

VICTORIAN Junior / Youth DEVELOPMENT

*Training our next generation
of Pistol Champions!*

Newsletter

June 2026

Half-year check

Well, it's the middle of the year already and the competitions have stopped for a little while. Now is the perfect time to assess how you have performed since January.

We can see that most of you have improved your scores at opens since our junior training weekend at Bendigo early this year, well done to you for working on improving your sport.

Now is also a good time to check your equipment, i.e. pistols probably need a clean, check that grip and all screws are tight. While recently watching an Olympian at MISC shooting 50m pistol, his front sight fell off onto the ground because the screw had rattled out, so no one is exempt from these things happening. Luckily the sight and screw were found and he could continue the match.



Tri-State Competition

This year's Junior Tri-State competition saw eight Victorian athletes compete against shooters from New South Wales and South Australia.

Each state takes a turn at hosting the event, it was our turn this year and MISC was the venue. There is a lot of planning that goes into the event, even if it's hosted by another state. We need to know who is coming well in advance so we can organise flights and team details for the host state.

We saw some great shooting from our Victorian athletes this year, with some P/B's being shot in both the air pistol and 25m pistol competitions.

I would say Oscar Dahlberg would be very proud of his air pistol score of 497 with a borrowed pistol from MISC which he only sighted in on Saturday. Neli Udagepolage shot a P/B in 25m pistol with a healthy 498, well done to both of you!!

There are quite a few who have broken the 500 barrier in the last few months of competition, with others not too far away from it.



Junior Training Camp 1-2 August

Our next junior training camp will be held at Bendigo Pistol Club again at 1-2 August. If it is more convenient for you to arrive Friday evening after dinner, Erin and I will be there.

There is no cost to you or your parents for this weekend, VAPA will generously cover the expenses for food, etc. for you. Fortunately for us the Club's secretary is a chef. So, some tasty food will be on the menu.

Erin and I will be working out a schedule for the weekend's training to hone your skills and make you a more competitive shooter.

Please fill out the form that was emailed to you and your parents as soon as you can and return it to Erin so we can make arrangements for the catering.

It is great to see that some of you have reached out to State Team manager, Cherie Blake and nominated for the 2027 team selection. Next year the ISSF Nationals will be held at MISC, so it will be very convenient being in our state.

As we have said before, now is the time to nominate yourself for team selection as it is a clean slate with two of our seasoned juniors ageing out. Cherie will be looking at taking on at least three, maybe four of our top performers as a new team for next year.

If you are interested in team selection, please contact Cherie at teammanager@vapa.org.au

Well done to those of you who went to Brisbane to compete at the nationals this year, I hope you had a great experience at competing amongst Australia's best shooters.

See photos.....

Support

Whilst you are a Junior/Youth athlete we can offer you ongoing support for your target shooting journey. Erin and myself have almost 60 years of combined experience of competitive level pistol shooting and are willing to help you improve your skills to make you a better shooter.

Whether you have had a great day at the range, or there are some things in your technique that you are not sure of, take photos of your targets and email them through with your thoughts on what is happening so we can analyse and discuss a solution to your question.

Erin:- blachforderin@gmail.com

Graeme:- harv1@inet.net.au

Note: If you are under 18, please include a parent in the conversation when you make contact.

Graeme Harvey

Forms attached for:-

Junior Training Camp
Shepparton Open

State Team selection



Tri-State



ISSF Nationals *Brisbane*



Junior/Youth Coaching Weekend

1-2 August 2026



Hello,

This is an invitation for you to attend a junior coaching weekend on 1-2 of August at the Bendigo Pistol Club, Rifle Range Rd, Wellsford.

It's great to see so many of you have improved your shooting skills since the camp you attended in March. We have chosen to hold this camp in August to further develop your skills for the second half of the year's competitions. This camp is designed to provide advanced training to develop your technical skills, as well as your mental and physical fitness. Our aim is to improve your performance at all levels of competition.

Objectives of the camp is to:

- Develop fundamental shooting techniques;
- Analyse performance and identify strategies for improvement;
- Establish, refine, and focus on short, intermediate, and long-term goals;
- Instil motivation to achieve your potential.

Those running the camp are qualified coaches with the Target Pistol Australia - National Coaching Council.

Juniors will stay in shared accommodation at the range and will be supervised by adults at all times. We will be starting at 9:00am each day, please arrive in a timely manner.

All meals will be supplied - breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including morning and afternoon teas. Any specified dietary requirements will be catered for.

Please fill out and sign the "Consent form" ASAP and return to blachforderin@gmail.com

Costs for the weekend will be generously sponsored by The Victorian Amateur Pistol Association.

For further information please contact Erin Blachford

Mob: 0474 706 474

kind regards



Graeme Harvey
Erin Blachford
Junior/Youth Development
Victorian Amateur Pistol Association

Junior/Youth Coaching Weekend

1-2 August 2026

Consent Form

Name: Handgun License No:
Exp. Date:

Age: Date of Birth:

Email: Club:

Dietary Requirements: VAPA No:

Do you have an Air Pistol: Do you have a .22 pistol:
Grade: Grade:

Parent/Guardian name:

Contact No:

Email:

I, Parent/Guardian, give consent for my child to attend the 2026 Junior Coaching Weekend held in Bendigo, Victoria on the 1-2 August.

