

SSAA BLUE HILLS SPORTING SHOOTERS CLUB INC  
21 Aug 2023

CLUB BYLAWS



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**SSAA BLUE HILLS SPORTING SHOOTERS CLUB INC**  
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**CLUB BYLAWS**

**1. Code of Conduct**

SSAA Blue Hills Sporting Shooters Club Inc (SSAA Blue Hills) supports and promotes a diverse range of target shooting activities. Rifle, pistol, shotgun and archery-based disciplines are equally represented. SSAA Blue Hills encourages new shooters and families to participate in the target shooting sports.

- (a) All members and/or visitors must conduct themselves in a fair, sportsman like manner at all times.
- (b) All members and/or visitors must respect other club members rights to enjoy their chosen shooting activities.
- (c) Abusive language, flaring tempers and general misconduct will not be tolerated.
- (d) Gender, religion, race, or ethnicity based discriminatory remarks or slurs will not be tolerated.
- (e) All members and/or visitors shall act in a manner to not bring the club or the sport of target shooting into disrepute.
- (f) When in a shooting area all members and visitors must comply with instructions issued by a Range Officer.

**2. Member Obligations**

- (a) **Compliance with Tasmanian Firearms Act** – each member must comply with current Tasmanian Firearms Act legislation.
  - a. No member may shoot at a SSAA Blue Hills club event without possessing either a current Firearms License with the appropriate endorsement for the category of firearms being used or possessing a current Firearms Exemption.
  - b. Members are to strictly obey transport requirements when transporting firearms to or from the range.
- (b) A member shall, within fourteen (14) days notify the club secretary and the police department of change of name and/or address.
- (c) A member shall, within fourteen (14) days notify the club secretary of any change to their license status.
- (d) **SSAA Membership** – it is a requirement that all club members maintain a current SSAA membership. Club members whose SSAA membership has lapsed may not shoot at SSAA Blue Hills club events. Failure to renew a SSAA membership after 30 days' notice from the club secretary will result in the person's club membership being terminated.
- (e) **Attendance** – each member shall attend a minimum of four (4) rostered shooting fixtures (any four shoots listed on the roster) with the proviso that category "H" licence holders shoot the minimum of 2 pistol shoots of the required 6 shoots per year at this club;

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- (f) **Attendance Book** – Every person entering the range for any purpose (including matches, range maintenance, practice, or spectating) shall sign the attendance book. If the book is not available, it is the member's responsibility to make sure that his/her name and the date is recorded and as soon as possible transferred to the official attendance book.
- (g) It is the responsibility of each member who brings a visitor to the range to ensure that the visitor is aware of all safety requirements as well as the rules and regulations of the current **Firearms Act**. The member must sight the visitors current Firearms License with the appropriate endorsement for the category of firearms being used or sight a current Firearms Exemption. Visitors must always be kept under close supervision by the inviting member.
- (h) No member will institute litigation against the club as a result of something they perceive as a breach of natural justice and fairness.

**3. Visitor Obligations**

Visitors are welcome to participate in most matches held at SSAA Blue Hills on a space available basis. All visitors must adhere to the Code of Conduct; failure to do so will result in the visitor(s) being required to immediately leave club grounds. Severe or repeated disruptive actions by visitor(s) will result in a total ban from all further attendances at SSAA Blue Hills.

- (a) **Attendance Book** – Every visitor entering the range for any purpose (including matches, range maintenance, practice, or spectating) shall sign the attendance book. Visitors must be signed-in by a club member.
- (b) The club member signing-in the visitor will advise if the visitor can be accommodated on the day.
- (c) Visitors wishing to shoot at a SSAA Blue Hills club event must either possess a current Firearms License with the appropriate endorsement for the category of firearms being used or possess a current Firearms Exemption.

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**4. New Membership**

SSAA Blue Hills is always interested in new members that are eager to actively participate in the shooting sports.

- (a) Membership shall be by invitation only.
- (b) Membership may be denied to any applicant without explanation.
- (c) **Club Familiarisation**
  - a. A club familiarisation period is required for all prospective new members.
  - b. Attendance as a visitor at four (4) shooting events with a maximum of one (1) event per weekend.
  - c. The Club Familiarisation form must be completed and signed by the Range Officer for each of the required shoots.
  - d. When the required Familiarisation period is completed, the last Range Officer will forward the completed form to the club secretary.
- (d) **Invitation to apply for membership**

Upon receipt of a completed Club Familiarisation form the committee will:

  - a. Invite one of the Range Officers listed on the prospective new members Familiarisation form to attend the committee meeting.
  - b. Review the completed Familiarisation form at the committee meeting.
  - c. If it is decided by the committee to invite the person to become a member, the person will be sent a club Contact Details form for completion.
  - d. On receipt of the joining fee the new member will be sent a club membership form and the Firearm Services Dept. will be notified accordingly.
- (e) Prospective new members who are already members of another shooting club may be invited to submit a written reference from an officer of their existing club or an officer of Blue Hills to whom he/she is personally known pertaining to the good conduct of the prospective new member. This reference may be considered by the Committee in place of the four (4) shoots that other new members require.
- (f) Associate members are not required to attend four shoots and submit a signed card as evidence of such. Prospective new members who are already licensed shooters may apply to the Secretary and on completion and submission of a contact details form and proof of membership to SSAA of any club.
- (g) **Probation Period**
  - a. All new members are subject to a probationary period during which they may not vote or nominate for a committee position.
  - b. The probationary period extends from when they become a member (see 4 (f) c.) until 1 hour after the close of the next Annual General Meeting.
  - c. Notwithstanding the above (4 (g) b) the end of any probation period does not bestow voting rights, or the right to stand for committee, on membership types that specifically preclude voting or standing for committee.

