

# St Mary's Junior Development Program

The intent of the Junior Development Program is to instil safe handling of firearms and to introduce the juniors to a broad a range of shooting disciplines, or as much as is practical in the indoor range. It is up to the individual Junior/Parent to arrange further training elsewhere if they decide to specialise or increase their skills in a particular discipline, eg, Hunting, Target Shooting etc with Pistol, Rifle or Shotgun.

The Junior Development Range Officers (JDRO) are volunteers and are therefore not expected to be expert marksmen nor highly qualified shooting coaches, although people with those skills would be highly sought after. We expect them to be 'role models' of reasonably experienced and safety conscious rifle shooters.

Juniors entering the program for the first time are expected to attend the initial safety lecture, held on the first Saturday of each month.

"Novice" juniors have been through the initial safety lecture and have either a minors permit or have completed a P650 form, but have not yet passed the Proficiency Test (5 'scoring' shots, Standing Unsupported, on a Std Air Rifle target at 10 metres). They generally shoot Air Rifles on the Air Rifle range. After air rifle novices move to Trainee status. Trainees always have one-on-one supervision by a JDRO. Trainees are given direct coaching on the safe handling and use of Rifles. There is a skills register they must complete. Trainees do not progress to the "Advanced" group until they pass the Skills Register checklist and then they move to the 'Advanced' details.

"Advanced" juniors shoot .22 BRNO rifles in a different event each Saturday of the Month. The first Saturday is "Benchrest", the second is "Super Shoot" (our grading event), the third is "Field Rifle", the fourth is a half-match "3P" and when there is a fifth Saturday it's a "Fun Shoot & Rifle Maintenance" day. They shoot on Range 'C' with JDROs directly supervising.

Each week the "Advanced" juniors participate in an event for which points are given to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in each of 3 Grades. The scores, and points, are posted each week on the Notice board opposite Range C. The points are accumulated over the Month and an award is given, as an encouragement, each month to the place getters in each Grade. The 'Super Shoot' event is used as the standard yardstick to maintain the Grades.

The scheduled events are not meant to be just a competition. Actually, except for the 'Super Shoot', the JDROs can modify the event to suite the occasion, as long as all the juniors shoot the same event that day. The event merely sets up a situation or application in which the JDROs can look for opportunities to help a junior improve their skills.

At the beginning of each Detail, the JDRO will briefly explain the event and then ask if anyone is unclear or who has not shot the event before. Depending on the response, the JDRO might then give more detailed information and perhaps demonstrate how to shoot the event.

While the event is underway, the JDROs will monitor how the shooters are handling their firearms and how well they are performing (if that is possible). If an issue is detected, then the JDRO should give the junior some guidance, hints, tips or tricks on how to improve. **Be aware that the range is still open and other shooters are still firing so hearing protection must stay in place.**

There are usually multiple ways or techniques to shoot. The reason is that each shooter will have different abilities and limitations and each JDRO will have different experiences and techniques. So it is to be expected that different JDROs could give different advice to the same junior to resolve a particular issue. Therefore, it is important to stress to the child that others might have different ideas and that it is ultimately up to that child to work out what works best for them.