Signature:

Date:

- Please return this completed form to blachforderin@gmail.com by the 15th of July, as there may be limited spots available.

Hope to hear from you!

Erin Blachford

Junior/Youth Development
Victorian Amateur Pistol Association

NOMINATION FOR 2027 VAPA ISSF STATE TEAM**National Championships MISC (Dates TBC)**

To be submitted by 31 Jul 2026 to VAPA Team Manager teammanager@vapa.org.au

If after this date, please contact the Team Manager to discuss your nomination.

Please indicate the matches you wish to nominate for by inserting your grade and the highest score shot in Open competition in the past 12 months in the table below.

Please note it is mandatory to compete at the VAPA State Championships in the events you wish to be considered. Please contact the Team Manager to request an exemption if you are unable to attend.

Nominated Match	Grade	Highest Score the past 12 Months
50 M Pistol		/600
25 M Rapid Fire Pistol		/600
25 M Centre Fire Pistol		/600
25 M Standard Pistol		/600
10 M Air Pistol Men		/600
10 M Air Women		/600
25 M Pistol Women		/600
25 M Pistol Junior		/600
10 M Air Junior		/600
WSPS		

I wish to nominate to be considered in the events indicated below for the State Team that will represent VAPA at the 2026 National Championships. I have read and understand the VAPA State Team Selection Method (found on the VAPA website). I undertake to abide by the decision of the Team Selection Sub-Committee and, if selected, the conditions of the State Team Agreement.

Name			
Signature		Date	

Full Name:				
Preferred name				
Address:				
Suburb/Town		Postcode		
Postal Address:				
Suburb/Town		Postcode		
Telephone:	Home		Business	
	Mobile		Fax	
E-Mail:				
Club:				

SHEPPARTON ISSF 2026

Shepparton Pistol Club Inc 931
11TH, 12TH, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Range Location:
1127 New Dookie Road, Pine Lodge
(GPS: S 36_21.801 e145_32.457)

PROGRAMME

- FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
Air Pistol – 5PM & 7PM
- SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER
Standard Pistol (Morning only)
Centrefire / Sport Pistol / Air Pistol
- SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
Free Pistol / Rapid Fire / Air Pistol

The organising secretary will endeavour to squad shooters to share pistols or according to any other need, however this may not always be possible.
Email shared pistols or other requests to the secretary or include a note with your posted entries. Please submit special requests as early as possible or allocations will be made at the organisers discretion.

ENQUIRIES: secretary@sheppistol.org.au

ENTRIES CLOSE

WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST 2026

Entries will be accepted in the order of application up to range capacity. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the committee. A late entry fee of \$5.00 per shooter will apply

TROPHIES

1ST 2ND 3RD

will be awarded in all grades.
Trophies will be presented after shooting each day

Aggregates, 1st awarded only in each
Five match for men (C-Fire OR Sport)
(Not both – must notify organisers prior to shooting which one)
Three match for ladies

CATERING

Light luncheons, morning and afternoon tea, hot and cold drinks will be available

Centrefire and Sport Pistol are open to all, subject to range capacity. Ladies will receive preference in Sport Pistol entries. If you are entering both, please indicate your preferred match. Your second match will be squadded if range capacity allows.

Anyone shooting Standard must expect early squadding
ISSF rules will be followed as far as practical.
Barrel safety flags required.

PLEASE NOTE: SQUADDING WILL ONLY BE SENT OUT VIA EMAIL AFTER payment has been received
MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE AN EMAIL ADDRESS ON YOUR ENTRY FORM – PLEASE PRINT ALL CONTACT DETAILS CLEARLY
If emailing entry, PDF or Word file only please.
NO Photo scans, they don't scan well.
SQUADDING WILL ONLY BE POSTED UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES
(to keep costs and entry fees down)

IMPORTANT NOTE:

As per the VAPA directive, athletes will now be responsible for patching/changing their own targets.
At the end of each series, two athletes, starting from the left, will walk down range with the RO & Register keeper. After the next series, the next 2 athletes will do likewise, and the rotation will continue in this manner.

ENTRY FORM

Shepparton I.S.S.F 2026

11TH, 12TH & 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ENTRIES TO: The Organising Secretary
PO Box 554 SHEPPARTON VIC 3632
EMAIL: secretary@sheppistol.org.au

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
POSTCODE: _____
TEL: _____ CLUB: _____
LICENCE: _____ EXPIRY: _____
EMAIL: _____

Please indicate with an 'X' the Events you wish to enter in the appropriate "Grade" squares.

	M	A	B	C	D
STANDARD PISTOL					
RAPID FIRE					
50 METRE PISTOL					
CENTREFIRE					
MENS AIR PISTOL					
SPORT PISTOL					
LADIES AIR PISTOL					
Jnr SPORT PISTOL					
Jnr MENS AIR					
Jnr LADIES AIR					

Air Pistol
5.00pm Friday ☐ 7.00pm Friday ☐
Free pistol – using a semi auto? ☐

No of Events: _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____
\$5.00 late entry fee (if applicable) @ \$ 5.00 = \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____
(CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO "SHEPPARTON AMATEUR PISTOL CLUB" PLEASE)

Online Payments: BSB 633 000 A/C 136064748
Shepparton Amateur Pistol Club

Range Assistance is appreciated – please
R.O ☐ Scorer ☐

CAMPING IS AVAILABLE AT THE RANGE AT NO COST