



NCAP Circular No. 7

NCAP elevates camps to new levels of excellence...

National Council, Boy Scouts of America

Issued April 5, 2016

NCAP Releases Interim Program Standards for 2016 Season

The Boy Scouts of America has been conducting pilot programs on a number of new camping initiatives aimed at increasing the variety and challenge of outdoor activities in Scouting. These programs include All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), Personal Watercraft (PWCs), Boy Scout pistol shooting, Cowboy Action Shooting, Chalk Ball shooting, Multi-Gun Airsoft shooting and Sporting Arrows.

At and after its February meeting, the NCAP committee discussed how best to make these additional program offerings available to our Scout camps. Ultimately, the NCAP committee decided that it would release "Interim Standards" for these activities. This represents an update over information previously released, which stated that the activities will be conducted under the 2013 Standards. While that remains true for camps operating under the initial National Council pilot approval (because they have the requisite National approval), NCAP believed a clearer approach was needed for the programs to succeed in the field.

Accordingly, NCAP is releasing "Interim Standards" covering these activities. The Interim Standards appear on the following pages of this NCAP Circular. They will also be released in a stand alone package on the NCAP website in the Standards section at:

www.Scouting.org/NCAP

PWC Programs

For PWC programs, councils that have already submitted and received approval from the National Council on Form No. 430-045 may continue to comply with Standard PS-201, Specific Requirement K until the revised Standard comes out (expected in 2017). Any council that has not yet submitted Form 430-045 should comply with the Interim Standard PS-201.1 in lieu of Standard PS-201. The Interim Standard PS-201.1 will remain in effect until it is replaced by the final revised standard (expected in 2017). NCAP has attempted to ensure that the substantive requirements of PS-201 and Interim PS-201.1 are similar or that any additions to the Interim Standard reflect likely changes in the final Standard.

ATV Programs

For ATV programs, councils that have already submitted and received approval from the National Council on Form No. 430-044 may continue to comply with Standard PS-205 (eff. January 1, 2013) until the revised Standard comes out (expected in 2017). Any council that has not yet submitted Form 430-044 should comply with the Interim Standard PS-205 (effective April 1, 2016) in lieu of Standard PS-205. The Interim Standard PS-205 will remain in effect until it is

replaced by the final revised standard (expected in 2017). NCAP has attempted to ensure that the substantive requirements of PS-205 and Interim PS-205 are similar or that any additions to the Interim Standard reflect likely changes in the final Standard.

Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Program

The Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Program represents a significant new development in BSA shooting sports. For the first time, Boy Scouts who are over the age of 14, or are 13 and have completed the eighth grade may fire pistols **solely as part of this program**. Unlike the prior pistol shooting program, which was aimed at Venturers, this program uses a more tightly supervised instructional program to ensure both safety and better supervision with a potentially younger audience. Therefore, existing pistol programs and ranges developed for the existing Venturing program ***may not automatically be assumed to meet the requirements of the new interim standard***. Close attention to the language of Interim Standard PS-214.1 is therefore required.

Significant differences between the existing Venturing program

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2016 Interim Program Standards *continued*

in Standard PS-214 and Interim Standard PS-214.1 include: (1) required course content follows the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program only and without deviation; (2) only .22 caliber handguns can be used; (3) program is only available on local council-owned property; (4) parent or guardian permission is required; and (5) the local council must have undertaken a risk review prior to adopting the program and submitted its adopting resolution to the National Service Center.

Cowboy Action Shooting

The Cowboy Action Shooting program is available to Boy Scouts and Venturers who are over the age of 14 or are 13 and have completed the eighth grade. This program gives the participant the opportunity to fire multiple types of firearms in rapid succession at a variety of targets from several positions or locations. Available firearms include .22 caliber handguns, bolt-action or lever-action .22 caliber rifles, and 12- or 20-gauge shotguns. Shooting is confined to ranges on local

council-owned property designed in accordance with Appendix 2 of the *Cowboy Action Shooting Program Guide*. As with the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Program, parental permission and a local council risk review and submittal of an application to the National Service Center is required before this program can be conducted.

Chalk Ball Programs

Chalk Ball are available to Venturers and Boy Scouts of any age. These programs are being brought into the official camp Standards for the first time to provide added safety and variety to the shooting sports program in local councils.

In order to build excitement, the Chalk Ball trail programs follow a trail, where participants shoot at targets using different types of markers and different positions and angles as set forth in the BSA *Chalk Ball Program Guide*.

The Chalk Ball program can also be made available using paintballs for councils that have council-owned paintball equipment.

Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Program

The Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience is available to Boy Scouts and Venturers. It allows participants to shoot up to three styles of airsoft guns (pistol, rifle and shotgun) in a quick time frame, at lower cost and with less risk than a Cowboy Action Shooting course. An added benefit of the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience is that it can be made portable and used at other council events as a recruiting and marketing tool. The Interim Stan-

dard PS-214.4 governs its use on council-owned camp property; the *Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Manual* governs council operations at locations other than a camp.

