

Constitution Q&A – Member Concerns Answered

We've received a number of questions during the consultation period. Some are about safety, others about fairness, and a few about the way the new Constitution works. Below we've set out clear answers so all members can be informed before voting.

Q1: Why do we need to follow the rules of other associations if we are our own Club?

A: We are our own Club, but we are also affiliated with NSWAPA, Pistol Australia, IPSC, and SASS. Their rules set minimum standards for safety, competition, and governance.

- Ignoring them would risk our standing with the Firearms Registry.
- Insurance relies on us following recognised standards.
- The draft Constitution makes sure we adopt what is appropriate while keeping BPC firmly in control of its own affairs.

Q2: Why should members have to hold a Category H licence to join?

A: Bowral Pistol Club is, first and foremost, a pistol club. Our primary approval is for pistol shooting under Category H. While we have also obtained approval for Rifle (AB) to support members who hold both categories, that is an additional benefit — not the core purpose of the Club.

Membership is not just about paying fees — it's about being part of a safe, genuine pistol shooting community. By requiring members to hold (or be progressing towards) a Category H licence, we ensure BPC remains a true pistol club that members can feel proud and exclusive to belong to.

Q3: Are the attendance requirements too strict?

A: The law sets a minimum number of attendances for licensing, but our Club requires more regular participation for safety reasons.

It's not just about ticking a box — it's about making sure the shooter next to you has recent experience and is safe to share the firing line with. Allowing members to "rush" all their shoots in one day doesn't build skill, doesn't build community, and most importantly doesn't build safety.

Q4: Why can Range Officers direct someone to stop shooting instead of just the Captain?

A: Safety can't wait. Range Officers must act immediately if something unsafe occurs. The Captain and Committee provide oversight and fairness afterwards.

The Captain may not always be present at the range — they could be away, at work, or on holidays. That's why it is imperative that trained Range Officers or authorised persons can address issues immediately, ensuring the range remains safe at all times.

This balance puts safety first while still ensuring issues are properly reviewed through the correct process.

Q5: Are the disciplinary clauses too heavy-handed?

A: These standards are common across NSW sporting clubs. They allow the Club to deal fairly with dangerous or disruptive behaviour while guaranteeing procedural fairness.

Without them, members and the Club would be left unprotected if something went seriously wrong, or if a member undermined the Club with outside interference.

Q6: Is automatic termination for non-payment too harsh?

A: The clause exists to keep membership records accurate and compliant with the Firearms Registry.

- No one is cut off without reminders and a grace period.
- This is about proper housekeeping, not punishment.
- Members who lapse can reapply easily under the normal process.

Q7: Doesn't insurance cover us anyway, no matter what?

A: Insurance only covers us if we can show we had clear rules and proper governance in place.

- If the Constitution is vague or outdated, insurers can refuse cover.
- That would leave the Club, the Committee, and even individual shooters personally exposed to costly legal challenges.
- The new Constitution ensures our insurance remains valid and strong, protecting both the Club and its members.

Final Word

The draft Constitution (V17) provides:

- Safe ranges — with members attending regularly and trained properly.
- Strong governance — with fair, consistent processes and no loopholes.
- Insurance protection — so the Club, the Committee, and its members are not left exposed to costly disputes or court action.

- A proud identity — keeping Bowral Pistol Club a genuine pistol club first, while supporting rifle disciplines to enhance (not dilute) who we are.

This Constitution isn't just about compliance — it's about pride. Being a member of Bowral Pistol Club means belonging to a true pistol shooting community, not just a group that takes money at the door.

Our members can feel confident, safe, and proud to stand beside each other on the line, knowing the Club is strong, compliant, and built for the future.

Supporting the new Constitution protects our members, strengthens our governance, and ensures Bowral Pistol Club remains safe, respected, and proudly pistol-focused for years to come.