



PISTOL AUSTRALIA

The premier target pistol shooting association in Australia

A MANUAL FOR PISTOL AUSTRALIA JUDGES

Issued 2017

Version 2017/2nd printing



PISTOL AUSTRALIA – JUDGE’S MANUAL

The aim of this manual is twofold. It sets out the roles and responsibilities of a PA judge, and the pathway to get there. It will also provide a handy reference to remind you of your duties and responsibilities as a judge.

The manual is not intended to replace the current rule books – indeed you will find very little in here about the actual rules under which the various matches are shot.

Where gender-neutral wording is not explicitly used in the text, all gender-specific terms are to be considered to refer to both the feminine and the masculine form.

ABBREVIATIONS

EC Equipment Control

PA Pistol Australia Inc.

SA Shooting Australia

SAs State Associations (affiliated to PA)

NRC National Referee Council (of PA)

RTS Results, Timing & Scoring

WSPS World Shooting Para Sport (previously IPC Shooting)

SRC State Referee Council (answerable to the relevant state association, and work with the NRC)

Contents

SECTION 1 – WHAT IS THE NRC	4
SECTION 2 – WHAT IS A PA JUDGE	6
SECTION 3 – BECOMING A PA JUDGE.....	8
SECTION 4 - WORKING AS A JUDGE	11
4A THE JUDGE AT A COMPETITION	12
The Solo-duty Judge	12
Working With Other Judges	12
The Jury Member	13
Judge duties at a competition.....	13
Equipment Control & Post Competition Checks	16
The RTS Office & Endorsing Results	16
Protests & Appeals.....	20
4B JUDGES AS TRAINERS	23
Should you be the Trainer?.....	23
What will you be training?	24
SECTION 5 – THE RULES	28
Using and Interpreting the Rules	29
SECTION 6 - ORGANIZING AN ISSF FINAL	31
What you need to know (in no particular order).....	31
Setting up the Range.....	32
Reporting time	33
Eliminations & Ties.....	34
Specific Details for Finals	35
SECTION 7 – ORGANISING A SHOOT-OFF	37
SECTION 8 - A FINAL WORD	38

SECTION 1 – WHAT IS THE NRC

The National Referee Council (NRC) is made up of 8 Councillors and a Director. The President of Pistol Australia sits on the Council as an ex-officio member.

The Director must hold a PA Judge A qualification and is elected by PA for a 3 year term.

Councillors must hold Judge B qualification in at least one PA discipline. Councillors are elected by PA for a 2 year term. A state may have one elected member. If there is a vacancy (i.e. a state does not nominate a candidate) this may be filled by a nominee from any other state, but there may not be more than two councillors from any one state (excluding the director).

The Council meets annually to review the Council's activities and develop plans for the future.

The NRC works under a Charter approved by PA. This can be found on the PA website - <https://pistol.org.au/charters> . Changes to the Charter must be approved by PA before being implemented.

In brief, the objectives of the NRC, and the practical application of such objectives are

1. Conduct of clinics and seminars for accredited judges and other officials;
 - Conduct of biennial seminars around Australia for judges and experienced range officers – with emphasis on rule changes and problem solving.
2. Monitoring and assessing the standards of officiating under the PA banner;

- Working with the SRCs to keep PA officials updated and current.
- 3. Organizing judges and juries at all PA controlled pistol shooting events;
 - Provision of a jury for every National Championship and encouragement to all judges to attend as line judges.
- 4. Support the State Referee Councils to achieve the above goals;
 - Liaise with the SRC directors in each state as necessary.
- 5. Provide training and accreditation opportunities for range officials in all events supported by PA;
 - Provision of course materials for all levels of officiating, including opportunities for judges to undertake a Train the Trainer course if required.
- 6. Provide training and accreditation for PA members wishing to shoot from a holster;
 - Control of the holster course and recognition of holster accreditation examiners.
- 7. Obtain recognition of Australian National Judges at by international bodies;
 - Work with Shooting Australia via the SA Technical Committee.

SECTION 2 – WHAT IS A PA JUDGE

There are two PA Judge levels – B and A. Once accredited a good judge never stops learning!

PA Judges B will have a discipline specific accreditation. Skills will be honed by working under the guidance of other judges at sanctioned shoots and possibly at national championships.

PA judges A are expected to have a broad experience as a Judge B and will normally hold more than one discipline accreditation. The Jury at a national championship is composed of selected Judges A.