Conforming Changes to Standard SQ-407. Firearms Range Staff

The addition of these new shooting sports programs required an update to Standard SQ-407. The changes are as follows:

Specific requirement A.1 is updated to make it clear that the overall shooting sports director must hold current NCS, NRA or USAA/NFAA certification in each shooting sports discipline offered, except as otherwise provided in the Standard. The disciplines are rifle (includes pellets, BBs, Chalk Ball and paintball long guns), shotgun, muzzleloading, pistol and archery. A camp that offers only a chalk ball, paintball, or Airsoft program is not required to have an NCS shooting sports director.

Specific Requirement A.2 is updated to reflect that special rules apply to the range supervisor for chalk ball/paintball courses and multigun airsoft courses.

Interim Specific Requirements A.3 through A.7 then provide more specific program staffing requirements for the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program, Cowboy Action Shooting, Chalk Ball/Paintball, and Multi-Gun Airsoft programs.

NCAP and BSA Outdoor Programs hope that your council will consider whether any of these new programs are right for your council.

Complete Standards follow.

NCAP Circular No. 7

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Interim Standard PS-201.1

PS-201.1 [Interim] Personal Water Craft Programs

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp provides a safe introductory program into personal water craft (PWC) use and operation.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

A. *Program.*

1. The course or program must follow BSA's PWC Operations Manual in its entirety. No deviation is permitted from the course outline.
2. A qualified staff member (see Standard SQ-XXX) must be present at all times participants are riding. No unsupervised riding is allowed at any time.
3. PWCs may not carry passengers beyond the designated rider. The PWC may not be used to pull anyone or anything.
4. Course content must address the ethical use of PWCs using materials drawn from BSA's Outdoor Code and TreadLightly!, as appropriate.

B. *Equipment.*

1. The council must own or lease the PWC used for the program. These PWCs may not be leased to third parties during the off-season.
2. Personal PWCs are not authorized for use.
3. PWCs must be used and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions at all times. Records of maintenance must be maintained.
4. All required safety equipment must be present and in good repair.

C. *Course.*

1. On-camp property courses must be addressed by and follow the camp's conservation plan to minimize impacts on the environment.
2. Off-camp property courses must have approval in writing from the land owner or land manager.

D. *Safety and risk management.*

1. Instructor PWCs or craft must carry the following at a minimum: first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, radio and cellphone, 25 feet of sturdy rope, and 5 feet of rolled duct tape.
2. Other PWCs must carry an approved audible signaling device.
3. Instructors and participants must be outfitted with life jackets and any other personal protective equipment required by the council's risk and safety review.
4. Each parent and/or guardian (for a minor participant) or participant must complete a permission slip, inclusive of hold-harmless language, prior to beginning the program.

E. *Approval.*

1. Prior to seeking council executive board or executive committee approval, the council has convened a task force to review: all local, state, and federal guidelines, including vehicle registration and age restrictions, licensing and/or certification courses, equipment and personal protective equipment standards, number of riders, and any other standards recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body, costs, risks to participant and staff safety, impact on other camp programs, and impacts on the camp environment. This task force must complete a risk and safety review consistent with Standard PD-111 and ensure that the program conforms to BSA's Sweet Sixteen of Safety.
2. The council executive board or executive committee must have reviewed the costs and risks of the

Interim Standard PS-201.1

proposed program prepared by the task force prior to authorizing the program. A copy of the executive board or executive committee resolution authorizing the program must be available.

3. The council has submitted its board resolution to Outdoor Programs at the National Service Center (email to outdoorprograms@scouting.org) and have written approval before conducting the course.

INTERPRETATION

Councils operating pursuant to a National Council approval using Form 430-045 may continue to operate their existing approved program pursuant to that approval for the 2016 and 2017 camping seasons.

VERIFICATION

- Councils operating pursuant to a National Council approval pursuant to Form 430-045 must provide a copy of that form to the assessment team.
- Councils operating pursuant to this Interim Standard must produce a copy of the Interim Standard, the Board resolution (E.1), National Service Center approval (E.3) conservation plan provision and any land-owner approvals (C.1 & 2), maintenance records (B.3).
- Review with staff the course outline being followed and how it complies with the BSA's PWC Operations Manual (A.1) and outdoor ethics training components (A.4).
- Ensure safety equipment present.

Interim Standard PS-406, Specific Requirement H

SQ-406. [Interim] Specific Requirement H

Effective April 15, 2016

Specific Requirement of the Standard

- H. If a personal watercraft (PWC) program is offered,
 1. Two staff members must participate in PWC activities in non-lifeguarded areas.
 2. All PWC staff must successfully complete the prescribed state safe boating training program and be trained in accordance with BSA's PWC Operations Manual.
 3. All PWC staff must be familiar with applicable outdoor ethics principles and conservation limits on PWC activities.

Interim Standard PS-205

PS-205 [Interim] All-Terrain Vehicle Programs

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp provides a safe introductory program into all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use and operation following the safety training program of the All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

A. Program.

1. The course or program must follow The ATV Safety Institute's SafeRider program in its entirety. No deviation is permitted from the course outline.
2. A qualified staff member (see Standard SQ-XXX) must be present at all times participants are riding. No unsupervised riding is allowed at any time.
3. Manufacturer restrictions on the age, weight and height of riders shall be followed.
4. ATVs may not carry passengers beyond the designated rider. The ATV may not be used to pull anyone or anything.
5. Course content must address the ethical use of ATVs using materials drawn from BSA's Outdoor Code and TreadLightly!, as appropriate.

