



**SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA (ACT) INC**

MILITARY FIREARMS CLUB

RULE BOOK

As adopted by SSAA ACT MFC at AGM 26 June 2022 and endorsed by SSAA ACT Council 5 July 2022

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1. Club Title

The name of the club shall be the SSAA (ACT) Military Firearms Club (the Club).

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Club shall be to:

- a. Foster the use of original historical traditional military firearms and calibres for competitive traditional and historical military style shooting within the SSAA ACT.
- b. Encourage organized competitive shooting, with a view towards a better knowledge of the safe handling and the proper care of historical military firearms.
- c. Provide a set of standard shooting rules which will guide competitors and assist competition staff in the orderly, safe, and consistent management of historical service firearms shooting in the SSAA ACT.
- d. Provide members with economical shooting matches that stress back to basics style and skills at arms competitions.
- e. Assist and educate younger shooters in safety and skill at arms with historical military firearms, including the safe and proper care and handling of such firearms.
- f. Relate the firearms laws to service shooting disciplines and the collection of historical firearms.
- g. Promulgate, in the interests of safety, knowledge and information of historical military firearms and ammunition as well as providing a living historical military firearms resource in the community.
- h. Provide a Club sporting environment for all the family and do all such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above aims and objectives.
- i. Promote and encourage the collection of historical firearms and commercial variants, and corresponding ammunition, of the types and calibres used by military and police.

3. Club Structure

The Club consists of four sections (also referred to as Sub Disciplines) being:

- a. Pistol
- b. Tactical Rifle
- c. Trainer Rifle
- d. Rifle.

Each section is administered by a Captain and Vice-Captain who are responsible for the running of the section's matches and all other matters pertaining to the section's management, except for acquisition of new infrastructure or consumables with a value greater than the petty cash limit, as set out in Rule 11g, and any activity which falls outside the normal range of activities for that section. Such matters are the responsibility of the Committee. In collaboration with the Discipline Coordinator, Captains are responsible for advising the Club membership of courses of fire for upcoming section matches.

The Pistol Section is further broken down into two Sub Disciplines:

- a. The Service Pistol Sub Discipline, and
- b. The Historical Firearms Collectors Sub Discipline is managed by a Committee appointed Coordinator. The Coordinator reports to the Pistol Captain.

4. Officers

A Committee of Management (the Committee) shall be constituted of elected officers. The Committee shall consist of:

- a. club patron(s).
- b. the following office holders in the club:
 - (1) Discipline Coordinator
 - (2) Treasurer
 - (3) Rifle Captain
 - (4) Rifle Vice Captain
 - (5) Pistol Captain
 - (6) Pistol Vice Captain(s) as required¹
 - (7) Tactical Rifle Captain
 - (8) Tactical Rifle Vice Captain
 - (9) Trainer Rifle Captain
 - (10) Trainer Rifle Vice Captain, and
 - (11) Club Armourer (where a qualified person is available).

Note 1: The Committee may vary the number of Pistol Vice Captains sought each AGM. The number will take into account the number of pistol shoot attendees and match workloads. The calling notice for the AGM will specify the number sought for the following financial year.

The membership of the Committee is to be elected annually (in accordance with Clause 7 of these rules).

The Committee may appoint other Club Officers without the requirement for a General Meeting election - for example the Election Officer (who is only stood up for the duration of election of the Committee members) and the Historical Firearms Collectors Sub Discipline Coordinator.

5. Duties

The duties of the Officers of the Club shall be those generally accepted for the respective office or as directed by a General or Committee Meeting of the Club. A policy of one major responsibility for one committee member shall be applied wherever possible.

6. Meetings

The Club shall hold meetings as follows:

a. Annual General Meeting (AGM) and General Meeting (GM).

The Annual General Meeting and General Meetings of the members of the Club shall take place at regular dates and times to be fixed by an AGM. At least one month's notice of motion having been given at a GM is required to alter the dates, times and places of an AGM or GM (as a guide it is expected that the AGM would be held in the month of June each year to meet the SSAA [ACT] Inc. annual audit deadline).

b. Special General Meetings.