PA is considering discipline specific accreditation at the Judge A level. This is already in place for both Action Match and Metallic Silhouette.

It is important to note that a Judge A is simply a more experienced Judge – the designations have no significance outside of PA National Championships.

A PA accredited Judge is a person who has the ability and the authority to assist, supervise and advise, as required, in order to facilitate the running of a competition. A Judge may be the final arbiter in a conflict situation, be it solely (if he is the only judge on duty) or as part of the Jury.

A Judge needs – in no particular order - knowledge of the rules, patience, common sense, an understanding of the different levels of competition, a sense of humour and the ability to make a decision quickly and correctly.

Knowledge of the rules is a given – to get to the stage of being a Judge the rules have been hammered in to his head. However, he must keep up to date – a Judge who gets the accreditation

and then sits back on his laurels may well find himself in difficulties, will probably embarrass himself, and will lose his credibility very quickly.

Common sense and a sense of humour can all be called in to play at times. A potential conflict can often be turned around with a dash of humour, but knowing when to use it and when to be serious is most important. Common sense is often called on where the rules are in conflict with the situation, or where the conditions are such that the actual rule cannot be fully applied.

A patient Judge is one who retains his equanimity regardless of the provocation – a Judge will have to deal with all kinds of people, from the laid back “she’ll be right, mate” type to the hyper-active “panic merchant”! He will be dealing with shooters, parents, coaches, team managers, range staff, range officials, fellow Judges, organizers and more.

The ability to make a decision is crucial. The only bad decision is the decision not made? Not quite true but certainly close. Decisions must be based on the rules and be fair and equitable to ALL the shooters in the competition.

SECTION 3 – BECOMING A PA JUDGE

The first step is to want to do it! Becoming a PA Judge changes one's thinking and also commits one to more responsibility and work at competitions. An initial approach would be to your Affiliate's SRC director to indicate interest. In some cases the SRC director may initiate the conversation - in business they call it head-hunting!

A candidate will have a broad experience as an active Range Officer in the relevant discipline. If the SRC director accepts that the potential candidate is ready he will get the candidate started and advise the NRC at the same time.

The training will follow the guidelines below.

PA Judge B

Discipline specific training is available for

- ISSF Pistol
- PA Service Matches & WA1500
- Action Match
- PA Black Powder
- IMSSU Metallic Silhouette (mentoring only)

The Judge B training for all disciplines except Metallic Silhouette involves both written work and a mentoring programme.

Your SRC Director will appoint a local trainer – usually a PA Judge A, although an experienced PA Judge B can be used. The candidate will be observed at competitions and mentored in relation to judging practices.

At the same time the candidate will be supplied with a number of scenario-based questions that he needs to answer – the

trainer will continuously monitor this work and provide feedback that will involve additional questioning and comment.

The NRC, when asked, will then provide an interstate mentor to provide additional feedback and to assist with the final training.

Where possible the candidate will be funded to attend an interstate competition for additional experience.

When the candidate is deemed to be ready a seminar will be organized. At this time both a written and a practical examination will be undertaken.

Target audience – experienced Range Officers with the interest in extending their knowledge

Pre-requisites

- Must have been an active and accredited RO in the discipline for a number of years (*the time will depend on the work done and the ability of the RO*).
- Must be affiliated to Pistol Australia and hold a target handgun licence.

Trainer – PA Judge A or experienced and competent PA Judge B qualified in the discipline sought.

Mentor – PA Judge A or experienced and competent PA Judge B qualified in the discipline sought, and preferably from a different state.

Assessment – a written and a practical examination will be undertaken.

Assessors - Two Judges A – one must be an interstate Judge – at least one of whom holds a training and assessment qualification.

Judge A accreditation

Usually by invitation, but certainly an experienced Judge B can ask to be assessed.

There is some written work required.

Based on the written work, past experiences and (mandatory) performance at a National Championships as an acting Judge A, an interview by a panel of the Jury members present meets to assess the candidate. This assessment will take into account the work observed, the quality of the written work and an assessment of attitude and understanding of the Judging role within PA.

SECTION 4 - WORKING AS A JUDGE

A PA Judge works in a number of different ways. This may include working as:

- the only “duty” judge at a sanctioned shoot
- a line Judge at a state or national championship
- part of a Jury at a state or national championship
- part of a Protest Jury, etc.
- a trainer



It is essential that a PA Judge be aware of his role at any competition – trying to apply PA rules to a club shoot would simply make him unpopular!

