

Paintballing – Frequently Asked Questions

There were a number of questions that came up as part of the consultation. These are the answers to those questions to ensure everyone receives the correct answer:

Q. When am I allowed to start taking part in paintball within Scouting?

A. From January 2014 when the new version of POR goes live with this rule change included.

Q. How can we take part in paintball when there is still a rule that says we can't shoot at human targets?

A. The rule banning shooting at human targets ([POR 9.37](#)) only refers to guns classed as firearms. Paintball guns (and nerf guns, laser guns, water pistols, airsoft guns etc) are not classed as firearms so are not affected by this rule.

Q. What happens where a parent doesn't want their child to take part in paintball?

A. As with any activity, if a parent doesn't want their child to take part in any activity or event then their child won't attend the activity or event. Paintball is an optional activity within a balanced programme, so there is no requirement to take part in it as part of the programme.

Q. What is the minimum age for members to take part in paintball?

A. Scouting hasn't imposed any age restrictions on this activity. However both the UKPBA and UKPSF include requirements around age for all of their sites, so the site you are looking to use will be able to let you know what these requirements are.

Q. What is meant by an 'equivalent body' to the UKPBA or UKPSF?

A. The term equivalent body is included to ensure that overseas providers (who won't be members of UKPBA or UKPSF) can still be used as long as they are members of an equivalent body in their country and run paintball to the equivalent standards that are required in the UKPBA or UKPSF.

Q. Where can I find sites that we are able to use to run paintball?

A. Both the [UKPBA](#) and the [UKPSF](#) have site locators on their websites.

Q. What does 'have parental permission' mean?

A. All under 18's taking part in paintballing must have the permission of their parents. Before the activity parents must be made aware of the risks of the activity and then be asked to give permission. This information may be passed on through the use of the activity information form, an email or a parents briefing. The parental permission can also be gained in a number of ways from a permission form to the parent attending to drop the young person off at the paintballing centre. When choosing how to do this, consider the age of the group and the interaction you normally have with the parents. For an Explorer Scout who arrives at meetings on their own an email and form may be more appropriate, whereas a Scout who is dropped off by the parent may be suitable to have verbal consent.

Q. Can adult members participate with young people?

A. Yes, but please remember the yellow card rules about physical contact and be mindful of the way in which the group will participate.

Q. Can I set my Scout activity centre up to run paintball?

A. Paintballing can only be run as a externally led activity using an external provider.

Q: Can paintballing be run on Scout property?

A: Yes, providing it is run by an external provider who is independent from the Scout Association. In these situations the external party must be a member of the UKPBA or the UKPSF, have public liability insurance as specified by the NGB and both parties have completed a risk assessment to consider the suitability of the site.