

SSAA ACT MILITARY
FIREARMS CLUB

RETURN TO PLAY IN A
COVID-19 SAFE
ENVIRONMENT PLAN

FEBRUARY 2022



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1.0. INTRODUCTION

1.1. REQUIREMENT

The ACT Government requires that sporting clubs develop a Return to Play in a COVID Safe Environment Plan to ensure that they are complying with the ACT Government's rules for the return of sport. This will meet the requirements of a COVID Safety Plan, and thus a separate Club Safety Plan is not required.

We value the safety of our volunteers, members and the general public above all else. Ensure that you follow these procedures for your own safety and the safety of others. Failure to comply may result in persons being asked to remove themselves from the range.

A hard copy of the Return to Play plan will be available at each MFC range /facility and must be produced if demanded by officials of the ACT Government or SSAA ACT. An electronic copy of the plan will reside on the MFC Website on the "About MFC" page – MFC Committee members should direct any persons seeking the plan to the web page.

1.2. HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

Using the ACT Government Pathway Forward as of the 12th November 2021, this plan is broken down into 4 main sections:

- a. Introduction. This section details administrative aspects of the plan,
- b. Common Requirements. Lists the rules and restrictions necessary to combat COVID that APPLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE – regardless of phase.
- c. Specific Requirements – Lists specific restrictions and rules that apply IN ADDITION to Common Requirements.
- d. Instructing. Lists specific considerations for personnel instructing, including H Class probationer courses.

1.3. PROCEDURAL CHANGES

Some changes to our operational procedures must be made as we are required to modify the way we train, play and spectate to keep our community safe. These changes only relate to administration, organisation and running of training or competition sessions – specific firearm and range safety rules and procedures will not be amended in any manner by this plan.

1.4. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

This plan expands on the SSAA ACT COVID Safety Plan to add additional guidance for use during MFC activities. If there is a conflict between this document and the SSAA ACT Safety Plan whereby the MFC plan sets a lesser requirement, the SSAA ACT requirement is to be used. The MFC plan may have stricter restrictions – in this case the MFC restriction is to be used for MFC activities.

2.0. COMMON REQUIREMENTS

2.1. GENERAL

If you are or have been feeling unwell in the days leading up to an MFC booked event, you must stay at home.

Any member or attendee that returns a positive test result for COVID-19 should notify the club as soon as possible.

All persons must comply with all public health directives from the ACT Government.

2.2. HYGIENE

Avoid all physical contact with other range attendees (excluding residents of the same household) as COVID-19 can be transmitted by droplets that can be passed from hand to hand, including handshakes.

MFC will provide hand sanitiser at all booked club meetings.

It is recommended that you cough or sneeze into your arm or a tissue, put the tissue in the rubbish bin and then sanitise your hands before touching any surfaces.

All attendees must sanitise or wash their hands often while at an ACTMFC organised meeting, especially after blowing their nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitiser.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Any frequently-contacted items such as benches, tables and shooting mats must be disinfected with a safe procedure (see Cleaning Equipment) in between details as well as before and after the scheduled meet times.

Members should not share equipment where possible. If equipment is to be shared between persons of different residential addresses, it should be either spray disinfected or wiped down with an alcohol wipe before passing over.

2.3. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

At least 1.5 metres distance (two arm lengths) is to be maintained between yourself and other range users (excluding persons from the same residential address).

Line markers or signage may be used to direct attendees where to stand in order to manage physical distancing. Caution/Warning/Barrier tape may also be used to designate out of bounds areas – members must not breach barrier tape without approval from the RO.

Maximum occupancy of all buildings and clubhouses must be strictly adhered to.

2.4. TRAVEL

Members are required to comply with extant interstate travel restrictions posted by ACT or NSW Governments. NSW members must check extant restrictions for “interstate” travel prior to travelling to the range.

2.5. SIGNING IN

All attendees must understand and abide by the conditions of entry.

Hand sanitiser, the range book and any other record-keeping documents will be placed at the closest point of entry to the range without inhibiting the flow of traffic.

The “check-in CBR” app will be used in line with current Government and Health Department directives/mandates.

Attendees must sanitise their hands as their first action upon arriving at the range.

2.6. RECORD KEEPING

For regular club meetings, the MFC range sign in book is sufficient.

For H-class probationary courses, an MFC range sign in book will be used as well as an attendance roll.

2.7. RANGE OFFICERS

Range Officers (ROs) may breach social distancing for the purpose of clearing firearms or rendering assistance, but not engage in person to person contact unless in the case of an emergency

ROs must sanitise their hands immediately after handling an attendee’s equipment should they need to render assistance

ROs may consider wearing a face mask (even when not otherwise required) and/or gloves if social distancing needs to be breached (no more than a total of 15 minutes contact with an individual within a booked range session).

2.8. PAYMENTS

All attendees are encouraged to make all payments by bank transfer.

2.9. EQUIPMENT CLEANING

Latex or nitrile gloves should be worn when handling potentially contaminated equipment items and/or caustic cleaning solutions.

