRC) The CRC is one of the oldest organised sporting clubs in NSW first forming well over 100 years ago in 1908 and has essentially been in continuous operation ever since. As with any sporting club comes a range of different expressions, abbreviations, traditions, ceremonies, protocols, and expectations.

One of the very first things for us to address is that we are a sporting group, and **we are “a club”** . One of the simplest definitions of a club is: **“an organization of people with the same purpose or interest, who meet regularly and take part in shared activities”**. This is a pretty good summation of the CRC, we are not a business, we are not a service, and we are not selling the right to come and shoot, we are a club where all members pitch in, share the load, share the work and responsibilities of setting up the range, running a shoot and packing up the range at the end of each shooting day. This results in us all ultimately having the benefit of one of the best and most technologically advanced long range shooting facilities in Australia.

**Range Officer:** The Range Officer is the official in charge of shooting on the range at any given time. During the course of the day, a shoot or a competition event, the actual person acting as the Range Officer may change, however, they will be easily identifiable as they will be wearing a fluoro-coloured vest clearly labelled “Range Officer”. They are also known by the abbreviation “the R.O.”

**The R.O.** is the most important person on the Range as they are in charge of the range, running a shoot and maintaining safety for all. The MOST IMPORTANT THING is that you MUST follow any direction given by the R.O. **immediately and without dispute or**

**argument, whether you agree with it or not** as there may be other factors occurring that you are not aware of affecting safety around the R.O. giving an instruction.

**General Conduct:** The range users and visitors and family members are made up of a very mixed demographic including, but not limited to, male and female, young and old (in some cases children) and mixed backgrounds and beliefs. Noting this, swearing, loud and/or aggressive behaviour or arguing with the Range Officer will not be tolerated and may result in you being immediately ejected from the range, and in some cases, termination of your membership. Safety protocols and any order of the day must be adhered to.

**Conflict Resolution:** In the event of ANY disagreement or conflict with a direction given either by the Range Officer or with another member or visitor, the protocol is DO NOT address the situation with the individual/s and absolutely NOT while shooting is in session. Any disagreement or request for disciplinary action is to be addressed directly to the Club Captain, or to a Club Executive Member of the Club Committee. Take Note, the Captain and/or The Club Committee shall be the sole arbitrators and any decision made shall be final.

**Range Fees:** Range fees for the day are for range use and equipment use on the day but it should be noted that the daily range fee is for two stages or a total of 24 shots fired only. If you wish to shoot more than 24 shots, this is most certainly possible at an additional cost of \$5 per stage or 12 shots. You must obtain permission from The Range Officer who will always seek to provide access for further shooting however that decision will be entirely at the discretion of the Range Officer on the day. Any outstanding range fees must be paid before you next shoot.

**Being Financial:** Members must be financially up to date. Your annual membership fee must be paid in full, or you will no longer be permitted to shoot. If you have range fees or other debts to the club in arrears they must be paid in full before you next attend/shoot. If you are in arrears your shooting rights may be suspended until your debt is paid. The Captain, Treasurer or Range Officer are empowered to suspend a member from shooting in these circumstances.

**Special circumstances or needs:** it is understood that from time to time we may all experience injury, disability, or financial hardship. If this is the case, please approach either the Club Captain or an Executive Committee member so that the Club may explore how, or if, a variation may be implemented to assist you.

**Setting Up and Packing up the Range:** It is a responsibility, a requirement, and an expectation that all members assist with setting up and/or packing up the range at the beginning and end of the day. It is understood that some members may not have the physical capacity, and from time to time, some may have other commitments and need to arrive late or leave early. This is completely understandable and, in these cases, please notify either the Captain or Range Officer on the day.

## **Handling of Firearms prior to and after actual shooting on the firing**

**line:** Rifles must always be unloaded, Bolt removed, and Breech flag inserted whenever you are not actually on the firing line and shooting. This includes while removing your rifle from your car, waiting to shoot, or returning your rifle to your car.

**Red Flag:** Is identifiable as a Squared full Red Flag with one located at the Entry to the range and the other located at the Stop Butts. When these flags are flying it indicates that the range is active and shooting/live firing is in process.

