

# GEORGIA DIVISION REENACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## ARTILLERY SAFETY REGULATIONS

Revised 12/1/2023

### Section 1: General Safety Regulations

1. Anyone who observes an unsafe or potentially dangerous act or situation will call out, "**CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE**", and then report the reason up the chain of command so that the appropriate action can be taken.
2. **Everyone is reminded of the potential danger that accompanies the use of Artillery pieces.** Every effort should be made to ensure that safety procedures are always used within the camps and around the spectators who attend this event, as well as on the field. Unit commanders are expected to assist in the compliance of all rules and regulations by those under their command. Your cooperation in making this a safe and enjoyable event will be much appreciated. Remember, safety first!
3. No member of a cannon crew shall be allowed on his piece if he has consumed alcoholic beverages during the 6 hours preceding the safety inspection of the piece. If a person is visible intoxicated or is in the process of consuming alcoholic beverages he shall be escorted from the field until after the battle scenario is completed.
4. The minimum age for participants on gun crews shall be 16 years of age for positions 3-7 and 18 years of age for positions 1, 2 and gunner.
5. There shall be no unauthorized discharging of any artillery piece outside of the battle scenario without the specific approval of the Artillery Commander of the GDRA or his appointee within the chain of command of the GDRA.
6. Because of the ever present liability issues in the hobby, the GDRA artillery branch has adopted the maximum blank load allowances which are listed below.
  - A. Acceptable powder grades are C, F1 or F2. The Artillery Safety officer will have a scale on site and he will do some random spot checks of rounds.
  - B. No smokeless powder, Pyrodex or any similar product shall be used in the construction of any round.
  - C. Rounds must be stored at all times in a locked ammunition chest. It is recommended that all rounds should be stored in individual boxes or containers within the ammunition chest.
7. For safety, authenticity, and uniformity, the Georgia Division Artillery Drill, aka First Confederate Drill or the National Civil War Artillery Association Drill is suggested. The misfire drill from any of the above is acceptable. A copy of the GDRA Artillery drill can be sent to participants upon request. Gun and drill inspections must be deemed safe and appropriate before the piece will be allowed to participate.
8. Artillery pieces should be on the event grounds by Friday night if possible. Report to the GDRA Artillery Branch Commander when you arrive.

9. The Artillery Safety Officer, along with the designated CS & US Battery Commanders, will conduct all safety inspections on cannon and related equipment as well as any period black powder muskets and revolvers. All participants shall report to him for all safety matters.  
**Artillery inspection begins at 10am on Saturday morning.**
  - A. No artillery pieces may be fired without first being inspected.
  - B. Cannon crews are required to perform firing and misfiring drills as a part of the safety inspection.
  - C. Charges will be prepared using aluminum foil only (**no plastic bags**). No additional materials such as flour or sawdust will be added to the charges. The only exception is that 12 pounders may use enough material to keep the round from falling over when being loaded.
  - D. Any discrepancies must be corrected prior to the engagement.
10. Due to liability issues, **NO CHARGES** will be rolled on the event site.
11. After all inspections are complete, the Artillery Safety Officer will report his findings to the Overall Artillery Commander. The Artillery Commander is responsible for reporting to the Event Provost who serves as the overall Event Safety Officer.

## Section 2: Table of Maximum Loads for Artillery

For cannons not listed, the maximum charge is no more than 2-1/2 ounces of powder per one full inch of bore opening.

| <b>Weapon Type / Size</b>    | <b>Maximum Blank Load 19th Century</b> |
|------------------------------|--|
| Napoleon 12 pounder          | 20 ounces                              |
| M1841 Howitzer 12 pounder    | 10 ounces                              |
| Mountain Howitzer 12 pounder | 6 ounces                               |
| Gun, 1841 6 pounder          | 10 ounces                              |
| Parrott Rifle 3 inch         | 10 ounces                              |
| Ordnance Rifle 3 inch        | 10 ounces                              |

## Section 3: Sidearms & Musket Safety Regulations for Artillery Soldiers

1. Possession of any type of firing projectile is **FORBIDDEN**.
2. Only officers and mounted cavalry are allowed to carry pistols or revolvers.
3. Revolvers will be carried in a holster. Both will be of appropriate period military issue (no shoulder stocked revolvers are allowed).
4. Sidearms will not be discharged in close proximity to a loaded piece or ammunition chest.
5. When the distance between opposing forces is 15 yards or less, all fire must be elevated at an angle of not less than 45 degrees.

6. No powder flasks will be carried on the field. Extra cylinders will be carried in a safe manner away from any matches or possible fire making apparatus.
7. Prior to the engagement, the weapon must be clean inside & out and in good working order.
8. No obstructions are to be in the barrel, no cracks in the metal or wood, and no loose or missing screws.
9. Barrels must be cleared with the loading plunger or rod during inspections.
10. All sidearms must be discharged before leaving the field.
11. Revolvers should be loaded prior to the engagement at least 70 feet from the nearest source of heat.
12. Artillerymen will not be allowed on the reenactment field with a sidearm or musket (long arms) during an engagement. This was appropriated for this period. It is the Infantry's role to support and help protect the guns during battle.
13. Due to safety issues, only artillery camp pickets or guards shall carry muskets (long arms). The artillery camps will not be assaulted during this event so there is no need for any muskets to be loaded with black powder. This will be enforced by the Artillery Safety Officer.
14. **Sidearms or muskets are never to be discharged in camp.**

#### **Section 4: Table of Maximum Loads for Pistols**

| <b>Weapon Type / Caliber</b>    | <b>Maximum Blank Load for Pistols</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Colt and Remington Revolver .44 | 30 grains FFg                         |
| Colt Navy Revolver .36          | 20 grains FFg                         |