

Darwin Pistol Club Inc.

Club Rules, Policies and Code of Conduct

As of January 2023

1. Objectives and Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this document is to consolidate the expectations on members, the rules and policies of the club into one document which can be accessed by current and potential members of the club. The document is intended to provide consistent guidance to members and guests on standards of range safety and conduct that are expected at the club.
- 1.2. The Darwin Pistol Club sets out to be a family friendly, safe place for members to enjoy a range of shooting disciplines. As such Members are expected to always treat each other with respect and to offer assistance when required.

2. Membership

- 2.1. The club offers different classes of membership as described in the schedule to the club constitution.
- 2.2. Membership fees are determined from time-to-time by the management committee. Fees are payable upon making application to join the club. Pro-rata fees are calculated for applications made between 1 January and 30 June.
- 2.3. Membership renewals, including payment of membership fees and capitation fees (if required), must be completed by the end of the membership year on 30 June each year. Members who remain un-financial after this date will be notified to police and may have their Category H Sport Shooters License cancelled and their firearms seized.

3. Licensing and Capitation

- 3.1. All members and approved visitors (not including Corporate Members) wishing to shoot at the club must hold a valid Category H Sport Shooters Permit/License, or equivalent. Such Permit/License must be produced on request from a police officer or match/club official.
- 3.2. Persons not holding a valid permit/license are not permitted to handle Category H firearms in any circumstance.
- 3.3. All members are required to be capitated to the peak body that sanctions the matches they compete in.
- 3.4. Members who only wish to compete in Field Pistol, ICORE, or IPSC Level 1 competition may choose to capitate with SSAA. SSAA membership and qualifications are not recognised by any other discipline.

- 3.5. Members may participate in other disciplines on a casual basis but must capitate with the relevant peak body if they wish to compete in that discipline on a regular basis.
- 3.6. It is the responsibility of individual members to ensure their permit/license and capitation is current and that they comply with all club and legislative requirements to hold such a permit/license. (See 4. Attendance below)
- 3.7. Supporting documentation for permit/license applications is provided by the Club Delegates appointed by the committee. Members should contact one of the delegates several weeks before expiry of their permit/license to arrange the appropriate documentation. They will be required to provide their Attendance Card(s) for examination to determine compliance.
- 3.8. Where a member has not fulfilled their attendance obligations and have not been provided with a Leave of Absence, they will be required to submit a written request to the committee for a Letter of Support detailing the reasons they have not complied with the legislated attendance requirements. Each request for a Letter of Support will be assessed on its merits, considering the member's previous attendance record and the reason for their non-compliance.

4. Attendance

- 4.1. Members are required to comply with the attendance provisions of the Firearms Act and Regulations and maintain a record of their attendance.
- 4.2. If there is a legitimate reason a member is unable to attend sanctioned matches for an extended period of more than two months, the member must advise the committee **at the time** of their circumstances and request a Leave of Absence. The committee will not consider retrospective requests for Leave of Absence.
- 4.3. Reasons for granting a Leave of Absence include, but are not restricted to, medical incapacity, extended overseas or interstate travel, work deployment and legal restrictions.
- 4.4. Each request for grant of a Leave of Absence will be assessed on its merits.
- 4.5. All members and visitors must fully complete and sign the Attendance Register in the clubhouse **before** proceeding to the ranges.
- 4.6. All members (General and Corporate) who use the ranges outside of regular competition times must sign the Attendance Register located in the Safe Area adjacent to Range 5. Corporate Members only require the Instructor to complete the register and detail the number of training participants.
- 4.7. Competitors are expected to arrive at the range before the designated start time, assist with range duties and remain until the match is completed. Members not in attendance at the scheduled starting time may not be able to compete in the match.

5. Range Safety

- 5.1. All persons in the vicinity of the ranges must wear eye and ear protection.
- 5.2. Members are expected to take personal responsibility for taking steps to deal with heat and strong sunlight. These steps might include the application of sunscreen, wearing hats and ensuring that they remain hydrated at all times.
- 5.3. Members are encouraged to wash hands when leaving the range both to remove any gunshot residue and comply to the club's Covid plan.
- 5.4. All shooters and range officials must wear enclosed shoes. Spectators are strongly advised to wear enclosed shoes.
- 5.5. All members and visitors must adhere to the safety principles of the match they are competing in and comply with the directions of the Range Officer (or other authorised official) in charge of that range.
- 5.6. Junior members, visitors and other children must be supervised by a Responsible Adult whilst on club premises. A parent/guardian may nominate an appropriate club member to act as a Responsible Adult.
- 5.7. All new club members must attend a Holster Qualification/Safety Course relevant to the discipline(s) they intend to participate in. Transferring new members with existing qualifications will be assessed 'on the range' and referred for additional training where deemed necessary.
- 5.8. Minor safety breaches may be dealt with within the rules and procedures for the relevant discipline. Serious or continuous breaches of range safety will be referred to the committee for appropriate action.