4A THE JUDGE AT A COMPETITION



The Solo-duty Judge

You are it! Judge, jury and executioner.

It will be YOUR responsibility to contact the organizers before the competition. It will be YOUR responsibility to plan your work in order to make sure everything you need to do is done. And finally, it is YOUR responsibility to submit a report to the SRC on the competition.

Working With Other Judges

In cases where there are two or more duty Judges you will need to know who will be doing the initial contact – a simple email or phone call to your fellow Judge/s will soon settle that.

Sometimes the SRC will appoint a Judge and an assistant, in which case the duties prior to the event are a little more clear-cut. The same principle will apply to the report at the end of the competition.

The Jury Member

At most of the State Titles competitions, and definitely at a National Championship, you may be appointed as a member of the Jury. The pre-event contact will be done by the Jury Chairman - by default this would often be the SRC (or NRC) director. Your duties will be as directed by your chairman.

Judge duties at a competition

1. Before the event

You, or one of the Judges, must contact the competition organizer prior to the event. The things you need to know are (at least)

- Starting time each day
- Any variations to range conditions or rules that may need approval – and that you will have to include in your report
- Confirmation that there will be sufficient range officials to manage the competition
- Any equipment you may need to provide – e.g. EC equipment, a Disag scoring machine, etc.

2. On arrival

The first thing you need to do is sign the attendance book and introduce yourself to the organizers. Your duties start long before the competition does. You need to

- Make sure you know who is who – you must know who to go to if there is a problem that needs local input (such as a range malfunction, lack of range staff, etc.)

- “Walk the ranges”, preferably with the Chief Range Officer for the event. You are looking for such things as:
 - Hazards that may have been overlooked
 - Correct range set up for the matches
 - Are the backing targets in place (if not, and they are not used, make sure it is noted on the results and on your final report).
 - Are the Range Standing Orders in view and are they being adhered to
 - Is the timing on the turning targets correct on each range
- Talk to the organizers to discuss any potential problems – examples may be
 - Shortage of qualified Range Officers
 - Possibility of a police presence during the weekend
 - Use of a scout group to change 50m targets will need close supervision, etc.
 - Only one chronograph available – no backup if it fails
- Satisfy yourself that the RTS (Results, Timing and Scoring) area is manned and under the control of a competent person
- Satisfy yourself that the EC (Equipment Control) area is well set up and will flow smoothly
- If applicable, you will need to supervise the testing of the chronograph – and make spot checks throughout the day to ensure it is being used correctly.

This list is not definitive – it is the minimum!

3. During the competition

Very often, and particularly if you are on your own, it will not be possible for you to be on every range for every competition.

Your duties will include:

- Regular monitoring of all ranges and RTS
- Keeping an eye on Equipment Control
- Random equipment checks - especially if there is a voluntary EC, in which case the random checks will be full checks of equipment
- Overseeing any chronographing
- Availability to sort out any issues when called by a Range Officer
- Deal with any protests that arise
- Overseeing the RTS area and endorsing the results – remember that you must also make a note of any variations to rules or range conditions that may affect scores, especially if they are to be submitted for team selection.

4. After the competition is over

It is your job to sign off on all the scores for the competition – you would normally do this progressively but now is the time to make sure you have not missed anything.

Finally, submit a report to the SRC with details of the competition. The report will include such things as

- Shortcomings in the range set up (e.g. backing targets not used)
- Details of any protests received – this is important as it helps to build a database of issues that have arisen
- Confirmation that the results produced are correct
- Details of any new or equalled records or grade breaks
- Any other comments – don't forget compliments on a job well done if appropriate

Some specifics

Equipment Control & Post Competition Checks

EC is mandatory at all Pistol Australia competitions (the ISSF voluntary EC provisions have not been adopted by PA). At ISSF events conducted by PA there is provision for full post-competition checks to be conducted. At most other competitions only trigger weights will be tested.

For the matches that involve ammunition testing you must ensure that everyone is aware of and adheres to the correct procedures. Ammunition is collected AT RANDOM and before the relay begins. Testing is done through the competitor's gun (Action Pistol may use a common gun) and must be done within an hour of the relay ending (although if the competitor has been held up due to working on a range this must be taken into consideration).

Post competition checks (ISSF) may be targeted or random. Clearly you would only target a test if you had good reason to believe there is a problem. Otherwise draw random numbers and give them to the line judge or the chief range officer so that there will be no delay at the end of the relay.

