



GPO Box 308 HOBART TAS 7001
Phone (03) 6173 2720
Email: firearms.services@police.tas.gov.au.

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ANNUAL CATEGORY H PARTICIPATION OBLIGATIONS (COVID 19 ADJUSTMENT)

Following requests from Sport and Target Shooting clubs the department has reviewed the participation rate reporting requirements established under the *Firearms Act 1996* for Category H licence Sport and Target Shooters for 2020.

It is acknowledged that the impacts of COVID 19 (Coronavirus) have meant that in some cases Sport and Target Shooters will be unable to comply with current requirements. Further, requiring compliance with the requirements may pose a risk to the health of any person that fits into a high-risk category if they were to contract COVID 19.

On this basis the Commissioner of Police has established that the minimum required participation will be 3 shoots per sport or target shooting discipline. If a person is involved in more than one discipline, the requirement will be 2 shoots per additional discipline. The table below illustrates the 2020 requirements:

Number of disciplines	Number of shoots
1	3
2	5 (3+2)
3	7 (3 + 2 + 2)

Furthermore, for those that have previously demonstrated compliance with the usual participation requirements, action for not meeting requirements will be paused in 2021, meaning that the obligation to meet 2020 (adjusted) and 2021 (full) requirements will be monitored in early 2022. This provides Category H licence holders two years to meet the combined requirements for both 2020 and 2021. Licence holders should anticipate the return to full requirements for the 2021 year if there are no significant impacts from COVID-19 in 2021.

If a particular license holder is unable to complete any participation shoots during 2020 because they fall in to a 'high risk' category, and have concerns in relation to catching up in 2021, they may write to Firearms Services in early 2021 asking that they be exempted from the requirements for 2020.

People considered to fit the criteria of 'higher risk' of serious illness from COVID-19 are:

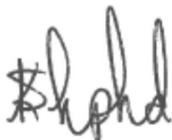
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and older, with one or more serious chronic medical conditions;
- people 65 years and older, with one or more serious chronic medical conditions;
- people 70 years and older;
- people with a compromised immune system.

Serious chronic medical conditions include heart disease and hypertension, lung disease including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cystic fibrosis, diabetes, cancer, renal failure and chronic liver disease. People may be requested to provide a medical certificate to evidence their serious chronic medical condition. However, it is not necessary to provide a certificate at the time of requesting exemption from 2020 participation requirements.

These requirements consider the impacts of COVID 19 to this point in time and provide some flexibility if there are further impacts into the future. However, the requirements will be continuously reviewed during the period that COVID 19 impacts Tasmania and may be further reduced in the future if Tasmania were to experience another period of disruption as a result COVID 19.

I would like to acknowledge the patience of clubs and members while this policy was being developed. I hope that it provides greater certainty for clubs and their members, not only now but into the immediate future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Shepherd', written in a cursive style.

Kerry Shepherd
Manager