

SECTION ONE - INTRODUCTION TO PISTOL NEW ZEALAND

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AN INTRODUCTION TO PISTOL NEW ZEALAND

(THE NEW ZEALAND PISTOL ASSOCIATION Inc.)

INFORMATION FOR THE NEW PISTOL SHOOTER

Pistol NZ (known then as the NZPA) was founded in 1969, incorporated in 1970 and since that date has introduced, promoted, and administered pistol shooting throughout New Zealand.

In the beginning there were no provisions in New Zealand Law for target shooters to have pistols, we had to make great efforts to change the firearms laws of New Zealand and progress slowly and carefully.

Over many years Pistol NZ has advanced the sport of Pistol Shooting from using only single-shot .22 cal pistols, through the range of ISSF style shooting, until today when we shoot a wide variety of matches using pistols of many styles and calibres. The effort to gain acceptance for this was considerable.

In 1983 Pistol NZ, working in co-operation with other shooting organisations, successfully changed the very high annual Government costs for pistol licences to a reasonable fee which was intended to cover a shooter's entire lifetime. We also changed Government Policy that prevented the import of pistols to a policy where Clubs, Dealers and individuals may now import these with minimum trouble and licensing.

Unfortunately, with very little consultation with the shooting sports, this was all reversed in 1992 when the Government scrapped the lifetime licence and introduced a new ten year licence at a heavily increased fee.

Pistol NZ is a democratically constituted Association with equal rights and opportunities for all pistol shooters. Council members are elected annually by the affiliated Pistol Clubs.

Pistol NZ has over 80 affiliated clubs which are located in every major town and city in New Zealand. We have a total membership in excess of 3000 pistol shooters of which more than 2800 have Police issued Category B (target pistol) endorsements to their firearms licence.

Pistol NZ have committees and Sections to attend to all facets of pistol shooting. These include National Magazine (Bullshooter) Production, Competitions, Coaching, Finance, Team Selection, Police Liaison, Range Safety, Range Development and Target Manufacture.

BRIEF HISTORY OF PISTOL SHOOTING IN NEW ZEALAND

1922 Registration of firearms and restriction placed on ownership of handguns.

1955 First submissions made to Government to allow the possession of pistols for the sport of target shooting.

1960 Approval given to a small bore rifle club to allow a 12 month trial shoot with .22 calibre single shot pistols.

1962 First trial shoot takes place.

1969 The NZ Pistol Association is formed, its objective being to administer the sport of pistol shooting nationally on behalf of the Police, and to extend the use of handguns from single shot .22 pistols to all calibre self loading pistols and revolvers. All clubs (7) join.

1970 Police agree to allow revolvers and self loading pistols conforming to ISSF specifications to be used by clubs affiliated to the NZ Pistol Association Inc under very strict conditions.

1996 Graeme Anderson wins a Gold medal in the Big Bore Revolver event at the IMSSU World Championships in South Africa.

1999 Cowboy Action Shooting section formed.

1999 Hamilton Pistol Club host the 3rd World NRA Action Pistol Championships, NZ Team take the bronze medal.

2002 NZPA adopts PISTOL NEW ZEALAND as its new public name, to further increase marketing opportunities, and improve alignment with other sporting bodies in New Zealand and overseas.

2003 Practical Pistol event introduced to Oceania Championships shooting program, NZ shooter Phil Dunlop wins the inaugural Gold medal in the Standard Division.

2009 Revised Constitution approved which provides for changes in the way Pistol NZ administers and provides services to its member clubs.

2010 Executive Officer appointed.

1. WHAT EVERY MEMBER SHOULD KNOW

This booklet is intended to help pistol shooters to be aware of both the responsibilities and rights of being affiliated to Pistol NZ.

Additional information is available on the Downloads page of the Pistol NZ website - www.pistolnz.org.nz

From the start, when a person visits a pistol club, they come under laws and regulations expressly covering the use of firearms and, particularly, the use of pistols. On a second or third visit a decision must be made as to whether that person intends to join a club or not. Club officials must offer the visitor membership, or advise the person concerned that the number of visits is limited.

UPON JOINING

Given that membership is sought, the club committee will normally decide whether that person is suitable and, if so, an application form (FM1) will be completed and fees paid. The club may ask the applicant for references of their good character. The new member, in applying, undertakes to abide by the rules of both the club and Pistol NZ. The practical side, such as instruction in pistol shooting technique, safety and conduct on the range etc, is a matter for the club to carry out as part of the normal induction process.

