



West Sussex - Explorer24 'Shooting'

Risk assessment, this document captures the high-level residual risks that exist outside of plans and policies put in place for correct use of the shooting range. This risk assessment is a generic document that captures general usage, more specific risk assessments may be made for activities with more specific risks.

Event: West Sussex County Scouts - Explorers24

Range Details: Purpose Built Range at Beacon Hill Scout Campsite, Horsham.

Instructors: Scout Members with NSRA accreditations.

Hazardous Activity and Hazards Identified	Detail	Risk Level	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Miss use of air rifle	Rifles are dangerous tools if misused. There are numerous hazards if they are not appropriately used.	High	All activities that use rifles should be supervised by an appropriately qualified leader. If instructor needs to leave the range, the range should be cleared and secured. Explorers24 is a weekend camp, so tiredness and conversations are biggest risks of distraction of those on the shooting line.	Medium/ Low
Miss use of air pistol	Air Pistols are more dangerous tools if misused than Air Rifles. As are smaller and can be pointed more quickly in an unsafe direction.	High	All activities that use pistols should be supervised by an appropriately qualified leader.	Medium

			If instructor needs to leave the range, the range should be cleared and secured. Explorers24 is a weekend camp, so tiredness and conversations are biggest risks of distraction of those on the shooting line. Closer instruction and more observation of those using air pistols for the first time.	
Scouts getting shot	If range is not correctly managed, then no one should find themselves down range of a rifle / pistol and be hit by shot exiting range.	Very high	Purpose built range with fixed entry points that can be controlled and managed. Check range is empty before issuing pellets.	Low
Scouts getting injured handling rifles/pistols	Trapping fingers when breaking / closing rifle barrel. Air Pistols require greater effort opening, so more instruction required and supervision needed. Inadvertent firing.	Medium	Explorers given instruction on correct use of rifles and closely supervised. Explorers directly supervised in operation of rifle, single stage – break rifle, load rifle, close rifle ... until leader satisfied explorers have internalized correct operation. Explorers educated that if leader calls ‘STOP’ then all activities cease, and rifles placed on table at once no matter what is happening. This is a call that indicates the leader has seen an activity that may lead to injury. Re-enforce, finger on trigger only when point at the targets.	Low
Hazardous waste left after shooting	Pellets are made of lead, this material is hazardous to other users particularly young people who may ingest it.	Medium	Purpose built range, does not require any clean up.	Low

			All scouts should wash their hands after shooting.	
Scouts not involved in shooting being hurt	Scouts not part of the shooting activity may enter the range and find themselves in a position where they get hurt directly or indirectly.	High	Purpose built range, so no access within out person controlling the range to be aware.	Low
Scouts hit with shots ricocheting from targets	Shots will bounce back from targets and hard materials around targets. These shots when they bounce back they could strike and injure participants.		Purpose built range designed to prevent bounce back towards shooter.	
Malfunction of equipment causing injury	Equipment should fail safely, and most malfunctions should cause no injury however failure to service equipment is irresponsible and one should assume a negative outcome.	Medium / Low	Before each session RCO should inspect and fire every rifle to ensure correct operation. Rifles should be serviced regularly, oiling and cleaning. Any aberrant operation of a rifle should cause the rifle to be withdrawn from usage until serviced and approved by a qualified person.	Low
Uncontrolled use of rifles/pistols	Rifles/pistols used outside the supervision of qualified leaders may result in injury.	High	When rifles/pistols are not in use, they should be secured away. If instructor needs to leave the range, it should be cleared and secured.	Low
Overcrowding	If there are more explorers in the range than it can safely accommodate then the leader in charge is likely to be unable to ensure that each is behaving	High	The range has a fixed number of shooting points, and limited waiting space. People waiting will be asked to queue outside, and those shooting will be asked to	Low

			rejoin the back of the queue outside. Or return later.	
Accessing target while range is live	While shooters are permitted to 'shoot in their own time' some shooters will finish before others. If they attempt to secure their target while the range is live they may be injured.	High	Controller entry point, so no one will be allowed onto the range before everyone has finished.	Low

Written by

Last Validated

Next Validation

John Patrick

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01/09/2027

Mid Sussex District Scouts

Versions;

Revised 30/09/2026 Explorer24 RA based upon Glacier RA.

Revised 29/09/2026 dates changed to full dd/mm/yyyy.

Revised 06/05/2024 Air Pistols.

Revised 16/09/2023 Glacier ESU.

Revised 08/02/2020 No changes required.