



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Victoria) Ltd

Incorporated in Victoria ABN 88 005 020 422

Unit 3, 26 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill 3128 Phone: (03) 8892 2777

Email: state_office@ssaavic.com.au Web: www.ssaavic.com.au Fax: (03) 8892 2700

SSAA (VIC) – EAST GIPPSLAND BRANCH BUCHAN RIFLE RANGE BRUTHEN – BUCHAN ROAD BUCHAN SOUTH VIC 3885

RANGE SAFETY STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURES

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS MUST BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES UNLESS THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT AND/OR SENIOR RANGE OFFICER NOTIFIES CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS THAT MAY ARISE:

(1) SSAA RANGE ENQUIRIES and ADMINISTRATION:

The Buchan Rifle Range at Buchan South is operated by a Range Management Committee and administered through the SSAA (Vic) East Gippsland Branch. General enquiries regarding membership, usage and events can be made through the State Office by contacting:
The Secretary,
SSAA (Vic),
Suite 3, 26 Ellingworth Parade,
BOX HILL, Vic. 3128
Tel. 03 8892 2777 Fax. 03 8892 2700

(2) RANGE APPROVAL CONDITIONS AS APPROVED BY VICTORIA POLICE LICENSING SERVICES DIVISION:

General Conditions

- 1. All shooting activities on the shooting range must be covered by a current public liability insurance policy.*
- 2. The shooting range must be maintained in a condition so as to comply with the requirements listed in the "Firearms Ranges - Standards for Approval" manual.*
- 3. The shooting range will comply with all conditions imposed by the responsible Local Government Authority (if applicable).*
- 4. No alterations or extensions shall be made to the shooting range without the prior approval of the Chief Commissioner.*
- 5. This shooting range approval may be revoked or the conditions of the approval varied by the Chief Commissioner.*

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6. *Range Safety Orders must be visibly displayed in a prominent place for all persons at the shooting range to see.*
7. *This Range Approval Certificate or a copy thereof must be visibly displayed in a prominent place for all persons at the shooting range to see.*

Special Conditions (if applicable)

1. *The SSAA East Gippsland Branch Buchan Rifle Range is approved for rifle shooting in accordance with the Range Safety Order promulgated on the date of the range approval*

2. *Any previous approval for this range is replaced by this approval number 152B-2001 dated 20th December 2012.*

NOTE: Failure to comply with any condition of the shooting range approval may result in the revocation of the approval

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HEALTH THROUGH SPORT





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Part A – General Range Rules

1. Entry Conditions

1.1 All persons must enter the range from the main gate on Bruthen – Buchan Road.

1.2 On entering the Range all persons MUST.

- (a) Sign the attendance book and pay any required fees. Shooters are to produce membership card and current firearms licence or other proof of identity.
- (b) Read the range instructions on the notice board placed to the rear of the firing line which is currently in use.
- (c) Before removing firearms from vehicles or bringing them to the firing line, report to the Duty Range Officer for the range status i.e. whether a cease fire is in progress and the range is closed, or the range is open.

1.3 A CEASEFIRE will be called by the Range Officer when there is a need to go forward of the firing line. It will be the responsibility of the Range Officer to ensure all shooters are aware of their obligations during the ceasefire.

1.4 When shooting rifles there will be NO shooting across the range at Targets on an angle from the firearm to the Target. Targets must be in a straight line, directly in front of the firearm/shooter to avoid deflection of the projectile out of the Range Safety Fall Out Zone.

1.5 STUCK LIVE ROUND: MANDATORY RULE

S.S.A.A. Policy on stuck live rounds as set at the National Conference in March, 1995, is as follows:

"In the event of a shooter experiencing a jammed live round (stuck live case), the firearm is to be made safe by removal of the bolt if applicable, or by some other method if the firearm is not a bolt action. The Range Officer is to ensure that the firearm is immediately removed to a safe place. Where applicable, the bolt is to remain out of the firearm whilst the stuck case is in the chamber. It is recommended that the firearm be taken to the nearest gunsmith as soon as possible. Under no circumstances is the removal of the case to be attempted or undertaken on Range property."