THE CLUB

When a member has joined a club, interest should be taken in its organisation. It must be an incorporated society and is bound to observe certain procedures as laid down by law. There will be a constitution and it is important that a member should be familiar with this document as it states the objectives of the club, the manner in which it can operate and the rules controlling its members. Pistol NZ also has a constitution (which is available to members), which is similar to a club constitution but covers the activities of the National Association.

Members must rely on the officials of their club to keep them advised of competitions, changes in rules, fees and other information sent to each club by the Executive (Council) of Pistol NZ. Dissemination of this information is vital to the well-being of the Association. Pistol shooters should ensure that they receive such information by checking that the minutes of Council meetings and other bulletins from Pistol NZ are displayed on their club notice board.

BULLSHOOTER

The official magazine of Pistol NZ is presently published bi-monthly. The magazine is posted directly to all senior financial members of Pistol NZ, at the private address as listed on the membership registration form, submitted to Pistol NZ by the individual clubs at the beginning of each financial year. As new membership registrations occur throughout the year, they are automatically placed on the mailing list. Those members on a reduced fee (spouse, Junior and Intermediate) do not receive a copy of Bullshooter if there is another member at the same address. The reduced fee is in recognition of this.

Bullshooter covers items of general interest to pistol shooters, local and international news, current Pistol NZ and Council activities, dates and venues for upcoming competitions, photographs, competition results, general advertising and buy/sell/swap pages.

Bullshooter is funded by an allocation from each Pistol NZ member's affiliation fee, plus revenue derived from advertising.

Advertising enquiries, rates, contracts, etc, are obtainable from the Editor or the Executive Officer. Clubs wishing to advertise competitions or print entry forms are required to pay discounted advertising rates, excepting entry forms for the National Open Championships of all Sections, which are published free of charge in up to two issues of Bullshooter.

2. BECOMING A PISTOL SHOOTER

PROBATIONARY PERIOD

A probationary period of six months is mandatory for all new members and this may be extended if the club committee so decides. During this probationary period the new member **MUST** obtain a firearms licence and **MUST** attend the club and shoot at least 12 times. All probationary members must attain a satisfactory standard of range behaviour and be able to demonstrate basic knowledge of range rules and safety standards. Probationary members may not purchase a pistol. Where a new member is under 16 years of age, they must obtain a firearms licence within six months after their 16th birthday.

ATTENDANCE

Attending the club means: being at the range, signing the attendance book, paying the range fee (if one is required) and participating in the club activity of the day (whatever activity has been decided by the club committee).

LICENCE ENDORSEMENT TO PURCHASE A PISTOL

To obtain the B endorsement an applicant must have satisfactorily completed the probationary period. Application for the B endorsement must be made in the first instance to the member's nearest Police Station.

An application form POL 67F must be completed and signed in the presence of the issuing Police Officer who also must sign and witness the issue of the form. The form POL 67F is then submitted to the Club Committee and then to Pistol NZ with a completed new member test form for validation, before being returned to the Police for consideration.

This form is a recommendation from the club, and a certification that the member is competent and safe with a pistol, has attended the requisite number of meetings and is familiar with all requirements pertaining to

belonging to Pistol NZ and the club. After the Police have granted a B endorsement to the member's Firearms Licence, the member may arrange for the purchase of a pistol.

SECURITY

Before granting a B endorsement, the Police will inspect the member's home to ensure that security is adequate for the retention of pistols by the member. Security normally takes the form of an approved steel safe or lockable steel container. Specifications can be obtained from your local Arms Officer or, in some cases, from your Club officials.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

When a member changes his or her address they are required by law to advise the Police. They are required to have their pistol security checked at their new address before bringing pistols into that new address.

In order to maintain the privileges of membership it is advisable to also notify your club and Pistol NZ so that the records of the Association can be kept up to date and enable updating of the Bullshooter mailing list. The use of the Post Free change of address cards available at all post shops is recommended and registering a mail redirecting order with the NZ Post is also recommended. Pistol shooters can also email their change of address details to the Executive Officer at info@pistolnz.org.nz or online at the Pistol NZ website - www.pistolnz.org.nz – on the Contact Us page.