**The Shooting Line:** Also often referred to as “the mound” or “Firing Line” is where shooting/live firing takes place. You will be allocated a Target to shoot on by number. On the mound there will be a numbered peg in the ground identifying the location to shoot from, and down the range above each target there will be a corresponding number. You must always only shoot upon your allocated target.

**Do not Load until pointing your Rifle down range:** Before you close the bolt of your rifle with a live round chambered ready to fire you must first shoulder your rifle and be pointing down range at your target BEFORE you close the bolt.

**Commence Firing:** At the beginning of a shooting session, you may not begin shooting until the Range Officer has declared “you may commence firing”.

**Cease Fire:** Perhaps the two most important words you will ever hear on a rifle range, and they mean exactly that. Immediately do not fire another shot and unload your rifle and await further instruction from the Range Officer. During a “Cease Fire” Order!... you must not handle your firearm or remove it from the Mound.

**End of your Stage or “All out”:** When the last shot in your stage is fired the check scorer will announce “All Out” and this is a confirmation that the last shot in your stage has been fired. At this time remove your bolt and separate it completely from your rifle. Before removing your rifle from the firing line present the butt of your rifle to the check scorer who will inspect it, and if appropriate, announce you as “Breech Clear” meaning your bolt is removed, there is no ammunition in your rifle, and you may insert your breech flag and remove your rifle from the mound.

**Malfunction or Uncertainty:** In the event of any malfunction with your rifle, or a shot not firing, or if any uncertainty on your part, cease fire, remain in position on the mound, keep your rifle pointing down range and at the target. Raise your right hand and loudly announce “Malfunction” and wait for the Range officer to attend to you and give assistance and instructions.

## **Some common terms used and abbreviations.**

**Breech Flag:** A brightly coloured (often Orange or Blue) plastic insert shaped like a flag that goes into the space normally occupied by the bolt and also goes into the chamber of the rifle. This way it is impossible to have a round of ammunition in the chamber or the bolt within the action.

**The Mound:** Where the firing line is located and where you shoot from.

**The Stop Butts or Butts:** Down range behind where the targets are mounted and are designed to capture the bullet/projectile once fired.

**The Target:** What you are actually shooting at, and where your score for each shot is determined. The target is identifiable as a large white square with a large fully blacked out black circle in the centre. You may ONLY shoot at the target and NOT at any other object.

**Aiming Mark:** The large black circle in the centre of the target.

**Target Number:** Marked both on the mound and also above the corresponding target down range at the butts.

**A Stage:** A series of shots fired to create an overall score. For example, in our Saturday Club Competition typically we shoot 10 Counting shots with 2 optional sighters, meaning after firing your first two shots you have the option of keeping one, or keeping both as counting towards your score or you may opt to cut both out and start your counting shots. In this case the minimum shots you would fire is 10 and the maximum would be 12 as “a stage”. There are 2 stages to create a combined total score. The number of shots fired in a stage may vary (particularly in competitions there can be typically anything from 7 to 15 in a stage.)

**Flags or Wind Flags:** These are identified as the Triangular shaped flags coloured Red and Yellow in a series running down the range and are used as indicators and guides to wind direction and strength.

**The Frog:** The green and white laptop computer beside the shooter on the mound where your individual shots are displayed and recorded.

**Possible and Double Possible:** This is when a shooter scores the highest score possible in a stage. If the shooter scores a possible in both stages, this is known as a double possible. If a shooter scores a possible it is traditionally a sign of respect and acknowledgement of the achievement, for all present to offer applause by way of clapping your hands.

**Daily Range Fees:** Payment for use of the facilities and to shoot your initial 2 stages on the day.

**SID Number:** When you become a member of the CRC you also become a member of the NSWRA (New South Wales Rifle Association). You will be issued with a Membership card which carries your unique individual membership number. This is known as your SID number.

**If in any doubt about what to do at any time, then don't..... Make sure you ask before proceeding. Don't be afraid to ask if you are not sure what you should be doing.**

The Code of Conduct as at 28/04/2024 may be subject to variation or addition. In addition to this Code of Conduct, members should also read and be familiar the Australian Standard Shooting Rules and The Cessnock Rifle Club Standing Orders.