

**SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
FRASER COAST BRANCH INC**

Checklist for gaining a Category H (Pistol) Licence

Joining a pistol section of an approved association is a fairly involved business. It will be at least 8 months before you have a licence and are allowed to own your first pistol. It will also cost you between \$300 and \$400+ for all the memberships, courses and licence fees.

If you follow the steps below you will achieve your goal in the shortest time with the least aggravation.

The minimum age for pistol shooting is 11 years.

- You need to obtain and complete the “Application to Join Pistol Section” form from our website or from a range officer out at the range. This has a check list for completion which covers the steps below.
- If you are not already a member of SSAA (Sporting Shooters Association of Australia) then you must join.
Fees for various types of membership are specified on the application form, which is available on the web page.
- You will need to pay the SSAA Fraser Coast Branch Inc (the Branch) amenities fee and complete the amenities fee form, which is also available on the web page.
- Obtain 2 signed character references from adult persons who have known you for at least two years.
- If you do not have an existing weapons licence (usually category A/B), go to a police station and fill in **Form QP515 - Application For Statement Of Eligibility To Join An Approved Pistol Shooting Club** - there is no fee for this. You may need the references.
- If you have an existing weapons licence then you do not need the statement of eligibility.
- Give the statement of eligibility from the police, or a copy of your A/B licence, and your two references, to the Branch secretary. These are kept on file. You have now joined the pistol section.
- You will be on a 6 month probationary period before you can apply for a licence. You will be expected to attend as many shoots as you can (minimum requirement is 3). The range officer and senior members will assist you and there are pistols to use.
- Each time you come to shoot before obtaining a pistol licence, you will need to bring photographic I.D (drivers licence , student card etc.) and fill in **Form 33 - Declaration by Unauthorised Person for Use of a Weapon at an Approved Range.**

- The Branch will issue you with a card **QP516 - Pistol Club Shooters Participation Card**. It is your responsibility to look after this card and present it for signing every time you shoot. The Branch secretary will require you to hand in a photocopy of your card after your last shoot in June each year. You will be issued with a new one when the old one is full or you can download a copy from website www.ssa Fraser Coast.org.au.
- You have to keep all your participation cards as you will be required to present them when you renew your licence after 5 years.
- Before you can apply for a licence you will have to do the **30989 QLD Firearms Safety Course Category H** to obtain a statement of attainment. This statement has a life of 12 months. You can do this course at any time before applying for a licence, but we recommend you do it during your probationary period.
- At the completion of your 6 month probation, safety course, and minimum 3 shoots, you will be ready to apply for your pistol licence. The application forms are available from a police station. We recommend you get them before doing the safety course so you can ask the trainer any questions you may have.
- Before you go to the police station to apply for your licence you will need to get from the Branch a signed copy of **QP518A - Approved Club Declaration** - to show that you are a member of the Branch and have completed your probationary shoots. This declaration is only valid for 28 days.

O.K. - I have a licence - now what?

- Once you have your licence you can think about buying your first pistol. Be aware - you need an acquisition form - **Approval For Acquisition of a Pistol**. You can obtain this from a member of the Branch executive. In your first 12 months of holding a licence you will only be able to buy 2 pistols - an air pistol and one other. The other pistol can be a .22 or a centre fire pistol.
- You will have to pay your SSAA membership and Branch amenities fees each year to maintain your licence. Remember your licence is linked to your Branch membership.
- There are specific minimum attendance standards. Currently if you own only 1 class of pistol you must attend a minimum of 6 competition shoots each financial year. For 2 or more classes the minimum is 4 shoots in each class of which 6 must be competitions.
- The Branch has to make a declaration about your compliance each July. That's why you send in a copy of your participation card in June. That's also why you must get the card signed each time you shoot a competition or an organised practice shoot.
- **More Training** – The Branch always needs help. Once you feel you are comfortable, ask about becoming a trainee range officer - this is the first step in becoming a range officer and will make you a valuable member of the Branch.

More Details :-

Contact the secretary by phone or e-mail as detailed on the list of Branch officers.