

Indiana Society SAR Firearms Policy

The 1763/66 French Charleville and 2nd Land Model British Brown Bess, are considered the “weapon of choice” for color guard events. Other period specific black powder flintlocks, such as Pennsylvania rifles, may also be appropriate, especially with frontiersman clothing and hunting frocks. Pistols are primarily cavalry weapons and should never be used in color guard events (NSSAR Color Guard Committee, 2000).

Like all firearms, muskets employed by the color guard are inherently dangerous. They must always be treated as loaded and potentially deadly. Blank charges can also cause injuries, especially at close ranges.

1. Ball or other projectile be never be loaded or carried.
2. Muskets shall be maintained in a clean and serviceable condition.
3. Muskets shall be equipped with leather frizzon covers, and shall not be removed until full cocking the musket.
4. All fired muskets shall be equipped with metal flash guards.
5. Cartridges will be of paper heavy enough to resist accidental ignition by stray spark (no news paper).
6. Charges shall consist of no more than 100 grains of black powder.
7. Muskets shall remain unloaded until instructed to load.
8. Paper cartridges shall be discarded and not used as wadding.
9. Ramrods and other objects shall not be inserted into charged bores.
10. Charged muskets shall be carried at half-cock.
11. Muskets (loaded or unloaded) shall always be pointed in a safe direction and never towards any person.
12. Muskets shall never be fired toward anyone.
13. Muskets shall never be fired over anyone within 100 feet.
14. Edged weapons shall remained sheathed at all times, except when used as a tool of command.
15. Do not place any body part over the muzzle at any time.
16. No powder in powder horn. A small priming horn is OK, but not more than 2 oz. powder.
17. All muskets shall have no less than three lbs. trigger pull.
18. Black powder only. No substitution or replica powder, i.e. Pyrodex.
19. Paper cartridges will be contained in closed container (cartridge box with lid) until retrieval.
20. For safety and authenticity purposes clothing should be of natural fiber such as wool, linen or cotton. Polyester, nylon, Velcro, fringe or other synthetic fabric presents a safety hazard and may not be worn.

Based upon safety regulations of the BAR - Brigade of the American Revolution; NWTAA - North West Territory Alliance; FM&W - Forces of Montcalm & Wolf; SYW - Seven Year War, England. (Submitted by compatriots Doug Hill and Doug Roush)
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As determined by the event commander, musket firings shall be aimed in a direction which protects against all possible injury to persons and property.

All guardsmen who are assigned to fire muskets shall be certified as to their competency by the INSSAR Color Guard Commander or designated safety officer, based upon the following criteria:

- Demonstrated knowledge of and compliance with the above stated standards.
- Demonstrated efficiency in breaking down, cleaning and assembling musket.
- Demonstrated efficiency in safely loading and firing musket.