PISTOL PURCHASE

Once a pistol shooter has identified the pistol suitable for the discipline they wish to shoot, the member then requests the club to provide an application form (LE2/1) for the purchase of that pistol. Completion of this form for submission to the Police requires a full description of the pistol. The Police will issue a Permit to Procure form which you then take or send to the dealer or individual from whom the pistol is to be obtained. On receipt of the pistol, it must be taken, together with the Permit to Procure, to the Police Arms Officer to have it entered into Police records. The maximum number of pistols which may be held on a B endorsement is 12 although in rare and special instances the Police, on the recommendation of Pistol NZ Council, may agree to extend this. The form LE3/1 may be obtained from the Executive Officer. Once completed, the form is submitted, via your Club committee, to the Council of Pistol New Zealand for approval.

CARRYING A PISTOL

When a member with a B endorsement wishes to take a pistol to an approved range, to the Police station, or to a dealer or gunsmith (these are the restrictions imposed on a licence holder) it must be carried in a stout, locked container separate from any ammunition. At the range the pistol must at all times be under the control of the owner unless handed to the club armourer. A permit to carry should be obtained from Police if the pistol is to be away from its usual security overnight.

3. YOUR CLUB'S RESPONSIBILITY

1. To always be prepared to listen to the needs of the members and promote healthy communication channels so members can offer ideas and new concepts that will benefit the club.
2. The Club's prime objective is to provide training, coaching and to promote the safe use of firearms in the sporting environment.
3. To keep their members well informed of all club activities and competitions, meeting dates, committee responsibilities etc. Healthy communication means a healthy atmosphere within the club.
4. To provide the opportunity for members to become familiar with the rules and regulations governing the particular section of the sport they are interested in.
5. Many in the club have special qualities and a good administrator will recognise these and delegate to their strengths. Be prepared to help as a good club member should.
6. To promote a friendly atmosphere in the club, and encourage administrators to have a high profile so the members can approach them at any time.
7. To attract members, the image the club portrays is vital. The high profile club generally attracts people into it.

The club should have:

- a good reputation within the community
- a good presentation of club activities to the public
- professionally printed letterheads
- a PO Box number so that when the secretary changes, mail does not get lost - this is most important
- adequate range equipment and club firearms in good order.
- good coverage in the media

What sort of long term planning does your club do, i.e. setting goals for membership growth, project development, improvements in the level of coaching. This is a very important aspect for laying the foundations of the club.

ARMOURERS

Club armourers are appointed by the club to retain club pistols and any pistols which an owner requires to be held in safe custody. The Police recognise club armourers and allow them to hold all club member B category pistols if necessary. A permit to procure is needed if a member wishes to transfer a pistol to the club armourer for

any length of time and a permit to procure is again needed when the armourer transfers pistols back to a member.

RANGE OFFICIALS

On the range, all shooting must be under the control of a Range Officer and all safety provisions must be observed. Training of Range Officials is administered by the Pistol NZ Safety & Technical Committee, and information on courses available can be obtained from your club Secretary or on the Pistol NZ website at www.pistolnz.org.nz

4. THE ROLE OF PISTOL NEW ZEALAND AND ITS COUNCIL

The annually elected Council of Pistol New Zealand is charged with protecting and promoting the interests of pistol shooters within its member clubs.

To this end the Council:

- Maintains an important liaison with the NZ Police through the Manager, Licensing and Vetting, Police National Headquarters
- Sets the standards and policies of Pistol New Zealand
- Promotes the sports of Pistol shooting through media contact and through the active encouragement of its member clubs to attract membership
- Supports and maintains a Range Development Committee made up of qualified Range Inspectors to monitor and assist clubs to maintain the approved standards on their ranges
- Provides coaching opportunities
- Supports the pistol shooting disciplines that are popular amongst its members by way of funding and contact with the shooters who participate in those disciplines. The Council also supports financially, the annual National competitions through the provision of free advertising in the magazine, provision of medals for the events and attendance badges for those who turn up to compete
- Maintains a website
- Produces a bi-monthly pistol shooters magazine
- Contracts an Executive Officer to implement member and Council policies and targets and the day to day running of PNZ. (this needs tidying!!!!!!!!!!)
- Contracts people or organisations to operate the Pistol NZ Online Shop and Target Distribution

COMPETITIONS

In order to know and understand the events in which competitions are held, a member must obtain and learn the Rules. Rule books are obtainable from Section Directors or, in many cases, from the international websites of the relevant parent body. Training and practice will ensure competence in an event. Expertise comes with experience and this is acquired in competition. Pistol NZ is committed to encouraging competition in all events.

