

Training Programme

4 Progressive Courses

Designed for probationary members progressing from first contact to independent, safe shooting and safe shooters card.

Course 1 – Safety & Foundations of Shooting

(Equivalent to NRA Module 1)

Aim

To establish absolute safety, correct firearm handling, and the fundamentals of marksmanship.

Classroom Content

- Club induction: rules, responsibilities, range etiquette
- NRA Safe Shooting System
 - Safe Person
 - Safe Equipment
 - Safe Practice
 - Safe Place
- The 4 Safety Rules
- Muzzle awareness
- Firearms terminology
- Introduction to ammunition
- Principles of marksmanship:
 - Position & hold
 - Natural point of aim
 - Sight picture
 - Trigger control & follow-through

Range Content – use of Bisley Ranges

- Supervised live firing
- Introduction to:

- .22 LR semi-auto rifle
- .22 LR bolt-action rifle
- Lever-action rifle
- Basic range commands
- Instructor-led firing exercises

Outcome

- ✓ Safe handling under supervision
- ✓ Demonstrates correct muzzle discipline
- ✓ Understands core shooting principles

Instructor sign-off required

Course 2 – Sights, Zeroing & Rifle Handling

(Equivalent to NRA Module 2)

Aim

To develop competence in sight systems, zeroing, and consistent shot placement.

Classroom Content

- Sight systems:
 - Iron sights
 - Aperture / vernier sights
 - Telescopic sights
 - Red dot sights
- Boresighting
- Theory of the group
- Point of Aim vs Mean Point of Impact (MPI)
- Minute of Angle (MOA)
- Wind basics
- Misfire procedures

Range Content

- Zeroing rifles at short and mid-range distances
- Adjusting sights correctly
- Diagnosing shot groups
- Applying elevation and windage corrections

Outcome

- ✓ Can zero a rifle with instructor oversight
- ✓ Adjusts sights safely and correctly
- ✓ Demonstrates repeatable shot groups

Instructor sign-off required

Course 3 – Distance Shooting & Ballistics

(Equivalent to NRA Module 3)

Aim

To introduce shooting at extended distances and basic external ballistics.

Classroom Content

- Ballistics fundamentals
- Ballistics calculators
- Ballistic coefficient (BC)
- Wind reading:
 - Range flags
 - Mirage
- Scorecards and shot plotting
- Zero range procedures
- Understanding elevation vs distance

Range Content

- Supervised shooting at longer distances
- Application of:
 - Wind calls
 - Elevation adjustments
- Use of scorecards
- Instructor-guided correction of errors

Outcome

- ✓ Understands wind and elevation effects
- ✓ Applies corrections safely
- ✓ Demonstrates control at distance

Instructor sign-off required

Course 4 – Law, Responsibility & Independent Shooting

(Equivalent to NRA Module 4)

Aim

To prepare the shooter for unsupervised club shooting and legal responsibility.

Classroom Content

- Review of safety & handling
- UK firearms law overview
- Home Office Approved Clubs
- Firearm Certificate (FAC) process
- Firearms security at home & transport
- Range Officer roles & authority
- Range signals (hooters, flags, ceasefires)
- Attendance recording (legal requirement)
- Shooter Certification Card (SCC) system
- Club procedures & governance

Practical Content

- Supervised “near-independent” shooting
- Simulated solo firing point setup
- Range protocol assessment
- Written knowledge test (club format)

Outcome

- ✓ Demonstrates full compliance with club & legal standards
- ✓ Ready for probation completion
- ✓ Eligible for club recommendation

Final instructor assessment & sign-off

Programme Completion

After successful completion of:

- All **4 courses**
- Required **supervised shoots**
- Club attendance record

→ Member may be recommended for:

- Full club membership
 - SCC issue (where applicable)
 - FAC support from the club
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Questions / Statements

