



Buckmore Park Scout Campsite Air Rifle Activity Instructions and Risk Assessment

Activity Instructions

Introduction

Target shooting is, as its name implies, the sport of shooting at artificial targets as opposed to live quarry. It is an international sport, featured at the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games. The game is about marksmanship skill; the ability to repeatedly place shots in as small an area as possible in the centre of the target. Real guns firing real projectiles are used so the activity takes place on appropriately-designed ranges and safety is of prime importance. This focus on safety makes target shooting amongst the safest of all sports and shooting develops in its participants a strong safety culture with a self-disciplined approach to the handling of hazardous objects.

As in many aspects of athletics, shooters compete as much against themselves for the satisfaction of improving their own performance as to be 'the best on the day'. Shooting is both an individual and a team sport and is one in which people of both genders and a very wide age range can compete on equal terms. The sport can be enjoyed by wheelchair users and, with modified equipment, by the blind. Success in the sport involves learning fine control of the body and, less obviously, also of the mind in order to overcome the stresses of competition.

The following paragraphs detail the plans and safety measures in place at BPSC which ensure that all groups participating in air rifle shooting at BPSC can understand the risks involved with the activity, how they have been mitigated and can enjoy the activity safely.

At the time of writing the BPSC Activity Manager for Air Rifles is Dave Payne.

Responsibilities of Session Leaders (whether provided by BPSC or by a visiting group):

Group Size

- A session is for a maximum of 12 participants and there should be at least one other adult present to supervise those participants not shooting.

Preparation and Equipment

- Information on the website is clear that all participants need a parental permission to shoot. The leader with the visiting group should be asked to confirm all the participants are permitted to shoot.



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- Session Leaders will check range (including for trip hazards, security fences and any ricochet hazards), rifles, goggles and pellet catchers. Equipment will need to be collected from store.
- If any participants are aged under 18 a responsible adult aged over 21 must be present to supervise the activity.
- Any groups using their own instructors will need to produce of a valid National Smallbore Rifle Association (NSRA) Youth Proficiency Scheme (YPS) ticket.
- All Buckmore Park Session Leaders must have an NSRA YPS ticket.
- Air Rifle shooting takes place within the rifle range only.

Briefing

A safety brief will be given to groups at the beginning of the air rifle session, which will be conducted in accordance with the guidance set out by the National Smallbore Rifle Association, and cover the following points:

- Introduction
 - Who's shot before.
 - Discipline – must obey the session leader (the range officer)
 - Range Layout.
 - What to expect.
 - Objective.
- Safety.
 - Appropriate clothing: loose enough for free movement. No snagging / flapping bits that may become entangled, remove lanyards or hanging jewelry etc. from round neck, tie back long hair to prevent entanglement.
 - Never point a gun at anyone.
 - Always point the gun downrange.
 - Always treat the gun as loaded.
 - Range rules – posted at range.
 - On no account should any of the group approach the Archery or Axe throwing ranges which are nearby.
- Equipment
 - Gun
 - Pellets- made of lead and therefore associated health precautions (wash hands)
 - Targets
 - Goggles
- Demonstration
 - Safe Loading
 - Basic Technique
- First shot



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- Aim the gun empty first
- Talk guests through loading and fire one shot
- Shooting
 - Shoot leaning on the bench
 - Eye dominance
 - Sights
 - Trigger control
 - Breathing
 - Standing position

Pre-existing conditions

- The session leader must make themselves aware of any participants suffering from Asthma, Epilepsy, severe allergies or any other relevant medical condition and ensure that prescribed medication is available if required. Medication is to be carried by the adult with the participating group with the individual in suitable proximity.

Weather

- As the shooting line is covered air rifle shooting can happen in most weather conditions. In extremis, the Session Leader believes it is unsafe to continue the session should be abandoned the group returned to the start in a safe manner.

Conduct of Session

- The Session Leader will ensure range is safe and equipment is collected and ready.
- The Session Leader will give the briefing (as set out in the sections above).
- The Session Leader will deliver the session in accordance with the guidelines set out by the NSRA.
- At the end of the session the Session Leader will collect all equipment and notify the Activity Manager of any issues with the equipment.
- All equipment locked away.

Planning & Reporting

- All incidents, accidents, near misses and hazards must be reported using appropriate forms.
- Deflects and damages must be reported.



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- Any safety concerns arising from the session must be reported to the Activity Manager.

Scout Association Resources at time of publication

Factsheets on shooting

The following activity factsheets are relevant to this activity:

- [FS120000 Risk Assessment](#)
- [FS120004 Shooting](#)
- [FS120007 Joint Adventurous Activities with Girlguiding UK](#)
- [FS120075 InTouch](#)

Rules on shooting

The following activity rules are relevant to this activity:

- [Rule 9.1 Activity Rules - Application](#)
- [Rule 9.2 Preparations](#)
- [Rule 9.3 InTouch](#)
- [Rule 9.4 Risk Assessment](#)
- [Rule 9.5 Emergency Procedure](#)
- [Rule 9.9 Use of External Centres and Instructors](#)
- [Rule 9.37 Shooting](#)



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Air Rifle Risk Assessment

Risks Arising and Hazards Identified	Persons at Risk	How is the risk controlled What further Controls Are Needed	Person Responsible for controls
Injury from Equipment/Equipment failure	All	All the equipment should be visually inspected immediately before use.	Session Leader
		All equipment should be subject to inspections both on a monthly and yearly basis.	Activity Manager
Injury from improper handling/improper use of equipment	All	All persons should have adequate instruction and training in using the equipment for its intended purpose.	Session Leader
Lead poisoning from pellets	All	Verbal warning given in briefing.	Session Leader
		Reminder to wash hands at end of session	Session Leader
Injury from being shot	All	All persons should have adequate instruction and training in range conduct.	Session Leader
		There is clear barrier at firing line.	Activity Manager
		Range officer monitors entire range throughout session.	Session Leader
		No participants are to shoot unless given the instruction to do so.	Session Leader/ Participants
		When shooting participants should only point the rifle – whether loaded or unloaded – down the range, towards the target.	Session Leader/ Participants



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Injury from being shot	All	<p>Observers at the activity or visitors to the activity must obey all instruction from the range officer when in the activity area. The activity area must be specified in the briefing.</p> <p>Members of the public who enter the activity area should be advised of the potential danger and asked to move away.</p>	<p>Observers / Participants</p> <p>Session Leader / All</p>
Injury from pellet caused by bounce back	All	<p>Pellets are made of a soft deformable material (lead).</p> <p>Range checked to minimise risk of bounce back</p>	<p>Session Leader</p> <p>Session Leader</p>
Conduct of participants whilst waiting to use range	All	A responsible adult, who is not the staff member in charge of the activity, is responsible for the supervision of the participants when they are not directly engaged on the activity.	Group Leader
Minor Cuts and abrasions	All	<p>Qualified First Aider should be present throughout the activity</p> <p>A First Aid kit is on site during this activity</p>	Session Leader
Weather Conditions	All	Activity leader will assess the weather risk before and during the session and their decision on the abandonment of the session is final	Session Leader

DOCUMENT PREPARED BY GAVIN JESSUP
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