

CROSSROADS OF THE WEST COUNCIL
SHOOTING SPORTS POLICY

REFERENCE: *BSA Shooting Sports Manual* #30931, 2015 printing

A. General. This policy outlines conduct of shooting sports activities within and by the Crossroads of the West Council. All shooting sports conducted in the council will be in accordance with the standards outlined in the *BSA Shooting Sports Manual*.

B. Revisions. Revisions to the policy must be approved by both the Shooting Sports committee and the council Risk Management committee. The policy will be reviewed annually_

C. Council Shooting Sports Committee. The council shooting sports committee provides oversight to all shooting sports activities conducted within the council. The committee functions under the supervision of the Vice President-Training.

1. Chairman. The chairman must be aged 21 and is appointed by the Vice President-Training and must be an NRA-certified Training Counselor and Chief Range Safety Officer. Tenure is one year and may be re-appointed annually for a maximum of 5 years. The chair is a member of the council Risk Management and Program committees.
2. Committee members. Committee members must be aged 21 and are appointed for one year by the Vice President-Training and may be re-appointed annually. A member must be an NRA-certified Training Counselor or Chief Range Safety Officer. At least one member of the committee must be USA Archery/USFAA-certified level 2 instructor.
3. Functions. The committee meets regularly but at least twice annually. The committee provides the following services:
 - Schedules and conducts NRA-certified instructor and range safety officer training for registered Scouters. The committee does not discourage Scouters seeking NRA certification conducted by other agencies or commercial operators.
 - Surveys and approves private and publicly owned ranges and provides information regarding the ranges to unit leaders.
 - Oversees all firearm training within the council and issues policies and procedures to ensure training and shooting sports activities are in accordance with the *BSA Shooting Sports Manual*.
 - Oversees all scheduled council and district shooting sports activities to ensure safety procedures are planned and executed.

D. Mandatory Certification.

1. Range Safety Officers must be NRA-certified.
2. Pistol, shotgun and rifle instructors must be NRA-certified.
3. Muzzle loader instructors must be NRA or NMLRA-certified.
4. Rifle or Shotgun Merit Badge counselors must be NRA/NMLRA-certified instructor or coach for the firearm involved.
5. BB Gun shooting must be conducted by BSA-certified Range Masters or NRA-certified rifle instructors.
6. Archery events must be conducted by Range Masters certified by a BSA Shooting Sports Director, USA Archery/NFAA instructor or qualified instructors approved by

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the council shooting sports committee.

E. Mandatory Standards. To ensure participants are safe during shooting sports activities, the minimum mandatory standards are:

1. Range operation will conform to current national BSA standards and the Guide to Safe Scouting. Booklets may be obtained from your council or through www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx. Shooters must have received at minimum the authorized BSA 30-minute Safety orientation prior to shooting (or NRA *1st Steps*). The orientation must be presented by an NRA-certified firearm instructor in a face-to-face setting.
2. All Shooting Sports activities and programs MUST adhere to the Sweet 16 of BSA Safety policies.
3. NRA-certified Range Safety Officer must be present and supervise range firing at all council, district and unit shooting activities.
4. NRA-certified firearm instructor(s) must be present during all council, district and unit shooting activities. The NRA Instructor(s) must be certified for the firearm in use. The number of instructors required is shown at shooting activity levels at paragraph H.
5. The NRA Instructor and RSO must be TWO separate persons.
6. Shooting activities are Restricted to the use of Council Approved or Council Owned ranges. Lists of approved ranges will be made available by the council shooting sports committee. The committee will contact commercial range operators and seek agreement to ensure compliance with BSA standards and policies. Agreements with commercial operators will reviewed annually to ensure compliance. All Public and Private Commercial ranges that follow NRA or NSSF guidelines for construction and operation are considered to be approved. "AD-HOC ranges are not allowed except upon approval according to BSA Range Approval Guidelines (BSA 430-065_WB)
7. An Activity Consent and Approval form is completed for each youth involved and is signed by both parents and/or guardians.
8. Eye and ear protection must be used by all participants.
9. Cub Scout BB gun shooting and archery is only conducted at council and district events. Packs MAY NOT conduct BB gun shooting or archery.

F. Responsibilities and Procedures. Unit leaders, activity chairmen, instructors and range safety officers are responsible for following the shooting sports policy and guidelines established by the council shooting sports committee. The guidelines shown below are mandatory for all shooting sports activities.

1. Unit Leader Guidelines
2. Instructor and Range Safety Officer Guidelines
3. Merit Badge Counselor Guidelines
4. Archery Guidelines
5. BB Gun Guidelines
6. Council/District Shooting Activity Guidelines

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G. Age Appropriate Policy for Shooting Sports Activities (Appropriate Firearms). (as listed in the current BSA Shooting Sports Manual 30931_WB - for exceptions and prohibitions see the current version as posted on scouting.org see BSA Publication 680-685)

1. Cub Scouts : May shoot BB guns and archery at council/district events only.
2. Webelos Scouts: May shoot BB guns, pellet guns and archery at council/district events only.
3. Scouts BSA: May only shoot .22 cal bolt action single-shot rifles. All .22 cal rifles of other actions are prohibited. If a magazine is used it must be a “box” style magazine and hold no more than 10 rounds. .22 caliber rifles with tubular magazines are prohibited. May shoot shotguns and percussion muzzle loading rifles.
4. Venturing BSA: May shoot rifles, pistols or shotguns of any caliber, or action except fully automatic firearms, Shotguns must be no larger than 12 gauge, Muzzle-loading firearms must be percussion cap. (no flintlocks)
5. Prohibited firearms: Airsoft guns, tubular magazine rifles, automatic rifles. Flintlock firearms are not approved for use by members of the BSA. No human silhouette targets or facsimile are allowed.

H. Shooting Activity Levels. There are 5 levels of shooting activities in BSA involving rifle, shotgun and pistol. To determine which level to conduct, consult *BSA Shooting Sports Manual* as follows,

1. Rifle, pages 11-15
2. Shotgun, pages 16-20
3. Pistol, pages 21-25
4. Muzzle loading Rifle, 26-30
5. Muzzle loading Shotgun, 31-35
6. Muzzle loading Pistol, 36-40

I. Guidelines.

1. Unit Leader
2. Instructor and Range Safety Officer
3. Merit Badge Counselor
4. Archery
5. BB Gun
6. Council/District Shooting Activity
7. Range Approval Procedures
8. Shotgun Range SOP
9. Rifle Range SOP
10. Pistol Range SOP
11. Muzzle Loader Rifle Range SOP

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