1. If you hear the command “**STOP, STOP, STOP**”, the correct action is to take your finger off the trigger and not do anything other than follow the Range Officer’s instructions to the letter. In the absence of instructions, assess the situation and act accordingly.
2. The use of properly designed hearing protection when on or near a firing point where shooting is taking place is mandatory.
3. A .22 rimfire bullet will travel roughly **1.6 kilometres (1 mile)** if fired at an angle of about **30 degrees**.
4. A 7.62mm (.308 Winchester) bullet will travel roughly **4 kilometres (2.5 miles)** if fired at an elevation of about **30 degrees**.
5. If you experience a misfire, you must remain on aim for **30 seconds** before clearing the immediate vicinity of other people and unloading in the prescribed manner as dictated by the **NRA Misfire Procedure in the Bisley Bible (Rule 121)**.
6. Your Firearms Certificate gives you permission to possess **500 rounds of .308 ammunition**. This means you can only possess up to a maximum of **500 rounds of .308 ammunition**.
7. At Bisley, the range radio control channel is the **highest number** on the handset.
8. You are shooting at **300 yards**. If **1 MOA at 100 yards is approximately 1”**, then **2 MOA at 300 yards will be 6”**.
Similarly, if you are shooting at **25 yards, 2 MOA will alter your rifle by ½”**.
9. At Bisley, you have fired a shot but the target has not moved. You should use “**Message 4**” to communicate this with your marker.
10. You have just fired a shot and are aware that the sound and recoil seemed different from normal. In this case you should unload, prove that the firearm is clear and check that the bullet is not lodged in the bore.
11. The following types of firearms may be owned by a **Home Office Approved club**:
 - a. Fullbore rifle
 - b. Smallbore rifle
 - c. Muzzle loading pistol

Nothing else!

? You have a friend who has never shot but has expressed an interest in shooting. You bring him along to the range on your next visit. It is not a Guest Day or an Open Day. He watches you shooting your gallery rifle and makes it very obvious that he would like to try it for himself. You must **not** allow him to handle or shoot any firearm, as this would be unlawful.

? You have just fired a shot, the bolt on your firearm is stuck shut. Keep the firearm pointing at the target and, if at Bisley, call for an **NRA armorer**. If not at Bisley, follow the prescribed local regulations. If necessary, lay the firearm down pointing directly at the stop butt. If you do not have a range radio or phone, you **must NOT** leave your firearm unattended and must wait until someone turns up.

? **At Bisley camp, dogs must be kept on a lead at all times when the ranges are live.**

- ❑ When shooting on your own, on completion of firing, ensure your firearm is unloaded by conducting the **3-point safety check** — chamber, magazine well/loading platform and bolt face. Then either insert a breech flag in the chamber or remove the bolt before leaving the firing point.
- ❑ You are shooting under the direct supervision of a designated Range Officer. You have just completed your shoot and are about to leave the firing point. You must prove clear to the Range Officer and only leave the firing point once permission is granted, then you may insert a breech flag in the chamber and leave the firing point, or leave the bolt out and put your rifle and bolt in a case.
- ❑ The effect of mounting a telescopic sight on a tapered rail (raising the rear of the scope) would be to **raise the point of impact**.
- ❑ You have a long-barrelled revolver (LBR) and your shooting companion has the exact same model; you may **only handle your own LBR**.
- ❑ You have a Section 2 shotgun (but no Section 1 shotgun approval) which you happen to have with you on a visit to your target shotgun-approved range. Your friend has some solid slug ammunition of a suitable calibre and invites you to shoot a few rounds through your shotgun. This is in contravention of firearms law.
- ❑ You have just started shooting at **1,000 yards** and your first two shots have missed the target. The marker has no idea where the fall of shot is. You **must** go to a suitably approved, shorter range of **100 yards or less** and check zero before continuing.
- ❑ You have a certification for scoped rifle only and have just bought a scoped .22. You cannot use it as a Gallery Rifle but must first request to be certified for **Gallery Rifle/Carbine** on your SCC.
- ❑ On certain **Bisley ranges**, shooting takes place simultaneously at different distances. The usual minimum echelon spacing for shooters is **8 targets per 100 yards**. For example, if you are shooting at **300 yards on Century range** and there are other shooters in front at **100 yards**, there should be a minimum gap of **16 targets** between the extreme target at 300 yards and the first target at 100 yards.
- ❑ The NRA and HOAC Clubs run a programme of **Guest Days** to encourage the sport of shooting. Providing you make a booking, you may invite up to the club's approved number of guests that are personally known to you, but your guest(s) will need to bring proof of identity and sign a **Section 21 Declaration**.
- ❑ You are shooting on a busy day and all adjoining firing points are occupied. Your wallet has blown forward of your firing point. You must not attempt to retrieve it until the entire firing point has been cleared of all firearms and the range declared clear.
- ❑ When unloading an externally fitted magazine-fed rifle, you must remove the magazine **first**.