This Policy must forthwith be complied with on all Ranges.

2. Range Officers Responsibilities

2.1 Before shooting can commence a Range Officer, qualified for the types of firearms to be used, must be present at all times.

2.2 The Range Officer has COMPLETE CONTROL of all safety aspects of Range operation, both on and off the firing line, and takes precedence over a Discipline Referee in matters of safety.

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2.3 The Range Officer shall ensure that all warning signs and flags are displayed, stop butts inspected for damage, large rocks and erosion, the range perimeter inspected for safety and first aid and fire fighting equipment is serviceable and available, prior to shooting commencing.

2.4 Then check Range book, to see that all persons on the range have entered their details, signed their name, and shooters paid their Range and Competition fees.

2.5 Range Officers are not to shoot or leave the firing line unattended while on duty.

2.6 Range Officers are to wear distinctive high-visibility vests provided by the club.

2.7 All firearms are to be cleared by the Range Officer before the shooter leaves the firing line. When cleared, the firearms are to be placed in cases or racks before a cease fire is called.

2.8 Range Clearance Procedures

Before, during and after each course of fire, all range commands will be given in a loud, clear voice according to standard SSAA procedure without exception, as well as the visual and/or manual inspection of all firearms prior to being withdrawn from firing lines, prior to any person proceeding down the range.

No firearm will be loaded, fired or unloaded unless it has the muzzle pointing down-range or within the baffle/restriction (where required).

3. General Firearm Safety

3.1 **No person is permitted forward of the firing line** during any firing period (i.e. after a “commence firing” order has been given until the next “cease fire”)

3.2 Firearms are to be carried to and from the firing line “muzzle up” and with actions open. Firearms with an enclosed action must have an open bolt indicator (Chamber Flag) inserted.

3.3 No firearm is to be loaded unless it is pointed down-range and the “commence firing” order has been given.

3.4 No loaded firearm is to be left unattended at any time.

3.5 Except where Discipline rules require, or with the approval of the duty Range Officer, firearms are to be single loaded. In any case, no more than five rounds may be loaded at any time.

3.6 Unless taking part in a rapid-fire competition, no more than one shot every four seconds may be fired.

3.7 Except by permission of the Range Officer, casual shooting/sighting-in is to be

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undertaken from a bench rest or the prone position.

3.8 Firearms must be in a safe operational condition and suitable for the ammunition being used. The Range Officer may prohibit the use of any firearm or ammunition believed to be unsafe and order its removal from the firing line and/or from the Range property.

3.9 Except by permission of the Range Officer, only one firearm at a time and only ammunition of the correct type for that firearm is to be brought to the firing line.

3.10 Shooters must be licensed for the type/category of firearm being used, or under the direct, close supervision of a licensed shooter.

3.11 Junior shooters (i.e. those aged 12 to 17 years), whether licensed or not, must be under the close supervision of a licensed adult.

4. Ammunition

4.1 Any legal calibre may be shot, subject to discipline rules when competitions are being run and any conditions imposed on specified calibres.

4.2 Tracer, pyrotechnic, flare or armour-piercing ammunition is specifically prohibited.

4.3 Any ex-military ammunition which cannot be positively identified as NOT being one of the above types may not be used.

4.4 Full metal jacket bullets may only be fired at paper targets, never on steel plate.

5. Targets and shooting lanes.

5.1 Only Targets officially recognised by the S.S.A.A. or other targets printed on paper or thin card. Targets must fit on frames with a minimum 50mm clearance from the frame.

Steel plate targets are restricted to metallic silhouette or similar pattern only.

Silhouette targets and stands are to conform to SSAA specifications for size, shape and materials.

No other objects are to be used as targets without specific authorisation from the Range Officer.

Target objects are not to be placed on the ground or against backstops. but on stands of such a height that they are centred at a similar height to target frames at the same distances.

