

CMP Safety Checklist for Parents

Your Complete Guide to Youth Shooting Sports Safety

Red Dirt Shooting Sports | CMP-Affiliated Programs

Before Your Child's First Session

Program Verification

- Confirm the program is CMP-affiliated (check thecmp.org/youth/clubs-and-teams)
- Verify all instructors are CMP-certified with current credentials
- Ask about student-to-instructor ratio (should be 5:1 or better for beginners)
- Request proof of liability insurance (\$1M/\$2M minimum coverage)
- Confirm background checks are required for all staff and volunteers

Safety Orientation Requirements

- Mandatory 45-60 minute safety orientation scheduled
- Parent attendance strongly encouraged (or required)
- Written safety rules provided for home review
- Emergency contact information collected and verified
- Medical information and allergies documented

Facility Inspection

- Range safety officer (RSO) present at all times
 - Clear firing line and safety zones marked
 - Backstops and barriers properly installed
 - First aid kit and AED accessible and current
 - Emergency exits clearly marked and unobstructed
 - Weather protocols posted (for outdoor ranges)
-

During Training Sessions

Supervision Standards

- Continuous adult supervision maintained
- One-on-one coaching available for beginners
- Range commands clearly audible and followed
- All participants wear eye and ear protection
- No horseplay or distractions tolerated

Equipment Safety

- All equipment inspected before use
- Proper fit verified for your child's size
- Loaner equipment available (no purchase required initially)
- Secure storage between sessions
- Maintenance logs kept for all equipment

Range Protocols

- “Cold range” procedures explained and practiced
 - Muzzle discipline enforced at all times
 - Trigger discipline emphasized (finger off trigger until ready)
 - Chamber checks performed regularly
 - Cease fire commands immediately obeyed
-

Questions to Ask Instructors

Safety Record

- “How many years has this program operated without incidents?”
- “What is your emergency action plan?”
- “How often do you conduct safety drills?”
- “What medical personnel are available on-site?”

Training Approach

- “How much dry-fire practice before live shooting?”
- “What is your progression timeline for beginners?”
- “How do you handle struggling or nervous students?”
- “What parent communication can I expect?”

Program Structure

- “What are the age-appropriate skill levels?”
 - “How is progress tracked and reported?”
 - “What competition opportunities are available?”
 - “Are scholarships or financial aid available?”
-

Red Flags to Watch For

Immediate Concerns (Address Before Participation)

- Instructors without current CMP certification
- No mandatory safety orientation required
- Student-to-instructor ratio exceeds 8:1 for beginners
- No written safety protocols provided
- Inadequate supervision or distracted instructors
- No emergency medical equipment on-site
- Poorly maintained or damaged equipment
- Unclear range commands or inconsistent enforcement

Program Quality Concerns

- ⚠ High instructor turnover (ask about retention)
 - ⚠ Vague answers about safety record or protocols
 - ⚠ Pressure to purchase equipment immediately
 - ⚠ No parent observation allowed
 - ⚠ Dismissive attitude toward safety questions
-

At-Home Safety Reinforcement

Daily Conversations

- Review the four fundamental safety rules weekly
- Discuss what your child learned at practice
- Ask about any safety concerns or questions
- Reinforce that safety comes before performance

Four Fundamental Safety Rules

1. Treat every firearm as if it's loaded
2. Never point at anything you don't intend to shoot
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire
4. Be certain of your target and what's beyond it

Behavioral Indicators

- Your child can explain safety rules in their own words
 - They demonstrate respect for equipment
 - They show improved focus and discipline
 - They ask thoughtful questions about safety
 - They never handle equipment without supervision
-

Emergency Preparedness

Information to Keep Accessible

- Program director contact information
- Range address and GPS coordinates
- Nearest hospital location and phone number
- Emergency contact numbers for all staff
- Copy of child's medical information and insurance card

Emergency Action Plan

- Know the evacuation routes from the range
 - Understand the severe weather protocol
 - Know where first aid supplies are located
 - Have backup transportation arranged
 - Keep phone charged during all sessions
-

Monthly Safety Review

Program Performance

- Zero safety incidents maintained
- Consistent enforcement of safety rules
- Regular communication from instructors
- Visible progress in your child's skills
- Positive attitude toward safety protocols

Your Child's Development

- Increased confidence and self-discipline

- Improved focus and attention to detail

- Respectful behavior toward instructors and peers

- Enthusiasm for continued participation

- Safety-first mindset in all activities

Resources and Support

Official CMP Resources

- CMP Youth Programs: thecmp.org/youth
- CMP Club Directory: thecmp.org/youth/clubs-and-teams
- CMP Safety Resources: thecmp.org/training-tech

Red Dirt Shooting Sports

- Website: reddirtshooting.com
- Phone: (580) 305-1228
- Email: info@reddirtshooting.com
- Programs: reddirtshooting.com/youth-shooting-sports-programs
- Safety Standards: reddirtshooting.com/safety-standards

Additional Organizations

- 4-H Shooting Sports: 4-h.org/parents/shooting-sports
 - USA Shooting: usashooting.org
 - National Shooting Sports Foundation: nssf.org
-

About Red Dirt Shooting Sports

Red Dirt Shooting Sports is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit CMP-affiliated organization serving Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas. We maintain:

- Zero safety incidents across 600+ youth participants (3+ years)
- 5:1 student-to-instructor ratio for all beginner programs
- 100% CMP-certified instructors with annual background checks
- 70% scholarship rate to eliminate financial barriers
- Mobile workshops bringing programs to underserved communities

Contact us today to learn more: reddirtshooting.com/get-in-touch

Download Date: _____

Program Name: _____

Instructor Contact: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

This checklist is provided as an educational resource. Always follow your specific program's safety protocols and consult with certified instructors for guidance.