

The Forces of Montcalm and Wolfe, Inc.

Standing Rules of Operation
(2007)

Standing Rule 3 – General Safety

These general safety rules are intended to protect individual members and sanctioned units as they participate in all aspects of events regulated by The Forces and the Forces Safety Committee. These rules are to be read, posted and/or distributed to all unit commanders at all “Forces” events.

SECTION 1: Scope

- A. These regulations apply to all events, demonstrations, tacticals, etc. that are regulated by The Forces, and where the event organizers are applying Forces rules, unless more stringent requirements are specified by the sponsors of said event and a mutual agreement as to specific rules is reached between the sponsors and The Forces Board of Directors and the Safety Committee.
- B. The enforcement of safety rules within The Forces begins with each individual member and shall follow the recognized chain of command at any event regulated by The Forces. The responsibility for enforcement shall work through the following chain of command:
 - individual unit commanders
 - Field Commanders
 - members of the Safety Committee
 - Safety Provost
 - the Board of Directors
 - Event Organizers (where agreement has been reached)In all cases of safety, common sense and the concern for spectators and re-enactors must prevail. Safety must take precedence over authenticity.
- C. Field Commanders and the Safety Officers have the right to remove any weapon, equipment or participant from the field which is in violation of these safety regulations. The members of the Board of Directors present reserve the right rule by unanimous vote that a Forces member be removed from an event. The Board shall work in cooperation with event organizers and event security should such a removal become necessary.
- D. Special cases and/or exceptions to these regulations must be approved by the Safety Committee and the Field Officers. Any challenge to such exceptions must be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors.
- E. The Safety Committee at an event shall consist of the Safety Provost (when present) and any deputy provost in attendance at said event. Field Officers not present at an event shall be represented by a deputy Field Officer. A deputy field officer or safety officer can be designated at an event by those members of the Board present.

SECTION 2: Functional Firearms, i.e. small arms, muskets, pistols, etc.

- A. Functional firearms intended for use in firing demonstrations and battle scenarios shall be maintained and repaired in good serviceable condition. Firearms intended only for display shall be kept in good condition and shall never be used in firing demonstrations.
- B. Barrels are to have been proved and viewed; and are to be maintained clean and oiled. Owners of firearms are responsible for the safe operating condition of the barrel of said owner’s firearm(s).

- C. Each firearm shall use a leather frizzen cover (hammer stall), to prevent accidental firing, securely attached with thong or chain to the firearm. Frizzens should be covered except when firing or cleaning.
- D. Each firearm shall use a metal flash deflector, to protect those adjacent, securely attached to the firearm.
- E. Frizzen stalls and flash deflectors must be of appropriate materials and must be approved by Forces Safety personnel.

SECTION 3: Blank Cartridges and Loads

- A. Blank paper cartridges are to be made of paper and modern commercial black “rifle” powder. Cartridges may be sealed by folding, by using glue and/or wax, by tied string, or by light plastic or masking tape. Sealing may not be done by staples, duct tape or any other method that could introduce a foreign object into the cartridge.
- B. Maximum allowable blank loads by volume: the weight in grains shall not be more than 1.5 times the caliber for long arms, and 1.0 times the caliber for pistols.
- C. Fg (1F), FFg (2F), or FFFg (3F), powder granulations only are to be used. Larger bores should use the coarser powder.
- D. The Forces requires the use of paper cartridges as the means of loading during skirmishes. Powder horns carried during a skirmish must be empty of powder and only for show.
- E. Blank loads are to consist of powder only with absolutely no foreign objects. Blank loads shall not be loaded with any wadding and shall not be rammed in any way. Ramrods should either be left in camp or in the gun. A ramrod should never be drawn during a skirmish.
- F. Projectile ammunition (balls, shot) is not to be carried on the person when firing blanks. Every precaution must be taken to assure that live ammunition does not make it on the skirmish battlefield.
- G. Loading cartridges or any other handling of black powder shall not take place near open flame, spark source, or while smoking.

SECTION 4: Live Firing

- A. The Forces of Montcalm and Wolfe shall not sanction and will not regulate events which involve the live firing of any weapons.

