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Subject

Covid-19 extraordinary protocol in support of Stage 3 reopening of the RAGC for membership use.

Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to minimize the potential of spreading and/or contracting Covid-19 while engaging in shooting sports at the RAGC.

Definitions

Public Health Guidelines means, the decisions and policies developed by Public Health Ontario and the Premier of Ontario, for the Stage 3 of Ontario and the requirements of Ottawa Public Health.

Background

The Ontario Government announced Stage 1 businesses that may open as of May 19, include both indoor and outdoor ranges. This is contingent on following Public Health Guidelines which include, but is not limited to, physical distancing, physical contacts (person to person, person to surface, etc.). Stage 3 went into effect on July 17, and increased limited indoor gatherings to a maximum number of 50 people in one occupancy and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The physical distancing requirements were held at 2 metres. Consequently the numbers of people allowed in the range facility are limited to those specified in the **General Requirements** section of this Protocol.

The Executive of the RAGC and RA management are working in partnership to safely reopen the RAGC in accordance with Public Health Guidelines. Consequently, the reopening of the RA at 2451 Riverside Drive, and its range facilities which includes RAGC Lounge, Safe Room and Shooting Range, during Phase 3 is being done on a limited basis under strict conditions.

The general principles of this protocol include maintaining a minimum physical distance of 2 metres between RAGC members while on the premises of the RA including the RAGC range facility and minimizing surface contact between Club equipment and members and the use of PPE. This requirement applies to all Sections without exception.

General Requirements

All members granted access to the range facility shall be in good health and shall wear a mask at all times while at the range facility. RAGC Range Officers shall be in good health, shall wear a mask and gloves at all times while at the range facility.

The use of RAGC firearms, patching guns, timers, IPSC props such as walls, windows and doors, steel poppers, swingers, plates, and common use items such as tape, tacks, pins, staple guns, pens etc., is suspended for the duration of this protocol.

(This means members must bring their own tape and/or tacks, staple guns etc., to post targets and a pen to sign in/out and to sign up on the relay sheets.)

All contact areas such as doorknobs, soap dispensers, paper dispensers, chairs, table tops, shooting stations and mats will be disinfected by members after each contact.

(RA will be providing disinfectant products to wipe down surfaces)

The physical width of the range is 12.192 metres. Given there is obstructions of 1 metre on each side of the range, physical distancing requirements between shooters, and the requirement to have a RAGC Range Officer on the shooting range, leaves an area of approximately 8 metres to set up shooting stations. This would allow a maximum of 4 shooters on the range at any time.

To minimize members walking through air streams created by the ventilation system on the shooting range, shooting stations will be configured to permit a member to go down range directly from their shooting position to post and/or retrieve targets.

A member can only sign up for one relay at a time.

A maximum of 4 members, excluding a supervising RAGC Range Officer¹, may wait in the lounge (suitably distanced and masked) for their turn to shoot a relay they have signed up for.

A maximum of 2 members, excluding a supervising RAGC Range Officer², may be in and use the Safe Room at any time.

All members that have finished shooting will leave the range facility forthwith.

¹ It is not mandatory for a RO to be in this room. The maximum number of members is set to accommodate a RO entering the room, should the need arise, while still observing physical distancing requirements.

² *ibid* footnote 1.

Corrective intervention of a supervising Range Officer will need to take physical distancing limitations into consideration. A RAGC Range Officer will only approach a member on the shooting range where imminent danger exists. Where an intervention is required and no imminent danger exists, the intervention will be conducted in consideration of physical distance requirements. In that regard, the intervention may not be as personal as it would have been previously. The RAGC has developed interim procedures to guide RAGC Range Officer intervention during the reopening of the range facilities.

Specific Limitations

Given the Canadian Firearms Act requirement to supervise an unlicensed members at arm's length and Public Health requirements of maintaining a physical distance of two metres conflicts with the requirement, unlicensed members will, regrettably, not be able to use the range until Public Health Guidelines physical distancing limitations are changed.

To further minimize exposures, member privileges of bringing a guest to the range is suspended.

Shooting activities where members may come within two metres of each other is strictly prohibited. Only static shooting will be permitted while this protocol is in effect.

Solo Shooting is limited to a maximum of four shooters on the range at any time. Solo Shooters are bound by this protocol and are expected to exercise an abundance of courtesy to accommodate use of the range facility by all Solo Shooters.

Members access to the range facility is at the discretion of the duty RA Range Officer.

Administration and Enforcement

Executive Members of the Club and RA Range Officers are responsible for the application of this protocol.

The Senior Range Officer is responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this protocol in accordance with paragraph 7.1(3) of the RAGC Bylaws.

RAGC Position

It is the position of the RAGC that:

this protocol will be strictly enforced without exception;

this protocol will be reviewed each week to ensure the provision herein are appropriate; and

the provisions of this protocol will remain in force no longer than is required to comply with the requirements of the Public Health Guidelines.

This Protocol was updated by Bob Gowie on October 2, 2020.

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