The RTS Office & Endorsing Results

Endorsing the results is more than just signing a few sheets of paper!

Depending on the competition the results may be used for state or national team selection, qualification for the top ten, as proof of attendance, for a local "postal" competition, etc.

Much of the work will be done progressively throughout the competition – in particular you will need to ensure there are

adequate personnel in the RTS office and that targets are being handled correctly. Remember that your role is limited to advising and supervising. If you do the scoring who checks it?? Your assistance, if needed, should be limited to such issues as making a decision on a doubtful shot, mentoring as needed, helping to sort out any problems etc.

Your job is to

- Confirm that all penalties and deductions have been applied correctly
- Targets have been scored in a correct manner (e.g. a 2nd check of all 50m targets has been done, air targets all scored through a machine if applicable)
- All protests and appeals have been dealt with and the scores confirmed following the result
- All tie breaks have been dealt with correctly – whether it be by countback or shoot off.
- Shoot-off results have been entered correctly if applicable
- Protest Time has been posted correctly on all final results

Only when you are happy that all is in order should you sign off that the scores are correct.

Use your pocket stamp so that no-one needs to decipher the signature. If you do not have a pocket stamp then please print your name.

Examples of possible endorsements

Final scores confirmed		Final scores verified
[<i>Fred Bloggs</i>		20/1/2011
NRC 000456	OR	SIGNATURE
20 / 01 / 01]		Fred Bloggs
SIGNATURE		Judge B (or NRC
		number if you know it)

Finally – make sure that the RTS Officer knows what he has to do with the finalized results. This may vary from state to state but at the least they will be sent to the appointed co-ordinator in your state, and to Pistol Australia for inclusion in the top ten list. There may be others depending on the competition – for instance most scores from WA1500 matches go to the PA office so they can be included in WA1500 ranking.

Results must also be available to all competitors – either via a website or sent by email is the most efficient method of distribution.

Some of the queries that will arise in relation to RTS:

During the competition it is possible that competitors will ask for their air pistol targets to take home. **This is allowed provided the competition is finished and the results signed off.**

A competitor may wish to check his target because he feels the score is wrong. Often there will be a \$2 fee for this – check with the organizing committee if this is required. Competitors have every right to check their targets but they may not handle them. If an error has been made have it fixed immediately and post a new set of results (and return the \$2 if paid). **Note that for both Action Match and WA1500 the competitor must check his targets and sign his score card – the only query allowed after**

this will be if the result has been recorded wrongly on the results sheet. No fee would be payable for this.

Poorly completed score sheets coming into the office from the on range register keepers must be dealt with quickly. Talk to the register keeper/s if necessary. Some of the common issues are

- Score sheets not added up – sometimes this is laziness but often it is because the register keeper is not particularly numerate and cannot easily add up. Use your judgement as to whether you insist they be added or you allocate an additional person in the RTS office whose job will be to add up the sheets as they come in. DO NOT allow them to be added as they are input – the idea is that there will be a cross check in case of input errors. Remember that every time a sheet is added wrongly there will be time wasted in checking input and additions to determine where the error occurred!
- Numbers “painted” – stop this immediately. Errors should be crossed through and the number rewritten!
- 10 recorded as X – do not allow this to go unchecked. The X is used in ISSF and WA1500 scoring – even if there is no ISSF or WA1500 being shot try to have the register keepers develop the habit of writing 10. Then if they work elsewhere they – and you - won’t have a bad habit to worry about. The same applies to your RTS personnel.

Scores being input from the target (i.e. not using a register card). This habit is often found at the smaller sanctioned shoots and should be discouraged. If targets are being scored properly, and being double checked, it is a simple matter to write out a register card. It also makes checking any score queries a bit easier.

Scoring pre-numbered Air Pistol targets needs to be well organized. Many clubs are now purchasing sequentially numbered air targets. BEFORE THE COMPETITION STARTS make sure that there is a list of allocated targets to detail & bay. This can also be input to OpenW Plus. As targets come in tick them off the list – in groups of 10 shots if that is what is being done – and as they are scored make sure they are organized in order.

Protests & Appeals

There are two kinds of protests – verbal and written.

A verbal protest is to be made when the incident occurs – examples would be a claim for a disturbance being denied and the shooter protesting the decision, a poor decision by a range officer causes a shooter to protest he was disadvantaged, etc. The vast majority of verbal protests are dealt with at the time and accepted. In many cases, where there are only one or two judges available, the range officer may be able to deal satisfactorily with the matter. If the judge is called it may well be possible for the matter to be settled immediately.

