

# S.S.A.A NATIONAL GUIDE TO THE NRA PISTOL RULES

This SSAA guide to the NRA Pistol Rules is a precis written to assist members understanding and knowledge of the rules of the competitions. On matters where this guide is silent refer to the current edition of the NRA Pistol Rules.

In all matters regarding safety the standard SSAA conventions, including procedures for a stuck live round, and any applicable local range safety rules will apply. In all other matters standard SSAA conventions and rules for its target shooting disciplines should be taken into consideration.

Competition consists of 1 primary match and several secondary matches shot with 5 classes of handgun and a second primary match (Mayleigh), shot with 1 class of handgun.

## **1.EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION-(NRA Pistol Rules-section 3)**

This section defines authorised equipment. Where alternative types of equipment are shown, the least restrictive conditions apply unless the tournament program sets forth limitations.

### **GENERAL SERVICE PISTOL SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **1.1(a) Required.**

- 1 Standard stock of wood or synthetic material, a similar stock of commercial manufacture, or another comparable design that does not interfere with the functional or maintenance feature of the pistol.
- 2 Metal grips and Pachmayr-style wrap around grips are not permitted. The stock must be functionally identical for right and left hand use.
- 3 Open sights only with a non-adjustable front sight. The rear sight may be adjustable and must have an open "u" or rectangular notch.

#### **1.1(b) Permitted.**

- 1 A higher front sight may be used to accommodate the height of the adjustable rear sight. Trigger shoes and stops, internal and external.
- 2 External finish may be blued, parkerized, or bright.
- 3 All other external alterations or internal modifications to improve functioning and accuracy (eg- a special match barrel may be fitted). However the modifications may not interfere with the proper functioning or safety devices of the firearm as issued. All safety features must operate properly.

#### **1.1.2 U.S Pistol, 9mm, M9 (BERETTA 92) or a commercial pistol of the same type and calibre-**

The pistol may have either a standard M9 slide or a non-standard (i.e.: Brigadier) slide. Barrel length of not less than 4.9" or longer than 5". Overall length of no less than 8.52", or longer than 8.62". A specially designed barrel may be used providing it does not measure more than .700" outside diameter and meets the measurements of the issued barrel. This barrel dimension may be achieved with the use of a larger barrel or a sleeve fitted to the end of the barrel. Threading the barrel to fit the sleeve is permitted. The distance between sights, measured from the apex of the front sight to the rear face of the rear sight must not be more than 7.25". The trigger may be extended, adjustable and vented. The stock must not be more than 1.5" wide between right and left extremities. The forearm and rear of the grip may be covered with a non-slip adhesive tape, but the tape may not be continuously wrapped around the grip. The double action capability of the firing mechanism must be operable.

### **1.1.3 Standard Smallbore Pistol .22 caliber rimfire.**

The pistol may be any .22 rimfire pistol, either semi-automatic or revolver. The pistol may have orthopedic or specially shaped grips. The pistol must have the same type of sight as a service pistol. An adjustable rear sight may be used. The pistol must have a trigger pull of at least two (2) pounds.

### **1.1.4 Distinguished Revolver-**

the revolver must be capable of chambering and firing a 158-grain round nose or semi-wadcutter .38 special cartridge. It must be a factory manufactured revolver with no external modifications except for stocks which may be modified or changed because of the size of the competitors hand or to facilitate loading. Except for stocks and the honing of the sear or sear notch to make a more crisp trigger, and maintain a 2.5 lb. minimum trigger pull, no external or internal modification may be made to the revolver as manufactured and sold by the factory of origin. No parts may be removed from the revolver, either externally or internally, nor may any part be added. Specifically prohibited is any system of recoil control based upon compensators, barrel porting or weighted grips.

- (a) Trigger- Must have single and double action capability and must be capable of lifting 2.5lbs when the revolver is cocked for single action firing. Triggers will be weighed. Any trigger, sold by the manufacturer of the revolver, without modification, may be used.
- (b) Sights- Fixed or adjustable rear sights may be used. An adjustable front sight is not allowed.
- (c) Barrel- Length not to exceed six and one-half inches. (6.5")
- (d) Stocks- Except as set forth above, the right and left stocks must be mirror images of each other.
- (e) Ammunition- (At the U.S National championships, new factory manufactured .38 special 158gn ammunition is issued and mandatory) In Australia- .38/357 cartridges with 158 grain round nose or semi-wadcutter lead projectiles must be used, handloaded ammunition is permitted.
- (f) The following are not allowed. Trigger shoes, compensators of any type or design; any external trigger stop device or any internal trigger stop not originally installed by the factory as original equipment in stock revolvers of the same make and model; tape on the stocks, stocks flared at the base, or any substance which results in a sticky surface to the stock or hand.

