

**SAFETY is THE watchword of the entire Custer Facility**

- 1. I will treat every firearm as a loaded one!**
- 2. I will never point a firearm at anything I am not willing to destroy!**
- 3. I will be sure of my target and what is behind it before firing!**
- 4. I will keep my finger off the trigger until my muzzle is pointed downrange!**

**Violations of this code of ethics are considered gross safety violations and will lead to disqualification from matches. The careless and/or immature will find Custer intolerant of sloppy gun handling. We expect you to compete and practice under safe conditions. *Disaster Factors* are all under your direct control and for that reason we demand that you accept full responsibility for your actions. It's your gun, you are shooting it.**

**If you can't accept this responsibility than a back range pass is not for you and you should consider another sport.**

Custer shooters are required to demonstrate their knowledge and ability to handle all types of firearms skills to receive a back range pass. We do not have the ability to police what level of knowledge and safety you have demonstrated to participate in any one discipline or that you will only practice within that discipline. Therefore, the need to check all shooters to ensure that they have the skills needed for safe participation in all areas. Consequently, before you are granted a back range pass, a level 2 safety check must be obtained.

Custer is a "cold" range: This means that **all guns must be unloaded, and holstered (or cased/bagged) at all times**. Guns are not to be removed from holsters or cases, unless and until so directed by a Range Officer, or in a designated safety area. Guns must be empty (inclusive of magazines, snap caps, and/or empty cases), with actions closed and hammers down, when holstered or cased. **Gear up only in a Safety Area. Your car is NOT a Safety Area!! Do NOT handle ammunition in a Safety Area!**

**SAFETY COMES FIRST AND FOREMOST - ALWAYS!**

**What does a level one safety check cover? (MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS)**

1. In order to participate in any individual match at a Range Officer supervised match you must first pass the safety check developed by that discipline.
2. Discipline chairs will submit to the Custer Board of Directors a written copy of that discipline's safety check.
3. The Match Director of the day will determine if a participant has the proper credentials to shoot that discipline. (It is not required to have written credentials if skills knowledge is available another way.)
4. A new shooter must shoot under the direct supervision of the Match Director or his designate for a minimum of 3 matches.

**What does a level 2 safety check cover? (MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS)**

1. You must demonstrate the ability to safely draw and return a gun to a holster.
2. You must demonstrate the ability to safely sling a rifle and move while the rifle is slung.
3. You must demonstrate the ability to handle a shotgun
4. You must show that you understand placement of steel targets, how to position them so they do not deflect rounds unsafely, and also the distance that Custer steel may be shot from both for personal safety and steel preservation.
5. You must demonstrate you understand bay and berm positioning, What a 180 bay is and what a 270 bay is. When the 180 can change as you move through a course in a bay.
6. You must demonstrate the ability to transition through a course safely.
7. You must demonstrate safe transition from pistol to rifle and back to pistol.
8. You will be required to demonstrate the following:
  - a. An understanding of the USPSA Range Commands
  - b. How to load and make ready
  - c. Draw and fire from various starting positions (including a table start and an unloaded gun start)
  - d. How to safely perform a magazine change.
  - e. How to safely move down range and cross range
  - f. How to safely shoot strong hand and weak hand only
  - g. How to safely clear a jam in semi-auto pistol, rifle, shotgun and PCC
  - h. How to unload and show clear
9. You must demonstrate that you understand Safety table operation in relation to where you can handle guns and where you can handle ammunition.
10. You must demonstrate the knowledge of use of hearing and eye protection for yourself and anyone else in the bay with you.
11. You must understand what types of ammunition and targets are not allowed at Custer.
12. You must demonstrate you understand the uses of alcohol and drugs before or while shooting.

**PRE-TRAINING TEST** (bring with you to discuss with your instructor)

1. Any holster that covers the trigger is legal at Custer.
2. I can clean my gun, cycle, and dry fire it in the Clubhouse or at my car.
3. If I realize I forgot a target, it's OK to turn around and run up-range to re-engage it.
4. When I'm on deck and my squad is taping and picking, I can run through the course and take sight pictures.
5. It's OK to point the muzzle into the air while clearing obstacles or jams.
6. If the course of fire requires that I go prone, it's OK to go prone then draw.
7. The best place to load magazines is a Safety Area.
8. It's OK to have my finger on the trigger when moving from position to position.
9. If I re-holster my loaded gun, the safety must be applied (single action autos), or the hammer must be down (double action autos and revolvers).
10. Eye and hearing protection are mandatory.
11. While reloading, my trigger finger must be outside of the trigger guard.
12. I don't need to watch the muzzle when I draw - it can point anywhere.
13. If I think I can hit the target, it's OK to shoot through props to make the shot.
14. If I need to check, clean, or repair my gun, I need to go to a Safety Area.
15. When told to drop the hammer, I can just decock my double-action auto.

## CUSTER SPORTSMENS CLUB MATCH AND BACK RANGE PASS SAFETY CHECKS

How did you do. Questions 10,11,12 and 14 are true all others are false.

1. **False** The muzzle must also point downwards to within 3 feet of the shooter when holstered. Remember the muzzle can point backward no further than 3' behind the shooter. Some holster will make this impossible. Holsters that have the finger activate lock release are not allowed
2. **False** Do this in a safety area only
3. **False** Remember the 180 rule- you may back up or even turn around only if your muzzle remains pointed toward the berm.
4. **False** Do not handle your gun until you're ready to start and the RO tells you to!! Nothing upsets pickers, tapers, and RO's more than to turn around and see a muzzle pointed at them - whether or not the gun is empty!
5. **False** Never point the gun in any direction except at a berm
6. **False** Draw before you go prone - if you go prone first, your muzzle is pointed at the expectant crowds, who will first scatter, then groan in sympathy when you are DQ'd upon drawing and breaking the 6' safety zone behind you!!
7. **False** **WRONG-WRONG-WRONG!!** Handle ammo anywhere but a Safety Area. Do not handle snap caps or empty cases in a Safety Area, either. Get into the habit of removing all of your magazines/speed loaders from your person and putting them in your shooting bag before you enter a Safety Area!
8. **False** A finger in the trigger guard during movement = Match DQ. Remember: Finger on the trigger only when you're addressing a target!!
9. **False** Violate this safety rule and get DQ'd. Remember - it is almost always best to not re-holster and keep the gun in your hand under your direct control!
10. **True** For you and for spectators.
11. **True** Remember - finger on the trigger only when addressing a target(s).
12. **False** It cannot point over the berm, it cannot sweep you, the RO's, or others, and it must point backwards no further than 3' behind you.
13. **False** Deliberately shooting props will get you DQ'd under 10.5 (unsafe gun handling - would you really shoot blindly through a wall in a defensive situation?!) and/or 10.6 (gross un-sportsmanlike conduct; you're destroying a club's property, as well as blatantly circumventing the intent of the course design). You may deliberately fire

rounds through designated soft cover - only. **You may also lose you back range privileges.**

**14.True** Don't do this at your car, or in the Clubhouse, or.....

**15.False** You must drop the hammer with the trigger. The intent is to dry fire the gun, and thus guarantee that the chamber is indeed empty. Bring along a spare, empty magazine if need be.