



# SAGA Snippets

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## SAGA Chairperson's Report

This financial year (1/3/2022 to 28/2/2023) has blown by and SAGA has been extremely busy with various sponsorships and programs focusing on shooting and training, and with a major emphasis on ladies and more specifically, new lady shooters. It was probably the busiest year for SAGA with SAGA being involved in at least 10 events throughout the year.

### **SAPS Poor Service Delivery**

We started off 2022 by engaging and taking on SAPS and the CFR about their poor service delivery. SAGA established an online link for our members to submit their complaints as many members, specifically with respect to amnesty applications, had been waiting many months for applications to be finalized.

After many hundreds of letters of demand having been sent, Major General Mamotheti from SAPS FLASH reached out to myself and from April 2022 SAGA has been able to submit complaints en block on behalf of its members to a dedicated group of SAPS personnel at CFR who provide feedback on the members' complaints. So far we have submitted 7 blocks of members totaling more than 800 applications

By and large this has been very successful with a 91% success rate. There is of course still much work to be done but, some 10 months later, matters have improved generally through the SAPS administration, except for the December/January slow down.

There are of course still some loose ends with some amnesty applications still not having been finalized and

normal competency and licence applications being outstanding for many months. We encourage all members to submit a complaint via the link on our website if .

### **Engagement with the Civilian Secretariat for Police on the draft FCA Bill**

SAGA together with many other firearm organisations held a number of bilateral meetings with the Civilian Secretariat for Police (CSOP) on the draft FCA Bill from May to August 2022. I believe that these engagements have been positive but time will tell whether the CSOP will actually consider the submissions made against the FCA Bill.

We must continue to remain vigilant with respect to the draft FCA Bill, as although it appears that the Bill in its current format may never see the light of day, there is once more a very anti-gun rhetoric from certain groups and from government, especially in the last few weeks leading up to the end of February 2023.

### **Expired Licences and the Con-Court Case**

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the Constitutional Court handed judgment down in favour of Fidelity and thus also in favour of those persons who were/are in possession of firearms whose licences had expired.

As a result of this judgment, those persons who are in possession of expired licences may now apply for a new licence for the said firearm without having to physically hand the firearm to SAPS at the same time.

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## SAGA Snippets March 2023

### **Special points of interest:**

- SAGA Chairperson's Report
- Critical Defensive Skills
- How to Choose Eye & Ear Protection for Shooting
- 3 for Flinching!
- SAGA Membership
- Running Away the Right Way
- SAGA Corporate Membership



## Continued...SAGA Chairperson's Report

Subsequent to the Con Court judgment, SAPS issued a very reasonable Directive, but there are still a few issues emanating from the Directive that must be clarified. We will be addressing SAPS and CFR on these issues.

### **Media / Current / Topical Newsworthy Events**

SAGA has been at the forefront of many matters affecting lawful firearm ownership, including but not limited to, the "tavern and mass shootings"; loss of firearms by SAPS and corruption within SAPS; the refusal of competency/licences because of the wearing of the Hijab; woman's month/day shoots and woman and firearms; as well as the increase in competency/firearm training and the purchase of firearms which is on the increase.

We have been interviewed on SABC TV, ENCA, BBC TV, CGTN and other TV channels and multiple radio stations and newspapers/online forums.

I wish to thank SAGA Representatives Aziza Scheidereiter, Gideon Joubert and Themba Khubeka, and SAGA Trustees, Advocate John Welch, Stef Grobler and Lance Allam, who are always willing to give of their time for such interviews.



### **August 2022 – Women's Month**

SAGA went all out during the month of August for Women's month and had at least 5 official woman's day events throughout the country. Many women who attended these events had never even held a firearm before. SAGA would like to thank the experienced instructors for their assistance.

Thanks to Themba Khubeka, Hamish Deal, Aziza Scheidereiter, Trisha Parshotam, Ridwaan Syed and Rene Missen for assisting and organizing these events as well as to all the support staff and SAGA members that helped out and assisted.

Special thanks to SAGA Staff members, Gaye and Peter Marshall-Goodridge, who are always willing to give their support and attend the events, or support the events logistically throughout the country.

