Health & Safety Policy – Phoenix Shooting Club

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Phoenix Shooting Club recognise and accept our responsibility to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of all members, guests, visitors, contractors and members of the public who may be affected by our activities. It is our aim to promote, set and maintain the highest standards for health and safety.
2. This policy statement will be on display at the shoot ground; all members, shooters, and spectators will be made aware of the safety policy and associated safe practices. Everyone on the shooting ground has a responsibility to abide by our safety policy and associated rules.
3. A written risk assessment will be in place; it is our policy to ensure no-one is put at risk from club activities so far as reasonably practicable. The risk assessment will be made available to all members and will be reviewed regularly.
4. At least one CPSA trained Safety Officer will be present at each shoot. The Field Officer (or nominated Deputy) will be responsible for the safe layout of all traps and stands.
5. The Club Committee will maintain public and employer's liability in respect of all club activities.
6. All shooting will be stopped immediately if a dangerous situation arises (notified either by radio or by sounding of an air horn) and not resumed until clearance is given by the Safety Officer. Each squad will carry a radio.
7. Emergency procedures will be in place. A first aid box is kept in the bottom container; a trained first aider will be available at each shoot where possible.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES – Shoot Days

All Members

8. All members are responsible for their own safe practice and for monitoring and ensuring that safe shooting practices are adopted by all shooters. Members are responsible for their guests and any invited spectators. Minors must be adequately supervised at all times. Inappropriate behaviour on the shooting ground will not be tolerated and it is the duty of all members to correct any such behaviour as soon as it is observed or reported.
9. Members must accept any safety decision by the Safety Officer, Field Officer, Chairman or other nominated member allocated particular responsibilities for a shoot.
10. Squads will be organised to ensure that each squad contains at least one experienced member who can be nominated to ensure the proper conduct of that squad and ensure the squad responds to any horn signal or radio communication.

Person in Charge - Field Officer

11. The organisation of stands, the birds laid on, the position of cages, the siting of traps and associated activities will be undertaken at each shoot by the Field Officer (or nominated Deputy in his absence).
12. The Field Officer will liaise with the Safety Officer who must check the particular layout to ensure that all safety requirements are met and to advise the Chairman accordingly before approval is given to start the shoot.
13. The Field Officer will advise the Chairman prior to the start of the shoot of any particular considerations that shooters need to be aware of.

ARRANGEMENTS

Shooters

14. All guns will be required to be kept broken and unloaded except when in a stand and ready to shoot. Semi-autos will be sleeved, or flagged when not in use; no more than two cartridges may be loaded in an automatic shotgun.
15. All cartridges used at the ground will have an optimum maximum load 28 grams and maximum shot size No 6. Only fibre wad cartridges may be used.
16. The CPSA's 10 key points of safety will be displayed and members (and guests) expected to follow them.
17. All members will be aware of the safe areas that allow shooters and spectators safe passage between stands, and to allow safe observation of shooting. Any change to the standard layout that affects safe areas will be included in the pre-shoot safety brief.
18. Hearing protection is mandatory for all shooters and spectators and is made available for all shooters and spectators. Eye protection and head protection is strongly recommended, and where there is particular risk to the shooter, e.g. due to the stand layout, will be made mandatory at designated stands.
19. New members shall be made aware of the club rules and safety policy prior to joining and may initially be required to shoot with a designated Club Official to assess their individual competency.
20. Novice shooters / non-certificate holders will be closely supervised by a nominated, experienced club member who will be responsible for ensuring the novice receives appropriate instruction. All novices must be instructed in safe gun handling before commencing a shoot. Those new to shooting should not be allowed to load their own gun. Each squad should not normally contain more than one novice unless the shoot is specifically organised for the purpose of giving instruction.

Traps

21. Traps may only be set up, loaded, manually fired, altered, maintained and taken down by trained, competent and authorised members (or under direct supervision of an authorised member during training).
22. Traps will be set up to ensure fall out is confined to exclusion zones. No person should walk, or be required to walk, in front of an armed trap. Where there is a risk of broken clays reaching the safety zone then shooters will be informed in the pre-shoot safety brief and eye / head protection made mandatory at these stands.
23. If manual traps are used, these will be set in a position from where the trapper is in a place of safety and not in front of the line of fire. Trappers will be protected against accidental discharge from all shooting positions on the ground. Trappers will be individually shown the safe operation of the model of trap they may be required to use, including disarming, loading, releasing. Manual trappers will wear hearing protection, eye protection, head protection and gloves.

Shooting Stands and Positions

24. All shooting cages will be constructed so as not to allow the gun to point easily in any direction except the intended line of fire.
25. Safety zones will be established at all stands to ensure that accidental discharge of shotguns from the shooting position could not cause injury to any person. Stands and cages will be positioned to ensure the appropriate safety zone can be maintained. The firing zone will extend to 300 yards from the shooting position; no person will be allowed within this zone whilst shooting continues.
26. All firing positions will be set to minimize the risk of slipping or tripping. Mats are available and will be used if ground conditions are poor in any particular stand.

Public / Third Parties

27. All public rights of way that may allow members of the public onto the shooting ground will be appropriately signed during a shoot. Each sign will be provided with air horns and shooting will cease and all guns unloaded on hearing the signal. If any member of public is seen to be in danger of entering the firing zone without having sounded the horn, shooting will be stopped immediately by use of the radios. In all circumstances, shooting will not be resumed until clearance is given by the Safety Officer.
28. All club equipment that may cause a hazard to a member of the public will be secured when the ground is not in use to prevent access by third parties. No area will be left in a dangerous condition.

Signed: Denzil Lee (Chairman)

Date: 3rd April 2017

Reviewed: 24th April 2018, 4th April 2019, 1st April 2020, 26th March 2021, April 2022, April 2023

Next Review date: April 2024