B. Equipment.

1. The council must own or lease the ATVs used for the program. These ATVs may not be leased to third parties during the off-season.
2. Personal ATVs are not authorized for use.
3. ATVs must be used and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions at all times. Records of maintenance must be maintained.
4. All required safety equipment must be present and in good repair.

C. Safety and risk management.

1. Instructor ATVs must carry the following at a minimum: first-aid kit, radio and cellphone, 25 feet of sturdy rope, and 5 feet of rolled duct tape.
2. Instructors and participants must be outfitted with helmets, safety goggles or full mask, long sleeves, long pants, gloves, footwear to support the ankles, and any other personal protective equipment required by the council's risk and safety review.
3. Each parent and/or guardian (for a minor participant) or participant must complete a permission slip, inclusive of hold-harmless language, prior to beginning the program.

D. Approval.

1. Prior to seeking council executive board or executive committee approval, the council has convened a task force to review: all local, state, and federal guidelines, including vehicle registration and age restrictions, licensing and/or certification courses, equipment and personal protective equipment standards, number of riders, and any other standards recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body, costs, risks to participant and staff safety, impact on other camp programs, and impacts on the camp environment. This task force must complete a risk and safety review consistent with PD-111 and ensure that the program conforms to BSA's Sweet Sixteen of Safety.
2. The council executive board or executive committee must have reviewed the costs and risks of the proposed program prepared by the task force prior to authorizing the program. A copy of the executive board or executive committee resolution authorizing the program must be available.
3. The council has submitted its board resolution to Outdoor Programs at the National Service Center

Interim Standard PS-205

(email to outdoorprograms@scouting.org) and have written approval before conducting the course.

INTERPRETATION

Councils operating pursuant to a National Council approval using Form 430-044 may continue to operate their existing approved program pursuant to that approval for the 2016 and 2017 camping seasons.

Councils should consult available resources for designing ATV trails to minimize injury risks to riders and the environment. The resources consulted and the safety and conservation measures implemented should be addressed in the task force report.

VERIFICATION

- Councils operating pursuant to a National Council approval pursuant to Form 430-044 must provide a copy of that form to the assessment team.
- Councils operating pursuant to this Interim Standard must produce a copy of the Interim Standard, the Board resolution (D.1), national service center approval (D.3), conservation plan provision and maintenance records (B.3).
- Review with staff the ASI course outline being followed (A.1) outdoor ethics training components (A.4).
- Ensure safety equipment present.

REFERENCES

Facility standards are set forth in Interim FA-716. Staffing standards are set forth in Standard SQ-412, Specific Requirement H.

History: CSTF 2013; Circ. 7 (interim)

Interim Standard PS-205

SQ-412. [Interim] Specific Requirement H

Effective April 15, 2016

Specific Requirement of the Standard

- H. If an ATV program is offered,
1. Two staff members must participate in ATV activities.
 2. At least one ATV staff member must hold a valid current ATV Safety Institute's instructor certification. All other ATV staff must have been trained by an ATV Safety Institute certified instructor.
 3. All ATV staff must be familiar with applicable outdoor ethics principles and conservation limits on ATV activities.

History: CSTF 2013; Rev. Circ. 7 (interim)

Interim Standard FA-716

FA-716. [Interim] ATV Course and Facility Standards

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD

If offered, an ATV course is designed and maintained to provide safe, efficient operation of an ATV safety training program.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

- A. On-camp property courses must be addressed by and follow the camp's conservation plan to minimize impacts on the environment.
- B. Off-camp property courses must have approval in writing from the land owner or land manager.
- C. Minimum course size is 150 feet by 200 feet. The course must also provide for covered, secured storage for the ATVs.
- D. The course must provide for a vehicle wash area and appropriate handling and disposal of wash waters.
- E. The course should conform to design standards of the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Coalition.

INTERPRETATION

Councils operating pursuant to a National Council approval using Form 430-044 may continue to operate their existing approved program pursuant to that approval for the 2016 and 2017 camping seasons.

VERIFICATION

- Review the conservation plan provision and any landowner approvals.
- Ensure course looks maintained in accordance with plan provisions.

REFERENCES

Program standards are set forth in Standard PS-205. Staffing standards are set forth in Standard SQ-412, Specific Requirement H.

History: CSTF 2013; Rev. Circ. 7 (interim)

Interim PS-213.1

PS-213.1 [Interim] Shooting Sports: Sporting Arrows Program

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp provides a safe Sporting Arrows program meeting the requirements of this standard.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

A. **Program eligibility.** This program is authorized for Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts and Explorers.

B. Program.

1. Participants shoot proprietary Laporte "Flu-flu" arrows at foam disks launched into the air or rolled along the ground by a proprietary Bowtrap manufactured by Laporte.
2. The program may not be offered in ambient wind speeds are greater than 30 mph. The program area must be outfitted with a means of determining approximate wind speed.