## **General Conventional Pistol specifications**

### **1.2 Any Centre Fire Pistol or Revolver-**

Centre-fire pistols (single-shot or semi-automatic) or revolvers of .32 calibre or larger (including 7.65mm pistols and revolvers); barrel length including cylinder, not more than 10 inches; trigger pull not less than 2.5lbs. Sights may be adjustable but not over 10 inches apart, measured from the apex of the rear sight to the apex of the front sight. All standard safety features of the gun must operate properly. Any sights including telescopic, are permitted with the exception of those sights which project an image on the target. Any sighting device programmed to activate the firing mechanism is prohibited.

### **1.3 Any .22 Calibre Pistol or Revolver-**

Any pistol (single-shot or semi-automatic) or revolver using a .22 calibre rimfire, cartridge having an overall length of not more than 1.1 inches and with lead or alloy bullet not greater than .23 inches in diameter and weighing not more than 40 grains. Barrel length including cylinder, not more than 10 inches; sights may be adjustable but not over 10 inches apart measured from the apex of the rear sight to the apex of the front sight. Trigger pull not less than 2lbs. All standard safety features of the gun must operate properly. Any sights, including telescopic, are permitted with the exception of those

sights which project an image on the target. Any sighting device programmed to activate the firing mechanism is prohibited.

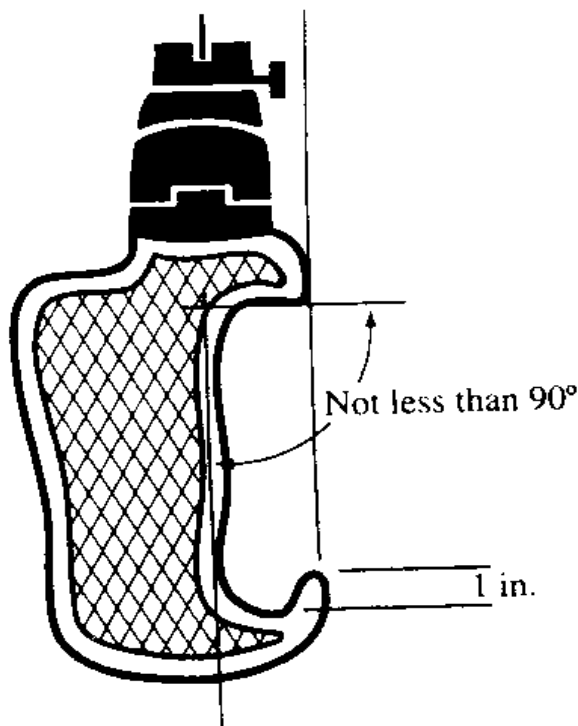
#### 1.4 Use of Authorised equipment-

- (a) The .22 Calibre Pistol as described in rule 1.1.3(Standard Smallbore Pistol) may be used in the 1.3 (Any .22 Calibre Pistol match).
- (b) The centrefire pistols described in 1.1.2(M9) and 1.1.4(Distinguished Revolver) may be used in the 1.2 (Any Centrefire Pistol match).

#### 1.5 Grips-

The grip, or any part of the firearm, may not be extended or constructed in any way which would give any support beyond the hand. The wrist must remain absolutely free and visible when the pistol is held in the firing position.

No part of the grip or accessory may encircle the hand (see fig A) Adjustable grips are permitted as long as they conform to the dimensions as shown in Fig A.



(Fig A- grip dimensions)

#### 1.6 Spotting Scopes-

The use of the telescope to spot shots is permitted.

