

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 for 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 the Blue Hills Road.
- Blue Hills Road is a public access, 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 complex outside of scheduled usage is to be arranged with the Committee via the President or Secretary.

Range and facilities

- The BHSSC range complex comprises the following facilities:
 - A clubhouse, carpark, storage facilities and toilet block.
 - Ranges 1 and 2 are pistol and rimfire rifle ranges only, and are co-located at the site of the clubhouse.
 - Range 3 is shotgun range located adjacent to Ranges 1 and 2.
 - Two field archery ranges are located either side of Range 3.
 - Range 4 is simulated field shotgun range located adjacent to Range 3.
 - Range 5 is located approximately 600m east of the clubhouse, accessed by a gravel road via a gate near the first entrance sign to the range complex.
- The South East Field and Game Association maintain the simulated field shotgun range and its associated storage facilities adjacent to Range 3.
- The ranges 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 and limited to pistol and rimfire rifle, and target archery.
 - Target range is limited to 200m.
 - Comprised of fixed, bench-rest firing positions and standing pistol firing bays.
 - Fixed lighting is available to enable night firing activities.
- Range 3
 - A dedicated, five position, 'Down-The-Line' shotgun range with a remotely activated clay target machine.
 - Can accommodate a 5-stand layout with multiple, movable clay target machines.
- Field Archery Ranges
 - Suitable for field archery events where movement by the archer between the target butts is required.
 - One field archery course is situated above Range 3 on the simulated field shotgun range.
 - The second archery course is situated on the left side of Range 3.
- Range 4
 - A simulated field shotgun range with multiple firing points using moveable clay target throwers.
- Range 5
 - Suitable for pistol, rimfire and centrefire rifles.
 - The range is based on a covered firing area with hard-standing.
 - Target range is limited to 500m.
 - Comprised of fixed, bench-rest firing positions and an area for prone and standing firing.
 - A controlled access road runs across the length of Range 5 and is located approximately 50 metres to the rear of the 500 metre target line

Limitations on use of specific ranges

- Ranges 1 and 2
 - When Range 4 is being used for simulated field shotgun or field archery, Ranges 1 and 2 are not to be used.
 - Centrefire rifles are not permitted on this range.
- Range 3
 - When Range 3 is in use, neither of the adjacent field archery ranges are to be used.
- Range 4
 - When the simulated field shotgun range is in use, no other ranges in the BHSSC range complex are to be used.
- Range 5
 - Range 5 is limited to centrefire rifle calibres up to and including .378 Weatherby Magnum.
- All ranges
 - Full metal jacket pistol ammunition is banned from all ranges within the BHSSC range complex.

Range safety flags, range opening and closure procedures

- Red range safety flags are a mandatory 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 an authorised Range Officer.
- When any range is in operation at the range complex, the first Range Officer 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.
- The bottom gate on the access road between the clubhouse and Range 3 - which leads to the rear of Range 5 - is to be confirmed as locked and a red flag is to be flown at this gate at all times during range operation. Note: the boom gate at the other end of this access road is permanently locked and a red flag is also displayed there permanently.
- Subsequently, the Range Officer responsible for each range is to ensure that the following additional actions take place:
 - Range 1 and 2
 - 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.
 - Ranges 3 and 4
 - No additional red flags are required.
 - Range 5
 - The red flag at the entry road gate to Range 5 is to be raised.
 - The two red flags on the left boundary of Range 5 are to be raised; one adjacent to the firing line, and one at the 300m mark.
- All firearms must be removed from all firing lines and put away before the range is closed. The last Range Officer present is responsible for closing the range complex.

Access to the BHSSC Range complex during fire danger periods

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

Management of the range complex

- 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.
- Range Officers are responsible for the safe operation of the range 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 are locked and secured after use, or handed over to the next Range Officer.

Policy approval

BHSSC Committee of Management approval date: 03 March 2022
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