



INFORMATION SHEET

Firearm Licence Purposes - Competition shooting

Purpose of This Information Sheet

- Under the *Firearms Act 2024* (the Act), every firearm listed on a licence must be specifically authorised for the purpose for which it is used. Holding a licence, including a multi-purpose licence, does not authorise a firearm to be used for any purpose other than those expressly recorded against that firearm. The use of a firearm outside its authorised purpose is unlawful and constitutes an offence under the Act, regardless of whether the person otherwise lawfully possesses the firearm.
- This information sheet aims to address any confusion around the use of firearms for competition purposes.

Individual Licence firearms – Competition and Hunting purposes

- A person may hold both a Hunting Licence and a Competition Licence under an Individual Licence (often called a multi-purpose licence). This allows the same firearm to be licensed for both hunting and competition purposes, as long as all legal requirements are met, such as having permission to hunt and being a member of a licensed firearm club.
- Simply holding a multi-purpose licence does **not** automatically allow a firearm to be used for both purposes. A hunting firearm cannot be used in competition, and a competition firearm cannot be used for hunting, unless the firearm is specifically licensed for **both** purposes.
- **This means it is unlawful to take part in competition shooting unless a person holds an Individual Licence for competition purposes and the specific firearm is authorised for competition shooting.**

Authority to use a firearm at a licensed range

- If a firearm licence allows someone to use a firearm, it also allows them to use that firearm at a licensed firearm range for certain limited purposes. These include:
 - target shooting (including sighting-in);
 - firearms training provided by an approved firearms trainer; and
 - any other purpose allowed by the regulations.
- This means a person who holds a Hunting Licence or a Primary Producer Licence may take their firearm to a licensed firearm range for target shooting or firearms training.
- **This does not allow a person to take part in shooting competitions. To compete in shooting competitions, a person must hold an Individual Competition Licence, and each firearm must be authorised for competition use.**

Firearm authorities applying to the same firearm

- The Act allows the same firearm to be authorised under more than one licence at the same time. This is commonly known as co-licensing.
- This means that one person, or more than one person, may licence the same firearm for different purposes, as long as each person meets the legislative requirements for each purpose.
- For example, a person may licence the same firearm for hunting **and** for competition shooting, provided they hold an Individual Licence and meet the requirements for each purpose. Alternatively, two different people may each have the same firearm authorised under their Individual Competition Licences.

Section 219, 220, 221 – Unlawful use of firearm

- A person must not use a firearm unless the person is authorised to do so by a licence or permit.
- A person who unlawfully uses a firearm commits a crime. This includes using a firearm outside the purpose for which it is authorised, for example, using a firearm only authorised for hunting in a shooting competition.

Penalty: imprisonment for 7 years

Summary conviction penalty: imprisonment for 3 years and a fine of \$36,000

- A person who unlawfully uses a firearm which is a handgun or prohibited firearm commits a crime.

Penalty: imprisonment for 10 years

Summary conviction penalty: imprisonment for 3 years and a fine of \$36,000

Ensuring your firearms are authorised for the correct purpose

- If you are uncertain whether your firearms are authorised for the correct purpose on your licence, the Licensing Services Transition Team can assist. They can be contacted on 1300 894 474 or at FirearmsProject@police.wa.gov.au.

References to Legislation:

Legislation	Relevant Provision
<i>Firearms Act 2024</i>	Sections 28, 29, 110, 172, 219, 220, 221