Competition is the foundation of our sport and apart from club and inter-club competitions there are Regional, Island and National open and graded competitions, which allow members of a particular standard to compete with others of the same standard. Grading of members requires a return of scores shot to be supplied to the discipline Section Director or Section grading officer after each event.

National Championships are held each year in every event, and clubs need to apply to host these as well as the North Island and South Island Championships. Pistol NZ approval is required and application forms are available from the Pistol NZ Executive Officer, or can be downloaded from the Pistol NZ website.

Further competitions planned by clubs (which do not require Pistol NZ approval) are notified to the Competitions Committee so that they may be included in the calendar of events and thus made known to all other clubs. There are also opportunities to shoot internationally.

TRAVEL OVERSEAS TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

PEI/1 and INCOMING SHOOTER FORMS

Shooters travelling out of the country with pistols to attend overseas competitions are required to file form PEI/1 not less than 21 days before their departure from New Zealand. Form PEI/1 is available on request from the Pistol NZ Executive Officer or may be downloaded from the Pistol NZ Website at www.pistolnz.org.nz. Shooters not using form PEI/1 will experience difficulty in bringing their pistols back into the country on their return from overseas.

Shooters coming to New Zealand for competitions are advised to visit the PNZ website for information relating to the required forms for completion.

ELITE SHOOTERS

Pistol NZ Council sets the criteria to achieve Elite Competitor status. Elite Competitor status is approved by Council annually, based on a competitor achieving the required standard. The Elite Competitor will receive a cloth patch and certificate from Council.

TEAM SELECTION

Selectors are appointed and criteria set for standards required for selection to represent Pistol NZ at international competition. The selection process is usually under the control of the relevant Section Director, unless that person is also seeking selection, in which case Council will approve an alternative manager of the selection process. Pistol NZ, as a member of the NZ Shooting Federation, has access to entry in Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games and World Championships in a number of events. Pistol NZ has sent representatives overseas to all of these at different times and assists wherever possible with financial support. Pistol NZ have also been involved in the hosting of major world events in New Zealand.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Internally, your club has its Annual General Meeting and elections each year to elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer etc, plus the members of your club committee. In the same way, Pistol NZ at its AGM elects pistol shooters to positions on the National Council. Nomination forms are issued to clubs, in April each year calling for nominations. Any financial member can be nominated as President or to any other position on Council, and great care should be taken to see that those who are selected are the most suitable, because members on Council represent all pistol shooters, not just their own club or area.

Council is a court of appeal to which members can turn if they have problems or feel that they are unable to resolve pistol shooting and competition related issues within their club.

The Annual General Meeting of Pistol NZ is the supreme constituted body of the organisation and this is where the membership expresses its opinions and gives the Council its direction. Members are represented by delegates from each club and voting is by vote per number of members in each club. If delegates from a club cannot be present, a person present at that meeting may represent that club by proxy (by completing the proxy voting form included with AGM information and sending to the Executive Officer prior to the meeting).

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS FROM PISTOL NZ POLICY

AGE LIMITS: There is no minimum or maximum age at which persons may become affiliated to Pistol NZ. Clubs may set their own minimum age limit under the terms of their constitution.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITOR FUND: Pistol NZ maintains an ICF from affiliation fees to provide financial assistance to official NZ Pistol Teams.

REMITTS AND/OR NOTICES OF MOTION: Are to be submitted to the Executive Officer prior to the end of the financial year, as per the Pistol NZ Constitution.

AGM VOTING: All clubs who are financial may vote at the Annual General Meeting of Pistol NZ, as per the Pistol NZ constitution.

FINANCIAL YEAR: The Pistol NZ financial year is from July 1st to June 30th of the following year.

AFFILIATION FEES: These are set at the Annual General Meeting for the following year. Affiliation fees are due for payment not later than the 28th day of July in each year.

APPROVED PISTOLS: Any pistol used on a Pistol NZ range must be approved for such use by Pistol NZ Council and NZ Police.

B ENDORSEMENTS: The minimum age for B endorsement is 16 years. New members are required to attend shooting meetings of their club 12 times in the six months prior to application for a B endorsement. In order to maintain a licence to carry pistols a member must participate in a minimum of 12 club activities each year.

PROBATION PERIOD FOR NEW MEMBERS: Commences from the date of acceptance as a financial member of a Pistol NZ club, providing the club sends in the required affiliation fee within 28 days of the member joining.

