



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Old Green Licenses

By John Welch
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In June 2009 the SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association (SAH) was granted a temporary interdict in terms of which all licenses issued under the former Arms and Ammunition Act (the so-called green licenses), remained valid until the main application was adjudicated.

However, because of negotiations between SAH and SAPS and other interventions, the main application was never heard and now, a few weeks ago, the State Attorney issued a letter to SAH in terms of which they demanded that SAH agrees to the withdrawal of the interdict and drops the main application.

SAH is not prepared to merely throw in the towel and wishes to negotiate rational terms and conditions for a settlement. Our advice to SAH was to try to agree to a reasonable time period during which affected persons could transfer to the Firearms Control Act (FCA) regime. In my view this can happen only if the FCA is amended to provide for such transfer, or in terms of a court order.

The process is currently in a sensitive phase, but we shall keep members posted on developments.

In the meantime we advise our members to make all efforts to apply for the relevant competency certificates and licenses in terms of the FCA.

We are of the opinion that affected members do not have to make use of the current amnesty, since those "green" licenses are deemed valid in accordance with the court order and accordingly, the owners of those firearms are deemed to be in lawful possession thereof.

We are accordingly of the opinion that surrendering the firearm is not necessary. Be warned, though, that the police may not necessarily share these views and your friendly local Designated Firearms Officer (DFO) may expect you to surrender the firearm while you apply for a license. If s/he does, rather surrender than making a scene.

Please bear in mind that the previous (now repealed) Arms and Ammunition Act of 1969 did not require a competency certificate as a prerequisite for the issue of a firearm license, whereas the FCA does.

Affected members accordingly must first do the required proficiency test with an accredited firearms training service provider and apply for a competency certificate at your local DFO prior to making application for a license. Currently the police's attitude is that you first must be in possession of the competency certificate prior to applying for a license, however, as an interim measure under the amnesty and because of Covid-19, the Registrar (National Commissioner of SAPS) is prepared to accept both applications (for competency certificate and the license) simultaneously.



Firearm Amnesty Reminder



Members are reminded that the current firearm amnesty will come to a close at the end of January 2021. That means you really only have the months of December and January to take advantage of the amnesty should you wish to do so.

Designated Firearms Officers are getting pretty busy and feedback is that members are having to wait two to three weeks for an available appointment slot.

Members are reminded of the Amnesty Guideline contained in SAGA Snippets, August 2020, for information on the process. The FAQs and What to Bring On the Day from that article are repeated here:

AMNESTY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Can someone submit the application on my behalf?

No, you must submit the application yourself, in person. No one may submit the application or firearm on your behalf.

Do I need to surrender my firearm?

Yes, if you wish to make use of the amnesty you MUST surrender your firearm.

Is there risk involved with the surrender of my firearm?

Please note that whilst the SAPS are adamant and appear to have a better and secure system in place, there is always risk involved with the surrender of firearms.

Must I surrender my firearm at the same time that I submit my amnesty application/s?

You are required to surrender your firearm at the same time as submitting your amnesty application/s. However, if this is not possible for whatever reason, you have 14 calendar days within which to return to submit the new licence application and competency (if your previous one expired), although we recommend submitting all at the same time if possible.

May I complete SAPS documents with a coloured pen or pencil?

You must sign all documentation using a black pen, and no other colour is acceptable, nor is a pencil acceptable.

What is the procedure should I not wish to apply for a new licence and want to dispose of the firearm?

Should you decide not to apply for a new licence in terms of the amnesty and want to dispose of the firearm with an expired licence, you are required to complete the SAPS 522 (a) surrender and SAPS 522 (b) forfeiture forms.

What about scopes and accessories?

We suggest that you remove all accessories like scopes, mounts and rings, rails, silencers and even expensive stocks. You may not damage the firearm and may not remove bolts, slides, triggers, etc. You do not have to surrender magazines.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF SUBMISSION:

- * SAPS Application/s completed for new licence, Competency and Surrender forms – which forms can be downloaded from SAGA's website
- * Motivational letter/s for the new licence application together with supporting documents.
- * Two passport-size colour photographs per application.
- * Write your name and ID number on the back of each photograph in case your photographs become separated from your application
- * Firearm and ammunition
- * Cash to pay for your application/s
- * Black pen
- * ID book
- * Original certificates if the copies in your application have not already been certified previously
- * Wet wipes

Make copies or scan all documentation that you are taking to SAPS, as the documentation can be lost or mislaid, and it's imperative that you have a complete backup of everything.

The South African Practical Shooting Association (SAPSA)

The South African Practical Shooting Association (SAPSA) is the governing body of practical shooting in South Africa and was founded in 1976. We are affiliated to the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC).

There are active clubs situated all over South Africa and matches are held throughout the year. SAPSA is an accredited shooting



organisation and also regularly selects National Teams to compete internationally, for which National Colours are awarded.