C. Equipment.

1. Only the Laporte proprietary "Bowtrap" for projecting the disks is authorized.
2. Only the Laporte proprietary "Flu-flu" arrows are authorized.
3. Bows with a maximum 26-pound pull.

D. **Facilities.** In addition to the basic design in *Design Guideline 313*, the following requirements for BSA *Design Guideline 316 – Sporting Arrows* must be maintained:

1. An inner 90 degree primary fall area, which must be cleared of trees and tall vegetation.
2. An outer 180 degree safety fall area. The outside perimeter of this area must be clearly marked by a fence or a temporary fence/caution line that is well-maintained.

E. Safety and risk management.

1. Properly sized and age-appropriate equipment is in good repair.
2. Properly sized safety equipment such as finger tabs or gloves and forearm guards are available and used as specified by the range master.
3. Equipment is locked up when not in use.
4. Qualified supervision is present at all times.
5. There is ready access to communication and first-aid at the range.

F. Approval.

1. Prior to seeking council executive board or executive committee approval, the council has convened a task force to review: all local, state, and federal guidelines, including age restrictions, licensing and/or certification courses, equipment and personal protective equipment standards, and any other standards recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body, costs, risks to participant and staff safety, impact on other camp programs, and impacts on the camp environment. This task force must complete a risk and safety review consistent with PD-111 and ensure that the program conforms to BSA's Sweet Sixteen of Safety.
2. The council executive board or executive committee must have reviewed the costs and risks of the proposed program prepared by the task force prior to authorizing the program. A copy of the executive board or executive committee resolution authorizing the program must be available.
3. The council has submitted its board resolution to Outdoor Programs at the National Service Center (email to outdoorprograms@scouting.org) and have written approval before conducting the course.

Interim PS-213.1

INTERPRETATION

The proper layout of a Sporting Arrows course is demonstrated in *Design Guide 316 – Sporting Arrows* (updated January 2016).

The Sporting Arrows video training will be available on the Shooting Sports website.

VERIFICATION

- Councils operating pursuant to this Interim Standard must produce a copy of the Interim Standard, the Board resolution (F.1), national service center approval (F.3), any landowner approvals (if located off council property).
- Review the safety areas to ensure properly marked.
- Ensure safety equipment present.

REFERENCES

Design Guidelines 313 and 316 are available at:

<http://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/Properties/Resources/DesignGuidelines.aspx>

Staffing requirements are set forth in Interim Standard SQ-408.

History: Initial Circ. 7 (interim)

Interim SQ-408

SQ-408. [Interim] Shooting Sports: Archery Staff

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD:

The archery range must be supervised by trained and qualified persons at least 18 years of age. A National Camping School–trained shooting sports director or USA Archery/National Field Archery Association instructor must train the archery range master and issue a training course pocket certificate. The certificate must be renewed every two years. A Sporting Arrows range operated pursuant to Interim Standard PS-213.1 must be supervised by a USAA/NFAA Level 1 instructor at least 18 years of age who has successfully completed the Sporting Arrows module, and who may supervise a maximum of three participants at a time.

INTERPRETATION

The Sporting Arrows training module will be available in late 2016 on the Outdoor Programs website. Until October 15, 2016, councils operating a camp pursuant to a written approval from Outdoor Programs satisfy the “Sporting Arrows module” requirement.

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of age
- Relevant certificates on file (may be submitted with declaration)
- Observation of program implementation during assessment

REFERENCES

Design Guidelines 313 and 316 are available at:

<http://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/Properties/Resources/DesignGuidelines.aspx>

History: 2013 CSTF; Circ. 7 (interim).

Interim PS-214.1

PS-214.1 [Interim] Shooting Sports: Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Program

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp operates the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Program safely and in accordance with its syllabus.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

- A. **Program eligibility.** Venturers and Boy Scouts who are over the age of 14, or are 13 and have completed the eighth grade may participate in the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program.
- B. **Program content.** Instruction shall follow the Scouting Safety and Marksmanship Program Instructor Syllabus as written. No sections shall be moved or changed. Participant range instruction must occur in the order assigned in the syllabus.
 - 1. Each youth participant shall be provided a copy of Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship for the course. It is recommended that each youth take this copy with them as a reference for safety and maintenance of pistols at the conclusion of the course.
 - 2. Only one type of pistol action shall be demonstrated and used per course session.
- C. **Program equipment.** Only .22-caliber handguns are authorized for this program.
- D. **Facilities.** Shooting is confined to approved ranges on BSA-owned property. Each range is designed in accordance with guidelines at www.scouting.org/properties, which provides examples of approved range layouts.
- E. **Safety and risk management.**
 - 1. All youth participants are required to have written permission from their parent or guardian to fire a handgun before they can take part in the program. The council may also include this as part of the overall permissions for the camp or activity; however, it must clearly state that a child has the parent or guardian's permission to handle and fire a handgun.
 - 2. All personal protective equipment and standard operating procedures required pursuant to Specific Requirement F shall be followed at all times the program is in operation.
- F. **Approval.**
 - 1. Prior to initiating the program, the council has convened a task force to review: all local, state, and federal guidelines, age restrictions, licensing and/or certification courses, equipment and personal protective equipment standards, and any other standards recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body, costs, risks to participant and staff safety, impact on other camp programs, and impacts on the camp environment. This task force must complete a risk and safety review consistent with Standard PD-111 and ensure that the program conforms to BSA's Sweet Sixteen of Safety. Appropriate standard operating procedures should be developed. The complete program, including standard operating procedures, must be specifically named and approved pursuant to Standard PD-112.
 - 2. The council must submit, and retain a copy of, the Shooting Sports Application identifying that the council will operate this program.

