

Hello!

At the August 20th quarterly meeting, a significant portion of the discussion concerned ongoing problems with safety and range protocol. We urge everyone to take a few minutes to review the SOPs and other range information on the club website: [Club Membership](#).

The main issue being reported is people not properly clearing their firearms before anyone goes downrange to change or check targets.

When the line has been made cold and people are going downrange, firearms must be made safe as follows:

- **Long guns:** Actions open, with a chamber flag/ECI (Empty Chamber Indicator) in the chamber whenever possible.
- **Semi-auto pistols:** Magazine removed, slide locked back, ejection port up, benched, and muzzle pointed downrange.
- **Revolvers:** Cylinder open, no ammunition or spent casings present, and muzzle pointed downrange.

MOST IMPORTANT: NO HANDLING OF ANYTHING WHILE PEOPLE ARE DOWNRANGE!

This means **no firearms, no magazines, no ammunition, no range bags, no gear, no adjusting scopes or accessories, and nothing else that could be interpreted from 200 yards away as someone handling a firearm.**

If people are downrange, the firing line needs to remain completely untouched until everyone has returned.

This also means **no casing firearms to leave, no uncasing firearms upon arrival, and no touching or adjusting anything on the bench** while people are downrange. Wait until everyone is back before handling your equipment.

If you are the person shutting down the line to send people downrange, allow enough time for your fellow shooters to accomplish what they need to do to make their firearms completely safe before anyone goes downrange.

We Are All Safety Officers

We do have a Range Officer, but when you are on the range, **we are all safety officers.**

If you see someone doing something unsafe, politely remind them of what they are doing. Most safety violations can be corrected simply by bringing them to someone's attention.

Nametags are to be worn or otherwise visible, such as on a range bag or spotting scope. NO EXCEPTIONS

If a member gets bent out of shape when approached, check their nametag for their name and send an email to the club or contact Range Officer Bob Bader. His phone number is always posted on the board in the sign-in building.

If someone will not show their nametag, make note of the exact time the incident occurred. The board can then review the range videos and sign-in sheet from that date and time and determine who was involved.

This is the important part: We cannot do anything if we do not know about it.

Please report safety violations promptly. If an incident is brought to the board months later, it becomes extremely difficult to verify what happened or take appropriate action.

Guests Are Your Responsibility

Members are allowed **two guests per visit**.

You are responsible for your guests, including their behavior and their adherence to all range safety rules. If your guest violates a safety rule, it is treated the same as if you had violated the rule yourself.

Please make sure your guests understand the range rules before they begin shooting.

Serious Violations Have Serious Consequences

The board reserves the right to revoke memberships for multiple safety violations or for a significant single violation, including handling firearms while people are downrange.

A live round fired while someone is downrange will result in immediate expulsion.

These are basic firearm-safety expectations and are not unusual or excessive rules. They are the same kinds of precautions expected at safe, properly operated shooting ranges.

We want everyone to have a good time—hanging out with friends, enjoying our beautiful range, and send some lead downrange. We also want everyone to be safe and feel comfortable while doing it.

Please be mindful of everything that has been mentioned in this email, follow the SOPs, and help us keep our range safe for everyone.

Thank you!

The Board of Directors
Nicolet Rifle Club

August 2026