CONSTITUTION: A copy of the current Pistol NZ Constitution can be downloaded from the Pistol NZ website.

COUNCIL: The Executive which governs Pistol NZ, elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Clubs may apply to hold National Champs for any event in co-operation with the appropriate Section Director. Applications for National Champs in any discipline are required one year in advance. The application forms are available on the Pistol NZ website.

NATIONAL CHAMPS MEDALS: Pistol NZ recognises winners of National Championship events and supplies National Championship medals to the organising club to present on behalf of Pistol NZ.

TROPHIES: There are trophies for the National and Regional Championships of most Pistol NZ disciplines and events. Many of these have been generously donated by pistol shooters and other sponsors. These trophies must be returned to the organisers of the event held the following year or to the Executive Officer, at least one month prior to the event.

POLICE: All matters relating to the Police and pistol shooting are handled by the Pistol NZ Police Liaison Committee. For information and/or submissions relating to Police matters refer to Police Liaison Committee listed in the Bullshooter and the Pistol NZ website.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: It is the responsibility of all pistol shooters and clubs to maintain a good public relations image. On the range it is expected that members will dress in a manner appropriate to a civilian sporting group and avoid projecting a para-military image.

PISTOL SHOOTING RECORDS: Pistol NZ maintains a register of National and International match records and as new records are achieved and approved by Council they appear in Bullshooter magazine. A list of current record holders is also maintained on the Pistol NZ website. The National Record can only be set by a Pistol NZ shooter at National Championship. The New Zealand Record can only be set by a Pistol NZ shooter at a Council approved international competition.

SECTIONS & SECTION DIRECTORS: Shooting Sections are formed from time to time by Council to represent bodies of shooters shooting specific disciplines. Section Directors are appointed to co-ordinate the operation and

promotion of shooting matches for their discipline, and to administer the rules and safety for each match nationally.

TARGETS: These are printed and supplied to clubs by a Pistol NZ contractor, by use of an order form available from the Executive Officer or the Pistol NZ website. The target order is sent to the contractor, whose address is on the form. Targets are delivered only on full payment being sent with the order form. **NO PAYMENT - NO TARGETS.**

5. THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS GOVERNING PISTOL SHOOTING

These general conditions have been agreed between the NZ Police and Pistol NZ and apply to all pistol shooting. Further details relating to the agreement can be found in the Memorandum of Understanding which is issued to all new members on joining.

- All shooters are to be financial members of a pistol club.
- All clubs shall be Incorporated Societies and must be affiliated to Pistol NZ.
- All new members are to serve a probationary period of six months and a minimum of 12 attendances before consideration by their club for full membership. The names of all applicants are to be forwarded to Pistol NZ with their FM/1 form and affiliation fee within 28 days of joining a club.
- Pistol shooting may take place only on a Police approved pistol range.
- All shooting is to be under the control of a qualified Range Officer, and Pistol NZ approved range commands and safety practices to be applied at all times.
- Police have the right to inspect the range at any time.

ALL OTHER CONDITIONS IN THE POLICE REGULATIONS APPLY

1. Applications to import or to procure target shooting pistols shall be accepted only from members of pistol clubs affiliated with Pistol NZ and conforming to the rules laid down. In general, no pistol, unless purpose built for target shooting competition, shall have a barrel less than 101mm (4 inches) long, and it must be safe, serviceable, and appropriate for the type of matches the purchaser wishes to use it for.
2. All applications must be made to the member's local District Arms Office.
3. An armourer must obtain a permit to procure to hold a pistol in his possession (excepting while carrying at the club's range, and the owner of that pistol is present).
4. Members of pistol clubs may be approved for a B endorsement of their firearms licence under the following conditions:
 - (a) Applications to be lodged on form POL 67F, available from the Police, and signed by the shooter's Club Secretary / President, a member of Pistol NZ Council and the Executive Officer.
 - (b) The applicant must be a current financial member of an approved pistol club.
 - (c) Applicants must have served a minimum period of six months as a probationary member before an application will be considered.
 - (d) The applicant must comply with attendance requirements, display an interest in pistol shooting and demonstrate safe handling of pistols on the range.
 - (e) A firearms licence endorsement may be cancelled if the licensee fails to retain current membership of a pistol club or comply with the conditions agreed to by Pistol NZ and the Police. An applicant must have attended and participated in pistol shooting activity at a pistol club range at least 12 times in the six months prior to the application and must attend and participate in the club's activity not less than 12 times per year after the B endorsement has been granted.
 - (f) The Secretary of a pistol club is required to promptly notify the nearest Police Arms Officer when a club member issued with a B endorsed firearms licence fails to maintain full membership of a pistol club or when conditions relating to the licence are not complied with by the licensee. Where the member's licence endorsement is cancelled, and with the permission of the Club, the pistols may be transferred to the club armourer by Permit to Procure.
 - (g) Pistols included on a B endorsed firearms licence may be carried only by the person named on the licence to and from their home directly:
 - (i) to and from an approved pistol range.
 - (ii) to and from any arms dealer or gunsmith.
 - (iii) to and from a Police station.
 - (h) The pistols must at all times be carried in a locked stout container.
 - (i) At all other times the pistols must be kept in Police approved security.
 - (j) Police have the right to inspect pistols, containers and ammunition.

