

# SAFETY NOTICE



JUNE 2024

## INCIDENT INVOLVING FIRING FOULING (OR BLOW OFF) SHOTS

Some competition shooters are increasingly preferring to fire fouling (also called 'blow off') shots through their barrels to remove cleaning product residue, or to reduce friction from a very clean barrel or to generally assist in obtaining a tighter group when they fire their stage.

A recent incident occurred where a shooter (who was also an NRAA accredited Range Officer (RO)) fired fouling shots on a range at the conclusion of club shooting and after cleaning their rifle but did not fire the shots into the butts. This is classified as a negligent discharge away from the firing point.

The issue was escalated to State and National level and the local Police also became involved.

All club committees, range officers and individual members are reminded that compliance with range approvals by the relevant State or Territory Police and RSO is mandatory when using any firearm at any time on a range approved for activities under the NRAA Standard Shooting Rules (SSR). NRAA accredited ROs have a particular obligation to comply with these requirements and are responsible for the safe conduct of ranges.

This means that fouling shots must only be fired from a firing point into an approved butt facility on a rifle range (or a zero range butt if that facility exists). Many RSO may also require that all shots be made at a target at the butts. Of course, the safety obligations within the SSR are also mandatory.

The NRAA is committed to fostering a culture of improved safety and behaviour in all clubs throughout Australia. Incidents of unsafe behaviour will be dealt with by an appropriate sanction.

All Range Officers and individual members are encouraged to refresh their knowledge by reviewing the NRAA Range Officers Handbook which can be viewed on the NRAA website: [Range-Officers-Pam-v1.3\\_30-Jan-22-RF.pdf \(nraa.com.au\)](#)