

# **BICA Firearms Safety**

**TREAT ALL FIREARMS AS IF THEY ARE LOADED.**

**ALWAYS WEAR THE PROPER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:** Hearing protection, safety glasses

**ONLY BREAK OPEN GUNS ARE ALLOWED IN A TESTING/TRAINING SITUATION**

**WATCH YOUR MUZZLE.** Know and control the direction of your muzzle at all times. Never pull a firearm by the muzzle toward you. Always have your firearm pointed toward the sky or the ground.

**KNOW YOUR TARGET.** Make sure you identify your target before firing, and know your safe zone of fire. Prepare yourself by studying game features before hunting. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.

**DON'T LOAD BEFORE YOU ARE READY.** Take down or have all actions open before traveling. Make sure firearms are unloaded while in their cases.

**WATCH YOUR STEP.** Never climb fences, jump ditches or make awkward moves while holding a loaded firearm. Never pass a firearm to another person, or accept a firearm from another person, until the cylinder or action is open any you've personally checked that the weapon is completely unloaded.

**CONTROL YOUR TARGET PRACTICE.** Be aware of your line of sight. Make sure your backstop is more than adequate. Avoid shooting at hard, flat surfaces, or bodies of water,

**KEEP SERIOUS.** No matter how enjoyable it is, hunting or shooting a firearm is no game. Avoid horseplay and never point a firearm where you don't want to shoot.

**INSPECT YOUR FIREARMS.** Before loading, inspect your barrel for obstructions. Check ammunition to make sure its specifications match those of your gun.

**STORE FIREARMS SAFELY.** When you are not using your firearm, you should insure that it is stored safely. Affirmative measures designed and utilized to prevent unauthorized access by minors or firearm theft. When not in use store unloaded firearms separately from ammunition. Keep all out of reach of children and inexperienced users. Firearms should be cased if not in use. If storing firearms in a gun rack breeches should be open.

**STORAGE OF AMMUNITION.** All ammunition should be stored separate from where the firearm is stored and should be under lock and key. Dispose of any unwanted ammunition safely.

**NEVER DRINK AND HUNT.** Never consume alcoholic beverages or other mood-altering drugs before or while hunting or handling a firearm. Be alert at all times, never shoot if you are tired, cold or impaired in any way

**UNSAFE BEHAVIORS.** If you witness any unsafe behavior at any time when firearms are being handled or used, speak up and take action to correct the unsafe behavior at once.

**FIRE ARM CLEANING.** Regular cleaning is important for your gun to operate correctly and safely. Your gun should be cleaned every time that it is used. A gun brought of prolonged storage should also be cleaned before shooting. Accumulated moisture and dirt, or solidified grease and oil prevent the gun from operating properly. Before cleaning your gun make sure that it is unloaded. The gun action should be open during the cleaning process. Also make sure that no ammunition is present in the cleaning area.

#### **IN THE FIELD.**

- An orange hat, a blaze orange shirt or vest should be worn or safety clothing will be worn in accordance with state laws – stay highly visible
- Participants must have passed a hunter safety course.
- Always know where your dogs are. Always error on the side of safety.
- Bring a sufficient amount of water for yourself and your dogs.
- Know where other hunters are at all times.
- Do not walk in front of someone with a gun.
- Always have the proper personal protective equipment e.g. gloves, hearing protectors, safety glasses, boots, clothing,
- A valid hunting license is required as outlined in individual state regulations.

#### **WHEN TESTING FOLLOW THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE TESTING ORGANIZATION**

I have read, understand, and will abide by the above BICA safety guidelines.

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Participant Signature