Glass bottles and aluminium or steel cans must not be used as targets

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5.2 Firing lanes are to be numbered across the range with marker pegs at the firing line and at each permitted target distance. Each shooter will be allocated a lane number by the Range Officer and may only place his/her target above a correspondingly numbered range peg. A shooter may only use one target frame at a time.

5.3 Targets are to be fixed only to the target frames provided.

5.4 Target frames are to be of an approved type, generally compliant with the rules for SSAA Field Rifle competition. Frames are to be placed on the ground, directly in front of the shooter. Frames are to be of such a height that projectiles passing through are in line with a backstop/berm, not travelling into the ground or over the top.

5.5 Permissible Arcs of Fire will be controlled by shooters loading, firing and unloading/ clearing firearms only while the muzzle is pointed down range in line with target area.

6. Clothing and Protective Equipment

6.1 Bare feet and open-toed footwear are prohibited. Fully enclosed footwear is to be worn at all times. The wearing of safety boots/shoes is strongly encouraged.

6.2 Eye and ear protection must be worn on the firing line at all times when the range is open. The only exception for eye protection is for *adult* shooters with their own, scoped rifle.

6.3 All persons proceeding forward of the firing line during a ceasefire *must* wear a blaze orange vest, shirt or jacket. A suitable vest will be provided to each shooter on signing in to the range. Camouflage clothing, other than "reverse" camouflage, is discouraged. The wearing of high-visibility clothing at all times on the range is encouraged.

7. General Rules

7.1 The consumption of alcohol is prohibited on the range property at any time the range is open. Persons affected by alcohol or drugs are not permitted on the range.

7.2 Smoking is prohibited within 5m of the firing line and in all enclosed or covered areas.

7.3 Offensive, abusive or violent behaviour will not be tolerated.

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8. Range Commands

All Range commands will be given as stipulated below (see also Appendix E)

The following are procedures to be observed before and during a ceasefire.

8.1 Procedure to end a shooting session (Ceasefire)

"Cease Fire! Open all actions and unload. Remove detachable magazines, insert clear bore indicator* and stand clear of firearms." The Range Officer then checks and clears each firearm. When all the firearms have been checked and cleared Range Officer calls **"There will be no handling of firearms during the ceasefire or at any time the green flag is displayed. Firearms are not to be approached on your return until instructed by the Range Officer."** *Display green flag.* **"Before proceeding onto the range, put on your orange safety vest, then remove the card with your lane number from the indicator board and take it with you. The card is to be replaced on your return. Please keep to the track at the right of the range when moving forward or back. Range Safe. You may proceed onto the range."**

8.2 Procedure to start a shooting session (Commence Fire)

After checking that no person is visible on the range and that all range pass cards have been returned to the indicator board. Display red flag.

At this point, the Range Officer *may* call for a rotation of shooting details and permit shooters to bring firearms to the firing line or remove them.**

(Optional)"**Range Clear. You may move forward and remove your firearm from the firing line. Next detail may bring firearms to the firing line, All firearms are to be carried open, with the muzzle up"**

"Put on your eye and ear protection. Range Live. You may approach firearms and commence firing."

8.3 Emergency Ceasefire

In the event of an emergency, such as a person entering the impact area, the Range Officer will immediately call out **"Cease Fire! Cease Fire! Cease Fire!"**

*In the case of a bolt action rifle, a cleaning rod may be inserted or the bolt removed and placed on the bench next to the rifle.

**Firearms may only be handled, including carrying them to and from the firing line while a red flag/light is displayed at the firing line.

9. Safety Measures for Muzzle Loading Shooters

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The following safety measures will be observed at all times by all muzzle loading shooters:

- There will be no direct loading from flasks or bulk containers
- No smoking within six metres of bench or line, when black powder is being used.
- Only single charge loads such as plastic pill bottles, paper, or foil cartridges.
- No bulk powders on the bench or line
- Eye protection must be worn at all times.

