



PISTOL NT FIREARMS SAFETY & TRAINING COURSE

INFORMATION FOR TRAINERS

Course Structure and Content

This course has been developed in two parts.

Part A-Induction

Through a Power Point presentation and accompanying handouts, the Induction session for prospective new members and Cat H Permit candidates will cover the following content.

- Structure of pistol shooting in the NT, Australia and Internationally.
- Introduction to Pistol Shooting at the Pistol Club.
- Overview of matches and competitions conducted at the Club.
- Basic firearm types used in matches.
- Overview of Legislative requirements for Cat H Permit and Licence holders.
- Training requirements for Cat H Licence support.

This theoretical content is embedded within the Induction session and handouts.

Part B – Practical Training on the line

The primary intention of this section of the course is to provide the candidate with the practical knowledge and skills to participate in pistol shooting with a safe and competent attitude. This will occur through the delivery of the following content.

- Personal Safety requirements
- Safe pistol handling
- Supervised match shooting and application of range rules
- Basics of pistol shooting techniques – Stance, Aiming, Trigger, Breathing

The training Instructor(s) will deliver this content and observe compliance within targeted training sessions – at least two Air Pistol and one .22 calibre training session.

Further training, observation and compliance will occur within the probation period.



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Personal Safety requirements

Objectives – to understand how to manage personal safety whilst on or near a firearm shooting range and to comply with any legal requirements.

- Eye protection must always be worn whilst shooting or observing on ranges.
 - Modern day safety glasses are ideal for use on shooting ranges. Ordinary reading glasses or sunglasses are also considered acceptable. Many shooters have prescription shooting glasses made and these to comply with the safety requirements.
- Hearing protection must always be worn whilst shooting or observing on ranges.
 - Discuss and show examples of hearing protection available (e.g., earmuffs, foam ear plugs, moulded ear plugs, electronic earmuffs, etc).
- Footwear must entirely cover the feet when shooting. Thongs, sandals, or any type of open-style shoes are not allowed on a range.
 - If a hot “spent” shell falls onto unprotected feet, control of the firearm may be lost.
- Loose open neck shirts, blouses or singlets are not acceptable.
 - If a hot “spent” shell falls down the front of a T-shirt or blouse, control of the firearm may be lost.
- Camouflage print clothing (regardless of colours) is not to be worn.
 - Camouflage clothing is banned by the rules of Pistol Australia on ranges.
- Attendance Book and Attendance Card
 - Show the location of the Attendance Register – to be signed on every attendance. A legal requirement for Insurance.
 - Distribute Attendance Card to be signed after every training or match session.



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Safe Pistol Handling

Objectives- Know and demonstrate what is meant by a 'safe direction'. Know and demonstrate how to handle a firearm safely. Know and demonstrate that a firearm is unloaded and 'made safe'.

- Safe direction – When handling a firearm, it must always be pointed in 'a safe direction'.
 - At the Range when on the firing line, the safe direction is always down range towards the targets. At Pistol NT ranges, the muzzle of a firearm is never raised above the targets or lower than a 45-degree angle to the ground.
 - Handling of firearms is NOT permitted when ANYONE is forward of the firing line.
 - In any other situation, a safe direction may be upwards to the ceiling (if there are no floors above the one you are on), or downwards to the floor; While pointing the firearm in a safe direction, demonstrate that the breech is open, the chamber and magazine are empty or, in the case of a revolver, the cylinder is empty.

- Safe Handling of Firearms
 - Firearms are only removed from their cases at the firing line. The case must be taken to the firing line.
 - Similarly, when packing a firearm away after shooting, the case must be taken to the firing line and, after being cleared as 'safe' by the Range Officer, the firearm is placed in the case.
 - Always be aware of the direction of the muzzle.
 - Never point a firearm at yourself.
 - Never point a firearm at anyone.
 - Before handing a firearm to another person, make the firearm safe and demonstrate the condition to the other person.
 - Before or accepting a firearm from another person, always check that it has been made safe before accepting it.



