

RISK ASSESSMENT

TASK / ACTIVITY / OPERATION / LOCATION / EQUIPMENT / INDIVIDUAL / DATE(S):	COLLEGE: Easton College	DEPARTMENT/BUILDING/AREA: AgroChallenge 2026
Target Shooting and Seed Recognition 24 th & 25 th June Location:Rear of P9 block Easton	ASSESSOR: Kirsty Rolfe/Binny Leniham	
	DATE ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT: 20-May-26	
	REVIEW DATE (Annually or after significant changes): 21-May-27	
	LINE MANAGER / VP APPROVAL (Name & Date):	Mat Scott 03/06/26

Hazards Associated with the Task, Activity, Operation, Location, Equipment, Individual.	Persons Affected	How Might They be Harmed	Control Measures	Severity Rating	Frequency Rating (likelihood)	Overall Risk Rating (Low, Medium or High)
Misuse of Air Rifle / Unsafe Handling	Staff/ Competitors	Improper handling leading to accidental discharge or injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only authorised participants permitted to handle rifles Mandatory safety briefing before participation Rifle always pointed downrange (towards targets) Finger off trigger until ready to fire Clear command system: “Load”, “Fire”, “Stop” Rifle to be unloaded when not in use Supervision by qualified range officer at all times Rifles used in the shoot must not be classified as a section 1 firearm & have a maximum muzzle energy of 12 ft-lbs or under. Weapons & Ammunition when not in use must be safely stored in a locked unit with supervision whilst at the show. 	4	3	Medium

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<p>Projectile Injury (Pellets) Hazard: Pellets causing injury to participants, staff, or spectators</p>	<p>Staff/ Competitors</p>	<p>Struck By injury leading to minor or major injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly roped-off exclusion zone around firing range Strictly controlled firing line All non-shooting team members stand behind shooter in designated safe area Targets aligned to ensure projectiles cannot leave controlled area Straw bale backstop positioned securely behind targets No spectators allowed downrange at any time 	<p>4</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Ricochet from Steel Targets Hazard: Pellets ricocheting off steel targets</p>	<p>Staff/ Competitors</p>	<p>Struck By injury leading to minor or major injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targets angled slightly downward to deflect pellets into ground/backstop Minimum safe shooting distance enforced Mandatory wearing of eye protection for shooter and nearby officials Regular inspection of targets for damage or flattening 	<p>4</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Equipment Failure (Air Rifle or Targets) Hazard: Malfunction causing misfire or unsafe operation</p>	<p>Staff/ Competitors</p>	<p>Injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-use inspection of all rifles and targets Spare rifle available in case of failure Only trained staff to change or repair equipment Any faulty equipment immediately withdrawn from use Stop activity immediately if malfunction occurs The calibre of rifle must not exceed .22 (5.5mm) An advanced first aider / paramedic must be on site who can manage catastrophic bleeding scenarios (Steve Delves) 	<p>4</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Medium</p>

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<p>Slips, Trips, and Falls Hazard: Uneven ground, equipment, or congestion</p>	<p>Staff/ Competitors</p>	<p>Minor to major injury from falls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep firing and waiting areas clear of obstructions • Clearly marked standing areas for participants • Appropriate footwear required • Cables, bags, and pellets stored safely 	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Improper Behavior / Distraction Hazard: Horseplay, distraction of shooter, or lack of focus</p>	<p>Competitor</p>	<p>Distraction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear behavioral expectations set during briefing • Immediate removal of anyone acting unsafely • Only one shooter active at a time • Team members must remain quiet and controlled 	<p>3</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Weather Conditions (Outdoor Event) Hazard: Wind, rain, or poor visibility affecting safety</p>	<p>Staff/ Competitors</p>	<p>Heatstroke/ Sunstroke</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event paused or stopped in unsafe weather conditions • Secure targets and backstops against wind movement • Ensure visibility of targets and safe zones at all times • Suitable clothing worn • Access to fresh drinking water 	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Crowd Control Hazard: Spectators entering restricted area</p>	<p>Staff/ Competitors</p>	<p>Struck by injury from Pellets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly marked boundaries with rope/barriers • Signage indicating “No Entry – Active Shooting Range” • Marshals or stewards to monitor perimeter • No access of viewing by general public • Other competitors to stand behind person shooting and not to walk across range 	<p>5</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Medium</p>

