

**Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA)
T13 - Blue Hills Sporting Shooters Club (BHSSC)
Blue Hills Road, Copping, Tasmania**



RANGE ACCESS, USAGE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Aim of this policy

- To outline the arrangements relating to access to the BHSSC range complex at Copping, the criteria relating to the usage and safe operation of each range and the management policy relating to the range complex.

Scope

- This policy applies to the operation of all ranges within the BHSSC range complex at Copping. In any instance where there is a perceived conflict concerning the operation of any range, public safety is the over-riding consideration.

Ownership of the BHSSC range complex

- The BHSSC leases the property from the Copping Refuse Disposal Site Joint Authority.

Access

- Access to the BHSSC range complex is via Blue Hills Road.
- Blue Hills Road is a public, speed limited, gravel road and usage is shared with local residents, and the Copping Landfill Site which is managed by Southern Waste Solutions.
- Access to and usage of the BHSSC range complex is limited to activities approved by the BHSSC Committee.
- Access to the range outside of scheduled usage is to be arranged with the Committee via the President or Secretary.

Ranges and facilities

- The BHSSC range complex comprises the following facilities:
 - A clubhouse, carpark, storage facilities and toilet block.
 - Ranges 1 and 2 are co-located at the site of the clubhouse.
 - Range 3 is located adjacent to Range 1 and 2.
 - Two Field Archery Ranges are located either side of Range 3.
 - Range 4 is located approximately 600m east of the clubhouse, accessed by vehicle via a gate near the first entrance sign to the range complex.
- The South East Field and Game Association maintain a Simulated Field Shotgun Range with storage facilities adjacent to Range 3.
- The ranges comprising the range complex are inter-connected by gravel roads that have gates that can be secured when range usage requires.

Features of individual ranges

- Ranges 1 and 2
 - Suitable for pistol, rifle and target archery.
 - Target range limited to 200m.
 - Comprised of fixed bench-rest firing positions and standing pistol firing bays.
- Range 3
 - A dedicated five position Down-The-Line Shotgun Range with a manual, remotely operated clay target machine.
 - Can accommodate a 5-Stand layout with multiple clay target machines.
- Field archery ranges
 - Suitable for field archery events where movement by the archer between target butts is required.
 - One course is situated above Range 3 on the Simulated Field Shotgun Range.
 - The second course is situated on the left-hand side of Range 3.
- Range 4
 - Suitable for pistol and rifle.
 - The range is based on a covered firing area with hard-standing.
 - Target range limited to 500m.
 - Comprised of fixed bench-rest firing positions and an area for prone and standing firing.

Limitations on use of specific ranges

- Ranges 1 and 2
 - When Range 3 is being used for Simulated Field Shotgun or Field Archery, it is not permitted to use Range 1 or 2.
 - Not suitable for centrefire rifle shooting on metallic targets.
- Range 3
 - When Range 3 is in use, the adjacent Field Archery Range is not to be used.
 - When the adjacent Simulated Field Shotgun course is being used, no other range is to be used.
- Range 4
 - When Range 3 is being used for Simulated Field Shotgun or Field Archery, it is not permitted to use Range 4.
- Field archery range
 - When the Field Archery Range is in use, the adjacent shotgun range is not to be used.

Range safety flags, radio communication, range opening and closing procedures

- Range safety flags are a mandatory safety requirement and alert members of the public that the range is in use.
- No firearms are to be taken onto the range until the range is properly opened by the following procedure.
- When any range is in operation at the range complex, the first Range Officer (RO) to arrive for the day is to ensure that the following actions take place:
 - The red flag at the first entry sign on the road to the range complex is to be raised.

- A UHF radio (channel 14) is to be placed at the far boom gate behind Range 4, the red flag raised and the boom gate locked (reached via the road adjacent to the clubhouse carpark).
- The bottom gate on this road in-between the carpark and shotgun range is to be locked and the red flag raised.
- Subsequently, the first RO responsible for each range is to ensure:
 - When Range 1 or 2 are in use:
 - the red flag at the entry to the carpark is to be raised;
 - the red flag at the right-hand side of the firing line is to be raised; and
 - a UHF radio (ch14) is to be situated on the firing line.
 - Range 3:
 - No extra flags are required.
 - Range 4:
 - The red flag at the entry road gate to Range 4 is to be raised.
 - A UHF radio (ch14) is to be situated on the firing line.
- All firearms must be removed from all firing lines and put away before the range is closed, and the last RO remaining is responsible for closing the range.

Access to the BHSSC Range Complex during fire danger periods

- In consultation with the Tasmanian Fire Service, the Committee has determined that without exception, no shooting shall take place on days of total fire ban.

Management of the range

- Management of the range complex is the responsibility of the BHSSC Committee, which approves the schedule of range usage, including use by any external bodies and other activities.
- ROs are responsible for the safe operation of the range that they are supervising, for its cleanliness and refurbishment at the end of the range activity, and for ensuring that all facilities associated with their particular activity and locked and secured after use, or handed over to the next RO.

Policy approval

BHSSC Committee of Management approval date: 6 November 2019	
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