



## Western Australia Airsoft Club Inc.

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### What is Airsoft?

Airsoft is a shooting sport similar to Paintball that originated in Japan in the early 1980's when ownership of guns by citizens was made illegal. Since they did not have access to real guns, the demand for replicas grew. It is from this demand that the sport of Airsoft surfaced. The sport of Airsoft has two main disciplines:

**Re-enactment:** takes place in wide open areas, with opposing teams, up to hundreds of players or more, competing against each other or to complete set objectives over the course of several hours or days;

**Competitive target shooting:** players compete against each other on a time or points based system. There are currently three such international events:

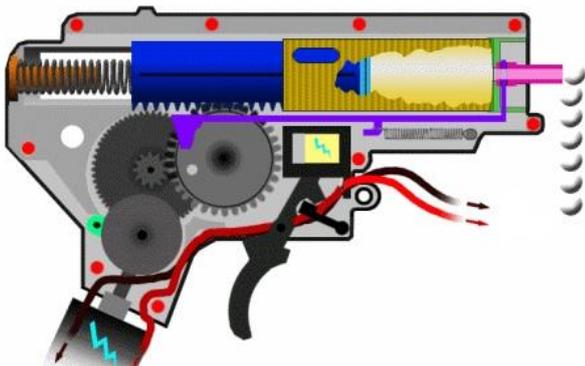
- Action Air by the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC);
- CQB World Cup Extreme Shooting Competition by G&G Armament;
- 3-Gun Nation.

### Airsoft devices - our toys

Airsoft devices replicate a variety of modern and contemporary arms and shoot 6 mm biodegradable plastic BBs with a very low weight ranging from 0.2 to 0.4 grams, and speeds between 100-150 m/s. They are constructed of plastic, pot metal or aluminium, use similar components as remote controlled toys and are predominately powered by electricity. Springs and compressed gasses are also used as a source of propulsion.

The energy of a BB shot from an average Airsoft device is 1.44 Joules: ten times less than a paintball. This is why **Airsoft hurts a lot less than paintball.**

The most common propulsion type is electrical, where a motor pulls a piston against a spring and releases it quickly. This allows for semi automatic as well as fully automatic functioning, shooting up to 40 BBs/second.



**Electric Airsoft Device Gearbox**

### Why do we enjoy the sport of Airsoft?

Some of the reasons that make the sport of Airsoft very popular around the world are:

**Mateship** (our Australian pride) – often we hear hero stories and see action movies portraying acts of valour and sacrifice, friendships beyond words, teamwork, suspense, courage and fear. We wish to experience all of these feelings in a safe environment and this is what Airsoft re-enactment offers us;

**Safety** – there have been no recorded deaths over the sport's 30-40 years` lifetime. By competently wearing the appropriate eye and face protection, the risk of permanent or serious injury is almost completely eliminated;

**Physical fitness and mental wellbeing** – Re-enactments are generally physically and mentally challenging, if one chooses so. Sportsmanship, stamina, leadership, endurance, adrenaline, situational awareness, problem solving, ambition, strategic thinking, determination, agility, wits and confidence are some of the requirements and benefits of the sport;



**6mm Airsoft Biodegradable Plastic BBs**

**Skills and competitiveness** –Competitive target shooting requires constant training, determination and great hand to eye coordination, as well as good physical condition;

**Human nature**– Humans have evolved to be hunters and competitors as well as social animals. We thrive through winning. Not everyone is an Olympian, but when playing Airsoft anyone can be a hero. Plus you get out and meet new people from every walk of life and make new friends;

**Enjoying the outdoors, stress relief, reduced obesity, social inclusion, sense of belonging;**

**Tinkering** – Airsoft devices are complex, encompassing mechanical, electrical, pneumatic and

electronic components. Repairing and tuning them can be challenging, rewarding and great fun.

The above reasons have also been validated by a 2008 global survey<sup>1)</sup>, which found that friends, fresh air and '**better than computer games**' are the top motivations for enjoying the sport of Airsoft.

### The sport of Airsoft and Paintball

Although the two sports serve different purposes, markets and clients; some comparisons can be drawn. The sport of Airsoft is:

- **Safer:** the energy of a shooting BB is 10 times lower than a shooting paintball;
- **Cheaper:** about 3.5-4 times cheaper, mostly due to the lower cost of BBs;
- **More convenient:** no attached air tank, no magazine on top, smaller size of BBs, etc.

### The sport of Airsoft around the world

The sport of Airsoft is currently being enjoyed by millions around the world of all ages, sexes and professional backgrounds.

**The UK Airsoft industry is worth 40 million GBP/ year<sup>2)</sup>**



#### Legal Status of Airsoft around the World

Green – legal; Orange – semi-legal or not enforced;  
Red – not regulated / illegal; White - unknown

Some Governments have also formally recognised Airsoft as a sport and regularly sponsor events (i.e. New Zealand, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Italy).

### The sport of Airsoft in Australia

Australia is part of only 7% of worldwide countries where the sport of Airsoft is currently not regulated, alongside North Korea, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Papua New Guinea and others. It is also the only Western society to have taken this approach.

The *WA Law Reform Commission* has recently recommended changes to the current regulatory provisions regarding the sport of Airsoft (Project 105, Oct 2016), however the Government has taken no action to date.

1) *Global Airsoft Survey Project (G.A.S.P.), Popular Airsoft, 2008*  
2) *UK Airsoft Player's Union (UKAPU), 2017*

For comparison, the *European Union*, through their recent amendment of the *Firearms Directive* has specifically excluded Airsoft devices from its scope as not corresponding to the definition of a firearm. This decision has been taken despite the terror attacks that have recently plagued Europe, showing **Airsoft presents no real public or societal risk.**

New Zealand, in their recent review of Firearms legislation, has changed importation rules for Airsoft devices and allowed fully automatic function, based on '*lower power and reduced ability to cause harm*'.

These comparisons show the logical fallacies of current Australian Firearms legislation, further demonstrated through the manifestly absurd act of allowing ownership of firearms with lethal capability and prohibiting Airsoft devices with limited potential for serious injury and not capable of being converted to shoot a real bullet.

Furthermore, there are factual benefits that the State and community of WA are currently missing out on:

- Revenue from a new industry;
- Local, international and intra-State tourism;
- Reduction in overweight and obesity;
- Improved mental health.

Because of the current regulatory provisions, Australian Airsoft players have to go to great lengths to enjoy the sport, by travelling to New Zealand to play.



#### Australians enjoying Airsoft in New Zealand

#### Who are we?

The Western Australia Airsoft Club Inc. is a not-for-profit, community group established under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*, for the purposes of educating the public, advocating for the legal acceptance of Airsoft as a past time activity and competitive sport, as well as regulating the sport.

The Club has **no associations with firearm owner groups, firearm lobbyists or their supporters**, nor expresses any opinions of their activities.

#### What can you do to help our sport?

Understand our sport;

Sign our paper petition;

Write to your local Member of Parliament requesting changes to the regulatory status of the sport of Airsoft;

Join us online and offer your support. (@AirsoftWA)