

Wars of the Roses Federation

HEALTH & SAFETY RULES

Gunnery & Explosives:

Authority and Competence:

Captains should ensure that all gunners, gun crew and all others dealing with gunnery and explosives are aware of and familiar with the Health & Safety Executive publication 'Acquisition and Use of Explosives by Historical Societies'

All gunners shall report to the Federation Master Gunner on arrival (and MUST do so before participating in the event) The Federation Master Gunner will require all relevant licences and certificates to be shown and also an accurate black powder record to be given by each person who has brought their own powder to the event.

No person using explosives or powder artillery pieces may do so without the agreement of the Federation Master Gunner. (This shall also be deemed to include the proposed discharge of any type of firework)

The Federation Master Gunner has final authority over all matters regarding gunnery and explosives (to include equipment, competence and conduct) before during and after an event.

The Federation Master Gunner has authority to refuse participation in an event to any gunner, crew member or explosives operator.

Prior to the event the Federation Master Gunner must agree the siting of all static gun positions, all hand held pieces and any pyrotechnic devices or equipment to ensure clear safe fields of fire and safe distance from field magazines.

It is the responsibility of the participants using powder/explosives or artillery pieces to ensure that they hold a valid licence for the use of those substances and lor equipment.

Pyrotechnics and their firing devices must only be handled by the Federation Master Gunner and those named officers designated by him/her for each specific event with firing to remain absolutely under his/her direction.

The Federation Master Gunner may ask for a proposed pyrotechnic charge to be demonstrated in practice prior to the event.

Unfired or failed pyrotechnic devices and all attendant equipment must only be dismantled and removed by the Federation Master Gunner or those officers designated by him/her for each specific occasion.

Inflammable fluids will not be used in conjunction with Pyrotechnics unless

safe to do so and specifically approved by the Federation Master Gunner and agreed by the event organisers.

Under no circumstances shall any unauthorised or untrained persons touch any re enactment equipment, explosives, pyrotechnic devise, weapon or gun.

The person responsible for any equipment shall be well practised, safe and competent in all its operations prior to its use at an event. They will also ensure that any other person using it is fully instructed in its correct use and that they are aware of the safety procedure for it.

All gunners are non-combatants while manning gun positions and carrying out all gunnery tasks. Gunners and any gun position personnel may only become combatants if they both move away from gun positions and specifically indicate their change of status.

ALL GUN POSITIONS MUST BE MANNED AND ALL HAND PIECES KEPT UNDER APPROPRIATE SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES DURING THE RE-ENACTMENT TO

ENSURE SECURITY.

Only historical replica artillery pieces shall be taken to or used on an event site.

Only black powder UNOO27/UNOO28 shall be used in artillery pieces.

There shall be no unauthorised discharge of artillery pieces or explosives outside scheduled event practice sessions, demonstrations or battle re-enactments. (This shall be deemed to include the discharge of any fireworks)

Operation:

Where artillery barrels are fitted to a carriage that fixture must be secure.

All serving tools shall be similarly securely fixed to their poles and fit for purpose.

NO STEEL OR ALUMINIUM TOOLS ARE PERMITTED

All guns and powder shall be carried and stored in a secure manner by those licensed to do so.

All pieces shall be proofed by an officially recognised proofing authority and a record kept of their proofing rate.

ALL PIECES SHALL BE USED ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR PROOF RATING.

Field magazines are to be fire retardant and have a close fitting lid. They must not be touched by unauthorised persons at any time.

Gun captains must take only a sufficient amount of powder into their gun position necessary for that part of the event.

Pyrotechnics must be stored safely and in accordance with legal requirements

in a fire retardant container with close fitting lid. Batteries, matches or other inflammables must not be stored with them.

In storage and transit guns should be covered and where possible muzzles should be plugged. In any case, before use checks must be made for debris that may have fallen into the barrel.

Grass used as wadding must be cut NOT pulled in order to ensure root ball debris does not enter the barrel.

Where possible muzzle loading guns should operate a system of prepack charges _which are emptied into the barrel. Such charge containers will be of non-ferrous material (e.g. copper, brass, bronze, horn or wood) and have a close fitting lid.

THE LOADING OF GUNS FROM FLASKS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

THE LOADING OF GUN SCOOPS FROM COMMERCIAL POWDER STORAGE BOTTLES IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

The recharging of black powder containers must be done with due care and away from areas of activity (or of public access) and in accordance with legal requirements prevailing.

At all events an explanation and warning must be given to the public regarding the volume of noise and smoke attendant on discharge.

No gun, other than hand held pieces sited by agreement, should be fired if any person is within an arc of twenty metres of the muzzle of the piece.

Should encroachment inadvertently occur in front of a gun the captain will give a shouted warning and cover the priming hole with a glove, thick cloth pad, etc until the line of fire is clear.

A clear audible warning must be given prior to discharge.

In the event of a misfire:

- . A warning must be given that the piece is loaded but has misfired;
- . A period of at least **1 minute** must be allowed to elapse since the misfire;
- . The piece may then be reprimed using a minimum amount of powder - repriming **MUST NOT** be done using a priming flask or any container having a reservoir of powder.
- . If the piece fails to fire on this second attempt then it should be marked as live by attaching a red cloth or flag.
- . The touchhole should be covered by a glove or thick cloth pad.
- . Guns that have been so treated after a misfire cannot take any further role in that part of the event and must not be moved until made safe.

THE FEDERATION MASTER GUNNER MUST BE INFORMED OF THE OCCURRENCE OF AN UNRESOLVED MISFIRE IN ORDER TO BEST

ASSESS EVACUATION OF THE PIECE.

All guns (not so affected) must be routinely cleared before leaving the battlefield.