

Scouting Risk Assessment – RIFLE SHOOTING



Date of risk assessment	6/3/26	Name/Role of who undertook this risk assessment	Ben Shirvill
-------------------------	--------	---	--------------

Earleywood Scout Campsite

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<i>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.</i>	<i>Young people, Leaders, Visitors.</i>	<i>Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.</i>	<i>Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.</i>
Activity instructors and Equipment	Activity instructors	<p>Activity instructors leading and running the activity to hold a current national accredited qualification from National Smallbore Rifle Association (NSRA) or equivalent qualification and be minimum 21 years of age https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/programme-guidance/general-activity-guidance/shooting/qualifications/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities to be carried out in accordance with Scout Association Policy Organisation and Rules (POR) • Activity for Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network and adults https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/air-rifle-shooting/ • Earleywood's equipment is only to be used by Earleywoods approved activity instructors. • Any other equipment may be used at your risk (i.e. equipment is compliant and in date) 	
Legal Declaration	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity instructor to check section 21 declaration of the Firearms Act 1968 has been completed and signed by the participants parent/guardian if under 18 and by the participant if over 18. • Any participant without a declaration cannot take part in the activity. 	
Failure of Equipment Injury from use of damaged or inappropriate equipment	Activity instructor and Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity instructor to ensure that each participant/spectator has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goggles ○ Ear defenders (if requested); ○ a rifle appropriate to their physical size and strength; 	

Additional information can be found in the **Safety Checklist for Leaders** and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

Scouting Risk Assessment – RIFLE SHOOTING

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect all equipment and test regularly and prior to use. Check equipment maintenance log inside cupboard door. • Remove damaged equipment immediately, marked up and reported to Activity Director and recorded using defect sheet inside cupboard door – damaged/broken guns to be placed in gun slip and padlock placed on bag zip. 	
Pellet ricochet Injury to persons Eye Injuries	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range setup to a minimum 6 metre shooting distance. • Backdrop to be constructed from pellet absorbing material. • No obstructions on the range. • Only shoot at designated targets. • All present in range to always wear goggles during session. • Pellet catchers in place behind targets 	
Injury arising from being shot	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity instructor responsible for activity • Maximum of 4 shooting at a time from the designated shooting line. • Safety cord to be inserted into rifles when not being used. • Nobody to cross the shooting line, unless instructed by the Activity instructor. 	
Overcrowding and disorderly behaviour	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of 12 participants in the range • Waiting line to be outside the building supervised by the Leader in charge. 	
Use of rifles for shooting targets on the range. Injury from pellet from rifle Injury due to misuse or failure of equipment Trapping for fingers, hands etc. in breach Death Penetrating wounds Cuts, scratches, abrasions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity must be pre-booked in accordance with site booking procedure. • Ensure all long hair is tied up/back as appropriate. • Non-loose clothing/neckers to be worn, • Remove jewellery which impede the activity and necklaces tucked inside • Full instruction on use of rifles to be given before loading. • Rifles must NEVER be pointed at others. If any participant does this the activity will stop and they will be requested to leave the range immediately and then the activity may recommence. • Rifles to be pointed down the range at all times • Activity instructor's instructions must be adhered to at all times. 	

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](#) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

Scouting Risk Assessment – RIFLE SHOOTING

<p>Lead Poisoning Hygiene Issues Handling of pellets Absorption of lead</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pellets to be kept by activity instructor until required by participants. • Participants must be reminded to wash hands after taking part in the activity. • No food or drink allowed on the range 	
<p>Range Setup and Storage Pellet catcher and target falling off back stop.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range to be setup and run in accordance with NSRA regulations and Earleywood range user manual • Equipment to be kept in secure storage. • Check range for any hazards before session • Check backdrop and pellet catcher are in good condition and fitted correctly • Door signs are in place and being used • External doors that can enter the live range area to be securely shut • Fire evacuation procedure explained • Spectators to wait in designated area (Kitchen area) • In case of fire make rifles safe and take air rifle pellets with you 	
<p>Medical Incident/Injury</p>	<p>Everyone involved in the session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader in charge to have readily available an adult with current mandatory module 10 first aid training. • Leader in charge to have first aid kit. • Leader in charge/activity instructor to be aware of where nearest first aid kit is located (Scout Centre kitchen and Rowney Building kitchen). • Leader in charge to have available and be aware of all medical/allergy conditions and reasonable adjustments of everyone at risk. • Participants with reasonable adjustments to be located nearest the activity instructor and if necessary have a competent person supporting them • Leader in charge to be aware of Earleywood incident action plan and follow it. • Leader in charge establish procedures in the event of an injury at beginning of session. • Leader in charge to maintain young person/adult ratio 	

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

Scouting Risk Assessment – RIFLE SHOOTING

Slips, Trips, Cuts, Bites & Falls	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader in charge to survey the activity area before starting to prevent participants having an incident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mark locations of obstacles in the ground ○ Remove loose debris to a safe location ○ Mark locations of insect infestations and nests ○ Mark locations of low lying stinging or scratchy plants ○ Identify boundaries. • Wear appropriate footwear and shoelaces to be tied. • Walk, no running • Ensure the activity area is suitable for use, kept clear and tidy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodical checks / Be aware of any objects on the ground and remove trip hazards.
Overcrowding and disorderly behaviour	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader in charge/activity instructor rules/instructions explained to participants during briefing. • Leader in charge to remain with the group. • Activity instructor to stop activity immediately if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are too many participants using the activity ○ The participants behaviour is unacceptable or unruly ○ No leader is present from the participants group ○ Consider safety of participants is at risk • Leader in charge to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the activity instructor before the activity starts again. 	
Animal Encounter – Wild/Domestic	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not approach animal. • Do not encourage animal to approach you. • Maintain safe distance between you and the animal. • Leader in charge to scare away the animal without causing physical harm. 	
Animal Faeces	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader in charge to survey the activity area before starting, remove and dispose of animal faeces. • Any animal faeces identified while participating in the activity, pause activity and Leader in charge to remove and dispose of animal faeces. 	

Additional information can be found in the **Safety Checklist for Leaders** and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

Scouting Risk Assessment – RIFLE SHOOTING

Weather Conditions & Environment	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring clothing and equipment appropriate to the weather conditions. • In event of inclement weather, the activity instructor may cancel or postpone the activity, in the meanwhile Leader in charge to find a point of safety. • In hot weather ensure adequate hydration and self-administration of sun protection. • Use torches if dark. • Wear close toed footwear (i.e. no sandals/ flip flops, etc) • Turn on activity flood lighting as appropriate 	
Missing Persons Lost individual in distress	Everyone involved in the session.	Leader in charge to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take regular HEAD COUNTS • Take register before activity starts. • Have In-Touch arrangements accessible. • Check mobile phone connectivity is available. 	
Unauthorised Access Activity area left unattended Equipment unattended Theft Injury	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment to be locked away securely whilst not in use. • Participants must never be left alone with equipment. 	

Checked by		Name: Ben Shirvill Role: Activity Director Date 26 th February 2023	
Approved by		Name: Derek Salter Role: Health & Safety Director Date 26th February 2023	
Version Control	Original Date 26th February 2023	Whats changed?	Rewritten and updated replacing previous version.
	Revision Date 1st February 2024		Annual review

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](#) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

Scouting Risk Assessment – RIFLE SHOOTING

	Revision Date 15 th February 2025		Annual review
	Revision Date 6 th March 2026		Annual review

Additional information can be found in the **Safety Checklist for Leaders** and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

HQ Template Published June 2020