Special Meetings of the Club shall be restricted to the business notified, and having given at least ten days' notice to all Members, may be summoned:

- (1) By resolution passed at a GM.
- (2) By order of the Committee.
- (3) On a requisition signed by not less than ten members, delivered to the Discipline Coordinator and stating the business to be considered and be held not later than twenty-one (21) days after the same requisition, has been received.

c. Committee Meetings.

Meetings of the Committee shall be called on from time to time by the Committee, with at least seven (7) days' notice being given to members affected.

d. Special Committee Meetings.

These meetings shall be restricted to the business notified and may be summoned:

- (1) By the Club Discipline Coordinator on giving two (2) days' notice.
- (2) On giving requisition of at least three (3) members of the Committee, by the Discipline Coordinator on giving seven (7) days' notice to each member of the Committee. The object for which such a meeting is called shall be stated in the requisition and in the notice to the members.

e. Historical Firearms Collectors Sub Discipline Meetings.

Meetings and Special Events of the Historical Firearms Collectors Sub Discipline shall occur regularly throughout the year to discuss the collection, research and study of historical firearms and commercial variants, of the types and calibres used by military and police. At least three (3) days' notice shall be given.

f. Quorum.

The following numbers of members eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum at the following respective meetings:

- (1) Annual General Meeting (AGM): 50% of the membership, or twelve (12) members whichever is the lesser.
- (2) General Meeting: 50% of the membership, or twelve (12) members whichever is the lesser.
- (3) Special General Meeting: A minimum of twelve (12) members. The members attending must include at least three (3) Committee members and the Discipline Coordinator.
- (4) Committee Meeting: A minimum of six (6) elected Committee members. The members attending must include the Discipline Coordinator.
- (5) Historical Firearms Collectors Sub Discipline. A minimum of three (3) members.

7. Election of Officers

Election of Officers shall be as follows:

- a. The election of the Committee shall take place at the AGM as convened under Clause 5. The term of office shall be for one year, except when the date of the AGM is put back under Clause 5, but shall not exceed fifteen months duration.

- b. All financial members of the Club who have attained the age of eighteen years old shall be eligible for election to the Committee, provided that no member of the Committee shall earn their living solely as Licensed Firearms Dealers.
- c. Should the requirements of the preceding Rule be found to at any time be violated, the individual officer concerned is to resign forthwith. Election of another committee person is to take place at the next AGM or GM, whichever is held first. Notice of the pending election is to be given to all members.
- d. Nominations for office must be in the hands of the Election Officer not later than the commencement of the AGM and must be signed by the Club members 'nominating' and 'seconding' the nominee for office. If no nominations are received by the Election Officer prior to the commencement of the AGM for any of the vacated offices, then the Discipline Coordinator may call for nominations during the meeting.
- e. All contested Offices shall be contested by secret ballot on a form provided by the Election Officer. Votes shall be decided based on a majority of members eligible to vote, present and voting. The Election Officer shall conduct the election for the Club Discipline Coordinator and other Offices. In the event of a tied vote, the Discipline Coordinator shall exercise a prerogative to cast the deciding vote, save for the Discipline Coordinator's Office. Should the Discipline Coordinator's Office election be tied, the vote shall be subject to a fresh secret ballot.
- f. Members of the extant Committee shall be eligible for re-election.
- g. The incoming officers shall take their places of office immediately upon declaration of the result of the elections, which must be made during the meeting.
- h. At a meeting of the Committee, held not more than four (4) weeks after the AGM, the Committee shall proceed to elect from amongst its members two National Delegates and a SSAA (ACT) Council Delegate.
- i. Resignations from the Committee shall be made in writing submitted to the Discipline Coordinator and tabled at the next GM, after the acceptance of such resignation. Vacancies arising from resignation/s shall be filled by election at the next GM post the acceptance of the resignation. Nominations for vacated positions on the Committee shall be in the hands of the Election Officer not later than the commencement of the GM and must be signed by the Club members 'nominating' and 'seconding' the nominee for office. If no nominations are received by the Election Officer prior to the commencement of the GM for any of the vacated offices, then the Discipline Coordinator may call for nominations during the meeting.

