

NMPC POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER TRAINING GUIDE - BRAVO

BASIC BALLISTICS

About this Unit

In this unit the student will learn about the basic components of modern ammunition, the firing sequence and what happens to a bullet in flight.

The summary notes on the range board contain additional information supporting this unit.

The following terms may be helpful to your understanding:

- Primer: Found at the base of a round of ammunition, it has a thin metal wall. When struck firmly by the firing pin it initiates a chemical reaction within the round that ultimately results in a bullet being fired
- Centre fire: The primer is seated in a chamber in the centre of the base of the round. This is typical of larger calibres ammunition e.g. .308 and .303 ammunition.
- Rim fire: The priming compound is located in a rim around the base of the round. This is typical of small bore .22 ammunition.
- Trajectory: This is the path that a bullet in flight will follow. It is a shallow curve not a straight line because of the effects of gravity on the bullet.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a) Understand the components of modern ammunition
- b) Understand the difference between rim fire and centre fire ammunition
- c) Understand the sequence of events in the ballistic cycle, which results in a bullet leaving the barrel of a rifle.
- d) Understand that a bullet in flight will follow a curved path called a trajectory.

THE PRINCIPLES OF MARKSMANSHIP

About this Unit:

This unit introduces the concept of the four Principles of Marksmanship.

If you are able to apply these principles every time you fire, all your shots will be concentrated in the same area of the target and will form a pattern called a group.

These principles are fundamental to all shooting disciplines and you will try to put them into practice during dry training (no live rounds used) before going out to the range for live firing.

In this unit the student must show that he/she can:

- Support the firearm in the correct position.
- Position your body so that the firearm is naturally aligned towards the target.
- Recognise the correct aim picture.
- Adjust your breathing pattern before and after firing each shot.
- Squeeze the trigger steadily instead of “snatching” to release the shot.

Performance Criteria

The student must:

- 1). Adopt the correct position and hold.
- 2). Ensure that their body is positioned so that the rifle is pointing to the target.
- 3). Recognise what a correct aim picture should look like.
- 4). Control their breathing cycle before and after firing a shot.
- 5). Fire 5 round grouping practices and aim to achieve a group size of 6 ins at 50 yds (3 ins at 25 yds) or equivalent (the mentor has a degree of latitude here as it is impossible to create policy for all ammunition types and firearms. The key is that the rounds fall on the target and that the firer is not a danger to other range users or the public).

Knowledge and Understanding

The student must know and understand

- a) The correct position and hold so that the firearm is always supported.
- b) How and why it is important to achieve natural alignment to the target.
- c) The correct aim picture and how to fault find.
- d) The effect of the breathing cycle on the movement of the firearm, particularly in the prone position, and how to modify your breathing cycle during and after firing.
- e) Steady shot release and follow through.
- f) The importance of consistently applying all four principles with each shot that is fired.

THE LAW AND THE CLUB SHOOTER CLUB INDUCTION

In this unit you will learn about firearms law in relation to the club shooter; what provisional/probationary membership means and how and when you may apply for a firearms certificate.

You will also receive important information about your club's standard procedures such as recording attendance on shooting days.

The following definitions may help with your understanding of this unit.

Home Office Approved Club:	A shooting club with a licence from the Home Office (HO). Only HO approved clubs may have probationary members and run guest days.
Probationary Member (provisional at NMPC)	A person who is undergoing a course of instruction in the safe handling of firearms. Under current Home Office guidelines probationary membership is for a minimum period of 3 months. A Probationary member may only shoot while under the supervision of a full club member who is competent in the discipline.
Firearms certificate (FAC)	A legal document, issued by your local Police Authority, which entitles the holder to purchase, own and handle firearms and or ammunition. Probationary members may not apply for a FAC.
Firearms enquiry Officer	The person/policeman attached to your local police authority who is responsible for handling all the FAC applications, enquires and renewal applications from the shooters in your local area.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a) How the law defines the possession of firearms.
- b) There are penalties for the infringements under the Firearms Act. (up to 5 Yrs)
- c) How the regulations about probationary membership of a rifle club will affect the student. (see membership section of club rules)
- d) Understand your own club procedures for securing Gate keys outside of weekend shooting and recording attendance.
- e) Understand the role of your local Firearms Enquiry Officer.

PREPARATION & CLEANING

About this Unit

In this unit the student should learn how and why it is important to prepare a firearm before shooting and clean it after shooting.