### **Other Events**

SAGA was involved in a number of other events throughout the country, where new shooters were introduced to firearms, schools were introduced to firearm safety, and the general public, and in some cases the media, were shown the safe use of firearms. Quite often we have been amazed by the positive feedback from participants of such events.

### **Major Issue Facing SAGA**

The major issue affecting SAGA is low membership. Despite the number of events that we have held over the last year, the membership up-take has been very disappointing. For SAGA to be able to continue to function we need paid-up members. SAGA's focus in the next weeks and months will be on membership as we need as many gun owners as possible to come on board as new members. Non gun owners who support our cause are also welcome to join. Lapsed members are being encouraged to renew as well.

### **Summary**

I believe that SAGA has once more been very much at the fore front of ensuring, and continuing to ensure, that law-abiding South Africans have the right to choose to own a firearm for whatever legitimate purposes they may wish to own a firearm for.

### **Damian Enslin**

Chairperson  
South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA)



## Critical Defensive Skills

By Jim Wilson

15 March 2023

Every once in a while, I run into something that just makes me cringe, and that's the person who says, "Well, I just bought a gun and a box of bullets, so I'm good to go — after I figure out how to load this thing." Whether he or she knows it or not, that person sure is depending on having a lot of good luck when facing bad guys. They may not know that owning a gun doesn't make them an automatic winner. Developing useful defensive skills is something that we all have to work at, and there are three major areas that require our continual attention.

The first of these is marksmanship, the ability to hit a target. Now, I'm not talking about that once-in-a-while lucky shot that all of us have made at one time or another. I'm talking about the ability to hit what we are shooting at on a regular basis, on demand. It requires the combination of correct sight picture, breath control and trigger press. And, in a defensive situation all of that has to be done in an almighty hurry.

Another thing to remember is that shooting, like all hand-eye coordination movements, is a quickly diminishing skill. If we don't practice it, we lose it. Under the pressure created by a violent threat, we will most likely not perform as well as we did in practice. What that means is, if we are hitting exactly right 90 percent of the time in practice, we may only do the same in an actual gunfight about 50 to 60 percent of the time. Even a person who is really serious about regular practice can be expected to drop about 10 percent.

The second critical skill to work on is gun handling, which covers a number of abilities, not the least of which is gun safety. Those of us who are your neighbors have the right to demand that you do so. If lightning strikes



your handgun in such a way as to make it go off, that is an accident; just about everything else is a negligent discharge. And there is never a good excuse for a negligent discharge.

Gun handling also involves developing the skill to make a smooth, fast pistol presentation — one without any wasted motion. Once the fight starts, that holstered gun isn't doing anyone any good. When we work for smoothness and lack of wasted motion, speed will eventually come.

Regardless of what kind of gun the armed citizen chooses, he or she should know what the potential malfunctions are and how to deal with them. Different types of guns are subject to different problems.

A failure to feed is different from a double feed, and both are different from a revolver that has a cylinder frozen in place. A person should not only know what to expect and how to correct it, but he or she should also know how to properly maintain their chosen gun(s) so as to minimize the chance of a malfunction.

Another aspect of gun handling is the ability to reload quickly. Although the need to reload rarely occurs in citizen-involved shootings, one would not want to be the exception

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## Continued... Critical Defensive Skills

to the rule. And, it is not just a matter of reloading the gun, but to do it quickly and smoothly while keeping an eye on what is going on. Good training and lots of practice are the keys to developing good gun-handling skills.

The third area of critical defensive skills is making yourself a harder target. It is important to know what is going on around you. None of us are as aware as we should be or could be. If we see the threat way over there, we have a lot of options as to how we will deal with it, including just getting away. On the other hand, if we look up and the threat is right in our face, our options have diminished considerably. Some people look but don't actually see, and that can cause some really serious problems.

It is also important to educate one's self about criminals and what they actually do. What actually happens during a home invasion, carjacking or armed robbery? What are the telltale signs we should be looking for?

Personal defense is a lifestyle, not a hobby. On-the-job training is not a good way to deal with a criminal attack. When we continually work to improve our ability to truly defend ourselves we can better control the stress that comes from a violent criminal attack and have a better idea of how to deal with it. Working on these three skills—what Jeff Cooper called the Combat Triad—is the path to success and safety.