INTERPRETATION

The current syllabus is available at the BSA Advanced Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Class.

Interim PS-214.1

COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION

- Review of Shooting Sports Application, council's Standard PD-112 risk and safety review, and standard operating procedures.
- Review of course operation consistency with FIRST Steps Syllabus and standard operating procedures.
- Verify age, equipment and permission slip controls

REFERENCES

Program information, including sample budgets and permission forms, is available at:
[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/pdf/430-607\(16\)_WEB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/pdf/430-607(16)_WEB.pdf).

Participant completion cards may be purchased by the council from National Supply using SKU 623012.

Sample standard operating procedures are available in Appendix 3 of the BSA Shooting Sports Manual. Please note that the Manual has not yet been fully updated to reflect this program.

Staffing standards are set forth in Standard SQ-407, see particularly Specific Requirement A.4.

History: Initial Circ. 7

Interim PS-214.2

PS-214.2. [Interim] Shooting Sports: Cowboy Action Shooting

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp operates a Cowboy Action Shooting program safely and in accordance with this standard.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

- A. **Program eligibility.** Venturers and Boy Scouts who are over the age of 14, or are 13 and have completed the eighth grade may participate in the Cowboy Action shooting program.
- B. **Program content.** Instruction shall follow the "level 2" open shooting experience guidelines in the BSA Shooting Sports Manual, No. 430-938.
 1. Before moving to the shooting positions, each participant shall participate in a cowboy action shooting safety briefing using the outline in BSA Cowboy Action Shooting Program Guide, No. 530-318 (2016), Appendix 4.
 2. The course of fire must be clearly explained during the safety briefing so that the participants understand what they are to do at each station and when and where they are to move. No variation from the course of fire is allowed.
 3. Each youth participant shall be assisted by an instructor at each shooting position.
 4. No variation in the course of fire is authorized during any session. Different courses of fire, consistent with the BSA Cowboy Action Shooting Program Guide may be used at different sessions.
- C. **Program equipment.** Only .22-caliber handguns, bolt-action or lever action .22 rifles, and 12- or 20-gauge shotguns are authorized for this program. Only council-maintained firearms and ammunition shall be used.
- D. **Facilities.** Shooting is confined to approved ranges on council-owned property. Each range is designed in accordance with Appendix 2 of the BSA Cowboy Action Shooting Program Guide, No. 530-318 (2016). Each shooting position shall have a "red" ready line behind each shooting position.

Interim PS-214.2

E. *Safety and risk management.*

1. All youth participants are required to have written permission from their parent or guardian to fire a handgun before they can take part in the program. The council may also include this as part of the overall permissions for the camp or activity; however, it must clearly state that a child has the parent or guardian's permission to handle and fire a handgun.
2. All personal protective equipment and standard operating procedures required pursuant to Specific Requirement F shall be followed at all times the program is in operation.
3. The instructor responsible for each shooting position shall load the firearms prior to the participant arriving. Participants shall not load the firearms in this program.

F. *Approval.*

1. Prior to initiating the program, the council has convened a task force to review: all local, state, and federal guidelines, age restrictions, licensing and/or certification courses, equipment and personal protective equipment standards, and any other standards recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body, costs, risks to participant and staff safety, impact on other camp programs, and impacts on the camp environment. This task force must complete a risk and safety review consistent with Standard PD-111 and ensure that the program conforms to BSA's Sweet Sixteen of Safety. Appropriate standard operating procedures should be developed. The complete program, including standard operating procedures, must be specifically named and approved pursuant to Standard PD-112.
2. The council must submit, and retain a copy of, the Shooting Sports Application identifying that the council will operate this program.

INTERPRETATION

The current BSA Cowboy Action Shooting Program Guide is available at:

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/pdf/510-318\(16\)_WEB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/pdf/510-318(16)_WEB.pdf)

COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION

- Review of Shooting Sports Application, council's Standard PD-112 risk and safety review, and standard operating procedures.
- Review of course operation consistency with BSA Cowboy Action Shooting Sports Program Guide and standard operating procedures.
- Verify age, equipment and permission slip controls

REFERENCES

Sample standard operating procedures are available in Appendix 3 of the BSA Shooting Sports Manual. Please note that the Manual has not yet been fully updated to reflect this program.

The BSA Shooting Sports Manual is available at:

<http://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx>

Staffing standards are set forth in SQ-407, see specifically Specific Requirement A.5.

History: Initial Circ. 7.

