

Swalecliffe and District Target Shooting Club

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Introduction

This policy defines the arrangements for supervision of junior club members within all Swalecliffe and District Target shooting Club ranges.

Policy Statement

Swalecliffe and District Target shooting Club has a duty of care towards its members and their safety. Safe shooting is vital at all times and within all club facilities. Swalecliffe and District Target shooting Club is committed to providing a safe environment and operating safe shooting procedures.

This policy applies to:

- Club members under the age of 18
- Authorised Range Control Officers (RCO's)
- Club members directly supervising junior members under the age of 18.
- Probationary members under the age of 18.

The information contained within this policy must be read, understood and acted upon before supervising junior members, or acting as RCO during a detail in which a member under the age of 18 will be shooting.

Policy Guidelines

This document sets out the key elements of the club policy and guidelines on the supervision of junior members shooting within all club facilities. Please note that this does not apply to non-members under the age of 18.

The details outlined within this document provide clear guidance for all individuals involved, preserve the highest levels of safety and maintain compliance with firearms law at all times. It is intended that all members have a clear understanding of how junior members will be managed and what is expected of them when taking part in a supervisory capacity.

Young Shooter definition

Young shooters are classified as the following

- Full junior member under the age of 18 (regardless of FAC status)
- Probationary member under the age of 18

Competence

Shooter competence definition

All shooters regardless of age, are expected understand and shoot in accordance with all club safety policies. Best practices should be adopted at all times and it is the responsibility of the shooter to seek assistance if they are unsure of the correct procedure.

The club acknowledges that in the case of younger shooters, further support and time needs to be granted to allow the individual to gain the necessary confidence and independent responsibility. It should be noted that this does not permit unsafe practices to be undertaken by the individual, but adopts the assumption that a young shooter is not independently safe until such time that they have consistently demonstrated competence over a sustained period.

Shooter competence evaluation

The evaluation will commence from the start of the probationary period and will continue until such time that the member is deemed “competent”. It should be noted that a young shooter cannot be assessed as competent for lone shooting whilst still an active probationer. Competence will be continually assessed via observation from senior club members and RCO's. There is no fixed time period for completion of the evaluation period, however the individual needs to be a full member and should have attended

enough times to consistently demonstrate competence. Members attending regularly will likely achieve a competent status more rapidly than those who attend on an occasional basis. It is expected that a member attending weekly should take approximately three months to demonstrate competence.

Shooter competence records

A record of competence will be appended to the members details in addition to existing permissions such as semi-auto and shooting on the 50-metre range.

In the event that actions are observed that demonstrate the requirement for further training or development, the record of competence may be removed until such time that the correct level has been reestablished. PLEASE NOTE breaches of safety policies must be dealt with separately and not as part of competence.

One to One Supervisor

Requirements

Any willing full adult member can act as a one-to-one supervisor (exceptions apply to semi-auto firearms).

Responsibilities

The responsibility of the one-to-one supervisor is limited only to alerting the RCO of a problem and ensuring safety. This may be as simple as verbally alerting the RCO, but may also include physically supporting the firearm to maintain safety (gun pointing down range) and helping to explain the problem experienced by the shooter to the RCO.

Range Control Officer (RCO)

Requirements

All current RCO's are permitted to conduct duties for junior shooters.

Responsibilities

The RCO will be responsible for all safety issues and ensuring that club policies are followed. RCO's should check the current competence status for a junior shooter attempting to shoot alone prior to starting the detail.

It is the responsibility of the acting RCO to ensure that the one-to-one supervisor has a clear understanding of their role.

The RCO should also make other shooters aware that the detail may need to be stopped in the event significant assistance is needed by a junior member. It is advised that the RCO call a "STOP,STOP,STOP" followed by a request

to “make all weapons safe”. Once dealt with the detail can be continued to the end.

It is recommended that the acting RCO prioritises focus on the junior member to ensure compliance with all club policies and best practices, but should utilise the assistance of the one-to-one supervisor to allow safe management of all shooters within the detail.

Range Classifications

Each available range, associated requirements and junior member permissions are listed below.

10 Metre Air Ranges

Probationary Member

One to one supervision plus RCO. If the probationary member is the only shooter an RCO must be present.

Junior Member

One to one supervision plus RCO. If the member is the only shooter an RCO must be present.

Junior Member (Assessed as competent)

Junior members assessed as “competent” may lone shoot, or partake in a detail of multiple shooters without one-to-one supervision.

25 Metre Indoor Range

Probationary Member

One to one supervision plus RCO. If the probationary member is the only shooter an RCO must be present.

Junior Member

One to one supervision plus RCO. If the member is the only shooter an RCO must be present.

Junior Member (Assessed as competent)

Junior members assessed as “competent” may lone shoot, or partake in a detail of multiple shooters without one-to-one supervision.

50 Metre Outdoor Range

Probationary Member

Not permitted to shoot on the 50M range.

Junior Member

One to one supervision plus RCO.

Junior Member (Assessed as competent)

Junior members assessed as “competent” may partake in a detail of multiple shooters without one-to-one supervision.

PLEASE NOTE: Individual lone shooting is not permitted by any member on the outside range and all shooters must meet the minimum 85 average for 25M as outlined in club policy.

Firearm Classifications

Each firearm classification, associated requirements and junior member permissions are listed below.

Air

All firearms utilising compressed air or gas to shoot projectiles with a muzzle velocity above 0.7 ft/lbs, but no greater than 12 ft/lbs will be classified by SDTSC as “air weapons”

Probationary Member

Permitted to fire whilst complying with the relevant range classification requirements.

