FAN WOOD SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRE.
Air Rifle and Pistol Shooting Risk Assessment and range procedures March 2026

Air Rifle and Pistol Range (indoor range)

This activity can only be undertaken by suitably qualified, experienced and competent instructors who holds a current appropriate qualification from a national shooting body in accordance with current edition of POR rules on Shooting' and the current edition of guidance documents on 'Target shooting'.
If an instructor is under 21 years old, they must have a second qualified instructor, over 21 years old, if they are to instruct people aged 14 and under

The indoor range is only for legal air weapons (under 12ft Lbs) of 0.177 calibre.

Prior to the session starting the instructor will:

- 1- Check all the items to be used to ensure they are safe to use.
- 2- Check there are no hazards in the range that could cause an incident.
- 3- Ensure they are aware of the contents of the Risk assessment and any other documents that are displayed in the range and act on them.
- 4- Any defective items should be removed to a safe place (house), with a note attached stating the issue and DC is informed that there is faulty / incorrect equipment in the property. Email – David.Sowden@svscouts.org.uk
- 5- It is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that no person shooting is restricted from doing so under section 21 of the firearms act or any of its amendments.

The instructor will demonstrate and ensure the correct procedures for shooting and range practices. The instructor will also ensure that these are adhered to.
The instructor will stop the activity if in their judgement participants behaviour is not conducive to running a safe session, or if they suspect that participants are under the influence of substances that may affect their behaviour or ability.

This general activity risk assessment has been created, respected and used by SVDS for those participating in the given activity within SVDS. The risk assessment is based on the assumption that the activity is used by no more than the limit set in the risk assessment of non-disabled young people during an activity period, under the supervision of one or more trained and competent instructors. You should ensure that your activity instructor and participants meet our risk assessment and that the activity remains safe.

Indoor Shooting Range Risk Plan

Key`
Hazard/Risk levels: L = Low, M = Medium, H = High Risk Assessment: A = Acceptable, N = Not Acceptable

Hazard	Hazard Level	Risk Level	R. A.	Control Measures
				The instructor will give a briefing to demonstrate weapon and safety features along with safe handling procedures and correct loading, aiming and target retrieval. The instructor will also inform that pellets are made of lead and not to otherwise ingest the lead or pellets. No eating on the range allowed. Participants are to be told to wash their hands after the session to remove any possible lead dust.
Injury from discharge of air or compressed gas rifle or pistols	M	L	A	a) Although manual targets are installed on all ranges used for precision rifle and pistol events means that there is still a need for the range officer / instructor to manage any personnel who need to go forward of the firing point. No person will be allowed forward of the shooting line during shooting. b) For all events that use paper targets, which do require personnel to go forward for the purpose of scoring and changing targets. All such events are rigidly controlled by Range Conducting Officers / instructors who must be present to monitor this and before the commands to handle the pistols or rifles is given. c) First aid kits are available on the range. d) BT telephones within 100 yards for ambulance calls. No weapon will be touched whilst any person is down range, instructor to enforce this rule.
Accidental pressing of the trigger while cocking / loading / or before weapon is aimed correctly at the target.	L	L	L	The instructor will ensure "during the briefing" that no fingers are to be placed on a trigger until the weapon is correctly aimed down the range. That fingers should not be placed on the trigger during the loading process. The instructor will monitor this problem during loading and preparation to shoot times.
Injury from negligent handling of compressed air or CO2 cylinders when charging or fitting component parts of pistols or rifles. (future provision or instructor supplied equipment)	L L	L L	A A	Items c) d) above apply. At events where a gas or air cylinder is needed, a warning notice will be displayed and the cylinder will only be accessed by qualified personnel.
Possible Muscular and Spinal damage caused by lifting target plates and tables.	L	L	A	All staff advised to follow the correct manual handling procedures. If in doubt contact warden.
Danger to Health from Lead dust inhalation or ingestion or from cuts etc during Collection/Disposal.	M	M	A	Lead from target area is collected behind the target. The main range area is checked before use and always swept at the end of the session by the range instructor. Any pellets found on the main floor area should be stored in the storage container to await collection and disposal. The risk to shooters is assessed as negligible. Most of the pellets will be behind the target carpet and this area will be cleaned by site staff wearing protective masks several times a year.

Light levels are adequate to safely use the range.	L	L	A	The lights must be always used on the range. In the event of a lighting failure all shooting must stop.
Only 0.177 calibre weapons will be used on the range.	L	L	A	The range conducting officer must ensure that only 0.177 calibre weapons are used and that a sign saying this is displayed.
Instructors and unattended shooting in the range	L	L	A	No shooting shall take place in the range unless a fully qualified instructor is present at all times. Visiting instructors must show their in-date instructors' qualification to the warden prior to shooting.
Faulty equipment causing potential safety risks.	L	L	L	Any faulty equipment must be removed from use immediately and the equipment stored in a safe place till removal to the house after the session has completed. Eg failure of trigger safety etc.
Pellets striking the participants	L	L	L	The weapons should always be pointed down range, even when loading. The only exception to this is for instructor demonstration. All participants shooting MUST wear the eye protection provided unless they have supplied their own or are wearing glasses.
Bounce back of pellets.	L	L	L	If any pellets bounce back from the target area and reach the shooting area table at table height or a pellet should rebound and strike a participant then the instructor should assess the risk and if needed stop the session.
Unauthorized use of the air guns	L	L	A	Only qualified shooting instructors should have access to the range and to the keys for the gun box.
Use of unauthorized weapons on the range.	L	L	A	Only airguns of 0.177 calibre or less and that comply with the standard (non-Firearms certificate) rules stated in the 1968 firearms act can be used in the range. The instructor to monitor compliance.
End of session process to provide security and safe storage.	L	L	L	Once the session is completed and loose pellets have been placed in the lead container the instructor will ensure that all weapons are in a safe condition prior to locking them into the gun box (not loaded or cocked). Spare pellet (in tins) will be placed in the bottom of the gun box and both locks are locked. On exit, the lights should be off and the external door locked before returning the keys to the drawer in the house.