

Ballard Clay Bombers Range Safety

Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

Remember the acronym "MAT" for the three most important safety rules.

- **Muzzle:** Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. The muzzle may not be rested on any part of the body (feet, hands, etc.) even if the gun is unloaded and the action is open.
- **Action:** Always keep the gun unloaded with the action open until on the shooting station ready to shoot. Make certain all live or empty shells are removed and the action is open before leaving the station.
- **Trigger:** Always keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until ready to call for the target. Keep the finger clear of the trigger while loading, unloading, etc.
- **Live Firing** may only take place under the direct supervision and with permission of certified team coaches and/or match personnel.
- **Cease Fire:** Cease fire means to stop firing immediately. If in the process of shooting, STOP, then keep the muzzle pointed downrange, unload and wait for further instructions. ANYONE on the range can call a cease fire.
- **Eye and Ear Protection** is required for EVERYONE on the range and is highly encouraged for spectators and everyone else near the range.
- **Gun Racks:** Only break action guns may have actions closed in a gun rack. The action must not be closed more than 2 steps from a rack and must be opened within 2 steps of the rack. Athletes must safely control the muzzle when racking and unranking guns.
- **When Moving** about the range, athletes must **walk**. If carrying an unloaded shotgun with the action open, the muzzle should be pointed at the ground unless local range rules require otherwise. For example, some ranges require pumps and semi-automatics be carried with the muzzle up. Break action shotguns may be carried over the shoulder as long as the barrel is facing forward with the muzzle pointed down.
- **Ammunition:** only one gauge of ammunition may be carried on your person at a time. Mixing of gauges (for example 12 and 20) is prohibited.

- **Misfires:** if a round does not fire, keep the gun safely pointed downrange for 30 seconds before opening the action or until a coach can assist.
- **Squib Load:** If a round fires but “sounds off” or feels/sounds lighter than usual, the barrel **MUST** be inspected for a stuck wad before firing another round.
- **Closed Toed Shoes** are required for all athletes on the range. No Crocs, flip-flops, etc.
- **Hand Washing** or use of wet-wipes is required immediately after shooting, gun cleaning or handling ammunition. Hands should be washed with soap and COLD water. For the same reasons, food is not permitted on the range.
- **Parents & Spectators** are not permitted on the shooting field unless serving as a registered volunteer with the club. Spectators are encouraged at events but must stay in the designated gallery area.

In case of an emergency requiring EMS response, one person should stay with the victim and one person should call 911 and inform dispatch about the emergency. If the emergency involves a firearm, inform dispatch there has been a training accident with an organized youth sports team. A third person should go to the main roadway to direct EMS personnel upon arrival.

Addresses for Ballard’s regular practice facilities are as follows:

Hill Farm Range

3280 330th St, Ellsworth, IA

Enter on the drive on the west side of the farm house.

Indian Creek Izaak Walton League

632nd Ave, Maxwell, IA

About ½ Mile north of 295th Street at the bottom of the hill on the east side.