Interim PS-214.3

PS-214.3 [Interim] Shooting Sports: Chalk Ball Programs

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp operates a Chalk Ball safely and in accordance with this standard.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

- A. **Program eligibility.** Venturers and Boy Scouts may participate in the Chalk Ball program.
- B. **Program content.** Instruction shall follow the “level 2” open shooting experience guidelines in the BSA Shooting Sports Manual, No. 430-938.
1. Pointing any type of firearm or simulated firearm at any individual is prohibited. Participants shall shoot at targets that are neither living nor human representations.
 2. Before moving to the shooting positions, each participant shall participate in a safety briefing using the outline in BSA Chalk Ball Program Guide, No. 530-317 (2016), Appendix 4.
 3. The trail and rules of the trail must be clearly explained during the safety briefing so that the participants understand what they are to do at each station and when and where they are to move. No variation from the trail and its defined shooting areas is allowed.
 4. No variation in the trail and stations is authorized during any session. Different trails and stations, consistent with the BSA Chalk Ball Program Guide may be used at different sessions.
 5. Range staff must accompany the participants along the trail and at each station. Range staff shall carry the markers between shooting positions. Range staff shall carry markers in a box between shooting stations.
- C. **Program equipment.**
1. Only paintball markers using chalk balls are authorized for this program.
 2. The camp will need an adequate number of chalk ball containers (15 recommended) and targets (10 metal targets and 6 cowbell targets recommended).
 3. The camp will need a supplier/vendor to refill 20-ounce CO2 canisters. Alternatively, the camp will need an approved CO2 cylinder (2 50-pound cylinders are recommended) and several 20-ounce CO2 canisters (a minimum of eight is recommended). If the alternative is chosen, the camp must follow training and safety requirements outlined in its risk review (see Specific Requirement F.1).
 4. Only council-maintained equipment and chalk balls shall be used.
 5. The LaPorte throwing system and Flashball program or any program shooting a flying target are not authorized under this Standard.
- D. **Facilities.** Shooting is confined to approved ranges on council-owned property. Each range is designed in accordance with Appendix 2 of the BSA Chalk Ball Program Guide, No. 530-317 (2016). Each shooting position shall have a “red” ready line behind each shooting position.
- E. **Safety and risk management.**
1. If handguns are used in the Chalk Ball program, all youth participants are required to have written permission from their parent or guardian to fire a handgun before they can take part in the program. The council may also include this as part of the overall permissions for the camp or activity; however, it must clearly state that a child has the parent or guardian’s permission to handle and fire a handgun.
 2. All personal protective equipment and standard operating procedures required pursuant to Specific Requirement F shall be followed at all times the program is in operation.
 3. Each chalk ball course shall have a radio or telephone, a first aid kit, and adequate number of face masks for the number of participants.

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4. Face masks must be cleaned between participants.

F. *Approval.*

1. Prior to initiating the program, the council has convened a task force to review: all local, state, and federal guidelines, age restrictions, licensing and/or certification courses, equipment and personal protective equipment standards, and any other standards recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body, costs, risks to participant and staff safety, impact on other camp programs, and impacts on the camp environment. This task force must complete a risk and safety review consistent with Standard PD-111 and ensure that the program conforms to BSA's Sweet Sixteen of Safety. Appropriate standard operating procedures should be developed. The complete program, including standard operating procedures, must be specifically named and approved pursuant to Standard PD-112.
2. The council must submit, and retain a copy of, the Shooting Sports Application identifying that the council will operate this program.

INTERPRETATION

Paintballs may be used in lieu of chalk balls in this course.

COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION

- Review of Shooting Sports Application, council's Standard PD-112 risk and safety review, and standard operating procedures.
- Review of course operation consistency with BSA Chalk Ball Program Guide and standard operating procedures.
- Verify age, equipment and permission slip controls

REFERENCES

Sample standard operating procedures are available in Appendix 3 of the BSA Shooting Sports Manual. Please note that the Manual has not yet been fully updated to reflect this program.

The BSA Shooting Sports Manual is available at:

<http://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx>

Staffing standards are set forth in SQ-407, see specifically Specific Requirement A.6.

History: Initial Circ. 7 (interim)

Interim PS-214.4

PS-214.4 [Interim] Shooting Sports: Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Programs

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD:

If offered, the camp operates a Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience program safely and in accordance with the current Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Operations Guide.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

- A. **Program eligibility.** Venturers and Boy Scouts may participate in the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience program.
- B. **Program content.** Program shall follow the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Operations Guide, No. 510-316.
- C. **Program equipment.**
 1. Only airsoft guns and accessories listed in Appendix 7 of the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Operations Guide are permitted. All airsoft guns must be obtained from an approved supplier listed in Appendix 6.
 2. Fully automatic operation of airsoft guns is not authorized. All guns must be set to semiautomatic or single shot position. A gun that fires multiple airsoft pellets at a trigger pull, but does not continue to fire, is not considered fully automatic.
- D. **Facilities.**
 1. Shooting is confined to approved ranges.
 2. Each range is designed in accordance with the section "Airsoft Range Layout" and Appendices 8 and 9 of the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Manual.
 3. Each shooting position shall have a ready line and a control line behind each shooting position.
 4. The coach and instructor must be able to see all areas at all times.
- E. **Safety and risk management.**
 1. All personal protective equipment and standard operating procedures required in the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Operations Guide and by the local council shall be followed at all times the program is in operation.
 2. Each range shall have a radio or telephone, a first aid kit, and an adequate number of safety glasses for the number of participants.
- F. **Approval.** Prior to initiating the program, the council has convened a task force to review: all local, state, and federal guidelines, age restrictions, licensing and/or certification courses, equipment and personal protective equipment standards, and any other standards recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body, costs, risks to participant and staff safety, impact on other camp programs, and impacts on the camp environment. This task force must complete a risk and safety review consistent with Standard PD-111 and ensure that the program conforms to BSA's Sweet Sixteen of Safety. Appropriate standard operating procedures should be developed.

