

Laser safety rules and guidelines applicable to ASSA Pretoria Centre events

- ASSA Pretoria reserves the right to control the use of laser pointers at their events.
- Only registered laser pointers, up to a maximum of 20mW output, will be allowed.
- The following 'best practices' will apply at events:
 - Laser pointers should only be used by experienced astronomers.
 - Do not point at people, aircraft or animals
 - Keep a suitable distance from the audience
 - Warn the audience not to look directly at the laser pointer.
 - The area around the user must be clear of obstacles
 - Avoid pointing at surfaces that can give specular reflections
 - Minimize the use of laser pointers (do not play)
 - Do not allow children to operate laser pointers
 - Do not use mechanisms that keep the pointer switched on.
- Laser pointers belonging to users not adhering to these rules may be confiscated (the laser will be returned after the end of the event), and/or the offender may be barred from participating further.

The following "good manners" are advised:

- Be considerate of others.
- Laser pointers do ruin your eye's dark adaptation. Someone may be busy with serious observations and will prefer not to have a laser pointer shining in the area that they are observing.
- Someone may be doing long exposure photography. A laser pointer shining in the target area can spoil a lot of work.
- To avoid inconveniencing your fellow astronomers, warn everyone before you use your laser pointer.
- Wait until everyone agrees that it is appropriate to use the pointer.
- The same principles applies to any form of lighting (torches, cameras, cell phones, etc)