Practical shooting can be defined as a shooting sport where the three elements of Accuracy, Speed and Power are balanced. A match will require a competitor to complete various different stages by shooting against the clock while scoring as many points as possible during the shortest amount of time. Each individual stage typically requires between 7 and 32 rounds to complete and the competitor will be required to engage targets from 3-50 metres. Movement is usually required and the shooting challenge may include moving targets, steel plates, barricades, partial targets and disappearing targets. The courses of fire are always different and require a shooter to be prepared for any eventuality and to be able to think on their feet.

The International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) is the



world's second largest shooting sport association and the largest and oldest within practical shooting. The IPSC nowadays affiliates over 100 member countries.

Competitions are held with pistol, revolver, rifle and shotgun, and competitors are divided into different divisions based on firearm and equipment features. While everyone in a division competes in the Overall category, there are also own separate awards for the categories Lady (female competitors), Super Junior (under 16 years), Junior (under 21 years), Senior (over 50 years) and Super Senior (over 60 years).

IPSC's activities include international regulation of the sport by approving firearms and equipment for various divisions, administering competition rules and education of range officials (referees) through the International Range Officers Association who are responsible for conducting matches safely, fair and according to the rules. IPSC organizes the World Championships called the Handgun World Shoot, Rifle World Shoot and Shotgun World Shoot with three year intervals for each discipline.



The sport of practical shooting

originated in the 1950s from competitions in California with the goal of developing handgun skills for defensive use, but quickly evolved into a pure sport with little grounding in the original purpose. The sport soon expanded to Europe, Australia, South America and Africa.

Jeff Cooper served as the first IPSC President. Today there are over 100 active IPSC regions, making practical shooting a major international sport which emphasizes firearms safety.

Through international rules concerning firearms, equipment and organizing of matches, one tries to unite the three elements of precision, power and speed, which is also the motto of IPSC that is Dili-gentia, Vis, Celeritous (DVC), Latin for "precision, power, speed". Only full calibre firearms are used, i.e. for handguns 9×19mm is the smallest calibre, and the competitors try to achieve the most points in the shortest time possible.

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6 Tips to Introduce Kids to Shooting



by Jo Deering
Tuesday, November 17, 2020

If you're a firearms enthusiast and you have young kids, you're probably hoping that they'll grow up to love shooting like you do. Even if they don't have a lot of interest, if there are firearms in your home, your kids should be educated about basic firearm use and safe handling. With so many things vying for kids' attention these days, how do you introduce them to shooting in a way that won't scare them off or bore them to tears?

Take it from the mom of a competitive youth shooter—there's a right way and a wrong way to do this. Here are six tips for doing it the right way.

Wait Until They're Ready (But Not too Long)

Every kid develops at a different rate, physically and emotionally. I know kids who were shooting so early that they killed their first deer at age five, and others who didn't care much about shooting until high school. What age to start introducing firearms is a judgment call you'll have to make.

If you have preschool- and school-age children who show an interest in firearms, go ahead and let them look at and handle your guns at home (unloaded, obviously, and under your close supervision). This develops a familiarity with guns, allows you to introduce the

principles of gun safety, and satisfies a kid's curiosity, hopefully fanning the flame of interest.

When my daughter was five or six, she'd stand in front of the gun safe every time we opened it, playing the "What's that one? Can I touch it?" game of never-ending questions. We let her hold or touch every one she wanted to see. Patience is your friend here.

You know your child best, so you'll know when they're ready to go to the range and actually start shooting. Don't rush it, but do introduce the subject while they're quite young to start developing the interest. If you wait until they've developed other hobbies or an Xbox addiction, there will be more competition for their time and attention.

Don't Push

Some kids can't get enough shooting. Some enjoy it on occasion, and some have no interest at all. If they're not into it, don't force it. Making a kid go to the range when they're not excited about it is going to be an exercise in frustration and a waste of ammo.

If your child likes the range but doesn't want to go as often as you do, don't take it as an insult or a sign that they're not interested. Let them determine their own level of participation.

What if they're afraid of the noise or the recoil? Ideally, you won't be using a gun with much or any recoil (see tip #4 below), and good ear protection will mitigate the noise. It will probably be helpful for your child to watch you shoot a few times before you put them behind the trigger. Watching Mom shoot will remove a lot of the nerves that come from not knowing what's about to happen.

Drill Safety

You'll lose a kid's attention if you launch into long lectures, but the safety talk needs to happen early and often, long before your child's first trip to the range. Introduce the four rules of gun safety at a very early age. The rule in my house from the time she was in diapers running around with toy pistols was always "We don't point guns at people," which meant I had to shut Grandpa down when he wanted to play cops and robbers with the two-year-old. It was a very early introduction to the formal rule of not letting your muzzle cover anything you're not willing to destroy.

It goes without saying that safety is your first priority at the range. In addition to drilling the four rules and staying vigilant, you also need to impress upon the child (in an age-appropriate way) what firearms are capable of and what the consequences of improper use can be. Shooting a milk jug, a watermelon or something else that will leak profusely or show lots of damage is a good way to drill home the idea that this is serious business and people can be hurt if we don't take responsibility for safety.

Use the Right Guns

A BB gun seems like the logical gun to start a kid off with, because there's no recoil and virtually no noise. A pellet gun or air rifle is a fine choice if you can find one that's short-stocked enough that the child can shoot it properly.