#### 1.7 Release Triggers-

Triggers which function on release are prohibited

### 2. TARGETS (NRA Pistol Rules- section 4)

**2.1 50 yard slow fire standard American target –B6** (SSAA is seeking to produce this target under licence- the locally available MAYLEIGH target F-1 is of identical dimensions)

**2.2 25 yard rapid and timed fire target-B8** (same as B6- except only 9&10 rings are black- SSAA seeking to produce this target under licence- the locally available MAYLEIGH target F-1 has same dimension rings)

( While we are awaiting availability of the NRA targets B-6 and B-8, we can use the locally available MAYLEIGH target F-1, which has the correct ring sizes and scoring values)

**2.3 50 METRE INTERNATIONAL SLOW FIRE- 13M** used in the Mayleigh and Civilian Team Standard .22 Postal matches only.

**3. COURSES OF FIRE-(NRA Pistol Rules-section 7)** With the exception of Mayleigh match, the National Match course is standard basis for all classes of handgun.

The Mayleigh match will be shot with an Any .22 calibre handgun as described in rule 1.3

**3.1 National Match Course** Number of shots-30

Range	type fire	time per 10 shot string	strings	target
50yd/mt	slow	10 minutes	1	B-6
range	type fire	time per 5 shot string	strings	target
25 yd/mt	timed	20 seconds	2	B-8
25 yd/mt	rapid	10 seconds	2	B-8

**3.2 International Mayleigh Match**

Range	type fire	time per 10 shot string	strings	target
50yd/mts	slow	10 minutes	3	13-M

**3.3 900 Match Course** Number of shots- 90

**Long range**

Range	type fire	time per 10 shot string	strings	target
50yd/mt	slow	10 minutes	2	B-6

**National Match**

Range	type fire	time per 10 shot string	strings	target
50yd/mt	slow	10 minutes	1	B-6
range	type fire	time per 5 shot string	strings	target
25 yd/mt	timed	20 seconds	2	B-8
25 yd/mt	rapid	10 seconds	2	B-8

**Timed Fire**

range	type fire	time per 5 shot string	strings	target
25 yd/mt	timed	20 seconds	4	B-8

**Rapid Fire**

range	type fire	time per 5 shot string	strings	target
25 yd/mt	rapid	10 seconds	4	B-8

Other courses of fire exist for 25yd and 20yd only ranges, targets may be made available if sufficient demand justifies-see NRA rule book section 7.

**4. TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS-** ( NRA Pistol Rules- section 9.)

**4.1 Changing pistols-**Competitors are to use the same pistol during a single match(eg-the national match course, with a distinguished revolver). If a pistol becomes disabled at any time and is designated as such by the chief range officer, all shots fired up to the time the claim is made will stand as part of the official score.

**4.2 Sighting Shots-** Sighting shots are not allowed as part of the course of fire in Target Pistol matches..

**4.3 Defective Cartridge-** A defective cartridge is one:

- (a) which has such evident structural defect as to cause a misfire or to cause a pistol to fail to function.
- (b) Which does not fire.
- (c) From which the bullet has not left the barrel ( no claim for a defective cartridge will be allowed if the bullet has left the barrel.

(for procedure in event of a defective cartridge see: 5.1,5.2,5.3

**4.4 Disabled pistol-** a disabled pistol is one

- (a) That cannot be safely aimed or fired
- (b) That has suffered damage so it cannot be fired or will not function properly.
- (c) That has suffered the loss of a sight or damage to the sights.

The fact that sights are improperly adjusted does not constitute disablement.

(For procedure in the event of a disabled pistol see: 5.1,5.2,5.3

**4.5 Malfunction-** Failure of the pistol to function properly due to mechanical defects or to defective ammunition. Functional failures due to improper manual operation are not to be considered malfunctions.

( for procedure in the event of a malfunction see: 5.1,5.2,5.3

**5. RANGE COMMANDS and CONTROL** (NRA Pistol Rules- section 10)

The following commands are common to all events-

**RANGE OPEN** : For shooting

**SHOOTERS TO THE LINE** : Shooters/ detail come forward to the firing line

**PREPERATION TIME BEGINS NOW** : Competitors uncase their pistols and lay out their equipment. Range officers check that each competitor is at the correct firing point with reference to the detail list and score card. At the end of the 3 minute preparation period the range officer states:

