

Air Rifle Activity Instructions and Risk Assessment for Beavan Challenge at Tawd Vale

The primary Range Officer for Air Rifles is Andy Back of 5th Heswall Scout Group.

Geoff Back and Jason Barrowclough (also of 5th Heswall Scout Group) also hold scouting air rifle permits and may act as Range Officer as appropriate.

Risk Assessment prepared by Andy Back, 28 September 2022.

Reviewed by Geoff Back, 20th September 2024

Preparation and Equipment: All participants need a parental permission to shoot. No form, no shooting. The form will detail any health conditions which could affect the activity.

Briefing: A safety brief will be given to groups at the beginning of the air rifle session, which will be conducted in accordance with the guidance set out by the National Smallbore Rifle Association, and cover the following points:

- **Introduction**
 - Who's shot before.
 - Discipline – must obey the session leader (the range officer)
 - Range Layout.
 - What to expect
 - Objective

- **Safety**
 - Appropriate clothing: loose enough for free movement. No snagging / flapping bits that may become entangled, remove lanyards or hanging jewellery etc. from round neck, tie back long hair to prevent entanglement.
 - Never point a gun at anyone.
 - Always point the gun downrange.
 - Always treat the gun as loaded.
 - Range rules.
 - On no account should any of the group approach the Archery or Axe throwing ranges which are nearby.

- **Equipment**
 - Gun

- Pellets - made of lead and therefore associated health precautions (wash hands)
- Targets
- Safety Glasses to be worn at ALL times when on range

- **Demonstration**
 - Safe Loading
 - Basic Technique
 - Aim the gun empty first
 - Talk scouts through loading and fire one shot

- **Shooting**
 - Shoot leaning on the bench
 - Eye dominance
 - Sights
 - Trigger control
 - Breathing
 - Standing position

Weather: As the shooting line is covered air rifle shooting can happen in most weather conditions. In extremes, if the Session Leader believes it is unsafe to continue the session it will be abandoned and the group returned to the start in a safe manner.

Conduct of Session

The nominated Range Officer will ensure range is safe and equipment is collected and ready.

The nominated Range Officer will give the briefing (as set out in the sections above).

The nominated Range Officer will deliver the session in accordance with the guidelines set out by the NSRA.

At the end of the session the Range Officer and his deputies will collect all equipment and lock it away until required for the next session.

Air Rifle Risk Assessment

Risks arising and Hazards Identified	Persons at risk	How the risk is controlled What further controls are needed	Person Responsible for controls
Injury from Equipment/ Equipment failure	All	All the equipment is visually inspected prior to use	Range Officers
Injury from improper handling/ improper use of equipment	All	All persons will have been briefed prior to the session starting There will be adequate supervision on the range to ensure scouts are safe	Range Officers
Injury from being shot	All	All persons will have adequate instruction and training in range conduct. There is clear barrier at firing line. Range officer monitors entire range throughout session. No participants are to shoot unless given the instruction to do so. When shooting participants should only point the rifle – whether loaded or unloaded – down the range, towards the target. Observers at the activity or visitors to the activity must obey all instruction from the range officer when in the activity area. Members of the public who enter the activity area	Range Officers Tawd Activity Centre Range Officer Range Officer Participants supervised by Range Officer Observers/ Range Officer

Risks arising and Hazards Identified	Persons at risk	How the risk is controlled What further controls are needed	Person Responsible for controls
		should be advised of the potential danger and asked to move away.	Range Officer
Injury from pellet caused by ricochet	All	<p>Pellets are made from soft deformable material (lead)</p> <p>Range checked to minimise risk of bounce back</p> <p>All persons within the range MUST wear safety glasses</p>	Range Officer
Conduct of participants whilst waiting to use the range	All	<p>Scouts waiting to use the range must wait outside of the shooting area.</p> <p>They will be briefed as to required conduct whilst waiting</p>	<p>Participants</p> <p>Range Officer</p>
Minor cuts and abrasions	All	<p>Qualified First Aider will be present throughout the activity</p> <p>Participating teams carry First Aid kits plus a kit will be available at the range</p>	<p>First Aider</p> <p>Participants & Range Officer</p>
Lead poisoning from pellets	All	<p>Verbal warning given in briefing</p> <p>Reminder to wash hands at end of session</p>	Range Officers
Covid Controls	All	<p>Prior to session participants to sanitise hands</p> <p>After session reminder to wash hands (also due to lead ingestion risk)</p>	Range Officer
Weather Conditions	All	The Range officer will assess the weather risk before and during the session and their decision on the abandonment of the session is final	Range Officer

