



SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

The Stratford-upon-Avon and District Airgun League (SAGL), inclusive of all the registered teams, takes shooting safety very seriously.

Shooting shall only take place in venues that have a current risk assessment in place and all controls implemented.

Weapons that do not comply with the league / NSRA requirements for air rifle bell target shooting shall not be used.

Shooters MUST avoid excessive consumption of alcohol at any time during or prior to a match or practice session.

Where a Team Captain suspects a shooter of being incapacitated through alcohol or drug abuse*, whereby the safety of others, in their opinion, is compromised, the Team Captain shall not allow the shooter to take part in any form of shooting and report the incident to the SAGL Committee for review and possible disciplinary action.

Safety is everyone's responsibility and safety rules and risk assessment controls must be observed always.

The 3 most fundamental rules upheld by the League are:

- **NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYONE.**
- **ALWAYS CARRY AN UN-CASED GUN;**
 - **IN A VERTICAL ATTITUDE – (BARREL POINTING TO THE FLOOR OR CEILING)**
 - **IN AN UN COCKED & UN LOADED CONDITION.**
- **ALWAYS TREAT A GUN AS IF IT WERE LOADED**

SAGL also expects team members to adhere to the following;

Gun handling

- Uncased guns must be checked to ensure they are unloaded and not cocked.
- On handing a gun to another person, other than at the firing point when loading, show that the gun is unloaded and not cocked.
- When handed a gun, other than at the firing point when a loader is present, first check that it is unloaded and that it is not cocked. If this is not clear ask the owner.
- Before returning the gun to its storage case check it is unloaded and that it is not cocked.
- The weapon **MUST** be stored in a "SAFE" condition only. It **MUST NOT** be stored "cocked and loaded".
- Never put a loaded and cocked gun away.
- Never pick up a gun without the permission of the owner.
- If someone has bad gun-handling habits, **TELL THEM!**

Operating the gun

- Keep the gun pointing downrange when in use.
- Load the gun pointing downrange.
- If you are using break barrel rifles or under levers where the breech could snap shut on your fingers, keep hold of the barrel / cocking lever when inserting the pellet.
- It is the shooter's responsibility to ensure that the range is clear before bringing the weapon to the "point of aim" and firing.
- **Inexperienced shooters** - Will only shoot with "One to One" supervision from an experienced shooter. "One to One" supervision at the firing point shall continue until the supervisor and or the Teams Safety Officer deem it no longer necessary.

Moving around with guns

- Never move between storage and firing point with a loaded gun.
- When moving through the venue with a gun, ensure it is not cocked or loaded, the breech is open and the gun is held in a vertical attitude.
- Keep gun cased when it is not in use.

General

- Painters / Scorers to remain positioned behind the Safety Screen until the weapon is discharged.
- After a weapon has been fired, painter / scorer shall move to the target, call the score and paint out the mark, returning immediately to a position behind the safety screen.
- Painters/scorers are advised to also wear safety glasses as provided and tested.
- Avoid attracting a shooter's attention when they are shooting, unless they are required to "stop shooting".
- Observe all the usual safety rules when dry firing
- All horseplay with guns is strictly forbidden
- All shooters are reminded that they have the duty to bring to the attention of the committee / team captains any un-safe acts.

Inexperienced Team Members

- Are only allowed to shoot with "One to One" supervision from an experienced shooter who is over the age of 21.
- "One to One" supervision at the firing point shall continue until the supervisor and Teams Safety Officer/Captain deem it no longer necessary.

Young Shooters (less than 18 years of age)

- Team Captains must notify the League's Safety Officer before any "Young shooter" is allowed to shoot.
- A Young Shooter MUST NOT be allowed to shoot until the League Safety Officer has assessed the capability of the Young shooter in association with the equipment they are expected to use.
- The assessment will be carried out at an agreed time, date and venue.
- After assessment by the League Safety Officer, if the Young Shooter is permitted to shoot, then all future shooting by the young person, until the age of 18 is attained, shall be fully supervised by an experienced shooter who is over the age of 21 and the young shooters parent /guardian.
- If a Young shooter is not cleared for shooting, the reasons will be fully explained by the League H&S Officer. Team Captain concerned must ensure the young shooter does not shoot.
- A Young Shooter who is not cleared to shoot can still practice "DRY FIRING" using the equipment intended for shooting, under the control of the team captain and parent / guardian

SAGL will ensure that the policy is available to all teams by posting on the SAGL web site.

Breeches of this policy will lead to disciplinary proceedings and, if appropriate, disciplinary action.

League Officials and Team Captains give full backing to this Policy and support all those who endeavor to carry it out.

Signed on Behalf of the Stratford-upon-Avon and District Air Gun League (SAGL)

Signed: _____

Date: 09.10.2017

Chairman

Reviewed Annually

*** Suspicion of Drug Abuse must involve reporting the incident to the Police**