

RISK ASSESSMENT: Rifle Shooting

Completed by: Activities Management Team

Date: 18/12/2025

Review Date: 18/12/2026



| What is the Hazard? | Who may be harmed? | How might people be harmed? | Risk Rating | | | Control Measures in Place | Remaining Risk | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--|-------------|----------|------|---|----------------|----------|------|
| | | | Probability | Severity | Risk | | Probability | Severity | Risk |
| Slips, Trips and Falls | All | Cuts, grazes, bruises | 2 | 2 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment not in use is stowed securely. All participants are instructed to wear appropriate footwear. Instructor to make sure range is clean and tidy before and after use. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Group Behaviour | All | Loss of control of the group, participants being distracted/ not listening. | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leaders are to ensure that the group is under control at all times. Instructor is to stop the session if participant's behaviour becomes dangerous. Instructor to check with group leader to if there at the start of the session for any neurodiverse participants and ensure control measures are in place to appropriately manage their needs. | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Unauthorised Access | All | People wandering on to the range unaware of what it is could result in standing on a live range. | 2 | 4 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear signs to be posted at all access points stating 'No Admittance to Unauthorised Persons'. All access points to be locked when the activity is not in use. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Misuse of Rifles | All | Misuse could lead to injury of user or others in the vicinity. | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety rules are explained to group at the beginning of the session. The instructor is to remain vigilant. Anyone misusing the rifle or not paying attention to the safety rules is stopped from taking part in the activity. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Rifle Being Stored Loaded | All | Participant may shoot rifle unaware it is still loaded. | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instructor checks at the end of the session that the barrels are clear. | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Lead Poisoning | All | Headaches | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to inform participants on how to manage this risk during safety briefing. Instructor to remind participants to wash hands immediately after session. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Crushed Fingers | Participants | Cuts, bruises, swelling | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor demonstrates where participants are to put their hands when they are loading the rifle. Instructor to supervise to make sure they are following instructions. | 1 | 3 | 6 |

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| | | | Probability | Severity | Risk | | Probability | Severity | Risk |
| Impact from Pellet | All | Bruises, puncture wounds from pellet impact | 2 | 4 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants are notified that pellets can bounce back from the targets. The instructor gives clear and simple instructions on the rules of the range. Participants are supervised by a qualified instructor at all times. Instructor checks that everyone has understood the rules before continuing. Access to the range is controlled. There is a solid barrier between the firing stations and access to the range. Access to pellets is controlled by instructor. Signs warning people of the danger if they enter the area. Instructor checks barrels are clear before group collect targets. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Loading the Rifle whilst rifle pointing at other people | All | See above | 3 | 4 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to give clear demonstration and instructions on the safe way in which to load the rifle. Instructor to supervise whilst participants are loading their rifles. Participants told not to put their finger near the trigger when loading the rifle. Safety catch applied every time whilst loading the rifle. Instructor to monitor this. Number of people at the firing points controlled by the instructor. | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Overshoots and Side Shoots | All | See above | 3 | 4 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants given clear instruction on the direction of shooting. Physical stop behind targets to stop stray pellets. | 1 | 4 | 4 |

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| Walking on to Live Range (In front of shooting line) | All | Person could potentially be shot at. | 2 | 4 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No side access to the range, Fire Exit is checked and locked prior to session. Instructor has overall control on entrance to the range. Only one access point to get in front of the firing line, which is next to the instructor on the far side of the shooting line. Any non-participants entering the range will be advised about the firing line or asked to leave if not part of the participating group. When any persons are down range, no pellets are to be accessible on the shooting line | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Equipment Failure | All | Crushed fingers. | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment is inspected periodically and anything faulty is removed from use immediately, recorded and repaired or replaced. All equipment is checked by the instructor prior to being used. Items deemed to be faulty are removed from use immediately, logged and placed in the quarantine bin. As per policy 5.3 faulty or damaged equipment. locker. Ensure Activities Co-Ordinator or a Lead Instructor is aware. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Human Error | All | Instructor complacency and loss of focus could put everyone at risk. | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors hold a NSRA qualification for Rifle Shooting and are in house trained by a competent person and observed before running the session alone. All instructors are regularly monitored to ensure procedures are complied with. All instructors are aware of where risk assessments and operating procedures are stored. Where possible, instructors to only work the same session twice in one day. Instructors made aware of any changes to activity, via activity change sheet. Qualification refresher required every 5 Years. | 1 | 3 | 3 |

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| Level | Likelihood Factor | Severity Description |
|-------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Very Unlikely | Insignificant – No injury or No First Aid required. |
| 2 | Unlikely | Minor – Minor injuries requiring first aid such as cuts, grazes, bruising. |
| 3 | Fairly Likely | Moderate – Injuries resulting in up to three days' absence from work. |
| 4 | Likely | Major – Injuries resulting in a week or more absence from work, for example broken bones, deep cut etc. |
| 5 | Very Likely | Catastrophic – Amputations or Death. |

| Remaining Risk Level | Description |
|----------------------|---|
| 1-5 | Very low, minimal risk, control measures more than adequate |
| 5-10 | Low, control measures satisfactory |
| 10-15 | Medium, control measures adequate |
| 15-20 | High, control measures need further consideration |
| 20-25 | Very high, intolerable, stop Job |