INTERPRETATION

The current BSA Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Operations Guide is available at:
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/mga.pdf>

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COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION

- Review of standard operating procedures.
- Review of course operation consistency with BSA Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Operations Guide and standard operating procedures.
- Verify age and equipment

REFERENCES

Sample standard operating procedures are available in Appendix 3 of the BSA Shooting Sports Manual. Please note that that Manual has not yet been fully updated to reflect this program.

The BSA Shooting Sports Manual is available at:

<http://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx>

Staffing standards are set forth in SQ-407, see specifically Specific Requirement A.7.

History: Initial Circ. 7 (interim)

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SQ-407. Firearms Range Staff [Interim in underline]

Effective April 15, 2016

STANDARD

The firearms program and each range must be adequately supervised and staffed by qualified persons.

Specific Requirements of the Standard:

A. ***Boy Scout or Venturing day, family, and resident camps; trek camps; specialty-adventure camps; high-adventure camps.***

1. Program supervision. The firearms program is supervised by a shooting sports director, at least 21 years of age, who holds a valid certificate of training from the Shooting Sports section of National Camping School.
 - a. The shooting sports director must hold current NCS and NRA or USAA credentials in each discipline (rifle (also includes pellets and BBs), shotgun, muzzleloading, pistol and archery) offered at the camp.
 - b. If an individual trained as a BSA shooting sports director is not available, the camp may be granted a waiver so that the shooting sports program may be operated by military, law enforcement, 4-H, or NRA instructors for one season only.
 - c. The shooting sports director must be in camp when any firearms range is in use.
 - d. An NCS trained shooting sports director is not required if the camp offers only a chalk ball, paintball or AirSoft program and no other shooting sports program.
2. ***Firearms range supervision.*** Each firearms range must have an NCS shooting sports director or NRA Instructor 21 years of age or older in charge of the firing line at any time it is in operation. A chalk ball/ paintball course is subject to Specific Requirement A.6 in lieu of this requirement. An airsoft range is subject to Specific Requirement A.7 in lieu of this requirement.
3. ***Firearms range instructor ratios.***
 - a. When loading or firing rifles, pellet guns, or BB guns, there is a ratio of one instructor per eight shooters (1:8 instructor-to-pupil ratio). For each additional eight points, or fraction thereof, the minimum

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requirement is an 18-year-old or older instructor trained by the shooting sports director using at a minimum the NRA FIRST Steps three-hour training.

- b. When loading or firing shotguns or muzzleloaders, there is a ratio of one instructor per shooter (1:1 instructor-to-pupil ratio).
 - c. When loading or firing pistols solely for Venturing youth and adults, there is a ratio of one instructor per three shooters (1:3 instructor-to-shooter ratio). This ratio does not apply in the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program.
 - d. The firearms range supervisor (see paragraph A.2 above) at a resident, trek, specialty-adventure, or high-adventure camp only may serve as one of the instructors for purposes of the instructor-to-shooter ratios in this standard.
4. **Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program instructor requirements.**
- a. Each instructor must be an NRA certified pistol instructor.
 - b. At least two of the instructors or RSOs on the range must also hold a Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program certificate.
 - c. Only an instructor holding the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program certificate may serve as lead instructor for the classroom portion of the course and shall present the material. Other NRA certified pistol instructors may assist participants, but may not present material.
 - d. Only an RSO holding the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program certificate may serve as the range supervisor/RSO for this program. This individual may not serve as an instructor for purposes of the instructor to student ratio. No more than 6 participants shall be supervised by the range supervisor/RSO.
 - e. The instructor-to-student ratio when on the range working with the firearms in this program is one NRA certified pistol instructor to every two participants.
5. **Cowboy Action Shooting program instructor requirements.**
- a. Each shooting position will have an NCS or NRA-certified pistol, rifle or shotgun instructor, depending on the shooting position.
 - b. Notwithstanding Specific Requirement A.2, the range supervisor must hold a current NRA RSO certification in addition to any other required certifications.
6. **Chalk Ball program instructor requirements.** Notwithstanding Specific Requirement A.1, A.2 and A.3, the chalk ball trail/course shall be under the supervision of an NRA-certified RSO.
7. **Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience.**
- a. Each bay in a Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience must be supervised by an airsoft instructor, who must be a BSA BB-gun range master, BSA shooting sports director or an NRA instructor, and all of whom also require an airsoft endorsement. An airsoft endorsement may be granted by the local Scout Executive (or designee) if the requirements of Appendix 5 of the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Operations Guide are met. The endorsement is evidenced by a card good for two years.
 - b. It is recommended that each bay also have a coach, who is an individual authorized by the airsoft instructor. If there is no coach, the airsoft instructor shall perform the duties of coach.
- B. **Cub Scout day, family, and resident camp (BB range only).** BB-gun range masters must be at least 18 years of age and have successfully completed the BB-gun safety and training program for an authorized instructor, as outlined in the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual, No. 30931. Additional adult supervision is required for each additional eight shooters.