SAFETY AT HOME

It is important to ensure that your pistols and equipment are kept in safe locations at all times.

- Make sure that your pistols are locked away in the security box or safe at all times when you are not cleaning them or doing dry-firing practice.
- If you are going out immediately after arriving home from the range, put your pistols away first.
- The security box must be secure and in an inconspicuous location. The box should not be visible to the casual glance. While a security box may cost a few hundred dollars, Police require that a minimum standard be met. Remember that you are protecting possibly several thousand dollars worth of investment.
- Consider fitting a burglar alarm to the box and preferably to the house. There are alarm units available at a reasonable price, and this will provide protection to the rest of your property. Your insurance cover may require this.

- Ammunition must be stored in a secure location separate to the pistols.

RELOADING COMPONENTS

- Storing flammable materials such as bulk powder for reloading, or bulk primers, in your dwelling place may invalidate your house insurance. You should check this, and in any case consider storing these materials in an outside location such as your garage or shed, in a damp-proof non-metallic box, with a "blow-off" (weak) side or lid.

OTHER SECURITY

- Do not show your pistols to, or discuss them with, people you do not know.
- Be wary of letting people who do not need to know have your street address.
- Make sure that your name and address are not displayed on a club notice board.
- If you have pistols for sale either show only a cellphone number or email address for contact or advertise only through the club armourer. Avoid any publicity in which you are shown with a pistol AND your name and address is given.

GETTING TO AND FROM THE RANGE

- When taking pistols to and from the range they should be kept unloaded in a locked box in the locked boot of your car.
- Magazines may not be loaded when you are carrying them to and from the range.
- If you have a station wagon, cover up pistol boxes.
- Soft pouches are not acceptable to the police as security in transit.
- Ammunition must be carried in a separate container.
- Note that you should carry your firearms licence with you, or you may be required to produce it at a police station.
- Do not leave pistols in an unattended car for any period of time if you can possibly avoid it.
- Pistols may not be carried to the range in a holster unless they are locked in a box as well.
- Don't put your name and address on the outside of any box or container in which you transport your guns.

PISTOL NZ STANDARD RULES FOR SAFETY AND CONDUCT ON PISTOL RANGES

Immediately upon entering the range every member or visitor shall sign the range attendance book.

Every person entering the range, whether member or visitor, places themselves under the control of the Range Officer or their assistants and must at all times comply with their instructions and these rules for safety and conduct. No person shall enter or leave the range with a loaded gun. No firearm will be loaded until the competitor is instructed to do so by the Range Officer. When not at the firing point, guns and magazines will be unloaded at all times. Cylinders will be open or slides back and magazines out, unless the gun is boxed or holstered. No gun may be removed from the firing point until it has been checked as clear by the Range Officer. In the case of club guns, permission must be obtained from the Range Officer.

PISTOL RANGE APPROVAL

Pistol shooting by Pistol NZ members may take place only on ranges approved by the Commissioner of Police. You must be aware of the Range Standing Orders for use of ranges at your club, which must be posted on the range, together with any additional club rules. The club Secretary should also have copies of the Range Standing Orders.

Information on the development and alteration of shooting ranges is contained in the Pistol NZ Range Development Guide which is held by the club Secretary.

6. RANGE PROTOCOL

Standards of behaviour are important on all ranges and information relating to the expectations of club personnel of visitors and new members can be found in further detail in the Safety Section of this Handbook.

