

# Muzzle Loader League Safety Rules

- No smoking in the range house. No smoking around powder.
- No open powder containers are allowed on the firing positions.
- Use the correct powder; never use smokeless powder in a black powder firearm.
- Bullet removal: fire it empty, if possible.
  - Do not pull the bullet. Use the available CO<sub>2</sub> "discharger".
  - For modern in-lines, remove the breech plug and push the bullet out.
- Pour powder from a flask to an intermediate container (for example, a powder measure), and then to the barrel, for rifles, pistols, and revolvers.
- Definition of **SAFE** for muzzle loading firearms.
  - Long guns and single-shot pistols.
    - Barrel empty.
    - De-capped or flash pan empty.
    - Hammer in the half-cock position, if possible.
    - Bolt open, if possible.
  - Revolvers.
    - Cylinder empty and de-capped.
    - Cylinder open, if possible.
    - Hammer in the half-cock position, if possible.
  - Pistols and revolvers: tabled and pointed down range.
  - Long guns: stacked at the firing position.
- Keep muzzle pointed down range for 120 seconds after a misfire. During the 120-second period, you may not reseat the bullet, re-fire, or loosen the nipple.
- No direct blowing down a barrel.
- Snap caps while in the range house and with the firearm pointed down range in your normal firing position. If you want to test for blockage, you may place a patch in the muzzle and "snap the cap".