SECTION 5: Edged Arms and Tools

- A. Swords, bayonets, knives, tomahawks, axes, saws and other sharp implements are to have scabbards, sheaths, covers, or to be otherwise contained when carried. Cutting edges are to be contained when not in use.
- B. Polearms should be carried in the vertical position, and stored in a safe position.
- C. Hand-to-hand combat of any kind must be well-rehearsed. It should only be engaged between individuals who are familiar with each other and who have practiced with each other. It should never involve “sharp” edged weapons. Safety Officers must approve any hand-to-hand scenarios or other combative use of edged weapons on the battlefield. Field commanders must be made aware of any hand-to-hand combat that will take place.
- D. Unit Officers and Non-commissioned officers shall be permitted the safe use of their swords and polearms for the direction of troop movements or the offering of proper honors to colors and superiors. This usage shall always be performed with safety in mind.

SECTION 6: Tactical Demonstrations with Opposing Forces

A. Unit inspection of firearms are to be done PRIOR to the demonstration as follows:

1. Firearms are checked for properly secured frizzen covers and flash deflectors.
2. Firearms are placed on "half cock" and hung by their triggers to check sear serviceability.
3. Condition of barrel is checked by placing ramrod in the barrel and bouncing it to ascertain if the barrel is clear- "springing a rod".
4. Pouches, pockets and bags shall be inspected for live charges and to make sure only blank charges are taken on to the field. The Forces recommends that cartridges be carried in a covered block style cartridge box or a leather pouch. Cartridges should not be carried in canvas bags, pockets or in any other unsecured manner.
5. Edged arms must have covers, scabbards or sheaths in place and must be securely fastened.

B. Battle Conduct

1. Firearms are not to be aimed directly at anyone. All blank firing between opposing forces shall be with small arms' muzzles elevated at greater than 40 degrees from horizontal. Firing should always be well over the heads of the opposition.
2. Opposing forces may advance and fire no closer than ten yards from each other. No firing shall take place between any forces that are within the ten yard limit. It is the responsibility of the Safety Officers and the Field Commanders to see that this ten yard limit is maintained.
3. Nothing is to be placed in the gun barrel except black powder. There will be no wadding, paper, lead projectile or any other foreign material and no use of the ramrod.
4. No hand-to-hand scenario shall be undertaken unless rehearsed and pre-approved by the Safety Officer and the Field Commanders.
5. Ramrods may be carried in the ramrods pipes during battle but are not to be withdrawn.
6. The throwing of weapons or projectiles is prohibited.
7. Minors may participate in battle scenarios as detailed in Section 6-D.
8. Bayonets may be fixed only by troops in line and under direct officer command. Bayonet charges may not exceed a medium walk or march while maintaining line discipline. The ten (10) yard limit will be in force, see Section 6, B, 2. Bayonets are not to be fixed while loading and firing. Only socket bayonets are to be used. The Safety Officers must approve this maneuver at the pre-battle planning meeting before the demonstration, and the Field Commanders must be informed and in agreement.
9. Artillery crews involved in a scenario are not to be disturbed unless a pre-arranged maneuver has been approved by the Safety Officers at the pre-battle planning meeting before the demonstration, and the Field Commanders must be informed and in agreement. Refer to Standing Rule 4- Artillery Safety. No participants other than the gun crew should be in the fifty (50) foot safety zone around the gun.

C. Post Battle Conduct

1. At the end of the action, remaining troops shall "recover" or "secure" their weapons by inverting them and dumping unused powder. Pans shall be brushed out and frizzen covers shall be replaced over frizzens.
2. "Dead" personnel shall also "recover" or "secure" their weapons upon completion of a battle scenario.
3. Units shall then form ranks and police the field for spent cartridges. Any "live" cartridges found shall be given to the Safety Officer immediately.
4. Unit Commanders should meet with Safety Officers and Field Commanders some time after a battle scenario in order to do a short critique of the battle and to discuss any safety issues.
5. Any infractions noted by safety personnel or commanders shall be dealt with through the chain of command.

D. Age Restrictions Regarding Minors For Battle Scenarios

1. 12 (& 13) years old - non-combatant (musicians, runners, etc):
 - a. Waiver signed by a parent or custodial guardian to be on the battlefield
 - b. Must stay behind the advancing battle lines (may be on the battlefield but, must remain behind the advancing lines)

2. 14(-17) years old – combatant:
 - a. Waiver signed by a parent or custodial guardian to be on the battlefield
 - b. To be supervised by parent/custodial guardian who is active in the battle scenario and any time minor is under arms (Possibly could be a parent appointed guardian, but will have to have a medical release waiver completed and witnessed, and may still require parent to be on site for medical care.) (Generally state/federal law requires the minimum of an adult family member to authorize medical care and treatment).
 - c. To have completed a muzzleloading firearms safety course (Forces does have instructors available)

3. 18 years old - artillerists