



## **Risk Assessment for organised shooting activities involved with Field Trials**

### **A. Possible Hazards:**

1. Personal injury resulting from the intended or accidental discharge of a shotgun, driven or falling shot, falling game, noise or blast.
2. Slips and falls on ground that may be wet, uneven, sloping, or marshy. Trips occasioned by bramble, fallen trees, branches or logs or other ground obstructions.
3. Hazards associated with the crossing of watercourses, hedges, fences or other natural or manmade obstacles. Whether shooting, beating, picking up, competing or members of the public present.
4. Injury resulting from direct contact with barbed wire, thorn hedges, low branches or other natural occurring or constructed features of the landscape and from livestock that may be alarmed or disturbed.
5. Hazards associated with the use of vehicles on private land or public highways.
6. Hazards associated with being in the vicinity of machinery on private land or public highway. This is to include crop spraying activities and chemicals that may be associated with this operation.
7. Food safety issues. Surrounding the sale of shot game for human consumption.

### **At risk are:**

- ) Persons using shotguns (referred to as guns) and their companions. ·
- ) Persons employed or volunteered to drive/hold game towards the guns. ·
- ) Those placed in charge of the line (Steward of the Beat), normally the gamekeeper. ·
- ) Hosts, persons employed, volunteers or competitors that collect and retrieve shot game with dogs ·
- ) Those officials, Judges and Volunteers that are present to run the Field Trial. ·
- ) Drivers of vehicles. ·
- ) On-lookers and members of the public.

## **B. Code of Practice to be observed by all persons taking part or watching an authorized Field Trial**

1. The organizer will brief all present before moving off, a copy of the Risk Assessment will be displayed within the designated Registration Area.
2. All Guns must be competent at handling shotguns in a safe manner and must be in possession of a valid shotgun certificate, have Public Liability Insurance. The 'Shoot Captain' will be responsible for ensuring that all the Guns comply with the requirements.
3. Vehicles provided to transport Guns, Competitors and officials must be suitable for the purpose and the terrain that is to be encountered. Adequate seating must be provided, no dogs will be allowed in the driving compartment of the vehicles. The driver of each vehicle must be acquainted with the route and terrain over which they are to travel and be aware of other vehicles in the party.
4. Shotguns and ammunition must not be left unattended under any circumstance.
5. All persons involved should wear suitable non-restrictive clothing, adequate to provide protection from the elements and stout water resistant footwear. It is the responsibility of all persons attending that they equip themselves adequately and appropriately with ear protectors.
6. Guns must keep their weapons in a covered slip until arrival at their allocated position in the field trial line. Shots must not be fired prior to or after the signal is given to start / stop shooting. The Judges or Chief Steward may request the stopping of the shooting should there be sufficient game on the ground or the shooting of game whilst dogs are working.
7. In the event of an emergency the drive/trial will be stopped immediately and all weapons must be unloaded and placed back in their cover slip. Should this occurrence be caused by the involvement of persons that are opposed to the activity, the Steward of the Beat in consultation with the Chief Steward and judges must arrange to vacate the ground without the need for confrontation.
8. A shot should only be taken when it is safe to do so. Guns must be aware at all times of proximity of those closest to them, other guns, Beaters, Picker Up, Officials, Competitors and Members of the Public, the location of public footpaths, bridal ways, highways and livestock in the vicinity.
9. All members of the party must respect the property on which they are invited guests, be aware of the local terrain and any likely hazards and conduct themselves in a friendly and environmentally aware manner.
10. Members of the public and competitors that are not in line must stay with the gallery within the flags at all times and obey the instruction of Officials or Members of the Estate Staff.
11. Everybody involved must keep away from agricultural machinery, although it will not normally be working in the areas where the shooting is taking place.

**If this code of Practice is observed, the risk to humane health and safety posed by possible hazards that may be encountered during authorized activities are deemed to be low.**

**Weimaraner Association**

**September 2020**