- j. A 'Motion of No Confidence' in one office bearer, a part or whole of the Committee, presented after one month's notice and notified to each member, that receives a two thirds majority of the votes of the members present and voting, shall cause the person or persons affected to resign immediately and an election, conducted by the Election Officer – even though retiring – shall be conducted immediately to replace those officers.
- k. Any member of the Committee who absents themselves without leave from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Committee, shall be subject to a motion of no confidence as laid down in the preceding sub-clause. Acceptance of apology of the member shall be deemed a grant of such leave. Apologies must be submitted to the Discipline Coordinator prior to the commencement of the meeting.

8. Powers

The powers of Committees and Meetings are in ascendance in the following order:

- a. Committee, GM and AGM. Decisions of one body may be overruled by a superior body, but until so done, shall stand to affect management within the sphere of allotted influence.
- b. No person, officer or other, is to have discretionary powers unless these are delegated by motion of the Committee, this being subject to appeal and rejection by a superior committee of the SSAA (ACT) Inc. The Discipline Coordinator shall have unlimited authority on every question of order and shall be the sole interpreter of the rules of the club. An appeal from this ruling shall take preference over all other business.
- c. The Committee does not have the power to grant concessions, franchises or let tenders. This must be arranged through and by the SSAA (ACT) Inc. executive.

9. Voting

The rules for voting shall be:

- a. Except where otherwise provided in these Rules, all motions submitted to any Club meeting of or within the Club shall be decided by a simple majority vote of all eligible members present and voting, the Discipline Coordinator not voting except to lodge a casting vote in the case of a tie.
- b. To be eligible to vote at GM and AGM, a member must be a financial member, or junior member who has attained the age of eighteen years during their present financial year.
- c. Proxy voting is not permitted at any meeting of the Association or this Club.

10. Rescission of Resolution

No meeting of the Club may rescind or alter a resolution within the period of the passing thereof except by a two thirds majority of members present and voting. If such period is not defined at the time of passing the resolution, it shall be two months.

11. Fees and Monies

The Club shall manage its fees and monies as set out below:

a. All Monies Received.

All monies received on behalf of the Club shall be paid to the Club forthwith and a Club receipt issued to the payee. Any monies received on behalf of SSAA (ACT) Inc. - which will generally be range pass fees - shall be paid the Club Treasurer who will disburse the monies to the SSAA (ACT) Inc. Treasurer and issue SSAA (ACT) Inc. receipts to the payee.

b. Annual Club Membership Fee.

A single annual membership fee shall be payable on joining the Club and annually thereafter at the AGM. Fees paid by new members joining prior to 30 June shall be at the rate one twelfth (1/12) of the annual membership for each month or part month falling before 30 June, rounded to the nearest dollar.

Membership for Junior members (those less than 18 years age at the AGM when fees are normally due) is free.

A Club Membership Card is to be issued to the member on payment of annual fees.

c. Fee setting.

All membership and joining fees rates shall be set by the AGM and shall apply for the period specified by that meeting, or until otherwise varied by the club at an AGM.

d. Claim on Ownership.

Payment of fees does not entitle a member to any direct claim or ownership of the assets of the Club. No profits from the activities of the Club will revert to members.

e. Payment of Fees.

All fees and monies received on behalf of the Club shall be paid to the Treasurer.

f. Treasurer's Responsibilities.

The Treasurer shall keep true and proper accounts of all monies received and expended by the Club. The Treasurer is authorised by these rules to manage the Club's bank account, constitute and maintain appropriate account books and to disburse funds by cheque, EFT and cash as authorised by the Committee; and to meet day to day Club running expenses by petty cash to a limit of \$200.00 per transaction.

g. Club Auditor.

The Club shall appoint an auditor not holding office in the Club to conduct an annual audit of the Club financial affairs for each financial year. The auditor shall prepare an audit report for submission at the Club AGM and later submission to the Treasurer SSAA (ACT).

h. Payment of Range Passes.

