

Important Safety Notice - Holster Qualifications

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Thu 27/04/2023 2:37 PM

To:Phill Brown <phillbrown@xtra.co.nz>

Attention: All Holster Instructors and Club Training Officers

CC: Action Section Directors and Club Secretaries

Good Morning

I have been asked to send the following update out by the PNZ Council from the National Holster Training Co-Ordinator, Jack Sims.

This has been sent to all current Holster Instructors and Action Section Directors, Club Secretaries and Club Trainers.

Regards

Phill Brown

Pistol New Zealand

Attention In confidence: Pistol NZ Holster Instructors and Club Training Officers

For the second time in five months a PNZ holster qualified shooter has discharged a firearm while holstering.

Both incidents have resulted in substantial personal injury (shot in the foot)

Both incidents have occurred after the "load and make ready" command.

Both have had the finger on the trigger while holstering.

Both incidents occurred because one or more of the golden rules were broken - "Gun control is self-control". Any accident means that one or more safety rules were broken.

I have been instructed by the PNZ President to contact all current holster instructors in order to bring these incidents to your attention. There will be further follow up series in the next Bullshooter entitled "Back to Basics".

I believe, and I am sure you will agree such accidents need not happen, we need to consider the possible root causes and what possible steps we can take to prevent such accidents occurring in the future.

Complacency. Something we all need to be aware of and guard against. We must develop and maintain a healthy respect for firearms. Ongoing refresher training is essential.

Stick to the BASICS - Before holstering, render the pistol safe - **safety applied or de-cocked**, it has to be one or the other.

Finger out of the trigger guard - Finger must be outside of the trigger guard at all times unless engaging a target.

Angle the muzzle of the pistol away from the hip, leg and feet during the holstering procedure.

Look at what you are doing while holstering. Visually guide the muzzle away from pointing directly at the hip, leg or feet during the holstering procedure. (Less chance of dropping the pistol - you may also see in advance that the hammer is cocked/safety not applied or the finger is inside the trigger guard).

What can we do as Holster Instructors?

- If trainees are not following the drills as instructed or are not showing the aptitude for the holster course, then discuss this with them and instruct them to have further practice at their club before attempting another future holster course. If this occurs please let me and the PNZ XO know – we will then inform the club that this has occurred.

- Strictly assess holster course trainees at every level.
- Monitor holster qualified shooters during club matches, practice sessions etc. If equipment does not comply or safety rules are broken - take appropriate action.

What can we do as Club Range Officers?

- Closely monitor shooters on the line under your charge.
- On the load and make ready pay attention to the holstering procedures - safety applied or de-cock - finger out of the trigger guard.

What can we do as a Club Training Officer (CTO)?

- Commence/include holster training well in advance of a new shooter attending a holster course.
- Consider ongoing refresher training for all holster qualified shooters, club R/O's and holster instructors.

In General:

Let's keep on top of safety at our ranges. Keep in mind an accidental discharge can cause injury not only to a shooter but also to others on the range and possibly endanger the reputation and therefore future of our sport.

Your thoughts are most welcome. Please send these to the PNZ XO.

Regards, Jack Sims
PNZ National Holster Training Coordinator

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