A written protest may be lodged

- If a shooter disagrees with the result of a verbal protest
- if it relates to something other than an incident during the shooting – for instance it could be a general protest about a condition of the ranges.

It is important to note that a written protest may be lodged without being preceded by a verbal protest.

A written protest must be lodged within the stipulated protest time, which is usually

- for score protests, 15 minutes from the time Provisional results are posted (10 minutes for ISSF)
- for other protests, within 60 minutes of the incident that gave rise to the protest

A protest fee is payable for a written protest, although at some sanctioned shoots this may be waived by the organizers. This is retained by the Organizing Committee if the protest is denied, or returned to the protesting party if the protest is upheld. It does not go to the Judges' slush fund!

A written protest must be dealt with as soon as it is received.

A Jury will be formed. A judge working alone may second two suitable people to assist him – this may be an experienced range officer, an experienced shooter, a club official with knowledge of the subject etc. The Judge will need to lead the discussion and make sure that the matter is discussed within the rules of the event, that proper procedure is followed, and with common sense.

A shooter who disagrees with the result of a protest may appeal that decision. At National championships the Jury of Appeal comprises three members of PA management or their nominees. Similarly at State Championships the Jury of Appeal may include members of the State Executive and/or other judges not involved in the original decision. However, at the majority of competitions there will not be any Judges who have not already been involved in the protest. A Jury of Appeal in this case will be made up of:

- in the first instance, officials of the host club or organizing committee,
- other experienced persons who may be present (e.g. a judge who is there as a competitor, a member of the state association who happens to be a member of that club, etc)

- experienced range officials or shooters.

A Jury of Appeal is formed to examine the process by which a decision was reached. They must ensure that the decision was discussed properly, that the correct rules were used, that the decision has taken all the facts into consideration, that the decision is fair to everyone. They will also ensure that the protest and appeal were lodged correctly and on time.

If the appeal is about a disqualification as a result of a post-competition check the Jury of Appeal may NOT repeat the test – however, they must check that the check was done correctly and that the equipment used had been properly tested and calibrated.

An appeal to the Jury of Appeal must be lodged within one hour of the original decision being advised, and a further fee will be payable.

4B JUDGES AS TRAINERS

Should you be the Trainer?

As a Judge you will at some time be called upon to train others. This may be one-on-one mentoring, running a Range Officer course or even supervising a trainee Judge. You may or may not feel equipped to undertake this role. The first thing to remember is that help is available!

There are two main training situations – on-the-job training, and delivering a formal course. You will definitely be involved in the first, and may well find yourself involved in the second.

On-the-job training is simply passing on your knowledge and experience to others – any parent has been doing it for years. You may well have had new club members under your wing in the past, at some point as a Range Officer you may have had to assist a new Register Keeper. Mentoring others is one of the most rewarding methods of training – and we can all do it.

Delivering a formal course is another matter. Some people can train, others struggle. There is no shame in being unable or unwilling to deliver formal courses - we owe it to our students to deliver the course competently, interestingly and successfully, and that takes skill and experience. In the past it was assumed any Judge could run a Range Officer course – these days course conveners should ideally have some background or experience in training and assessment. For those who have never had any exposure to delivery of training there is a PA Training and Assessment Seminar that should be undertaken. Ideally the first time you deliver a PA course you will have an experienced trainer on hand to assist, and to mentor you through the process.

What will you be training?

Available courses, pre-requisites and training requirements are as follows

Club Range Officer

This is a Level 1 course designed primarily as a safety course. Successful completion of this course will enable the candidate to safely and competently conduct matches at his own club, using the PA range guides for the specific events.

The course is not discipline specific, with the exception of Black Powder accreditation. There is a separate module for Black Powder matches because of the unique nature of these events and the specific safety requirements of the discipline.

The accreditation can be issued with an exception for holster matches if appropriate.

Target audience – active club members wishing to run ranges at the home club

Pre-requisite –

- Must be affiliated to Pistol Australia Inc.
- Must hold a current Target Handgun licence and be an active participant at club level.

Trainer – Judge (A or B), or an experienced RO who has been specifically authorized by the NRC or relevant SRC director.

Black Powder Trainer – in addition to the requirements above the trainer must be an active and experienced black powder shooter.

Assessment – the trainer will assess the candidate based on their participation in the course and their on-range ability during the training sessions.

