

# Washington County 4-H Shotgun Safety Rules

1. Follow the instructions of the range officer.
2. Treat all guns as if they are loaded.
3. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
5. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
6. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
7. Be sure the barrel and action are clear.
8. Use correct ammunition for your firearm.
9. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.
10. Never point a firearm at anything you do not wish to shoot.
11. Never climb a tree, fence, or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.
12. Never shoot at a flat hard surface or water.
13. Shoot only with the knowledge and approval of your parents.
14. Safety glasses and hearing protection must be worn when shooting or near the firing line.
15. If you have a misfire, keep the muzzle pointed down range and hold for 30 seconds before ejecting the shell.
16. If you have a squib load, make sure you inspect the barrel before loading another round to ensure it isn't blocked.
17. Follow all safety rules of the range where you are shooting and practice good sportsmanship and etiquette.