Range pass fees for the membership year following the AGM are due at the AGM unless range passes are obtained by other means.

For members joining during the membership year, range fees shall be charged at the rate of one twelfth of the annual range fee, per month or partial month falling before 30 June, rounded up to the nearest whole dollar amount. The annual range fee shall be either single or family as required by the member.

12. Conditions of Membership

A Club member must be a financial member of the SSAA Inc., and observe the following requirements:

- a. Meet one of the prescribed SSAA Inc., classes of membership, i.e., 'Ordinary', 'Junior' or 'Family' or be an 'Association member of honorary nature' prescribed in the SSAA Constitution.
- b. All fees must be paid within 30 calendar days of the due date/s.
- c. All members shall pay the annual Club fees and any other approved fees.
- d. A member charged with a firearms offence must notify the Discipline Coordinator of the offence and its nature forthwith.
- e. A member must notify the Discipline Coordinator of any change of address within fourteen days.

- f. Be a member appointed by an AGM to be a 'life honorary member' of the Club, for services rendered to the Club. Such member's annual fees are waived for the period of their membership and are not transferable.
- g. A member who participates in Club competitions at the SSAA Majura complex must have a current SSAA range pass.

13. Non-Financial Member

A person whose Club subscription remains unpaid 31 calendar days after the due date on which the subscription became payable shall cease to be a member. The Committee shall have the discretion to grant exemption from this Clause.

14. Refusal to Grant or Renew Membership, Suspension or Expulsion of Member

The Club reserves to itself the right to refuse a person membership and to refuse to renew membership and to suspend or expel any of its members without divulging reasons but shall have the discretion to divulge reasons.

A motion of refusal, suspension or expulsion shall be by the Committee.

A member must be advised of Committee's intention to meet and discuss his/her renewal, suspension or expulsion and has the right to attend such meeting and must be given a full and fair hearing. Should the suspended or expelled member wish to appeal to a General Meeting of the SSAA (ACT) Inc., he/she may do so.

15. Resignation of member

Any member not indebted to the Association or the Club for subscription/s or otherwise may resign their membership by giving notice in writing to the Discipline Coordinator.

16. Club Management Rules

The Club may formulate rules for the management and orderly running of the Club. Such rules may not conflict with the SSAA Inc. Constitution or the Constitution of the SSAA (ACT) Inc. and are binding on members of the Club. A Rule Book shall be kept for Club management.

17. Rules Governing Club Competitions and Safety Rules

The Club adopts the 'Combined Services Official National Rules as its rules for shooting competition and competition management.

The Club Committee and all members shall observe and apply such safety rules which apply for the range in use. In addition, the range commands, degrees of firearms readiness and safety rules of the Combined Services Rules shall be binding on all members unless local range rules dictate otherwise.

The superior safety rules to apply to any competitive Club general, State or National title shoot on SSAA ACT Ranges shall be those of the Range Standing Orders and/or Range Rules for the range in use, the Combined Services Rules then the Club range rules. The Club has the discretion to vary the practices shot from the Combined Services Rules should it so desire for local competitions.

Club matches will primarily be those listed in the Combined Services Official National Rules, but the club may conduct any SSAA approved match for rifle or pistol provided no other match is conducted more often than SSAA combined services matches. Members are strongly encouraged to use military firearms regardless of the match being conducted.

18. Club Rule Amendments

Rules other than Rules 1 and 2 of this Rule Book shall not be amended except by at least a three-fourths majority of Ordinary members present at a GM. Rules 1 and 2 of this Rule Book shall not be amended, except by a majority vote of all Ordinary members. Any changes to this Rule Book through the Club processes, are subject to ratification by SSAA (ACT) Inc.

19. Notice of Motion Required for Amendments to Club Rules

Fourteen days' notice of such a motion, setting forth the proposed amendment in full, shall be given to each member.