Range Officer

Discipline specific level 2 courses are available for

- ISSF
- Service Matches & WA1500
- Action Match
- Black Powder
- Metallic Silhouette (under development)

These courses are intensive courses designed to train and accredit a candidate to a standard that would enable them to competently and safely run matches up to and including PA National Championship level.

Target audience

- active shooters who wish to improve their knowledge and ability in order to act as a Range Officer at sanctioned competitions, up to National Championship level.
- Level 1 Range Officers wishing to expand their skill base.

Pre-requisites

- Must have been shooting the discipline for a minimum of two years (*in rare cases the NRC or SRC director may waive this requirement on application from the candidate &/or the trainer*).
- Must be affiliated to Pistol Australia and hold a Target Handgun licence.

Trainer – Judge (A or B) qualified in the discipline being taught. An experienced RO may deliver the course but may not do the assessment.

Assessment – participation in the seminar and a successful outcome from a practical examination. While it is preferred that the assessor have some qualification or experience in assessment it is not, at time of writing, a requirement.

Judge B

A set of scenario-based questions is available for each discipline. This is combined with mentoring and ongoing feedback to the candidate.

Target audience

- active and experienced range officers who wish to take their officiating to the next level.
- Existing Judge B wishing to be accredited for a new discipline.

Pre-requisites

- Must have been an active and competent Range Officer in the discipline for a minimum of 18 months (*may be waived at the discretion of the NRC Director on the advice of the relevant SRC Director*).
- Must be affiliated to Pistol Australia and hold a current Target Handgun licence.

Trainer/Mentor – Judges (A or B) qualified in the discipline being sought. One trainer should be an interstate Judge. Duty Judges should be asked to give feedback on performance at any competitions attended by the candidate.

Experience – the candidate must be encouraged to work at competitions under the guidance of the appointed judge(s) and feedback on performance must be sought. The candidate should also be given the opportunity to work interstate at least once during his training – NRC may be able to assist with costs for this.

Assessment – participation in the seminar and a successful outcome from a practical examination. Assessment is by 2 Judges A, at least one of whom must hold a qualification in assessment. At least one assessor must be from a different state to the candidate.

SECTION 5 – THE RULES

All events conducted by Pistol Australia are subject to the rules as follows

- Federal and State Laws
- Range Standing Orders
- PA Constitution
- PA General & Technical Regulations
- Specific Event Rules

Federal and State Laws

As an example, under NRA Action Pistol rules Action Pistol may be shot with a .40cal pistol and a 12-shot magazine – but in Australia we are restricted to <.38cal handguns and maximum 10-shot magazines.

Range Standing Orders

These are specific to each range and may include such things as ammunition restrictions, events that may be shot on the range, specific safety considerations for the range, shooting times etc.

PA Constitution

Anyone shooting at a PA conducted event must be affiliated with Pistol Australia – special exemption may be applied for overseas competitors.

All members of Pistol Australia are bound by the Constitution.

PA General & Technical Regulations

This rule book is available for download and sets out the conditions for all events conducted by Pistol Australia. In this book you will find items such as:

- PA policies in relation to events controlled by Pistol Australia, including safety, sanctions, records, administration, officials, conduct of Nationals, trophies etc
- Items generic to all events – e.g. disability provisions
- interpretations of rules shot under “Australian conditions” e.g. 50m pistol paper target rules,
- variations to international rules (ISSF)

If you can't find it in the discipline-specific rule book it is probably in the GTRs!

Specific Event Rules

Rule books are available for

- ISSF
- PA Service Matches (Service Pistol, Service Unrestricted and Service 25yds)
- WA1500
- Action Match (NRA)
- PA Black Powder matches
- IMSSU Metallic Silhouette

Using and Interpreting the Rules

Firstly – **make sure you are using and applying the CORRECT rules**. This might sound obvious, but on the range, in the heat of the moment, it is very easy to apply a rule for a different match – for example:

- Issue a warning for a first offence of foot over the line during Service Pistol. This is an ISSF rule – in Service Pistol it is a penalty.
- Issue a safety warning for not using a breech flag during a Black Powder competition. This is applicable to ISSF only.

Secondly – if you know you will be officiating, read up on the applicable rules beforehand. No-one can remember everything and a quick flick through the rule book could save you some embarrassment. It will also boost your confidence and may even remind you of something you had forgotten. This is especially important if you officiate at matches in more than one discipline.