It is compulsory to wear safety glasses (shooting glasses permitted) and hearing protection (ear plugs or earmuffs) during firing on a pistol range. This includes spectators. Consideration for others who may be shooting and respect for other people's property is important. Never touch a firearm belonging to another person without them being present or having their consent.

New shooters should never feel backward about being willing to assist with patching targets, picking up brass and generally assisting with the 'chores' of the range. It is always appreciated when people offer to help put away the targets and frames and clear the range before leaving for the day. Our clubs are built on the tireless contribution of many experienced members who are always the first to arrive and the last to leave. All help is most appreciated.

FIRING POINT COMMANDS

It is important that shooters make themselves familiar with range commands for the various matches they participate in. Match Rules are available from the relevant Section Director, and in some cases on the Pistol NZ website, or from the relevant international governing body. (check the PNZ website for links.)

- No person on the firing line shall touch a pistol whilst any other person is forward of the firing line. The Range Officer shall personally check all guns are clear before allowing personnel forward of the firing point.
- The safety of competitors, range personnel and spectators requires continual attention by all to the careful handling of firearms and movement about the range. Self discipline is necessary on the part of all competitors, range personnel and spectators. Where such self control is lacking it is the duty of the Range Officer to enforce it and the competitors to assist in such enforcement.
- The firing point will be kept clear at all times except of competitors actually firing and such range personnel

as may be necessary. Any person, competitor or otherwise, who interferes with or annoys any other competitor will be warned to desist and if they do not comply, will be ordered off the range.

It is the duty of competitors to clean up their firing points at the completion of the match. Competitors will act as scorers and patchers when asked to do so by the Range Officer. The firing area is under the control of the Range Officer and such assistant Range Officers as may be required. The Range Officer is responsible for the safety and discipline of range staff, competitors and spectators. It is their duty to be completely familiar with the shooting program, club and event rules. They must be constantly alert, impartial and firm but courteous.

No person shall be admitted to the range when apparently under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Any person who consumes intoxicating liquor at a range facility will not be permitted to shoot thereafter on that day.

7. PISTOL NZ SHOOTING MATCHES

We are fortunate, here in New Zealand, to be able to shoot almost all of the matches that are shot worldwide. It is not possible for all clubs to be able to stage all the various types and styles of matches. It might well be that your club only shoots one style of match due to space considerations or the specific wishes of your fellow club members.

The following information is intended as a guide only and further information and rules for each type of match can be obtained from the downloads section of the website www.pistolnz.org.nz



ACTION PISTOL MATCHES

The NRA Action Pistol rule book contains matches from which a number can be selected to make up a competition. There is also a Tyro match which is used to qualify novice shooters. Most matches consist of strings of 6 shots, making them suitable for revolver and semi automatics.



SERVICE PISTOL MATCH

The match consists of 90 shots fired from 50, 25, 10, and 7 yards, with series of 6 shots fired from different positions at a group of four targets.



SPEED (STEEL CHALLENGE)

This competition consists of a selection of separate stages, all of which involve shooting at a number of steel targets as quickly as possible. This match favours semi-automatic pistols. All matches are shot from the holster. Most courses are shot at 5 steel targets, at distances ranging from 7 to 35 yards. The object is to obtain the best time for shooting all targets.



COWBOY ACTION MATCHES

Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS) is action shooting with either original or replica firearms of the period pre 1899. CAS is a three gun event which involves the use of lever action rifles, double barrelled or pre 1899 pump shotguns, and one or two single action revolvers. A big part of cowboy shooting is the adoption of a shooting alias and wearing of period dress.

CAS is shot to Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) rules. There are many different categories, which cover several age/gender groups, as well as shooting styles and types of firearms.



HMS (HANDGUN METALLIC SILHOUETTE) MATCHES

All rules for matches and specifications for handguns are set out in the IHMSA Official Rules, IMSSU Rules and the NRA Silhouette Rules.

General

All categories have five targets of each: chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams set at the following distances:

.22 LR: 25, 50, 75, and 100m/yds. (Targets are 3/8ths Big Bore size).

FIELD PISTOL: 25, 50, 75 and 100m/yds. (Targets are 1/2 Big Bore size).

BIG BORE: 50, 100, 150 and 200m/yds.

A match consists of 40 shots at 40 targets in each category, 10 shots being fired at each distance. A competitor's grading in any category is determined by his/her first score shot at a sanctioned match.



ISSF MATCHES

The full match rules, courses of fire, regulations governing the size, weight, barrel length and sight specifications for all pistols used in ISSF competition are contained in the ISSF rule books.