**THE PREPARATION PERIOD HAS ENDED**

**LOAD-** The load command would be based on the stage of the match being contested

In slow fire

**10 SHOTS SLOW FIRE, 10 SHOTS IN 10 MINUTES, LOAD**

In timed fire

**5 SHOTS TIMED FIRE, 5 SHOTS IN 20 SECONDS, LOAD**

In rapid fire

**5 SHOTS RAPID FIRE, 5 SHOTS IN 10 SECONDS, LOAD**

Slide forward, hammer cocked- Range Officer listens for "Not Ready" replies

**IS THE LINE READY?**

**READY ON THE RIGHT, READY ON THE LEFT, READY ON THE FIRING LINE- 3 SECONDS.**

**COMMENCE FIRE** : Command may be given verbally, via audible signal or targets turning to face

**CEASE FIRE** : All firing to cease immediately, finger off trigger, await further commands

**ARE THERE ANY REFIREES?** Refer section 5.1, 5.2,

ABOVE( LOAD TO REFIRES) TO BE REPEATED UNTILL SECTION IS COMPLETED (eg Timed Fire, 2 strings)

**UNLOAD AND SHOW CLEAR** : Pistols to be unloaded, Ammunition covered, Range Officer will check each pistol on the line, and then call:

**RANGE CLEAR** : All pistols clear, no handling of pistols

**RANGE CLOSED, GO FORWARD, SCORE TARGETS AND PATCH (or CHANGE)** Shooters and scorers move forward, score, patch or change targets.

## **PROCEDURES:**

### **5.1 MALFUNCTIONS/MISFIRES-**

(a) In the case of a malfunction/ misfire- stop- hand up- pistol at 45 degrees down range- Range officer to attend and control outcome, see 5.2 and 5.3.

(b) Misfires and malfunctions allowed- 2 per string ( NRA rules are quite severe on this, 2 per string in our rules at this stage to allow development of the discipline without undue pressure.)

(c) All reshoots as a result of malfunctions/ misfires will be held at the end of each scoring set of 10 shots.

### **5.2 Procedure in case of Defective Cartridge, Disabled pistol in slow fire:**

If the range officer determines that there has been a defective cartridge, the competitor will be allowed to replace the defective cartridge and continue firing, if additional time is required, one minute per shot will be allowed. In the event of a disabled pistol the range officer may allow time to repair the pistol or if not possible, allow replacement of the pistol. If additional time is required. one minute per shot will be allowed.

### **5.3 Procedure in case of Defective Cartridge, Disabled Pistol or Malfunction in Timed and Rapid Fire.**

If the range officer determines that there has been a defective cartridge, disabled pistol, malfunction or optical sight failure , the number of shots remaining is to be recorded and on rectification of the problem the competitor will then fire another 5 shot string on the same target. On scoring the target, the scorer will score the 10 shots of lowest value on the target.

## **6. SCORING (NRA Pistol Rules –section 14)**

**6.1 When to score-**Targets are scored after each 10 shot stage.

**6.2 Where to score-** Targets are preferably scored on the target frames, but may be removed and scored at the firing line or in the statistical office. The scorer must be at the target when scoring.

**6.3 Targets are score cards-** Targets constitute the score cards when scored in the statistical office and therefore must be retained in good order until the time allowed for filing challenges and protests has expired.

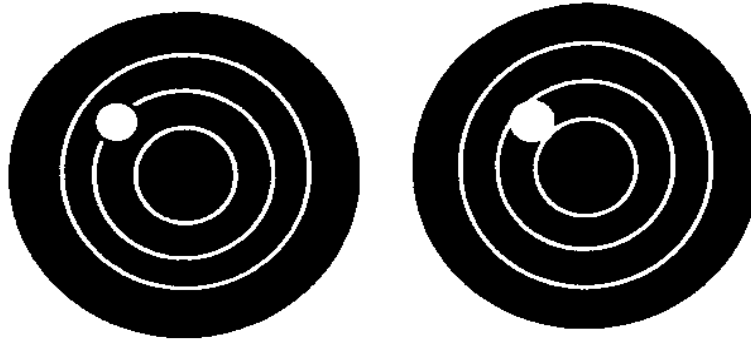


Fig B- The correct method of scoring  
The shot on the left bullseye counts nine,  
The one on the right ten.

**6.4 How to score-** A shot hole, the leading edge of which comes in contact with the outside of the bullseye or scoring rings of a target, is given the higher value (Fig B). A scoring gauge will be used to determine the value of close shots. The higher value will be allowed in those cases where the flange on the gauge touches the scoring ring. No scoring gauge will be used unless the diameter of the scoring flange is within these limits:

- .22 calibre, .2225" - .2240"
- .32 calibre, .310" - .314"
- 9mm & .38 Spl, .355" - .359"

Devices other than scoring gauges may be used in establishing the correct value of hits. These devices are not to be inserted into the bullet hole and do not constitute a scoring gauge.