6. Firearms

- 6.1. Only firearms registered for Category H Sport Shooting may be used for practice, training and regular competition matches.
- 6.2. The only exceptions to Rule 6.1 are:
 - 6.2.1. Approved Corporate Members conducting training programs in accordance with their documented protocols.
 - 6.2.2. ACANT (Collectors Association) members discharging approved firearms held under a Collectors License in accordance with a special permit issued by police.
 - 6.2.3. IPSC Shotgun Matches.
- 6.3. Use of centre-fire rifles are prohibited by order of police, as range is not certified for centre-fire rifles.
- 6.4. Exposed firearms (uncased or unholstered) are not permitted behind the firing line at any time.
- 6.5. Firearms may not be handled in the car park at any time.
- 6.6. Firearms may only be handled on the club premises under the following conditions:
 - 6.6.1. At the firing line under the direction of a Range Officer

6.6.2. In a dedicated Safe Area (found adjacent to all ranges). No ammunition is permitted in Safe Areas. The 'Cleaning Station' outside the air pistol hall is also treated as a Safe Area.

6.6.3. Approved training/instruction activities either at the firing line or in the Committee Room.

6.6.4. Facilitating a dealership transaction with a dealership nominee in the Committee Room.

7. Dealership and Storage

7.1. The club operates a Firearms Dealership license for the exclusive use of members.

7.2. Only handguns for use in Category H Sport Shooting may be transacted through the dealership. The Primary Dealership Nominee has discretion to make exceptions to this rule on a case-by-case basis.

7.3. Members will be restricted to one transaction in the first twelve months of their membership unless given special permission from the committee.

7.4. Supporting documentation for purchase permit applications is provided by the Club Delegates appointed by the committee.

7.5. The club provides limited storage of firearms for members, normally this would be limited to one firearm per member. Written applications can be made to the committee to store more than one firearm and these will be considered on a case by case basis.

8. Clubhouse and Facilities

8.1. All facilities are to be kept clean and tidy and in good working order. If you use it clean it and put it away. If broken report it to a committee member who can arrange repair or replacement.

8.2. Garbage Bins should be used for their designated purpose. Recycle bins should only have bottles and cans, no food stuff or general waste.

8.3. All members can apply for a key to access the Club room and air pistol hall. Such applications should be submitted to the committee in writing and a \$20 deposit will be required on the key.

8.4. Your club runs largely on the goodwill and hard work of volunteers. All members are expected to be prepared to volunteer to assist in the operations of the club. From time to time working bees or other activities will be arranged by the committee and these events provide an opportunity for members to meet their volunteering obligations.

9. Clothing and Behaviour

- 9.1. Members and visitors are encouraged to wear clothing which emphasises the sporting nature of competition pistol shooting.
- 9.2. Military, camouflage and paramilitary style clothing is strictly prohibited.
- 9.3. Singlets, tank-tops and clothing with offensive slogans or images are also prohibited.
- 9.4. The club strives to provide a safe and inclusive environment where all members and visitors feel welcome and valued. Abusive, bullying and harassing behaviour will not be tolerated.
- 9.5. The club constitution contains grievance resolution procedures to deal with formal complaints.

10. Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking

- 10.1. Illicit substances are not permitted on club premises and any person found in contravention of this will be reported to police.
- 10.2. Any member or visitor suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be permitted to participate in any shooting activity and may be referred to the committee for appropriate disciplinary action.
- 10.3. Members and visitors should be aware of the remote possibility that anti-doping agencies, such as ASADA and WADA, may attend at high level competitions to conduct random drug testing. It is an individual responsibility to be aware of what substances are prohibited and whether dispensation from a peak body can be provided in the case of legitimate prescription medicine.
- 10.4. Some prescription medicines may be incompatible with the handling of firearms. All persons using such medications should exercise cautious judgement as to whether they should be handling firearms or not.
- 10.5. The club has a Liquor License which allows the sale of alcohol for consumption on-site. Take-away sales are not permitted. The licensed area of the club is the indoor social area of the bar/canteen and the concrete area of the outdoor social area. Alcohol is not permitted outside of these areas. Alcohol is not to be taken on the ranges.
- 10.6. BYO alcohol is not permitted as it is in contravention of the club's liquor license and could result in cancellation of the license.
- 10.7. The buildings, walkways and verandas of Darwin Pistol Club are strictly non smoking areas. Smoking is only allowed on grassed areas and smokers are reminded to use ashtrays and be aware of the comfort of other members.