



Worcestershire Gundog Society

Generic Risk Assessment for Field Trials

A - Possible Hazards:

1. Personal injury resulting from the intended or accidental discharge of a shotgun, driven or falling game, noise or blast.
2. Slips and falls on ground that may be wet, uneven, sloping or marshy.
3. Hazards associated with the crossing of water courses, hedges and fences, other natural and man-made obstacles. Whether shooting, beating, picking-up, competing or members of public present.
4. Injury resulting from direct contact with barbed wire, thorn hedges, low branches or other naturally 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.

At risk are:-

- > Persons using shotguns (referred to as Guns) and their companions.
- > Persons employed or Volunteers or Competitors that collect and retrieve shot game with dogs.
- > Those Volunteers, Officials and Judges who 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 Chief Steward will brief all present before moving off. A copy of the Risk Assessment will be displayed within the registration area.
2. 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. Dogs will not 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 the other vehicles in the party.
3. All persons involved should wear suitable non-restrictive clothing, adequate to provide protection from the elements and stout water resistant footwear.
4. All Guns must be competent at handling shotguns in a safe manner and must be in possession of a valid shotgun certificate, and have Public Liability Insurance.
5. Shotguns and ammunition must not be left unattended under any circumstance. Guns must keep their weapons in a covered slip until arrival at their allocated position.
6. A shot should only be taken when it is safe to do so. Guns must be aware at all times of the proximity of those closest to them: other Guns, The Red Flag, Pickerup, Officials, Judges, Competitors and Members of the Public; the location of public footpaths, bridleways, highways and livestock in the vicinity.
7. In the event of an emergency the trial will be suspended immediately and all weapons must be unloaded and placed back in the covered slip. Should this occurrence be caused by the involvement of persons that are opposed to the activity the Organiser in consultation with the Chief Steward and Judges must arrange to vacate the ground without the need for confrontation.
8. All visitors to the ground must respect the property on which they are invited, be aware of the local terrain and any likely hazards and conduct themselves in a friendly and environmental way.
9. Members of the Public and Competitors that are not in line must stay behind the RED FLAG at all times and obey the instruction of Officials or Members of the Estate staff.
10. Everybody involved must keep away from agricultural machinery, although it will not normally be working in the areas where the field trial is taking place.

If this code of practice is observed, the risk to human health and safety during this authorized activity are deemed to be LOW.