If not, go straight to a starter .22LR like the Cricket or the Savage Rascal. The Rascal was a favorite in our family because it has an excellent trigger and it's accurate, which is important for a kid — hitting is fun; missing is not. The Cricket and the Rascal are both single-shot bolt actions, allowing

Continued...6 Tips to Introduce Kids to Shooting

a kid to learn how to operate a bolt while teaching one-shot-make-it-count patience. Plus, they come in fun colors and left-handed options, and they're sized just right for young children. Kids as young as preschool age can shoot one of these rifles easily.

Long guns are easier for the supervising parent to keep a handle on, safety-wise, so save the handguns for a little later after the child has shot rifles several times and has demonstrated that they can follow safety rules. When it's handgun time, start with a .22LR if possible.

Make It Fun

Short, fun range sessions are the name of the game when it comes to getting kids hooked. Punching paper is all right, but anything that gives a bigger reaction will get a kid's juices flowing. Plastic water bottles, cans of shaving cream, balloons, aluminum cans, and other items that pop, make noise or fall over give a kid instant gratification. Who doesn't love shooting leftover Halloween pumpkins and exploding water bottles? Steel targets that fall down or flip around, like a dueling tree, are great options that provide an instant reaction.

No matter how much fun you're both having, pack it up before your child starts getting bored or distracted. Leaving on a high note will almost guarantee that they'll be begging to come back to the range again next time.

Consider a Team

If your kid has shot enough to know that they enjoy it, consider joining a youth team. The Scholastic Clay Target Program (shotguns) and Scholastic Action Shooting Program (handguns and rimfire rifles) allow student athletes as young as elementary school to join a local team and compete at the local, regional and national level. You can find a team here. 4-H teams are available nationwide, and the NRA has a number of youth programs and initiatives as well. Many high schools have a trap or skeet team.

Shooting on a team—whether at a hard-core competitive level or just for weekend fun—lets your son or daughter connect with other kids who have similar interests and provides all the positive aspects of team sports. It's an excellent way to further develop your child's shooting skills, keep them engaged regularly, and even earn college scholarships.

Remember, the most important things about introducing a kid to shooting are safety and fun. With the right guns, the right timing and the right training, you can be well on your way to raising a child who is as passionate about the shooting sports as you are.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2020/11/17/6-tips-to-introduce-kids-to-shooting>

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

Gun Safety: Misfires & Hangfires

by NRA Staff

Monday, November 9, 2020

....we're going to talk about misfires and hangfires - what they are, and what to do about them.

A misfire is a failure of the priming mixture to be initiated after the primer (or rim of a rimfire case) has been struck an adequate blow by the firing pin, or the failure of the initiated primer to ignite the powder. This term is also commonly used to refer to a failure to fire caused by an insufficient hit on the primer (perhaps more appropriately called a "light hit").

A misfire is experienced as the complete failure of a cartridge to fire when the trigger is pulled and the hammer or firing pin falls. A light firing pin hit is probably the most common cause of misfires, but occasionally they may also result from deteriorated or defective ammunition. When a light firing pin hit is the cause of the misfire, a shallow indentation of the primer cup will usually be seen when the misfiring cartridge is removed from the chamber.

Though not dangerous in themselves, misfires should be treated with caution, as it is impossible to initially distinguish a misfire from a hangfire. Thus, whenever there is a failure of a cartridge to ignite, the shooter should use the proper safety procedure for handling hangfires (see below).



A hangfire occurs when there is a noticeable delay between the impact of the hammer or firing pin on the primer and the actual discharge of the firearm. Typically, with a hangfire, the shooter will pull the trigger, causing the hammer or firing pin to fall, but no shot is produced immediately. Inside the case, however, the ignition process has been initiated and, after an unpredictable delay period, the gun discharges. Like a squib load, a hangfire can be produced by the use of deteriorated ammunition, or ammunition whose primer or powder charge has become contaminated.

The danger of a hangfire lies in the fact that it is often mistaken for a misfire. This, in turn, can result in two distinct types of hazards. First, a shooter who assumes that a non-firing round is a misfire may immediately open the gun's action to remove the malfunctioning cartridge. A cartridge that ignites when thus unconfined can cause damage to the gun and serious injury to the shooter. Moreover, a shooter who assumes that he or she has suffered a misfire may fail to exercise proper muzzle control,

such that the gun may be pointing in an unsafe direction when it unexpectedly discharges.

Any time the hammer or firing pin falls and the gun fails to fire, a hangfire should be assumed. The firearm should not be opened or unloaded, but should be kept pointing in a safe direction for 60 seconds with a modern cartridge, and two minutes for a muzzleloader. This is sufficient time for any hangfire to complete ignition. If one minute passes and the gun does not discharge, the situation is actually a misfire. The firearm should be unloaded and the offending cartridge inspected for light primer indentation, contamination, etc.

If a firearm that is normally reliable produces hangfires or misfires with a particular ammunition (particularly ammunition that is old or potentially deteriorated), discontinue use of that ammunition and dispose of it in accordance with local regulations.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2020/11/9/gun-safety-misfires-hangfires>