Extracted from:

[https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/critical-defense-skills/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=032323email&utm\\_id=032323email](https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/critical-defense-skills/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=032323email&utm_id=032323email)

## How to Choose Eye & Ear Protection For Shooting

by Serena Juchnowski  
6 February 2023



When it comes to firearms, safety is paramount, and that includes protecting your vision and hearing. Not all ear and eye protection are created equal. Simply putting on any old pair of sunglasses or earplugs does not guarantee effectiveness. Here's how to choose what's right for you.

### **Eye Protection**

Safety glasses are worn to protect the eyes from ricochets and from other debris. Although rare, incidents can happen. Your regular eyeglasses or sunglasses may not be adequate protection, so look for ANSI-rated glasses or request a prescription set of safety glasses from your eye doctor. I use a special set of safety glasses with a frame built in that holds my prescription lenses. This allows me to see far distances while I am shooting and enhances my view of the target. Many people do not even need prescription lenses for shooting, because use of a scope amends their vision issues.

Iron sights have their own story. The front sight should be in focus while the target should be slightly blurry. I can see the front sight clearly, but not the target. Others can see the target, but not the front sight. This can be resolved by working with an optometrist who understands shooting. Formulas exist to modify a



## Continued...How to Choose Eye & Ear Protection For Shooting

prescription to improve focus of the target or post, so many people choose to have a separate pair of glasses for use with iron sights versus optics.

If you have perfect vision, you still have other decisions to make. Colored or tinted lenses are not a fashion statement. They exist to help you see the target better and faster in varied light conditions by filtering out different light frequencies. Clear glasses are traditionally worn when lighting is poor and for shooting indoors. On sunny days you will find yourself squinting with these same lenses. This extra muscle tension in your eyes disrupts your sight picture and can have a negative effect on your shots.

To resolve this issue, many shooters have multiple pairs of glasses, or one pair of glasses with interchangeable lenses. Wearing a hat with a brim will also help. While there are various charts online with recommendations on lens color, you will only find what works best for you through experimentation.

### **Ear Protection**

Ear protection is just as, if not more, important. Hearing loss is a combination of length of exposure and intensity of sound. No matter what style of hearing protection you choose, pay attention to the Noise Reduction Rating (NRR). The NRR represents the maximum number of decibels (dB) the hearing protector will reduce the sound level by when worn. Sounds above 80 dB can cause immediate and permanent hearing loss. A gun shot measures approximately 140-165 dB.

The two traditional forms of ear protection are muffs and plugs. Muffs cover the entire ear, while plugs slide into the ear canal. Fit is most important here. Improperly fitting earmuffs or plugs, no matter their noise reduction rating, will not work. Just one shot can cause irreparable hearing loss. Even if you already have hearing loss, continued exposure to loud noises can cause further damage. Muffs can be bulky and make it difficult to obtain a proper cheek weld on a rifle or shotgun.

Universal plugs do not work for everyone, especially when improperly used. "Double-plugging" or wearing plugs and muffs simultaneously is also an option and provides the most protection. Wearing both muffs and plugs will increase the noise reduction rating to approximately 5-10 dB more than the highest NRR rating of the muffs or plugs. Some may complain that shooting is "too loud," especially young children. This is a sign that ear protection is not fitted correctly. If not remedied, hearing loss may occur.

If you have the opportunity, try different styles of muffs. Pay attention to size, headband and shape. There should be no break in the seal between your head and muffs while you are wearing them. If earplugs fall out, they are not correctly fitted. Audiologists can make affordable custom molds that resolve this issue.

Hearing range commands and being able to communicate with others is also important. Earmuffs with built-in microphones can filter sound to block those above a certain frequency, allowing you to hear voices amplified, but not shots. Electronic plugs, universal and custom, also exist, that work in a similar way to electronic muffs.

Wearing ear and eye protection isn't just about following a range rule. Though most facilities require both, you should still choose to protect yourself when you are left with the choice to preserve your eyesight and hearing. Your loved ones will thank you.