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Safe Pistol Handling

- Making a firearm safe. Demonstrate and check the following.
 - Air Pistol
 - Point the muzzle in a safe direction when handling the firearm.
 - Keep the trigger finger outside the trigger guard.
 - Keep the firearm's muzzle always pointing in a safe direction.
 - On completion of shooting, lock open the action of the firearm. Check the firearm has no pellets in the breech. With the muzzle still pointing in a safe direction, put the pistol down on the bench with its action open.
 - Insert a Clear Barrel Indicator (CBI) through the barrel, the Range Officer will check that the firearm is 'clear' and will allow the firearm to be put in a case for removal. Remove the CBI, close the cocking lever, and if necessary, expel any air that is remaining, ensuring the firearm is STILL pointing in a safe direction.
 - Semi-Automatic Pistol
 - Point the muzzle in a safe direction when handling the firearm.
 - Keep the trigger finger outside the trigger guard.
 - Keep the firearm's muzzle always pointing in a safe direction.
 - On completion of shooting, remove the magazine and lock open the action of the firearm. Check the firearm has no rounds in the breech and that the magazine is empty. With the muzzle pointing in a safe direction, put the pistol on the bench with the breech and magazine facing toward the Range Officer.
 - While on the bench, the pistol must always have the magazine removed and the breech open with no rounds in either the magazine or the pistol.
 - Insert a Clear Breech Indicator (CBI) into the breech of the pistol. The Range Officer will check that the pistol is 'clear' and will either allow the shooter to move forward and score or to put the pistol in a case for removal. Close the breech by releasing the slide mechanism. The pistol must be pointed in the same safe direction even when it is being cased (or uncased).
 - Revolver
 - Point the muzzle in a safe direction when picking up the revolver.
 - Keep the trigger finger outside the trigger guard.
 - Keep the revolver's muzzle always pointing in a safe direction.
 - On completion of shooting, release the cylinder catch and swing the cylinder out to unload and then check the chambers are empty. With the muzzle still pointing in a safe direction, put the revolver down on the bench, leaving the cylinder swung out. Demonstrate that a revolver is safe by leaving the empty cylinder open.
 - Insert a Clear Barrel Indicator (CBI) into the barrel of the revolver. On completion of shooting, the Range Officer will check that the revolver is 'clear' and will either allow the shooter to move forward and score or to put the revolver in a case for removal. Close the cylinder. The firearm must be pointed in the same safe direction even when it is being cased (or uncased)



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Supervised match shooting and application of range rules

Objectives – To participate in matches safely and competently. To abide by local range and match rules.

- It is the responsibility of every individual to familiarise themselves with National, State and Territory firearm safety regulations as well as the rules of the club that is joined. Club and Range rules may vary, but the basic principles still apply. The Club will instruct the trainee in local Club Rules and procedures. Shooters are expected to abide by Club and Range rules without exception.
- <https://pistol.org.au/range-guides/>
- <https://pistol.org.au/rules/>

Match Shooting

- Instruct and observe compliance of the following processes during participation in club matches.
 - Take the firearm case to the shooting line and remove the firearm to the bench.
 - Maintain elements of safe firearm handling.
 - Insert CBI in firearm when on the bench.
 - Pick up the firearm in preparation for shooting and keep it pointing in the safe direction. Demonstrate the 'reverse stance' method. For a right-handed person have the left shoulder facing the targets (the safe direction), pick up the gun by the barrel with the NON shooting hand and with firearm pointing towards the targets, grasp the grip with the shooting hand, keeping the trigger finger OUTSIDE of the trigger guard. Keeping the muzzle of the firearm pointing down range, rotate the body so that the shooting arm is now facing the targets and the muzzle of the firearm has been pointing down range (in a safe direction) throughout this manoeuvre.
- Understand and comply with the following Range Officer (RO) commands.
 - **Load** – load the magazine/cylinder with required number of rounds and insert into the gun, prepare for shooting.
 - **Start** – start firing within required time sequence.
 - **Stop** – immediately cease shooting and wait for further instructions from RO.
 - **Unload** – remove the magazine/cylinder, unload and open the breech. Insert a CBI into the firearm, place on bench and step back.
 - **Range is Clear for scoring** – move forward to score, patch or change targets. Firearms are not touched when competitors are forward of the firing line.
 - **Range is Clear for shooting** – firearms can be picked up and made ready for shooting, observing safe muzzle direction.
 - **Malfunctions** – for any malfunction, lower the pistol to 45 degrees or rest the barrel on the bench in a safe direction. Do not place a loaded pistol on the bench. Raise the non-shooting hand and wait for the RO.
 - **Clear for removal** – make the firearm safe and bring the firearm case to the bench and put the firearm away.



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Basics of pistol shooting techniques – Stance, Aiming, Trigger, Breathing

Objectives – To introduce basic techniques of pistol shooting that allows safe, competent and confident pistol shooting skills . This content is basic and generalised, and many other resources are available to trainers.

Maintain safe pistol handling at all stages.

- Stance
 - The firearm is held in one hand.
 - Feet shoulder width apart, from between a 90 to 45-degree angle to the firing, not front on.
 - Bring pistol up and align with target – shift feet for natural alignment.
 - Turn head so that eyes are looking ahead at target.
- Aiming
 - Use the master (dominant) eye to aim.
 - Cover the non-dominant eye with a blinder on the safety glasses.
 - Focus is on the front sight only.
 - Area aim.



- Raise the pistol slightly above the target, start concentrating on the front sight whilst bringing the sights down through the bull. Settle into the aiming area below the black.
- Trigger
 - Press the trigger to the rear while concentrating on the front sight in the aiming area.
 - The shot should go off with a surprise break.
 - Maintain a follow through after the shot has gone off.
 - Lower the firearm to the bench and prepare for the next shot.
- Breathing
 - On lifting the pistol, breathe in.
 - Lower pistol into aiming area, whilst expelling about half of lung capacity.
 - Hold the half breath whilst refining the aim and pressing the trigger.
 - If the shot does not occur within 4 – 7 seconds, return the firearm to the bench and repeat the process.