10. Range Fire Safety

10.1 Except for Emergency Services personnel, entry to the range is **strictly prohibited** on any **"Code Red"** fire danger day.

10.2 There can be, with caution, shoots or practice on a day of Total Fire Ban, with the exception of all black powder firearms, whether muzzle loading or cartridge types.

10.3 Paper patches, wads or fillers are not to be used during the summer fire danger period.

10.4 Firefighting devices (extinguishers etc.) to be on hand.

10.5 During the summer fire danger period, only gas or electric cooking appliances may be used. No heating or cooking appliances may be used on a day of Total Fire Ban.

11. Danger Area Flags and Notices

11.1 Danger area signs are fixed to the perimeter fence every 25 metres as per regulations and should be checked regularly by the Range Officer.

11.2 Barriers and signs on internal tracks must also be checked before each shoot commencing.

11.3 Red Danger area flags are to be displayed at the main entrance, at the firing line and on top of the rear stop butts before range is opened for shooting and taken down at the finish of shooting for the day. This is the responsibility of the Range Officer of the day.

12. Visitors/Observers

12.1 Any persons not engaged in actual firing on the line must stay behind the actual firing detail, or in a designated observation/ amenities/car park area only.

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12.2 Children must be closely supervised by an adult at all times.

12.3 Members must show a current membership card to receive member benefits.

12.4 There are no restrictions on non-members using the Range, but they must agree to abide by the rules of the Association and pay any additional fees required. They may participate in any discipline shoot, but cannot claim any proficiency award, trophy or prize.

12.5 Unlicensed persons may shoot on the range only under the direct supervision of a holder of a Firearms Licence for the category of firearms being used. The Range Officer must be informed when any unlicensed person is to shoot. Except for "Come and Try" days, unlicensed persons should be limited to two visits.

13. Emergency Procedures in the Event of Accident or Incident

13.1 In the event of an accident or incident, the Range Officer will immediately call an emergency ceasefire (see Clause 15). Shooting is not to recommence until the emergency has been dealt with. If necessary, the range is to be closed for the day.

13.2 Where a person has been injured or suffered a medical emergency, the Range Officer or first aid attendant will render first aid, seek medical assistance and/or summon emergency services if necessary. In any case where an injury is firearm-related, both Police and Ambulance are to be called.

13.3 If Police are required to attend to investigate any incident, any injured persons must be treated and the scene made safe with minimal disruption until Police arrive. All persons at the range must remain at the range until Police arrive.

13.4 In the case of a fire, call 000, evacuate the range if necessary and notify the surrounding landowners, if safe to do so. Under no circumstance is the Range Officer to put himself/herself or other range users in jeopardy.

13.5 If repeated breaches of safety rules necessitate a person being expelled from the range, an incident report must be written up. In the event of a person refusing to leave when directed, or behaving in a highly dangerous manner, the Range Officer should call Police.

13.6 Other cases which require an incident report to be submitted include a stuck live round, unsafe/prohibited firearm/ammunition, offensive behaviour, trespass, etc.

13.7 All accidents or any incident must be written up by the Range Officer of the day, and statements by witnesses recorded, then a full report sent to State Headquarters, as per S.S.A.A Range Regulations.

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13.8 First aid kits should be checked each shoot day, and stock replaced on 'use by' or expiry date by the Range Officer of the day.

14. Discipline and Offences

14.1 All directions of the Range Officer must be complied with IMMEDIATELY.

14.2 In the case of a breach of these Safety Rules or the instructions of the Range Officer, the offender will be cautioned and instructed as to correct procedure.

14.3 Repeated breach of the rules or failure to comply with a safety direction will result in expulsion from the Range.

14.4 Police may be called if a person refuses to leave the range when directed.

14.5 Persons entering the Range Property without authority may be prosecuted for trespass.

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Part B - Specific Rules for Buchan Range.

15. Operating Times

- The Range may open Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Shooting after 5:00pm may be approved, but only during daylight hours (as defined in the Game Regulations).
- Operation on normal working days may only take place after prior notification to and approval from DEPI Regional Office.

