

Air Rifles

Location

This activity takes place on a purpose-built range that provides a safe enclosed area. The range is constructed to restrict the direction that the air rifles can be aimed.

Equipment

The air rifles are .177 calibre and are designed for target shooting. They have short stocks and barrels, which make them easier for young people to control. Eaton Vale Activity Centre cannot permit personal weapons to be brought or used on site. Air rifles with a .22 calibre are not permitted. The targets used are purpose designed rifle targets circular in shape. Eye protection is provided and must be worn.

Health & Hygiene

The pellets used in the air rifles are made of lead. Spent and dropped pellets should not be picked up or taken from the pellet catchers and participants should wash their hands after this activity and before eating.

Hazard	Hazard Effect	Risk Control Measures
Shooting at others.	Bruising Penetration wounds.	Clear instructions and good group control from the instructor. Awareness of the potential for harm.
Shooting at yourself.	Bruising Penetration wounds.	Clear instructions and demonstration from the instructor. Awareness of the potential for harm.
Ricochet / rebounding pellets.	Pellet rebounding at shooter. Skin damage. Eye damage.	Wear eye protection provided. Target stands have minimal surface area to minimise rebounds. Target stands have foam attached to vertical part to prevent/minimise ricochet/rebounds.
Poor instruction & leadership.	Uncontrolled behaviour Indiscriminate shooting.	Minimum qualification requirement for instructors. Continuous observations by centre management and feedback from user groups.
Accidental discharge.	Potential shooting.	Clear instructions. Air rifles always point down range. Finger off trigger until ready. Reasonable and considered care of equipment by participants.
Ingestion of Pellet (lead based).	Possible choking Build-up of toxic material/poisoning.	Good group control and participants made aware during session. Wash hands after session.
Equipment misuse.	Uncontrolled behaviour Unsupervised shooting.	Pellets removed from shooting area if activity is suspended for short periods of time. Equipment locked away when not in use. Signage on range instructing people to not go in unsupervised.
Slips, trips or falls.	Slipping or tripping on uneven ground.	Warn against uneven ground, don't allow running on the range.