- (a) In the case of keyhole or tipped shots, the higher value is awarded if the leading edge of the bullet hole touches the scoring ring of higher value, even though the hole is elongated to the bullet's length rather than being a circle of the bullet's diameter.
- (b) In the case of skid shots, the higher value is awarded if the leading edge of the bullet hole touches the scoring ring of higher value, except the value of a skid shot may not be more than one ring higher than the original point of bullet contact with the target. The target shall be defined as the entire card or paper on which the scoring rings are printed but shall not include the backing. When the original point of contact is on the target card, but outside the scoring rings, and the leading edge of the bullet touches a scoring ring, it will be given the value of the lowest scoring ring.
- (c) When a bullet enters a target from the back side it will be scored as a miss.

For further information on scoring procedures refer 2005 NRA PISTOL RULES section 14.

## 7. GRADING (NRA Pistol Rules –section 19)

**7.1 Graded Competitors-** Are competitors who are officially graded in SSAA Target Pistol competition. Grades can only be awarded from Registered Matches. Matches are registered by notifying the National Chairman a minimum of 1 week in advance, and sending the National chairman the scores from the match within 2 weeks of the completion of the match. The National Grading Register is maintained by the National chairman, there is no grading card as such. The National Chairman will supply a copy of the match results in graded form after each event. The

National Grading Register will be available at all national Championships. An individual may receive a copy of their Grading Register card by applying to the National Chairman in writing and supplying a stamped , return addressed envelope.

**7.2 Ungraded competitors-** Are competitors who have yet to complete a registered 30 shot match, and receive a grade in SSAA Target Pistol Competition.

**7.3 Establishing Grades-** A competitor will receive their first grading on the basis of their first 30 shot match fired, or in a championship with multiple 30 shot matches (900 match) their grade will be based on the average of that match aggregate. In a championship. an ungraded competitor would be marked as “Ungraded” until completion of the match upon which they will be placed in a grade based on that score. For a shooter to go up a grade they must equal or exceed the qualifying score on 3 occasions ( in the next shoot they are in the higher grade) and there is no time constraint on this.

**7.4 Downgrading-** Any application for downgrading must be made in writing to the National Chairman with due reason and supported by documentary evidence (i.e.: score sheets, medical statements etc) that will help the chairman to reach a decision. If, upon being downgraded, a competitor shoots a higher grade score, they will be automatically upgraded.

**7.5 Proof of grade-** the National Grading Register is the only proof of grading accepted. The National Grading Register will eventually be available on the National website.

**7.6 Nominating to a higher Grade-** A shooter can elect to shoot in a higher grade for a match, provided nomination is made prior to the commencement of the match, and there are a minimum of three shooters already competing in the higher grade.

**7.7 Grades-** The NRA grading system is based on percentages of a score, for the sake of convenience the following grades are based on those percentages as applied to a 30 shot score in the 2 matches applicable to this rulebook. The grade titles also have been simplified to a letter in brackets (eg; Sharpshooter (A)).

GRADE	SCORE	GRADE	SCORE
<b>C</b> grade	0 - 199	<b>AA</b> (Expert)	270 - 284
<b>B</b> (Marksman)	200 - 254	<b>M</b> (Master)	285 - 290
<b>A</b> (Sharpshooter)	255 - 269	<b>H</b> (High Master)	291 - 300

**8. Championship Awards-** National Championships will consist of 4 National match events- Any .22 Pistol 900 match, M9 match, Any Centrefire 900 match and Distinguished Revolver , plus the Rimfire Mayleigh match and the CPT Standard .22 Match international Postal events. Competitors in the CPT Standard .22 Match will use their Any .22 grade. .National Championship medals will be awarded for the first 3 places in each grade in the contested matches, as well as for the first 3 highest placed juniors in each event, the 6 match open aggregate and the 6 match Junior aggregate. 4 Medals will also be awarded for the National Team Selection Match Aggregate- being the first 4 places in the aggregate of the Any .22 900 and Any Centrefire 900 matches.