Shooting mats should be sprayed with disinfectant immediately following use so that there is no risk to the following detail. Members are encouraged to bring their own shooting mats.

Benches and tables (and similar high contact surfaces e.g. door handles) should be sprayed with disinfectant after use and at the end of a booked range session, then wiped over with paper towel or a suitable cloth where practical (noting that it may not be practical or possible to wipe down a concrete bench).

Holsters of a material type can be sprayed down with disinfectant. Plastic holsters can be either sprayed with disinfectant or wiped with alcohol antibacterial wipes then dried with a soft cloth.

Vests for range officers should be issued to one RO for the duration of the booked range session then sprayed with disinfectant and hung up to dry at the end of the meet.

Firearms and magazines should be wiped down with alcohol disinfectant wipes and dried with a soft cloth (ensuring that the type of wipe used does not stain or harm the finish on any components – ASEPTI brand alcohol wipes have worked well during previous H- Class probationary courses).

2.10. FURTHER RESOURCES

[SSAA ACT COVID Safe Plan – SSAA ACT Inc](#)
[SSAA NSW COVID-19 Safety Plan](#)

[ACT Government COVID-19 webpage](#)
[The ACT Government's Pathway Forward](#)
[ACT Government Sport and Recreation COVID-19 webpage](#)
[Return to Sport Framework \(act.gov.au\)](#)

[Federal Department of Health COVID-19 webpage](#)

Federal Government COVID information hotline: 1800 020 080

3.0. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

From 12th November 2021, local branch/affiliate club **outdoor competition and training** is permissible.

ACT Government Capacity limits are as follows:

- density limits of one person per two square meters will apply to all indoor spaces (excluding staff [RO's and/or Instructors]) before density limits apply.
- density limits of one person per two square metres within each **outdoor** space up to 150 people (excluding staff)

Face masks will be used in line with current Government and Health Department guidelines/mandates.

4.0. INSTRUCTING

Physical distancing measures and public health orders are to be followed unless an instructor is required to engage or assist with a firearm for safety purposes. Those engaged in these activities must regularly use hand sanitiser and regularly sanitise equipment.

Close contact (inside 1.5 metres) with an individual under instruction should not exceed a total of 15 minutes over the duration of a booked range session.

The instructor and the unlicensed shooter may wear a face mask and the instructor may wear gloves during these close contact periods if they so choose. The instructor must wipe off their gloves with alcohol wipes or change gloves between shooters if used.

All instructors and trainees must adhere to proper pandemic hygiene measures at all times.

4.1. H-CLASS PROBATIONARY COURSE

The probationary course will be run in adherence to the MFC *Return to Play* plan with the additional clauses below.

Where possible, a limit of 12 probationary shooters will be put in place for the duration of the H-Class Training Course.

All attendees will sanitise their hands regularly.

Attendees will be issued with sanitised equipment at the start of the range session that will only be handled by them for the duration of the booked range session.

Should there be a shortage of equipment, the instructors will ensure that the equipment is suitably cleaned and sanitised before it is passed onto the next attendee.

All equipment will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised in an appropriate way (see 2.9. Cleaning Equipment) before it is packed away at the end of the booked range session.

No attendee should accumulate more than a total of 15 minutes close contact with an instructor over the course of a booked range session (e.g. 5min at the start, 5min in the middle, 5min at the end – not three lots of 15 minute intervals).

On the first session of a probationary course, attendees will be sorted into three grade levels by the instructor (example of grades and rationale below) according to level of supervision and dependence on an instructor.

Once they have reached their 15 minutes of close contact time, their shooting component of the evening will have ended, and further theory work may be conducted.

LEVEL	SUPERVISION NEEDED	ATTRIBUTES	INDICATORS
1	CLOSE	*NEVER HANDLED ANY FIREARMS PREVIOUSLY *POOR LISTENING SKILLS *OVER CONFIDENCE	*NERVOUS *POOR ATTENTION *ASKS THE SAME QUESTIONS REPEATEDLY
2	INTERMEDIATE	*HAD SOME FIREARMS EXPERIENCE OR HOLDS AN A/B LICENCE *GOOD LISTENING SKILLS	*INCREASED CONFIDENCE *DEMONSTRATES LEARNING *APPLIES NEW KNOWLEDGE
3	MINIMAL	*SUFFICIENT FIREARMS EXPERIENCE OR HOLDS AN A/B LICENCE *GOOD LISTENING SKILLS *CONFIDENT IN THEIR HANDLING OF FIREARMS	*HIGHLY CONFIDENT *DEMONSTRATES A HIGHER LEVEL OF LEARNING *APPLIES NEW KNOWLEDGE *SEEKS BETTER SKILL AND ACCURACY

Attendees do not need to be aware of their grade or that of others.

Grades are a tool for the instructor to gauge where the shooter is at in their training and to aid in limiting close contact time to 15 minutes.