S.O.P

Talking Rock Black Powder Shooters

June 2020

***OVERVIEW***

Talking Rock Black Powder Shooters is recognized by PCSC as a member run subset of PCSC and in accordance with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. TRBPS is open to all persons desiring to shoot Black Powder firearms in a friendly, bragging rights - “match type” not nationally recognized environment.

TRBPS welcomes all Muzzleloading shooters regardless of age – sex or ability as well as cartridge type shooters if they meet the requirement of skill or expertise. All are welcome to come – observe or participate. The Basic range rules apply – eye and ear protection are required to be always worn by everyone on our ranges.

Ranges will have, observe only TWO CONDITIONS – HOT and COLD. A RED flag present will signify a HOT or live fire condition – a GREEN flag signifies a SAFE OR COLD RANGE condition.

A HOT range is declared when actual loading – snapping of caps – clearing flintlock mechanisms – OR LIVE FIRE is taking place.

A COLD or SAFE range is called to cease ALL SHOOTING activities of any sort.

***WHAT TO DO***

**FIRST STEP**: Register with the event coordinator – Check in by signing the provided release waiver – pay the event fee if there is one and collect your target. Further instructions will be given prior to the start of shooting.

**SECOND STEP**: Assemble your shooting gear at the preparation tables behind the firing line. It is in this area (AND ONLY THIS AREA) that you prepare your firearm for the event. That DOES NOT include priming of firearms in preparation for shooting. HOWEVER, loading or CHARGING of muzzle loading firearms is permitted only at the preparation tables.

**THIRD STEP**: Listen for the Target Preparation Command at which time you will go to HANG TARGETS. The firing line will be COLD, and a GREEN FLAG displayed. Your shooting LANE position will be determined.

**FOURTH STEP**: The command to “SNAP CAPS or CLEAR flintlocks by discharging them in a safe direction (DOWN RANGE or as directed). Priming the pan or placing of percussion caps is to be done ONLY after the line is declared HOT and the shooter is ON the firing line.

**FIFTH STEP**: PREPARATION TIME HAS ENDED – LOAD or CHARGE your firearm. DO NOT PRIME THE PAN OR place a percussion cap on the firearm. Hammers to be at HALF-COCK until you are on the firing line.

Muzzleloading “matches” are designed to be safe. Smoking is not permitted in the loading, preparation or firing line areas.

***NECESSARY EQUIPMENT & PRECAUTIONS***

ALL “matches” require a powder measuring device to transfer powder from the powder horn or powder flask or other powder container into the muzzle of the firearm. NO other method is acceptable. If you are unfamiliar with the procedures – a veteran shooter will be happy to assist and explain it to you. Keep your face away from the muzzle while in this process.

Depending upon the event – you may be called to the line or it might be a rotation – in either case DO NOT PRIME the PAN or place a percussion cap on the firearm until you reach the shooting position. Always keep your muzzle pointed UP for safety’s sake.

In the event of a special circumstance, you may be told to DISCHARGE your firearm into the berm not the designated target.

There is to be NO handling of firearms while the range is cold, or when people are downrange…..PERIOD! Cleanup time will be declared at which time you may begin cleaning. Be aware of where your muzzle is pointing at all times.

***SPECIAL EVENTS***

Special events require special instructions, and they will be provided at the beginning of each event.

Be a courteous shooter – we are all here for the fun and friendships we share in our unique sport.