*<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/how-to-choose-eye-ear-protection-for-shooting/>*

### 3 For Flinching! Tips to Iron Out That Flinch

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/3-for-flinching-tips-to-iron-out-that-flinch/>

by Mark Fike  
24 March 2023

Have your shooting skills made you the target of some ribbing at the range or at hunt camp? Maybe your acceptable range while shooting game is not what you want it to be? Perhaps you just want to be a better shot. Follow these three tips to work yourself into a top-notch shooter.

#### **Overcome the flinch.**

Many shooters have flinched when shooting at some point. Some had or have a real problem with it. Often this is due to being improperly introduced to a heavily recoiling firearm. A fear from being kicked hard sticks with you! I have seen adults reduced to tears when pressed to shoot something that previously hurt them.

Sometimes people are simply handed a poorly fitted firearm and the same result occurs. That may be a youngster handed a big-gauge shotgun with heavy loads or a small-framed adult shooter using a handgun that is too big to get a handle on. Maybe, when shooting for the first time, proper hold, proper stance and proper hearing protection was not part of instruction.

Notice I mentioned proper hearing protection? As a youth outdoor club leader and a hunter education instructor, I have had the honor of introducing many people to shooting over the years. Something that has stuck with me when introducing new shooters to firearms are the two most asked questions. "How bad will it kick?" I expected that question.

Then the one I did not expect as much, which was, "How loud will this be?"



Honestly, I never thought about how loud firearms can mess with people's minds and cause fear. A family member was struggling with shooting her black powder rifle. I could not figure that out since she shot her shotgun without an issue. We finally realized she was anticipating the big BOOM from the old rifle and was shutting her eyes. I started questioning other new shooters, and many admitted that the sound and concussion of the gun going off, even with ear protection, startled them at times. Good hearing protection is well worth wearing, not only to protect your ears but also to keep from jumping, flinching or anticipating the shot and creating bad habits.

So, how does one overcome such issues?

#### **Dry-fire practice as much as you can.**

Dry firing is simply "firing" the gun without live ammunition in it. First, check your owner's manual to see if this is OK to do with your particular firearm—some rimfire guns can be damaged by dry-fire practice. If not, you'll need to use snap caps in your firearm. Second, and we cannot emphasize this enough, **BE SURE THE FIREARM IS NOT LOADED!** It's best to remove all live ammunition from the room while dry-practicing.

When dry-firing, you should focus on your target and the firearm should not move once the trigger is snapped. Your sight picture should remain on the bullseye. A lot of movement during or right after the trigger is pressed indicates a problem.

When dry-firing, aim at a very small spot on a wall and use good breathing and trigger control. Go through the motions of firing

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## Continued... 3 For Flinching!

repeatedly but slowly. It would be a good idea to have a veteran shooter observe your form at first to ensure you are not ingraining bad habits. Some dry-firing sessions each day will do wonders to overcoming the flinch.

### **Shoot small calibers.**

Another great way to overcome anticipating the shot or flinching is to go back to shooting small calibers or even pellet rifles. Shooting something without recoil or loud noise will make shooting enjoyable again, and reinforce those good habits. You can build up your confidence by using pellet rifles or .22 rifles (at least it is not as expensive to shoot these firearms). Work your way back up to the firearm that was giving you some trouble.

### **Practice more. Yes, more than that.**

This tip goes perfectly with the previous tip of shooting smaller calibers. Shoot those calibers that are enjoyable and shoot often. When my shooting skills were a bit rusty at longer range and practicing with big bore was not cost effective for dozens of shots, I started with a .22 rifle that I loved and put my targets out at 120-150 yards.

That is outside of the consistently accurate range of most standard, out of the box .22 rifles, but I had a lot of fun shooting hundreds of rounds trying to hit empty shotgun hulls, golf balls and other small objects at those ranges. I started out on paper so I could dial in my scope the best I could at those ranges and then I began competing with myself to see how many shots it would take to hit very small objects. After a few sessions of that, I shot a few rounds from the big bore and found my accuracy was much, much better than it had been.

If you find yourself flinching, anticipating the shot or just not comfortable shooting a particular firearm, give these three tips a try and watch your accuracy improve.