Thirdly – use your common sense. Some examples

- if the rules tell us that there must be backing targets but the rain is making it not only difficult but also dangerous to patch them then consider not using them. However, you will have to not use them on all ranges – otherwise you have uneven conditions!
- due to a range breakdown it is not going to be possible to get all the CF Precision finished before starting the RFS – does it matter? Is it better to get the match completed rather than have to hold it over – and remember that if you hold it over you need to hold the entire RFS over to meet rule specifications.

Finally – when applying or interpreting rules think about the intent of the rule/s. NONE of the rules have the intent of catching out a competitor or assuming the competitor is deliberately trying to gain an advantage.

Rules set out the course of fire, the conditions under which the match will be fired, the equipment that may be used, the penalties for infringements. The basic premise of ALL rules is to provide an even playing field for all participants. While some rules – such as ISSF – are quite comprehensive there are others – such as WA1500 – that are less so. In all cases it is the spirit and intent of the rules that we as Judges are expected to understand and apply.

SECTION 6 - ORGANIZING AN ISSF FINAL

As a Jury member you may well find yourself in charge of an ISSF Final. This can be daunting so these guidelines have been developed to help you. This section does not set out all the rules for a Final – it is just some notes to help you organize and manage one!

What you need to know (in no particular order)

- The rules for the Final – use the ISSF rule book and the PA Range Guides to ensure you are fully up to speed.
- The start time of the final (this is when the scoring shots begin) – report time is 30 minutes before this
- What range/s it will be conducted on
- Has music been organized – this is now a requirement for all Finals
- Have the correct targets been prepared (10m) or put aside for the Final
- Where is the reporting area
- Where will RTS be able to set up
- Who will be the CRO for the Final
- Who will be the announcer
- What other staff may you need – e.g. observers, scorers, target collectors, etc.
- What equipment will you need – e.g. a Disag scoring machine, decimal gauges, overlays, etc.
- Is there a PA system – make sure it works properly
- Will the results be displayed (they should be!) – make sure you know how it is set up
- What briefing will you give the Finalists

Setting up the Range

Often this cannot be done until the qualification rounds have finished. This does not mean you cannot plan what needs to be done.

Make sure that the bays are clear, screens are in place, 10m and 50m Finalists all have a chair and that the spectator area is as clear as possible.

If you are using observers (10m and 50m) make sure you have a seat for each, and that flags or similar are available.

There MUST be an area for the RTS officer, CRO and announcer to work – on some ranges this will not be easy and you may need to actually screen or rope off an area. Mistakes can happen when they are too close to spectators – especially if there is a problem which everyone wants to give advice about! Remember that the announcer and RO must be able to see the shooters.

Test the PA system, RTS computer and display system – there is no time to fiddle with it once the final begins.

Make sure the correct targets have been used and that they are in the correct positions. Correct numbering of targets is also very important - as at January 2017 for 10m and 50m this was R1, A, B, C, etc to R2.

The reporting area should be adjacent to the range – sometimes you will have no choice but to allow Finalists to report direct to their range, but this should be a last resort!

The People who will conduct the Final

Give your allocated staff plenty of time to brush up on the rules – this is especially important for the CRO, the announcer and (when used) the scoring teams.

Make sure the CRO is familiar with the course of fire and has the appropriate (and current) range guide available.

Talk to the Chief RTS Officer so you know who will be allocated to the Final and that they know where they will be placed and what they need to do.

Make sure you have an announcer – in some cases the CRO may also be the announcer although this is not ideal. **DO NOT DO IT YOURSELF** – you **MUST** remain as an observer so that you can quickly step in if something goes wrong. You will be one of the Protest Jury so you cannot be involved in any other capacity than that of jury member.

Reporting time

The reporting time for all the Finals is 30 minutes before the start. A lot happens during this time

1. Mark off each shooter and make sure they have reported on time – there are penalties for late arrival (rule 6.17.1.4).
2. If applicable conduct trigger checks – remember that the rules allow for 2 pistols to be on the bench for the 25m Finals. If a firearm fails the trigger test the competitor is allowed to adjust it– there is **NO** disqualification for failing a test at the Finals EC, but the firearm must pass the test before it can be used.