Junior Member

Permitted to fire whilst complying with the relevant range classification requirements.

Junior Member (Assessed as competent)

Permitted to fire whilst complying with the relevant range classification requirements.

Single-Action

All firearms with a single action via bolt or lever and with a muzzle velocity greater than 12 ft/lbs shall be classified as single-action firearm.

Probationary Member

Permitted to fire whilst complying with the relevant range classification requirements.

Junior Member

Permitted to fire whilst complying with the relevant range classification requirements.

Junior Member (Assessed as competent)

Permitted to fire whilst complying with the relevant range classification requirements.

Self-Loading (Semi-Auto)

All self-loading firearms with a muzzle velocity greater than 12 ft/lbs will be classified as semi-auto firearms. Self-Loading firearm competency certification is not allowed to be obtained by anyone under the age of 18 years.

Probationary Member

Not permitted to fire a semi-auto firearm.

Junior Member

Permitted to fire whilst complying with the range classification for 25 metres and supervised one to one by an authorised SDTSC member. The one-to-one supervisor must be in close proximity to the junior shooter at all times and is fully responsible for ensuring that the firearm is safe and clear at the end of the detail.

Junior Member (Assessed as competent)

Permitted to fire whilst complying with the range classification for 25 metres and supervised one to one by an authorised SDTSC member. The one-to-one supervisor must be in close proximity to the junior shooter at all times and is fully responsible for ensuring that the firearm is safe and clear at the end of the detail.

Reference Information.

All members supervising and assisting young members should read and make themselves familiar with the NSRA code of practice for safeguarding young people. A copy of the guidance is below.

What to do if....

If you suspect a young person is being abused, a young person confides in you, someone has a concern or makes a complaint about any adult or about you; it is your duty to report it. If a young person tells you they are being abused, you should do the following:

1. Allow them to speak without interruption and accept what they say.
2. Be understanding and reassuring but do not give your opinion.
3. Tell them that you will try to offer support but that you must pass the information on.
4. Tell your Club Child Protection Officer or the National Child Protection Officer immediately.
5. Write careful notes of what was said, using the actual words wherever possible.
6. Pass your notes to your Club Child Protection Officer or the National Child Protection Officer, making sure you sign and date them.
7. Make sure that any further shooting activities pose no further risk to the welfare of young people.

If you are concerned about a young person's safety and well-being, or there is a concern, complaint or allegation about an adult or yourself, you should do the following:

1. Tell your Club Child Protection Officer or the National Child Protection Officer immediately.
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or were told.
3. Sign, date and pass your notes to your Club Child Protection Officer or the National Child Protection Officer.
4. Make sure that any further shooting activities pose no further risk to the welfare of young people.

If the young person is at immediate risk of significant harm, contact the police or social services. Tell your Club Child Protection Officer or the National Child Protection Officer when you have done this. Any adult in target shooting has the right to report concerns or suspicions about another person in confidence and free from harassment

**You must refer any concern or complaint to your Club Child Protection Officer or the National Child Protection Officer
DO NOT investigate it yourself.**

If you are in any doubt about what to do, contact the NSRA:
01483 485504 or email: info@NSRA.co.uk

Safe-Card



NSRA Code of Practice for Safeguarding Young People

It is the policy of the NSRA to safeguard the welfare of all young people involved in target shooting by protecting them from neglect and from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

This card is designed to assist coaches and others maintain best practice whilst working with young people in target shooting. It is not designed to replace the full NSRA Safeguarding document but act as an "aide memoir" to what constitutes good practice in target shooting.

All adults working with young people should have a copy of the code of practice. It is designed so you can keep it with you at all times during shooting activities.

Make sure that:

- You have your own copy.
- All other adults involved in working with young people have a copy.
- You have a copy displayed in your club or range (large copies are available).
- Parents/Carers are made aware of the code of practice and the NSRA Safeguarding policy.

Code of Practice

DO

- Follow this code at all times.
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Set an example for others to follow.
- Treat all young people equally – do not show favouritism.
- Make all activities open and transparent – make sure everyone around knows what is going on. Tell other coaches/range staff where you are and what you are doing
- Plan activities that involve more than one other person being present, or at least within sight and hearing of others.
- Remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, even if you mean well.
- Follow the recommended adult-to-young people ratios for meetings and activities. Avoid being alone with young people.
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy.
- Avoid unacceptable situations within a relationship of trust, e.g. a sexual relationship with a young person who is over the age of consent.
- When away from home have separate sleeping accommodation for young people, adults and young assistants working with a younger section.
- Allow young people to talk about any concerns they may have.
- Encourage others to challenge attitudes or behaviours they do not like.
- Avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour, e.g. tantrums and crushes
- Make everyone (young people, parents and carers and other helpers) aware of our safeguarding arrangements.
- Remember this code at sensitive moments, e.g. when helping someone who has been bullied, bereaved or abused.
- Take any allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer them to your Club Child Protection Officer or the National Child Protection Officer immediately.

DON'T

- Trivialise abuse.
- Form a relationship with a young person that is an abuse of trust.
- Drink alcohol when you are directly responsible for young people and never allow young people during shooting activities to drink alcohol.
- Allow abusive activities, e.g. initiation ceremonies or bullying.
- Take part in inappropriate behaviour or contact, whether physical, verbal or sexual.
- Take part in physical contact games with young people.
- Make suggestive remarks or threats to a young person, even in fun.
- Use inappropriate language when writing, phoning, emailing or using the internet.
- Let allegations, suspicions, or concerns about abuse go unreported.
- Rely just on your good name to protect you.