

Clubs and Ranges

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For the last two years or so, I have been a member of the RCEG Police Range Certification Engagement Group. This group had been assisting with a number of projects:

1. Assisting to rewrite the Police Range Manual
2. Assisting with sorting out the myriad forms for certifying ranges and the preliminary forms for approving shooting clubs.
3. Sorting out how many ranges there are in the country. Total shooting ranges 236 in the North Island, 190 in the South Island. Of which TSNZ have 63 in the North Island and 88 in the South Island.
4. Assisting in the recruitment of Shooting Range Inspectors. These were trained at a number of three-day courses held throughout the country. TSNZ affiliated shooting range inspectors number around 10 at the moment. Grant Taylor and I attended the first Pilot course at Taupo last November.

I am also, along with Steve O'Donnell, a member of FCAF, Firearms Community Advisory Forum. Steve is TSNZ representative and I am representing NRANZ.

This group is a sounding board for Police. They bring along preliminary regulations to allow the group to have input and hopefully influence the outcome. The new regulations for Clubs will hopefully be out by the end of the year. The group runs under Chatham House rules where no comments are attributed to individuals and there is free and frank discussion.

That's the background to who and what is influencing our sport at the moment.

Shooting Ranges.

All ranges from Jun 2022 will be certified by the Commissioner of Police. TSNZ no longer have responsibility and the TSNZ Range Inspectors are out of their TSNZ job.

All ranges will need to have their application for certification into Police by 24 June 2023 next year.

The Shooting Range Operator is required to apply for certification. What is an SRO? If a Club has its own range or are the only club in a hall for instance, then the Club is the SRO. If a TSNZ Provincial Association owns or operates a range where multiple clubs shoot, the Association is the SRO. Note: There is NO need for each Club who shoot on an Association Range to apply for range certification. Only one certificate is required for each range.

The Police process is up and running for pre-certifying the range. This will speed the process up. The process is as follows:

There are forms. It is a bureaucracy after all: The Range Inspection Form, The Certifying application Form and the Range Standing Orders Form. The SRO downloads the Range Inspection Forms from the Police website. The SRO then adds as much information as they can to the forms. They measure up the pertinent parts of the range and take photos of the important structures.

The Shooting Range Inspectors can be called upon to assist in this process at any time. It is recommended that an SRI be engaged to assist as they will have the knowledge of what Police require.

Once the SRI and the SRO are satisfied that all information is there, the forms that will include the Range Standing Orders, are sent to Police. SROs DO NOT have to send any money at this time.

1. The fees are unknown;
2. The final regulations are not finished so there could be minor adjustments to the application.

Police will assess the application. If there are any discrepancies, they will contact the SRO. The SRI and SRO will have time to sort it out. We have been assured any toing and froing will be no charge.

I advise Clubs and Associations to begin as soon as possible.

A list of SRIs will be available from TSNZ or from the Police Website. Note that any Police Shooting Range Inspector can be contacted to assist Shooting Range Operators.

Range Standing Orders.

Police are adamant that SROs will need to follow the Police RSO Forms in the order of the form. This will make it easier to administer at both ends. TSNZ are also working on a template for TSNZ Clubs to assist in writing their Range Standing Orders in order to obtain some consistency. Please have a look at the Police RSO Form ASAP.

Fees:

These are still unknown. It seems likely it will be hundreds of dollars to certify a range. Clubs a lot cheaper. The fee will only be for a proportion of Police time. If your SRI need reimbursement then it is the SROs responsibility. Work on your delegates, TSNZ may be convinced to provide some assistance for this.

Approval of Clubs:

This is unfinished business and is closely linked to the regulations coming out later in the year. If you are a club or association who provides ammunition (buys or sells) to members then they need to be an Incorporated Society. The new Incorporated Society Legislation has been published and there are a few changes. They will need to be noted. TSNZ are addressing this with a view to provide some common themes for TSNZ Clubs to consider if they applying.

Regarding the regulations, up to this point what we know is very little. There were some pretty wild ideas in the Draft Regulations earlier in the year. We hope the objectionable ones have been watered down. As an example, the carrying of Firearms in vehicles has a much better outcome than the drafts. It is likely the age limitations will be rewritten as well.

For the present time, ventilation is not be a requirement for certification of TSNZ ranges. TSNZ recommends ranges and clubs to investigate the installation of ventilation.

Police Preliminary Range Visits

Clubs and Associations will have received an email sent from Police about Range and Club visits. These are visits being undertaken by the Police Regional Advisors. They are visits to allow Clubs to ask questions about the Range and Club certification process. No "inspections" will be undertaken by this group at this time. It is very much an introduction to Police and a goodwill visit. Given this will be the first time Ranges will be certified by Police, it is anticipated that all Clubs and Ranges will be

visited by Regional Advisors once the Range Certification Application is up and running.

Reviewing

1. Get onto the Police Website and download all the forms.
2. Begin to look at the specific requirements for your range RSOs.
3. Consider your Club status.
4. Watch the TSNZ website for details.
5. Check the Police SRI list on the web. The TSNZ SRIs are noted.
6. Book a date for a Police Regional Advisors visit ASAP.

Any queries over the next few weeks feel free to contact Ross Mason.
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