The Territory Assembly has passed amendments reducing the minimum age for participation in paintball from 18 years down to 14.

“We have listened to the people and have passed amendments to the Firearms Act allowing children between 14 and 18 years to play paintball, provided they have parental consent,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The Giles Government believes this will expand the range of recreational activities available for young Territorians especially in Katherine, Alice Springs and Darwin’s Rural Area.

“It’s good for business, making our three paintball operations more viable and is another example of this Government removing red tape.”

Police conducted a review of the Firearms Act with regard to the rules governing paintball. This included interviews with local paintball operators who all supported a reduced age limit.

“Participation in paintball is already heavily regulated for safety and operators would be required to supply age-appropriate safety gear for younger participants,” Mr Giles said.

Other jurisdictions mostly have age limits younger than 18, including Western Australia and South Australia which allow 12 year olds to participate.

Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe, has been campaigning to lower the minimum age for paintball.

“I was approached by Paintball Katherine’s owners to look at lowering the age limit so that people under the age of 18 could participate in the sport. This is a win for young people and a win for small business,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“I will support any measure that sees our kids outdoors and exercising.

“This Government is overwhelmingly supportive of initiatives that see our kids get off the couch and running around outside.”
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