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- (h) SSAA – Nominated branch T13 (SSAA Blue Hills)
  - a. New members that have as their nominated SSAA branch specified as T13 (SSAA Blue Hills) are Individual (Full) members and enjoy all rights associated with Individual (Full) membership.
  - b. If a person is not a current T13 member of SSAA Tas or changes their nominated branch to any other than T13 during their membership, they will automatically cease to be a member of the Blue Hills Club and assume non-member status.
  - c. New members that have as their nominated SSAA branch specified as **other than** T13 (SSAA Blue Hills) are Non-Voting Members who enjoy all rights associated with Individual (Full) membership except they may not vote, or nominate for a committee position;
  - d. At any time outside of any probationary period if a Non-Voting Member changes their nominated SSAA branch to T13 (SSAA Blue Hills) they may, on payment of the full members fee, become an Individual (Full) member. At any time if an Individual (Full) member changes their nominated SSAA branch to a branch other than T13 (SSAA Blue Hills) they become a Non-Voting member.

**5. Firearms Exemption forms**

- (a) A six (6) month exemption issued by Firearms is required for any person wishing to participate in an event if they do not possess a current Firearms license **with an endorsement for the category of firearm**, they wish to use;

**6. Fees and Charges**

- (a) **Annual subscription** of \$200.00 (as from 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023) – only to be changed at an Annual General Meeting.
- (b) Range fees –
  - a. See attached Schedule of Fees
  - b. Discipline organiser is not required to pay range fee for the event they are organising.

**7. Working Bees**

A levy for failing to attend and actively engage in a minimum of 2 working bees per year may be imposed by the committee.

**8. Range Officer**

- (a) Rostered range officers must arrange a replacement if unable to attend their scheduled shoot.
- (b) The Range Officer on duty must delegate an assistant for events with more than 6 shooters, and/or where more than one discipline is being shot on the same firing line.

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**9. Jurisdiction and duties of Range Officer**

As per official SSAA Range Officer Manual.

**10. Club Firearms**

- (a) The committee may purchase or acquire firearms that it deems necessary for gun handling and safety instruction and these shall be available to all club members.
- (b) The club President or nominated member shall on behalf of the club, hold the firearms licence issued in respect of each firearm owned by the club. He/she shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safe keeping of these firearms when they are not being used or carried by another member at an approved range.
- (c) The club President, or in his absence, his assistant shall keep a record for each club firearm used by members of the club or visiting members of an approved club. Such record shall be maintained in a register of durable design and construction.

**11. Inspection of Records**

All registers, books, records, or other documents of the club shall be made available for inspection at any reasonable time on demand by an authorised member of the Police Department.

**12. Inspection of Range**

Any range or ranges of the club may be inspected at any reasonable time by an authorised member of the Police Department.

**13. Intoxicating Liquor & Pharmaceutical Drugs**

- (a) No person shall consume intoxicating liquor on a range of the club until all shooting has been completed for the day.
- (b) Any member or visitor that needs to take pharmaceutical drugs which may affect that person's judgement must cease shooting whilst under the influence of such medication.
- (c) No person shall be admitted to, or be on a range of the club, whilst under the influence of any judgement impairing substance.

**14. The Range**

- (a) No shooting is allowed unless there are two or more adult club members on the range. All those shooting must be deemed **experienced** and/or **qualified** by the committee in order for that person to obtain a range access key and to conduct any shooting activity on the range. Failure to comply with this rule will be viewed as a severe full infringement and will be dealt with accordingly by the committee.
- (b) **Range access keys** – Only committee members and persons authorised by the elected committee (i.e. Range Officers) of that year are to hold

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access keys to the Blue Hills Sporting Shooters Club Inc range.