20. General Rule Application

The Club:

- a. Shall be responsible for the composition and maintenance of its Rule Book in keeping with its by-laws and the by-laws of SSAA (ACT) Inc., and for all other matters which pertain to the aims and interests of the Club. Such Rule Book is of no effect until approved by the SSAA (ACT) Inc.
- b. Shall act in accord with this Rule Book, its By-Laws and such rules as are made by the Club and shall always be responsible to the SSAA (ACT) Inc. in all matters set out in the Club's Rules and By-Laws.
- c. Shall not apply any rule made by the Club until that rule is approved by the SSAA (ACT) Inc. and such rule cannot have retrospective effect.
- d. Shall maintain a current list of details and programs for future competitions, and shall keep the SSAA (ACT) Inc., informed of such competitions.
- e. Shall provide Club documents and/or other information to the SSAA (ACT) Inc. on its request.

f. Shall not enter into discussion, correspondence, or any other form of communication, on behalf of the Club or the SSAA (ACT) Inc., in respect of legislation, policy, or the Club's or SSAA (ACT) Inc.:

- (1) Rules,
- (2) By-Laws, or
- (3) Constitution,

without specific permission of the SSAA (ACT) Inc.

g. Shall notify the SSAA (ACT) Inc., through the SSAA (ACT) Secretary of a change in, or an appointment to, the Club's Committee, by the next monthly Council Meeting of such change of appointment.

h. Shall not alter in any way a building, range site, earthworks, or landform owned or leased by SSAA (ACT) Inc., without specific written approval of SSAA (ACT) Inc.

21. Definition and Application of Military Rifles

Any rifle of military type and military calibre as defined in the Combined Services Rules and appearing in the associated 'Approved Rifles and Pistols for Combined Services List' shall be permitted to shoot in Club competitions provided the rifle is in a safe condition to compete as deemed by the Section Captain/Vice Captain.

22. Ammunition requirements

It is expected that competitors will compete in the 'spirit of the competition', accordingly loads and projectiles used, should be to military specification.

The Club reserves the right to examine and/or test ammunition which the RO may reasonably suspect as under power factor.

23. Definition and Application of Military Pistols

Any pistol of military type and military calibre as defined in the Combined Services Rules' and appearing in the associated Approved Rifles and Pistols for Combined Services List shall be permitted to shoot in Club competitions, provided the pistol is in a safe condition to compete as deemed by Section Captain/Vice Captain.

24. Definition and Application of Historical Firearms

The Historical Firearms Collectors Sub Discipline is a Sub Discipline under the Military Pistol Section managed by a Committee-appointed Coordinator. The Coordinator reports to the Pistol Captain. MFC financial members who are members of the Historical Firearms Collectors Sub Discipline may:

- a. be endorsed by the MFC for a licence for the collection of historical firearms and commercial variants, of the types and calibres used by military and police; and
- b. be endorsed by the MFC for a licence for the collection of historical ammunition of the types and calibres used by military and police; and
- c. hold Collectors Sub Discipline Meetings and Special Events relating to the collection, research and study of historical firearms and commercial variants, of the types and calibres used by military and police.

25. Licences and Registration of Firearms

All firearms used for MFC competition or practice are to be registered and the firer must be compliant with legal licensing requirements for the State of residence. Club endorsement of certain firearms for new and renewal registrations and as required by the registration authorities shall be as follows:

- a. Approved Club Licence/Registration Delegates.

The following appointments are approved to endorse licence and registration (ie. Permit To Acquire) applications and renewals as per the table below:

Appointment	Endorsement
Discipline Coordinator	All firearms and licences
Treasurer	All firearms and licences
Pistol Captain/ Vice Captain	Pistol endorsements, H licences
Pistol Captain	Historical firearms

- b. Centrefire Military Rifles.

Endorsement where required will only be provided for MFC financial members who have completed initially six shoots per first year of membership and three shoots per year thereafter and who are deemed safe and proficient in firearms use by the Club Discipline Coordinator or Club Rifle Captain/Vice Captain. Transferring members of a previous rifle club must provide evidence from their former club that they have attended a similar number of shoots before endorsement.

- c. Class H Pistols.

