



Author – NZGTA Executive Committee 2023/24

Consulted – Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand

New Zealand Gundog Trial Association Simulated Trials Firearms Use Policy

1. Introduction

- a. The New Zealand Gundog Trial Association (NZGTA) promotes, fosters and regulates the conduct of Gundog Trials throughout New Zealand.
- b. The NZGTA Firearms Use Policy is the mandatory document that sets the minimum standards for firearm safety at all NZGTA simulated Field Trials. Reg Gen 11.
- c. This NZGTA Firearms Use Policy must be referenced in every simulated Field Trial Championship schedule as one of the particulars to be included in the schedule. Reg Admin 14.
- d. The entire NZGTA Firearms Use Policy is appended to the NZGTA Regulations

2. Important Features

- a. This policy applies to all gundog trial events that are run as simulated field trials.
- b. Where firearms are to be used in an event only BLANK Ammunition is allowed.
- c. Any device or firearm that a participant wishes to use to simulate a gunshot must be an item that has been reviewed and classified by the Firearm Safety Authority. If an item has been classed as a non-firearm or a blank firing gun (can NOT be used with live ammunition) it can be used by a non-firearm licence holder without supervision. Such devices must meet the requirements of NZGTA regulations and be passed as fit for purpose by the NZGTA Executive.
- d. A Firearm is any item that meets the definitions provided in the Arms Act 1983,
- e. An attendee and club officials can accept an item as having been reviewed by the Firearms Safety Authority if it is available for purchase through licenced firearms dealers.

3. Conduct of Events

- ALL FIREARMS WILL HAVE BEEN INSPECTED AND DECLARED SAFE AND FIT FOR PURPOSE PRIOR TO THE EVENT BEGINNING.
- AT ALL TIMES BLANK AMMUNITION IS TO BE USED. NO LIVE AMMUNITION TO BE BROUGHT ONTO TRIAL GROUNDS.

- Competitors are to ensure that they do not bring any ammunition (live or blank) onto the trial grounds, either on their person or in any bag.
- **Any person found in possession of live ammunition will be disqualified.**
- No firearm is to be left unattended on the Club grounds
- All firearms must be moved around the grounds in the open state.
- Firearms are only to be loaded when the competitor is at the start mark. (position from which judge indicates that shots will be fired)
- Loaded firearms may only be pointed in a safe direction, usually forward of the start mark. The judge shall determine the safe firing zones and advise each competitor of these zones.
- In the case of firearm malfunction keep the firearm facing forward of the 'start mark' and await the judge/officials instruction
- Eye protection is recommended, for all competitors, and anyone else in the immediate vicinity of a "start mark"
- Fully closed footwear must be worn while shooting (no jandals or sandals)
- Hearing protection is recommended for all shooters, and anyone else in the vicinity of the "start mark"
- Participants are responsible for providing their own personal protection equipment.

4. Firearms Use

Firearms Possession and use

All gundog trial competitors must abide by their obligations under the Arms Act 1983 & the Arms Regulation 1992.

All persons in possession of a firearm must hold a current Firearms Licence (or be supervised by someone who does), and be able to produce the licence on request

Any person who is not a firearms licence holder must be under the immediate supervision of a firearms licence holder at all times when that the person is holding, carrying or using a firearm.

Immediate supervision means a licence holder:

1. is physically present and actively supervising the shooter;
2. is close enough to be able to take control of the firearm being used by the shooter if necessary;
3. is not using another firearm while providing supervision.

Supervisor must also:

1. Instruct the unlicensed holder how to load their firearm prior to using the firearm.
2. Supervise them on the mark to ensure that safe firearm practice is followed.
3. Instruct them to break firearm after the last shot has been fired.

It is the responsibility of the club to provide licence holders who can supervise unlicensed participants.

ALL FIREARMS LICENCE HOLDERS must be conversant with the current Firearms Safety Code and ensure that they are adhered to. It is up to individual licence holders to

understand their responsibilities and to follow these. Licence holders must understand and follow the 7 rules of firearm safety.

The firearms safety rules are:

Rule 1: Treat every firearm as loaded

Rule 2: Always point firearms in a safe direction

Rule 3: Chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire

Rule 4: Identify your target beyond all doubt

Rule 5: Check your firing zone

Rule 6: Store and transport firearms and ammunition safely

Rule 7: Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

More information about the rules is available at the following webpage - firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/7-rules-firearm-safety

Blank shot firing guns and similar devices

Blank shot firing guns.

Each blank shot firing gun must be certified by the relevant authority to ensure that they meet current legal requirements. It must be proven that such devices cannot accept live ammunition of any kind. **Purchase from a New Zealand licensed firearms dealer or import under a Firearms Safety Authority permit to import satisfies this requirement.**

Any Blank Shot Firing Device (Alternative Blank Shot Firing Device that uses ammunition primers or blank ammunition) that is used for Gundog trial events must have certification from the FSA that it is approved for use as a blank firing device in New Zealand.

Storage

Security of firearms at events

Club officials must provide secure storage for firearms and other devices (blank firing weapons and sound making devices) that is

- In accordance with the Firearms Safety Code and the Secure storage and transportation guide for firearms and ammunition. OR
- Appropriate to ensure no one can access a blank firing weapon or other noise making device
- Firearms or other devices are in the competitor's immediate possession, or locked in a suitable container or secured out of sight in their locked vehicle
- Firearms must be stored under access restricted to the licence holder, locked away and transported by a licensed firearms holder.
- Any firearms that are brought to an event must remain secured, except when being used. If the licence holder who has brought is to leave the firearm in their vehicle,

they must not leave the vehicle unattended for longer than 60 minutes (Regulation 19B(4), Arms Regulations 1992).

Transportation

Transportation will be in accordance with the Firearms Safety Code and the Secure storage and transportation guide for firearms and ammunition.

5. Shooting Club and Range Legislation Does not Apply to simulated Field Trials

The Firearms Safety Authority – Te Tari Pūreke (FSA) have confirmed that Gundog Simulated Field Trials (blank shot trials) do not fit the profile that require such clubs to register as "Shooting Clubs" or to have their trial grounds certified as Ranges.

6. Other Policy Requirements

Any club member who is a non-licence holder should be encouraged to obtain a firearms licence. Gundog Trial Clubs are obliged to introduce unlicensed handlers to safe firearm handling procedures prior to such handlers entering championship events.

Where a club allows or promotes the use of blank firing firearms or other shot sound making devices a non-firearms licence holder can use these following safe use requirements and is not required to obtain a firearms licence.

Competitors who do not have a firearms licence also require supervision in the following situations:

- When carrying firearms from a vehicle to course and return
- Storing of guns in vehicle and
- Transporting guns to & from grounds.

FIREARMS AND UNLICENSED SHOOTERS MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES WHILE CARRYING OR HANDLING FIREAMS.

Advise NZ Police of an event

All clubs holding trials on private land are recommended to inform local Police that a Gundog trial is taking place (Time, Dates & Location) so if a member of the public hears shots & contacts the police, they can let the public know what is going on. Clubs can contact 105 call centres to provide details.

All clubs holding trial on public land are **required** to inform local police as above.

Signage

Signage must be displayed at the entry to the trial locations to advise the public that guns are being discharged.