

## **Introduction to Pistol Shooting**

### Distribution

The new edition is now available and is what you get when you order it. Unfortunately we have had to increase the price to \$5 including post. The paper and printing price increases since the first printing have made this inevitable. The good news is that I have now converted this new version into a PDF file, and can send it to anyone over the internet, or indeed on a floppy, or just download from the NZPA web site (374Kb). Then you can print a master copy and take as many copies for your members as you want.

If you know what this means you will know it means it is an exact copy, in colour, which you can print out, but not edit. If you don't know what it is, it is a file produced by a programme called Adobe Acrobat. The reader for this, which lets you read PDF files, is a free download from the [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) website. People are increasingly using this as a way to distribute material in an easily readable and printable format, which preserves security of the original by not letting you edit or change it.

### Operation

I have had a recent question about who should be running training based on "Introduction to Pistol Shooting" and who should be supervising and marking the test papers.

We have a network of National Range Officers round the country in various disciplines. These are experienced and qualified senior people who have indicated that they are prepared to spend time and effort helping clubs to do training and to run competitions. I have previously circulated this list for clubs to approach the NROs when they want to do training. This does not mean that someone else can't do it, just that the NRO list is the only list of people we know about. So let me spell out the criteria for the training and testing to try and clarify who should do both.

All the material needed for the tests is in the manual. So anyone who can read, and who can put stuff over can use this to do the training sessions. Anyone experienced can do training without the manual. The training is a club activity so you would expect that the club committee appoint whoever is doing it. In a small club you might go to a bigger club, which has a training officer, and sit in on their sessions.

Marking the exams can be done by just about anyone as all the answers are provided and there is no need to know what they are yourself, or to reinterpret them. However, it makes sense that whoever does the training also does the marking. So, we are not at all prescribing who does any of this, just that they are willing and preferably have some experience, and are appointed by the club.

This last point is important. Remember that what the training and test replaces is the club stating that a person is a trained and safe shooter suitable to have B endorsement. This is a serious responsibility and one which can carry some repercussions if made incorrectly or lightly. In preparing the training and test we have had the objective of providing proof of these statements in a consistent and documented manner. However the onus is still on the club committee. If people are not trained properly or allowed to pass the test when they really shouldn't this is just the same as saying a shooter is safe when you don't know that they are. That is why the club committee should know how the training is being done, and accept responsibility for making sure it is done properly by an appointed person.

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