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INTERPRETATION:

For 2016 only, if a camp operates only traditional firearms courses not subject to Interim Standards PS-214.1, PS-214.2, PS-214.3 or PS-214.4, the camp may operate pursuant to existing Standard SQ-407 in lieu of Interim SQ-407. But if the camp offers any of the additional programs, then it must also comply with SQ-407 as it applies to that program. Subject to this exception for 2016 only, NCS shooting sports directors shall hold current NCS, NRA or USAA/NFAA certification in each discipline that they supervise at camp. A camp may utilize multiple NCS shooting sports directors to fulfill this requirement. The staff plan shall detail which NCS shooting sports director supervises which programs and this shall be made available to the camp assessment team.

Shooting at camp properties other than as part of a camp subject to this Standard must meet the requirements of the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* requires different supervision outside of the supervised camp environment.

Information on obtaining the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program training certification may be obtained from Outdoor Programs or NCAP.

For the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience, the instructor must hold a current airsoft endorsement. An NRA Range Safety Officer is not considered a qualifying certification because the training differs from that of an NRA Instructor.

VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of age
- Relevant certificates on file (may be submitted with declaration)
- Check relevant instructor-to-student ratios for each program
- Observation of program implementation

REFERENCES

Program standards are found at PS-214, PS-214.1 (interim), PS-214.2 (interim), PS-214.3 (interim) and PS-214.4 (interim).

History: CSTF 2013; Rev. Circ. 7 (interim)

State Regulation of Zip Lines and Similar Activities

Recently, Southern Region Area 6 COPE and Climbing Advocate Rodney Todd wrote NCAP to ask whether camps running a zip line need to have a permit. This is a good question for two reasons: (1) it highlights the importance of keeping up with state regulations affecting your camp; and (2) it highlights an emerging regulatory trend affecting Scout camps.

In the graphic at right, Experiential Systems, Inc., a consulting firm, has prepared an overview of regulation of “amusement rides” and zip lines. Basically, the graphic tells the following story:

Green = Potentially Regulated as an “Amusement Ride”.

These states may regulate certain zip lines under ASTM International F-24 amusement ride standards. These states include: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. A brochure by ASTM about its Standards may be found at the following weblink:

http://www.astm.org/COMMIT/F24Brochure_April2015.pdf

Red Dot = Potentially regulated as a zip line. These states may have regulations that regulate zip lines directly: Washington, Oregon, Utah, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, North and South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. Many, but not all, of these jurisdictions follow the



<http://ziplineinspection.com/inspection-services/state-regulations.html>. Thanks to Experiential Systems, Inc.

Association of Challenge Course Technologies (ACCT) standards. ACCT’s information page about their standards process is as the following weblink:

<http://www.acctinfo.org/?89>

Orange Dot = Discussing potentially regulating zip lines.

These states include Colorado, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Indiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Ohio, Michigan and Maine.

Gray = Not presently regulated as of December 2015. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, North and South Dakota.

NCAP Expectations

What are NCAP’s expectations for camps and COPE or Climbing courses? NCAP’s expectations are as follows:

Standard AO-801 requires that each council must identify all applicable laws, regulations, permits, approvals and authorizations required to operate

its camps and programs. This means that it is the **council’s responsibility** to determine whether its state, county (or parish) or municipality imposes any regulatory requirements and to comply with them. General guidance, such as this NCAP Circular, does not meet the intent of Standard AO-801.

Standard PS-206 requires that each COPE or Climbing program, including zip lines, be operated “safely and in compliance with the policies of the Boy Scouts of America, Association of Challenge Course Technology Standards, ... and other governing jurisdiction regulations.” Councils need to ensure that their course meets current standards are grandfathering provisions.

Standards FA-715 reiterates Standard PS-206 and the requirement to meet ACCT and local jurisdiction requirements.

NCAP Call for Comments on Standards

NCAP is seeking any comments or suggestions for improvement of the National Camp Standards, including the addition of any new Recommended Practices that NCAP should consider adopting and recommending to BSA camps.

All council camping professionals, camp directors, and camping volunteers are requested to consider any recommended changes and to submit them to Eric Hiser,

the National Standards Chair, as soon as possible so that they can be evaluated for inclusion in the National Camp Standards.

Comments can be submitted to Eric at the following email:

ehiser.BSA@gmail.com or NCAP@scouting.org

NCAP hopes to have additional information on future standards revisions available at or shortly after the National Annual Meeting.

Clarification of NCAP Circular 6
 In the article on Standards PD-111 and PD-112, a new aquatics activity was given as an example of a new “activity” that would require evaluation under PD-111. Although the concept is correct, the example was poor because NCAP Standard PS-201 through PS-202 already addresses the activity. Therefore, a separate risk analysis, although a good idea, is not required by Standard PD-111. NCAP regrets the error.

NCAP National Leadership Team

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