3. Conduct a briefing. The extent of this briefing will depend on who is shooting – if you have people who have not previously shot in a Final you will need to go into more detail than if you have shooters who have shot in Finals previously. At a minimum you should cover:
 - a. A reminder about when flags may be removed and when dry firing is permitted
 - b. A reminder about not loading the firearm before the correct command
 - c. A reminder to flag the firearm and face the audience after the sighters
 - d. Instructions about returning to the reporting area if applicable
4. Allow Finalists to set up their equipment and have them return to the reporting area – they may NOT do aiming exercises or dry fire at this time.
5. At the appropriate time the CRO will call the athletes to the line – they should walk in IN ORDER and not like a gaggle of geese!!

Eliminations & Ties

If there are less than eight (six for RFP) finalists, the Final will still consist of the full number of shots. Thus eliminations begin once the “missing” finalists are eliminated, e.g.

- 6 finalists only in 50m pistol? – eliminations begin after the 16th shot
- 5 finalists only in Rapid Fire? – eliminations begin after the 5th series

Ties to be eliminated are conducted immediately and consist of one shot (series for 25m), and continue thus until the tie is broken.

Specific Details for Finals

10m Finals on paper targets

When using paper targets each competitor must have enough targets to shoot the entire final (18 targets) with a couple of spares in case of a shoot-off and 4 sighting cards.

The first 2 series, of 5 shots each, are fired “one shot per card”. All five targets will be collected and scored as soon as STOP is called.

The final then continues with single shots on command, scored after every 2 shots, until the gold and silver medals are decided.

Observers should be used – the rules allow for STOP to be called immediately after the last shot has been fired.

50m Final on paper targets

When using paper targets each competitor will be provided with one sighting target. This will be replaced with a new target after scoring of the sighting targets (scored in whole numbers).

The first 2 series, of 5 shots each, are fired on one target – this is patched after the first five shots are scored (decimal scoring).

After the 2nd series of five shots the targets must be changed.

The final then continues with single shots on command, scored and patched after every 2 shots, until results are final

Observers should be used – the rules allow for STOP to be called immediately after the last shot has been fired.

25m Rapid Fire Final on paper targets

Make sure the RO has the correct guide – this depends whether you are using 3 or 6 banks of targets.

Make sure you have sufficient scoring crews to make for speedy (accurate) scoring – for example. if you are spread across 3 ranges you will need 3 crews.

All series, including the sighting series, are fired in 4 seconds.

The sighting series is scored using whole numbers. All remaining scoring is hit/miss (hit zone is 9.7) and should be measured using the approved NRC overlay.

The first elimination occurs after the 4th series.

25m Pistol Women Final (also applies to WSPS P3 Match) on paper targets

2 groups of 5 targets are used, and are labelled A-B-R1-D-E / F-G-R2-I-J. The target is the Rapid Fire target.

You will need at least 2 scoring crews.

The Final consists of 10 scoring series in the RFS format.

The sighting series is scored using whole numbers. All remaining scoring is hit/miss (hit zone is 10.2) and should be measured using the approved NRC overlay.

Eliminations begin after the 4th series.

SECTION 7 – ORGANISING A SHOOT-OFF

There are no shoot-offs for the ISSF matches – all tie breaking is done using the X-count and count-back method.

Once the RTS office has entered all the scores for an event it will be obvious whether or not you have a shoot-off situation.

Once you are aware of a shoot-off situation you need to ensure RTS publish a notice and advise the relevant competitors. This is to be done in consultation with the CRO as it will be his responsibility to set up the range and to ensure it is adequately staffed.

In practice an experienced CRO will have arranged for one of the ranges to be left “up” in case of a shoot-off.

The shoot-off should not commence until the score protest-time has ended.

Make sure you KNOW the course of fire for the shoot-off.

A Judge must be present for all shoot-offs in case of a protest during the shoot-off. Remember, the result of a shoot-off is final and cannot be protested so it is important to address any problems that arise at the time of the incident.

SECTION 8 - A FINAL WORD

Being a PA judge can be a very rewarding role. Each of us is different so each of us gets something different out of our judging activities. For some of us the chance to pass on our knowledge, both formally and informally, is the highlight. For others it is the chance to work on the ranges and see some of our athletes being given the opportunity to do their best in competition.

It is important that we remember WE ARE NOT THE RULES POLICE – we are there to facilitate the competition wherever we may be.

Remember too, when we are off duty we still need to set a good example. We may be “just a shooter” or “just a spectator” but people will be aware that you are a judge and will be looking to you as an example.

And a Final Reminder

We are all first and foremost shooters. Never forget it – and make sure you find time to enjoy your sport as a participant. If you lose your focus you run the risk of becoming jaded – officiating will become work and you will become a policeman rather than an umpire!