

## Shotgun Instructions & Information

### Safety

This is a 12 gauge shotgun and must be respected and handle as a lethal weapon at ALL times. Although we use blank shells, the black powder and resulting smoke coming out of the gun when fired, can be Very Dangerous if it hits someone or something close (within a few hundred feet) to the end of the barrel. The cork material, smoke, gases, etc. are moving at over 2000ft/sec. besides being Hot.

- ALWAYS assume that it is loaded.
- NEVER point it at anyone or anything other than the sky or ground.
- ALWAYS have the safety ON until ready to fire the gun.
- DO NOT allow anyone to operate the gun unless they have read these guidelines, you believe they will handle the gun as if it were shooting live ammunition and are mature enough to respect these directions and can operate the weapon safely. Children under 18 should not operate the gun unless very closely supervised. The RC is responsible for anyone under 18 operating the gun.

### 1 RC's Responsibilities (From NRA Website)

Most states impose some form of legal duty on adults to take reasonable steps to deny access by children to dangerous substances or instruments. It is the individual gun owner's responsibility to understand and follow all laws regarding gun purchase, ownership, storage, transport, etc. Contact your state police and/or local police for information regarding such laws. If you own a gun and do not know how to operate it, do not experiment with it. Point it in a safe direction, keep your finger off the trigger, and store it securely. Seek competent assistance and instruction at once. An untrained adult can be as dangerous as a curious child. Store guns so that they are inaccessible to children and other unauthorized users. Gun shops sell a wide variety of safes, cases, and other security devices. While specific security measures may vary, a parent must, in every case, assess the exposure of the firearm and absolutely ensure that it is inaccessible to a child.

### 2 Before the Race

Keep in mind that we use only ONE shell at a time in the gun. This is to avoid the possibility of a second accidental firing of the gun in an unknown direction.

1. Check the gun to assure it is clean and clean if necessary (see Gun Cleaning Rules & instructions later in this document).  
Check the operation of the gun as follows:
  - Review the Attachments: Introduction to Firearms, NRA Fundamental Rules of Safety and Description of Pump Action Shotgun to assure you are familiar with this information

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- Check the operation of the safety, a button in front of the trigger that moves back and forth, left and right.
  1. When the safety is SET/ON, the button is pushed to the RIGHT as you look down from the top of the gun and sticks out on the right side in front of the trigger. Also, if you look at the gun from the bottom, the side of the safety button that is out will be BLACK.
  2. When safety button is sticking out to the left as you look down from the top of the gun, the safety is NOT SET/ON and the gun is READY TO FIRE. Also, if you look at the gun from the bottom, the side of the safety button that is out will be RED.
- WITHOUT pulling the trigger, check to see if there are any shells in the firing chamber by eject them if necessary as follows:
  3. Open the chamber by using the release button, a small button behind and above the trigger on the left side. Push this up and the pump will move back and eject a shell if it is in the firing chamber. Pump back quickly and hard to get the shell to eject properly.
  4. Look in the firing chamber and up into the barrel from the firing chamber (not the end of the barrel), there should be no shells in the chamber at this point.
- 3. Load One already used & empty shells by:
  1. Point the gun in a safe direction, up or down and away from anyone/anything in the area
  2. Opening the chamber (breech) by pumping back
  3. Put one empty shell in the firing chamber (breech), push it all the way forward until it stops
  4. Close the chamber by pumping forward
  5. You now have an empty shell in the gun and ready for use
- 4. Check the gun's operation by:
  1. Point the gun in a safe direction, up or straight down and away from anyone in the area
  2. Move the safety button to the left, the gun is now ready to fire using the empty shell put in the gun during the previous directions above
  3. Pull the trigger, you should hear a click
  4. Pump back hard, the shell casing should pop out or be in a position that you can take it out with your fingers or turn the gun on its side and let the casing fall out
  5. The gun is now empty.
  6. Put the safety back on by moving the safety button to the left. The gun is now safe.
  7. Repeat steps 1 to 7 several times to get a good feel for loading and firing the gun.
  8. Place the gun in the case and keep a few empty shells in the case so the next RC can practice.

### **3 Prior to the Race on Race Day (Or Sooner)**

1. Make certain that no live shells are in the gun per the "Before the Race" instructions above.
2. Review the SAFETY operation of the gun with whoever will be the shooter and will be firing the gun.
3. Have the person review this entire document and then go over them with the shooter to make sure the shooter understands everything.

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4. Remind the shooter that he/she will only put ONE shell in the gun at a time. He may want to have additional shells in a pocket, etc. for quick access to load the gun quickly for a second shot in case of an over early or other reasons.
5. Make sure the shooter follows the instructions as stated in the “Before the Race” instructions above to become familiar with the gun’s operation while using an empty shell casing.
6. Make sure you have enough shells for the race
7. Review with the shooter where he/she will stand (virtually always on the foredeck) and where to point the gun (up and away/forward from the crew, other boats and the boat rigging).
8. Have a bag to put the empty shells into and have the shooter pick up the shells quickly by the non metal part of the shell casing, they are hot and can discolor the deck.
9. Check to make sure you have the eye and ear protectors for the shooter.

### **4 During the Race**

1. Make sure the shooter is wearing the eye and ear protectors
2. Make sure the shooter is aiming the gun in a SAFE direction AT ALL TIMES
3. Make sure the shooter is collecting the shells quickly
4. Coordinate with the shooter on the countdown sequence and when he/she will shoot and what command you will give.

### **5 On Race Day, After the Race is Finished**

1. Collect all empty shells and put in a bag, they can be discarded later
2. Check the gun for any damage, dry it off if needed, etc., to prepare to put it into the case, and then put the shotgun in the case
3. Note any concerns that the shooter had with the operation of the gun so that you can report the concerns to the Gear Chairperson

### **6 After the Race**

1. Clean the shotgun prior to giving to the next RC using the tips noted in the Cleaning section later.
2. Check the operation of the gun and note any concerns with its operation
3. Let the Gear Chairperson now of any concerns with the gun as soon as possible