Endorsement will only be provided for MFC financial members who have completed initially six shoots per first year of membership and six shoots per year thereafter and who are deemed safe and proficient in firearms use by the Club Discipline Coordinator or Club Pistol Captain/Vice Captain. Transferring members of a previous pistol club must provide evidence from their former club that they have attended a similar number of shoots before endorsement.

d. Licence Endorsement.

The Club member is to submit their application for new/renewal licence to the Club Discipline Coordinator or Treasurer accompanied by their completed Club membership card recording the number of shoots attended. H Licence applications may be submitted to the Pistol Captain or a Vice Captain.

The Club Discipline Coordinator or Treasurer, on being satisfied the member is compliant with club rules, will affix the Club stamp for the particular firearms to the application form and date and sign the form. The approver may check with the relevant Club Captain if he/she has questions regarding the member's compliance.

Only the Discipline Coordinator has the right to reject a firearms licence endorsement for non-compliance with the rules and the spirit and intent of these rules.

Rejected endorsement will be notified to the member in writing by the Discipline Coordinator.

A member requiring Club endorsement whose attendances fall below the minimum required per annum will be required to supply a satisfactory written explanation to the Discipline Coordinator, upon request by the Discipline Coordinator within fourteen days. The Discipline Coordinator has the right to make or apply any conditions to the future endorsement of the member's application and may refuse endorsement until the requisite number of shoots is attended.

e. Historical Firearms Collectors Endorsement

Collectors Licence Club endorsement will only be provided for MFC financial members who are active members of the MFC Historical Firearms Collectors Sub Discipline and meet the following requirements:

- (1) For the collection of pistols manufactured after 1946:
 - (i) The member must have been an active member of the club for at least one year and hold a category H firearms licence; and
 - (ii) The collection must have a thematic structure; and
 - (iii) The member researches or studies firearms; and
 - (iv) The member collects firearms of the type for which they are licenced; and

- (v) The member has the support of the club.
- (2) For the collection of any other kind of firearms:
 - (i) The member is an active member of the club; and
 - (ii) The collection must have a genuine historical or thematic structure or a genuine commemorative or investment value; and
 - (iii) The member collects firearms of the type for which they are licenced; and
 - (iv) The member has the support of the club.

26. Responsibilities - Club Safety: Discipline Coordinator

The Discipline Coordinator has direct responsibility for all safety rules and their enforcement in the Club. The Discipline Coordinator is to liaise with Club Captains to ensure that all applicable safety rules have been implemented and that safety has been considered in competition design and running.

27. Responsibilities – Club Safety: Captains and Vice-Captains

All Club Captains and Vice Captains are personally and directly responsible for control of safety on the range, during competitions and in any firearms handling as outlined in Rule 17.

28. Requirements for a Range Officer and a Safety Officer at Competitions

All range competitions and shooting are to have a Range Officer (RO) conducting the shoot. The Range Officer should ideally be formally accredited through SSAA ACT, but whether SSAA accredited or not, experienced personnel who act as Club Range Officers must have demonstrated competence and safety in Club Range Operation (to a Club Captain or the Discipline Coordinator) and may be appointed by the Club Section to act as a Range Officer for that competition day.

The Range Officer is responsible for safe conduct of the competition, and may be assisted as required by another member or members as safety observers. More formal or large club competitions may justify the appointment of a designated Safety Officer – the decision to do so is that of the applicable Club Captain.

A long continuous whistle blast or shouted command of “CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE, CEASE FIRE.” is to be used to stop a range shoot for a safety situation or potential safety reason. A warning of a safety situation may be made by a Range Officer or a Safety Officer.

29. Responsibilities - Club Safety: Members

Every Club member in attendance has a duty to practice the highest standards of safety on the range, and in addition has a personal duty of care to give a loud and clear warning in the event of a safety situation arising. This warning shall be the shouted words 'STOP, STOP', then advise the Range Officer of the situation.

30. Badges

The single official badge of the club shall be the Military Firearms Club badge which appears on the cover page of this Rule Book.