## SAGA Membership

SAGA annual Membership fees for 2023 are:

Adult R300

Pensioner/Junior R180

Family:

1x Adult @R300 plus any number of family members @ R100 each

Join via our website at [www.saga.org.za](http://www.saga.org.za)

By being a member you keep us in 'business' and we are able to continue working for fair and just firearm rights for responsible firearm owners in South Africa.

Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes? Get them to join SAGA soon,

The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cellphone number **066 003 9226**.

If you would like to send us a query or message by WhatsApp, please remember to include your Name and Membership Number (if applicable).

## Running Away the Right Way



by Jo Deering

16 March 2023

You might carry concealed for self-protection, but your firearm is a last resort. If you're ever in a dangerous situation, like an attempted robbery or assault, leaving is better than fighting your way out, and it should be your first choice if it's feasible. But as anyone who has ever watched a cheesy horror flick knows, blindly running with zero plan just leads you to new problems. There's a right way to flee danger.

First, try to avoid having to flee in the first place by paying attention to your surroundings and avoiding situations that have the potential to turn violent before they start. If anyone makes you uneasy, keep your distance and insist that they keep theirs. Don't be afraid to say "that's close enough" to anyone who isn't respecting your space, and don't be afraid to turn around and go back in the opposite direction if you see something or someone in the path ahead that makes you nervous. Yeah, you might look rude, but who cares?

Second, know when you have to escape and when it's better to give a bad guy what he's asking for first. Learn the difference between resource predators and process predators, and when you're clearly dealing with a resource predator who just wants your purse or your car or your wallet, understand that your best option is to comply. Throw your purse or your keys and then run in the oppo-

site direction. He's got what he wants and you're getting farther away from danger by the second.

### **Run Toward, Not From**

Sometimes your options are limited. You might just have to flee in whatever direction is available and adjust your plan as you go. But to the extent that you're able, remember the cardinal rule of escaping danger: Don't run from something; run toward something. Yes, you're leaving a dangerous situation, but try to have a goal in mind that you're running toward. When you start running from danger, there's a good chance you'll be chased, and you want to end up somewhere safer than where you started.

If at all possible, run toward people. In a dark parking lot, this means you should run back toward the still-open store, not deeper into the darkness or into the abandoned alley. If you don't know where people are, lights and noise are good indicators—run toward them and hope you find people. If you don't, at least you'll have better lighting to see what you're doing. Running toward a more advantageous position makes the bad guy less inclined to follow you—he doesn't want an audience.

Make a scene as you run. Anything to draw the attention of passersby will increase your odds of someone intervening on your behalf or of the bad guy deciding that this is just too much trouble and he'd be better off moving on. Many of us have a tendency to shut down and go silent when we're afraid, but using your voice will help you draw attention, and attention is the opposite of what a criminal wants.

### *A couple of notes on special situations:*

If you are assaulted in a parking lot, it might seem like running toward your car is a safe option, but be careful. It takes a long time to

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## Continued...Running Away the Right Way

open your door (especially if you're fumbling with keys), get in, start the car and take off. If you're being chased, it might very well give your pursuer the time he needs to catch up to you. If you have the option, run toward the store or toward any lights/noise/people.

If you are driving and you suspect you're being followed, do not go home, or you risk being assaulted in your driveway. Again, "run" toward a safer place. You can take four right turns in a row to confirm that someone is indeed following you or you can skip that and just proceed directly to the nearest police or fire station; even a busy store or any crowded, well-lit area will do in a pinch.

If you are assaulted in your own driveway, running into your house might seem logical, because it feels like your safe place. But if there's no one inside, the house is probably a more dangerous place than the yard, where you at least stand a chance of being spotted by a neighbor or a passing motorist or jogger.

Escaping a violent situation is almost always the best choice, if you have one. Just remember when you're escaping to run toward safety, not simply away from danger.

<https://www.nrawomen.com/content/running-away-the-right-way/>

## SAGA Corporate Membership



SAGA Corporate Members are clubs, associations and businesses who actively endorse the work being done by SAGA to protect firearm ownership rights in South Africa. *Please support those that support SAGA!*

*Sign up as a Corporate Member on our website today!*

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