

# Reforms to the regulation of paintball in NSW

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21-08-2018

21 August, 2018

## Product safety

Legislation removing paintball markers and activities from the firearms legislation has been passed by the NSW Parliament and is expected to commence on 1 July 2019.

The Department of Finance Services and Innovation, through NSW Fair Trading will regulate the paintball industry when the new legislation comes into force.

The new laws recognise paintball markers are not lethal weapons, but still impose strict control features that ensure the safety and security of players and the community.

The use of paintball markers will continue to be restricted to authorised paintball venues only, with heavy penalties, including imprisonment for up to two years for those who chose to do the wrong thing.

The new legislation will require authorised venues to provide paintball participants with appropriate training, supervision and age appropriate personal protection equipment.

Any person wishing to purchase and own a paintball marker will need to be over 18, pass a fit and proper person assessment and undertake mandatory paintball marker safety training.

The age-limit of players will be lowered from 16 to 12 years to bring NSW into alignment with some other Australian and international jurisdictions. Written parental consent is required for all persons aged under 17 years who wish to play.

The NSW Police will also be able to take action under this legislation, or under existing provisions in the Crimes Act when non-compliance is detected.

**The new laws are expected to commence on 1 July 2019. Until then, the current requirements remain in place.**

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