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Time Pressure / Competition Stress Hazard: Rushed or careless actions due to time constraint	Competitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasise safety over speed during briefing Range officer retains authority to stop unsafe attempts Shooter must demonstrate control before firing 	3	2	Medium
Noise Hazard: Damage to hearing	Competitors	Damage to hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earmuffs must be provided for all users of the range 	2	1	Low

NUMERICAL ASSESSMENT				OVERALL RISK FACTOR						
Severity Rating		Frequency Rating (likelihood)		Overall Risk Factor = Severity x Frequency	Frequency (likelihood)					
					5	4	3	2	1	
1	No Injuries / Minor Damage	1	Remote	Severity	5	25	20	15	10	5
2	Single Minor Injury	2	Unlikely		4	20	16	12	8	4
3	Single Major Injury / Personal Injury	3	Occasional		3	15	12	9	6	3
4	Single Fatality / Major Pollution	4	Probable		2	10	8	6	4	2
5	Multiple Fatalities	5	Frequent		1	5	4	3	2	1

15-25 High Risk	UNACCEPTABLE - REVISIT ACTIVITY & CONTROL MEASURES
8-12 Medium Risk	REVIEW THE CONTROL MEASURES – CAN YOU IMPLEMENT FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK? IF NOT, REGULARLY REVIEW CONTROL MEASURES.
1-6 Low Risk	ACCEPTABLE (Keep control measures under review).

Range Layout and Backstop Height

The range is designed as a 10-metre standing shooting distance, with a single shooter engaging five fixed knock-down targets. The shooter position is clearly defined and controlled to ensure a consistent firing line and disciplined shooting direction at all times.

Behind the targets, a substantial straw bale backstop will be installed. The backstop will be constructed to exceed both the height and width of the target array, ensuring full projectile capture. Specifically:

- The backstop height will be set at a minimum of 1.8 to 2 metres, significantly higher than the expected line of fire from a standing shooter.
- The width will extend beyond the lateral spread of the five targets to account for any deviation in aim. 2 metres of straw bales either side of targets.
- The straw bales provide an effective, dense medium designed to absorb and contain pellets safely, preventing ricochet or pass-through.
- The targets themselves will be positioned centrally against the backstop to maximise containment.

This setup ensures that any pellet that misses or passes through a target is safely captured within the straw structure.

Shooting Position and Control Measures

The activity will involve one participant shooting at any given time, under supervision. Additional controls include:

- A clearly marked shooting line, with no forward movement permitted while the range is “live.” (Flag will be up when range in use.)
- Strict supervision by competent and experienced personnel at all times. (Hold shotgun and firearms license and an Estate Shoot Manager.)
- Controlled loading and firing procedures.
- A designated safe area behind the firing point for all non-participants.

Proximity to Public Areas and Direction of Fire

The range will be positioned with careful consideration of surrounding land use:

- The direction of fire is set away (opposite direction from road) from any public footpaths, roads, or accessible areas.
- There will be a safe buffer zone extending beyond the backstop area, with no public access permitted within this zone. Signage will be used.
- The nearest public road/path will be at a safe distance and, critically, not within the direct line of fire.
- Natural and/or physical barriers (including terrain and layout positioning) further reduce any theoretical risk of stray projectiles leaving the designated range area.

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Where necessary, appropriate signage will be in place to inform and restrict access to the activity area during operation.

Competence and Risk Assessment

It is also important to highlight that the activity has been assessed and planned by individuals with relevant professional backgrounds and practical experience in land-based operations, safety management, and supervised training environments. This ensures:

- A robust and realistic risk assessment process
- Application of industry best practice
- Appropriate understanding of both equipment and environmental factors

Our combined experience places us in a strong position to safely manage and deliver this activity in a controlled and responsible manner.

Summary

In summary, the range has been designed with multiple layers of control, including:

- A suitably sized and positioned straw bale backstop
- Controlled shooting conditions (single shooter, supervised)
- Safety glasses worn
- Clear range discipline and layout
- Safe orientation away from public areas
- Competent oversight and risk management

These measures collectively ensure that the activity is low risk and appropriately managed.