- (c) **Duplication of keys.** Only the President or Secretary may authorise, with prior consent of the Committee, the issuance of duplicate keys to all range facilities and gates. Illicit duplication of keys by any member without the authority of the President will incur and immediate fine of \$50 per key duplicated and may be referred to the Committee for further action.
- (d) **On arrival** – The first person to arrive at the range (the shoot organiser) shall:
  - Raise the red flags (see paragraph e below).
  - Ensure that all persons entering the range record their attendance (see paragraph f below).
  - Ensure that all safety requirements are strictly adhered to.
  - Ensure that all persons intending to shoot comply with the rules and regulations of the current **Firearms Act** e.g. have the appropriate A, B, or H licences etc.
- (e) **Red flags** – The red flags must be flying at all times during any activity on the range (including matches, range maintenance or practice). Check map for their positions. No shooting will commence until the range area has been declared clear by the Range Officer.
- (f) For every person entering the range, member or visitor, places him/herself under the control of the range officer or his/her deputy and shall always comply with their decision, directions, and safety rules.
- (g) **Long Arms** – Long arms are rifles and shotguns and while not in use shall be unloaded and placed in rack provided or removed from the firing line to vehicle on approval of the Range Officer.
- (h) **Range Times** - No shooting is allowed before ten o'clock (10 am). Access to the range by authorised members (see paragraph 1a) may be obtained outside normal rostered times by signing for and collecting the range key, red flags and attendance book from the Secretary or committee members. The member who collects the key, flags and book is responsible for any person he/she takes with them to the range and must enforce all safety rules and requirements, including **accidental discharge**. If that visitor wishes to shoot, he/she must comply with the rules and regulations of the current **Firearms Act**. Failure to do this will be viewed as a severe rule infringement and will be dealt with accordingly by the committee.

**15. Late arrival for any match**

Any person arriving later than the prescribed starting time or after the first competitors have taken their positions on the firing line, whichever is the later, shall not be eligible to shoot the first stage of that particular match, if so deemed by the Range Officer.

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**16. Ear and Eye Protection**

Ear and eye protection are recommended to be worn by all persons on the firing line while shooting is in progress.

The club takes no responsibility for those who fail to obey this rule.

**17. Firearms**

- (a) All firearms shall remain unloaded and holstered or cased **and uncocked** while not on the firing line. No person shall touch the firearms of another person without the owner's permission, then only in the gun handling area. In the case of club firearms permission must be obtained from the range officer.
- (b) Firearms are not to be left unattended at any time.
- (c) Other than the firing line, firearms shall only be removed from holsters or cases for inspection or adjustment in the designated handling area. No ammunition shall be allowed in the designated handling area. Firearms shall not be loaded in this area.
- (d) No firearms shall be loaded until the shooter is in his/her position on the firing line and the command to **load** has been given by the range officer. The muzzle of the gun shall point down range at all times.
- (e) Magazines and speed loaders may be charged with ammunition in prescribed designated loading area and placed in holder or belt.
- (f) No person on the firing line shall touch a firearm while any other person is forward of the firing line.
- (g) No firearm shall be removed from the firing line until it has been cleared by the range officer.
- (h) Any **accidental discharge** by a member or visitor may result in that person being disqualified from shooting for that day. The range officer's decision is final.
- (i) Firearms shall not be used in an improper manner, or in any way other than those outlined in relevant Range or Discipline Rules.

**18. Safety Violations**

The range officer shall have authority to warn any member or visitor of any violation of the safety rules. If for any reason the range officer has cause to issue a second warning for the same safety violation, he/she shall have power to suspend that member or visitor immediately from any further participation in club competition or practice until such time as the committee can review the matter.

**19. Misfires and Malfunctions – All Disciplines**

In the event of a misfire or malfunction that the shooter cannot safely rectify, the "Stop" procedure shall immediately be carried out as far as possible.

Keeping the muzzle pointed down range, the shooter shall raise a hand to attract the attention of the range officer who will then direct as appropriate.



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**20. Smoking**

No person shall smoke on the firing line or in the club house

**21. Committee Business and Disputes**

Committee members attend rostered club shoots to participate. Committee member, just like you, enjoy shooting – that is why they are members of SSAA Blue Hills. Please have consideration for a committee member's right to an enjoyable shoot without being subjected to club business.

Any business for the committee (for example disputes, complaints, opinions, or suggestions) must be put in writing and submitted to the club secretary for consideration by the committee.

**22. Other Items**

- (a) The sponsors are responsible for the coaching, supervision and conduct of the applicant until full membership is attained.
- (b) An applicant must attend a minimum of six (6) coached shoots within a six (6) month period to be eligible for consideration as a full member of the Club. The police department have granted an exemption of six months to enable prospective members to try the sport of handgun target shooting without the need to have a category "H" licence. If, at the end of this six-month period, a person decides that they would like to continue with the sport they must then join a pistol club and apply for a category "H" licence.
- (c) The successful applicant on approval by the committee of management and police department granting the appropriate licence/s shall be entitled to become a full member of the Club after payment of the annual subscription.
- (d) Junior members (under 18 years) must always be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all shoots, and under supervision, on or off the shooting line at all times.
- (e) Membership application form –
  - a. Membership application form should be read and completed by applicant and sponsor.
  - b. All terms and conditions of membership are binding on the applicant and must be accepted and signed by the applicant.
  - c. All applicants are subject to committee of management and police approval

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**Schedule of Fees from 21st August 2023**

Rostered shoots other than Shotgun:

Primary Members – Included in Membership Fee.

Visitors - \$20/day

Juniors – Free

Shotgun events - \$10/25 targets

Twilight Shoots & Sighting-In (excludes Shotgun events):

Primary Members – Included in Membership Fee.

Visitors - \$5/shoot

Special Events, Club, State & National Championships:

As advertised by organiser.