

## SHOTGUN SAFETY GUIDELINES

### 1. Carrying a shotgun in a slip

To prevent a shotgun falling out if your slip fastening should fail, keep it with the barrels down and stock up when slung over your shoulder. A shotgun should be broken before removing it from the slip. Do not touch the trigger even then. Your first action should always be to check that the barrels are clear whilst pointing the gun in a safe direction at all times. Don't point the muzzle end of the slip at anyone.

**Remember, a shotgun should always be considered to be loaded until proven empty and even then still handled as if it were loaded...**

On replacing the shotgun in a slip, you should check the gun is clear and insert barrels into slip *before* closing the gun and then fastening the slip.

### 2. Where to find the gun's information

If in doubt about the cartridges your gun can safely use, check for this information, which is usually found on the flats of the barrels. You are looking for proof mark, gauge or bore and chamber length. If you are not sure what it all means, then ask someone who does know.

### 3. Carrying a shotgun out of a slip

When you are not shooting but have the gun out of its slip, it should normally be carried empty, broken and over the crook of the arm. If carried over the shoulder, it must be broken and empty (no cartridges inserted). The muzzles should not be rested on your feet, unless the gun is empty and broken. Never lean a gun against a vehicle.

### 4. Passing a shotgun to someone

When passing a gun to someone it should always be proved clear; that is open, empty and passed stock first.

### 5. Crossing an obstacle on your own

Break the gun and remove the cartridges, then close the gun and lean it with stock down and barrels up against a firm rest so that it cannot slip or fall. Otherwise place the gun



Illustration courtesy of BASC

carefully on the ground and out of harm's way so that you can easily reach it from the other side. Climb over the obstacle and retrieve the gun, open it, check barrel for obstructions and continue. Carrying a gun over an obstacle you are traversing is dangerous.

### 6. Crossing an obstacle in company

Both guns should be broken and unloaded and held by one person while the other climbs over the obstacle. Once he is over, guns are then passed over (open, empty and stock first) one by one; the companion then climbs over and retrieves his shotgun on the other side.

### 7. Boarding a vehicle

Always show to other passengers that the gun is empty before closing it to put it in a gunslip. Nobody should need to ask if the gun is safe!

### 8. Wear shooting glasses and hearing protection

Eye protection is a must and so is hearing protection, especially when high volume shooting is taking place (such as at pigeons).

## SHOTGUN SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Never point a gun, loaded or not, in an unsafe direction.</li> <li>2. Always handle a gun in such a way that others can see it is safe without having to ask.</li> <li>3. Never handle someone else's shotgun without permission and then only under the owner's supervision.</li> <li>4. Never shoot unless you are sure it is safe to do so. See "blue sky" when you fire. Never shoot from a vehicle.</li> <li>5. Always keep the shotgun broken (or breech open) until you are ready to load and fire; never rely on the safety catch (others cannot see if it is on).</li> <li>6. Always bear in mind the possibility of a ricochet, particularly if steel shot is used.</li> <li>7. Never load a shotgun unless you are</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. expecting to shoot and always keep the barrels pointed skywards until you start shooting.</li> <li>9. Never travel with a loaded shotgun.</li> <li>10. Never put down a loaded shotgun or leave it unattended.</li> <li>11. Do not rest a gun against a vehicle.</li> <li>12. Place guns in such a manner that dogs or kids can't come in contact with it.</li> <li>13. Never touch the triggers until you want to fire.</li> <li>14. Never shoot from an unsteady or unstable footing.</li> <li>15. Never keep a dog attached to yourself while shooting, it may pull you off balance.</li> <li>16. Never shoot unless you are certain of what you are going to shoot at.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. Never shoot at or near overhead power lines or insulators. Be especially careful in wooded areas, as lines may not be immediately visible.</li> <li>18. Never use power line poles or towers to support equipment and never use lofting poles near overhead cables. Remember electricity can jump across a considerable distance.</li> <li>19. Never use ammunition loaded with pellets larger than 2,6 mm (no 6 shot or larger) on a clay target range.</li> <li>20. Always take immediate and appropriate action if someone else breaks a safety rule in your presence; blatant and unsafe acts must be reported to the Association. <span style="float: right;">▲</span></li> </ol> |
|--|---|---|