

Becoming a Licenced Pistol Shooter in Queensland

The following is a summary of the process to obtain a handgun licence (Category H) in Queensland. For more details, please refer to the website of the Weapons Licencing Branch of the Queensland Police – <http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponslicensing/>

3.1 Before you can Join the Club

(a) *Unlicensed Persons*

Before you can join a pistol club you must first obtain a *Statement of Eligibility* from Queensland Weapons Licencing. An applicant must complete the form QP515 (which can be obtained from your local police station or can be downloaded the form from the Queensland Police Website -

<http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponsLicensing/fees/forms/clubsforms.htm>

The completed form and the documents specified in the form must be submitted to your local Police Station for approval. If approved, you will receive a declaration to be presented to the Club along with your application for membership. Remember this declaration will only last for 3 months.

(b) *Licenced*

If you already hold a firearms licence other than a category H (eg Category A & B) , you do not need to obtained the Statement of Eligibility, but will need 2 character references and declaration of other shooting club memberships as above.

If you already hold a Category H license, you need only complete the Club's membership application form.

3.2 Joining the Club

To join the Club you must complete the Club's membership application (contained in the Information for New Members document above). That application form, together with the Statement of eligibility, and:

(a) two character reference letters with your application to the Club. (From persons knowing the applicant for more than 2 years); and

(b) a declaration to the Club stating that you are a current member of another approved shooting club or are not a current member of another approved shooting club;

must then be submitted to the Club Secretary for consideration by the Club's Management Committee.

3.3 Probationary Period

By law, you must be a member of an approved handgun Club for at least 6 months before you are eligible to apply for a firearms' licence.

During this 6 month probationary period, the Club requires new members who do not already hold a handgun licence to shoot 6 rimfire (.22 calibre) matches at the Club, before advancing to other match disciplines and/or larger calibres. We have found that this offers new shooters the best opportunity to learn the basics of handgun shooting, safety and operation.

During this period, new members are required to be supervised by a Range Officer when shooting and must complete a Form 33 Register each time they visit the range to shoot.

During the 6 month probationary period you must complete a recognized approved Weapons Safety Course (to gain knowledge of safety practices for the use, storage and maintenance of a firearm). Applicants having an A or B licence will only need to do the legislation and Category H components. (Ipswich Pistol Club has licenced Firearms Instructors who can provide approved Weapons Safety Course training for Categories A, B, C, D and H).

3.4 Applying for Handgun Licence

Applications for a concealable firearms licence (that is, Category H, handguns) is best submitted via the online application system:

[http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponsLicensing/
applyOnline/newLicences/](http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponsLicensing/applyOnline/newLicences/)

You will need to have ready to submit with your online application:

- Documents proving your residence (eg a rates notice or electricity bill)
- A passport style photograph
- Your Statement of Attainment from your Weapons Safety Course (note , this is valid for 12 months from the date of issue)
- Form QP 518(A), which is a declaration by the Club's official representative stating that you, the applicant, are a financial member of the club, that you have been a member of the pistol club for the 6 month period immediately before the declaration is made and that you have participated in at least 3 handgun shooting competitions during that 6 months
- Your participation record

As it is an online application, you will need to have electronic versions (eg scanned copies) of all of these.

3.5 Once you have your Licence

For the first twelve months of holding a concealable firearms licence, you are only able to possess 1 (one) air pistol, and 1 (one) of the following:

- a rim-fire pistol (.22) (this calibre will enable you to shoot all rimfire matches, but not IPSC matches), **or**
- a centre-fire pistol (up to .38 inch), or
- a black-powder pistol

To maintain your handgun licence, you must participate in at least 6 handgun competitions per year per firearm.

A holder of a concealable firearms licence, who is a member of an approved shooting club, must not possess:

- a weapon with a calibre of more than .38 inch;
- a weapon that is semi-automatic and has a barrel length of less than 120mm unless it has an overall length of at least 250mm measured parallel to the barrel;
- a weapon that is not semi-automatic (e.g. revolvers and single shot pistols) and has a barrel length of less than 100mm unless it has an overall length of at least 250mm measured parallel to the barrel;
- a weapon with a magazine with a maximum capacity of more than 10 rounds;

- a weapon designed to be used without a magazine that has a maximum capacity of more than 10 rounds.

However, an authorised officer may authorise the holder of a licence, by an accreditation condition endorsed on the licence, to possess a category H weapon of high calibre more than .38 inch but not more than .45 inch, if the authorised officer is satisfied that the holder is to participate in an accredited event. Accredited events are;

a) a metallic silhouette competition; and

b) a single-action competition.

3.6 Acquiring a firearm

Once you have your licence, you are eligible to purchase a firearm. However, the purchase of firearm requires an additional permit over and above your handgun licence. To purchase a handgun you must apply for a permit to acquire (a "PTA"). This is best done via the online PTA system: <http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponsLicensing/applyOnline/pta/>).

The current fee for a PTA is \$37.50.

The PTA will require you to state the type, action, make, model, barrel length, serial number (if known) and calibre of the weapon, and the magazine capacity of the firearm. Once obtained a PTA is valid for 6 months.

The PTA must be accompanied by a letter form the Club endorsing your acquisition of the particular firearm. This letter is obtained from the Club Secretary.

All purchases of firearms must be done through a licensed firearms dealer. Even if you are purchasing the handgun from a private person, the deal must be brokered by a license dealer. The Dealer may charge a fee of up to \$11 for brokering the sale.