16. Range Log Book/Diary

A log book is to be kept detailing all activities on the range, including

- Name(s) and RO number(s) of Range Officers, times of duty.
- Times of opening/closing
- Full details of all persons in attendance, whether shooting or not.
- A notice that by signing in to shoot, the person is declaring that he/she is not a Prohibited Person, nor is he/she under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Types of shooting conducted
- Any incidents/accidents
- Any special activities, such as working bees, contractors, etc.
- Any maintenance carried out or required, including scheduled maintenance.

17. Range Schedules.

In consultation with user groups and/or Discipline Referee(s) the Range Officer will write up on the Notice Board provided for that purpose

- Times of opening for the day
- Types of shooting to be conducted
- Distances to be shot
- Any calibre or firearm category restrictions in force
- Any other special conditions in force
- A timetable for when the above conditions apply.(e.g. morning: rimfire only, afternoon: all calibres)

18. Firearms which may be used

- Any legal firearms of categories A, B, C & D may be fired on this range.
- Types and calibres may be restricted at various times and by discipline rules.
- Firing of exceptional calibres such as .338 Lapua, .50 BMG etc., to be strictly controlled by the Range Officer and may be required to use a baffle to limit the arc of fire. Portable baffles are to be of a design approved by D.F.O.

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- The Range Officer may limit or prohibit the firing of any firearm which causes excessive damage to the range infrastructure.

19. Types of Shooting and Disciplines Permitted

All shooting is to take place from the fixed firing line (500m from the butts)-

- Field Rifle Rimfire (25m & 50m), Magnum Rimfire (25m – 100m) and Centrefire (25m - 200m).
- 3 Position Rimfire (50m) and Centrefire (100m).
- Lever action Centrefire and Rimfire (25m - 200m)
- All classes Bench Rest 100yd-300yd (Novelty shoots to 500m)
- Big Game Rifle
- Rifle Metallic Silhouette Rimfire (40m – 100m) and Centrefire (200m – 500m).
- Muzzle Loading Rifle/Musket
- Sighting-in/Informal target practice at all ranges up to 500m
- Test firing of firearms and ammunition. Includes accuracy and velocity testing. Chronographic and other testing equipment may be used, subject to approval.
- Sighting-in of shotguns fitted with reflex (e.g. "Aimpoint"), optical or rifle-type sights as specified in the Wildlife (Game) Regulations, firing a single slug at a time.

A copy of the rules for all SSAA disciplines can be viewed on the SSAA Website (<http://ssaa.org.au/competition-info/disciplines.html>), or purchased from the SSAA online store (<http://ssaa.org.au/store>). When any discipline competition is being run, a copy of the rules will be posted on the Notice Board and the Range Officer and/or Discipline Referee will have a copy to hand on the firing line.

20. Special Rules

- Targets at ranges from 25m to 500m may be fired at from the fixed firing line. Multiple distances up to 500m may be shot simultaneously, but each shooter may only shoot one distance at a time.
- Vehicles are to be parked in the designated area and in no case closer than 10m to the firing line.

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- No vehicle may be driven forward of the firing line when the range is open, except during a 'cease-fire', and then only by persons authorised by the range officer.

21. Additional Signs

- A sign is to be erected at the entry to the range showing details of the controlling body and conditions of entry. (Appendix A)
- A sign is to be placed immediately behind the firing line, directing range users to these Standing Orders and giving a précis of the Range Rules. (Appendix B)

22. Maintenance Schedule

Maintenance must be carried out as per the attached Schedule (Appendix C)

23. Emergency Contacts

Victoria Police: Emergency 000, Buchan 5155 9268

Country Fire Authority: Emergency 000, Buchan 5155 9494, 5155 9430, 5155 9237

Medical Services: Emergency 000, Bush Nursing Centre Buchan 5155 9222

State Emergency Service Buchan 5155 9254

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