



New South Wales Amateur Pistol Association Inc.

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17 April 2020

Dear NSWAPA Members

Re: Temporary Regulation Changes
- Firearms Amendment (COVID-19) Regulation 2020

The temporary amendment to the Firearms Registry regulations (*Firearms Amendment (COVID-19) Regulation 2020, published 15 April 2020*), has been released, giving more than an extra 12 months for compliance for licencing requirements including licence renewals and photo ID requirements.

This is good news. They appear to be ensuring that no licensed shooters shall be disadvantaged from the current emergency situation.

This has come about by submissions from a large amount of peak bodies within NSW, which the NSWAPA has played an active role on your behalf.

We shall release more information as we have time to digest the details of the amended regulations.

We have been informed by Firearms Registry that they shall be posting notices on their website and releasing information to all peak bodies clarifying some of the details and how it affects licence holders within NSW, in the coming days.

As you are probably aware, the laws controlling the conduct of sport within NSW has been continually changing.

This has the effect of making the conduct of our sport illegal in some aspects, not just in regards to social distancing, but also in regards to non-essential travel and activities.

We have also been informed by Firearms Registry that they are bound to comply with all directions from NSW Health, and hence, the NSWAPA and it's members must do the same.

We are all aware of the expensive fines being issued by police for non-essential travel and the disregarding of social distance laws.

Contrary to the thoughts of a few clubs, the NSWAPA has not given advice on NSW Health directives for the purpose of preventing our members from developing COVID-19 (Corona virus), but to prevent our members from exposing themselves to the risk of extremely expensive litigation resulting from an accident for which there was no insurance cover.

All of the peak bodies in Australia insure their members for all legal activities on a shooting range (without exception). If it can be construed by an insurance company that attendance on a shooting range was in any way illegal, then this could give a case of diminished responsibility on behalf of the insurance company and therefore result in a loss of cover.

This could result in a worse case scenario of our members being sued with the dire consequences of losing their homes and farms to satisfy some greedy litigation.

This could also apply to a member bearing some responsibility for the accident and even to the committee of the club for allowing the situation to occur in the first place.

Please remember, the NSWAPA is always doing it's utmost to look after your interests.

Yours in shooting,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B A Cheers".

Brian Cheers
NSWAPA President