All ISSF pistol events are shot single handed, standing, unsupported. These matches are ideal for paraplegic or disabled shooters as the International rules allow for various forms of support for those with recognised disabilities. See the Section Director for further information. Air pistol matches are shot at 10 metres, the other matches at 25 and 50 metres.



MUZZLE LOADING MATCHES

Two main styles of Muzzle Loading matches are shot; MLAIC (Muzzle Loaders Association International Committee), and PA (Pistol Australia).

MLAIC Events are identical in form, only the style of firearm changes - 13 shots are fired in 30 minutes with the best 10 counting: for Flintlock Single Shot (Cominazzo - NZ Class 1), Percussion Single Shot (Kuchenreuter - Class 2), Percussion Cap and Ball Revolver (Mariette/Colt NZ - Class 3). and Matchlock Pistol (Tanzutsu-class 6)

In addition Pistol NZ have two matches for Single Shot and Revolvers of "modern design" or altered original design. These shot in the MLAIC style.

More detailed information on Muzzle Loading matches are available from the Section Director.



PRACTICAL (IPSC) MATCHES

Pistol

These matches are shot to the rules of the International Practical Shooting Confederation. Matches consist of a number of courses of varied content. The objective is a combination of speed, power and accuracy and scores depend on both a quick time and high scoring hits on the targets. Separate scoring "divisions" are held in each match for Open Class (any pistol, can be scoped, with compensator etc), Standard Division (pistol must fit in a prescribed box with magazine fitted, and have no optics or compensator), Production Division (limited to specifically approved double action semi auto pistols) and Standard Revolver Division (standard 6 shot iron sighted revolvers). The matches favour semi-automatic pistols as a fairly large number of shots are often needed in each stage.

There are also specific categories provided for:

- Lady
- Junior: Under 21 years of age on the 1st day of the match
- Senior: Over 50 years of age on the 1st day of the match
- Super Senior: Over 60 years of age on the 1st day of the match



THREE GUN

Combining the use of pistols with rifles and shotguns, each usually shot in separate stages of a match, with a combined score of all three firearms deciding placings.

8. COMPETITIONS - GRADING

GRADING

To enable shooters to compete against others of a similar level of skill, many Pistol NZ matches operate on a graded awards system in addition to the open awards.

Because of the diverse nature of the matches shot, grading differs from match to match. While some grading lists are listed on the Pistol NZ website, most grading lists are held by the relevant Section Director. Contact them directly for information on grading in the match you are interested in.

In some cases a shooter can apply to be re-graded downward, in accordance with the rules for the match being shot, and with the approval of the Section Director. In most cases shooters are moved up a grade after shooting the higher score at a regional or national competition.

There is no grading system employed in CAS matches at present, but there are a wide range of shooting categories based on age, equipment, shooting style and other factors.

9. COMPETITIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

ANNUAL PISTOL NZ COMPETITIONS

Pistol NZ will hold National and North and South Island Championships annually in each of the main matches within each discipline. These competitions are advertised and entry forms published in the Bullshooter magazine and on the Pistol NZ website.

SAFETY

A range must be controlled by a Range Officer. Clubs must provide a safety zone for holstering and drawing practice (where applicable) and the cleaning and inspecting of guns.

HOLSTERS

Certain disciplines require the shooter to use a loaded gun from the holster. Shooters are required to have passed a Pistol NZ Holster Course. These courses are run by qualified holster Instructors. Most clubs have one or more instructors, or there will be one at a club nearby.

Many holsters are not suitable for target pistol shooting. Before buying a holster check with your local Holster Instructor or the Section Director as to its suitability.

AMMUNITION

Jacketed projectiles will do no more damage to steel plate than hard cast lead and most events will allow the use of either type except for Service Pistol and CAS.

Magnum loads should not be shot at steel targets unless the targets are specifically designed for heavy loads, such as in HMS Big Bore and Practical (IPSC).

10. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION SELECTION

Any NZ pistol shooter can attend "open" shooting matches overseas, completing the relevant export/import paperwork available from the Executive Officer. Pistol NZ will also send official teams to some international events.

10.1 "The New Zealand Pistol Team" is the officially selected team of pistol shooters chosen to represent Pistol NZ at any international competition.

10.2 To become a member of "The New Zealand Pistol Team" all individuals must be properly selected in accordance with the Pistol NZ Rules and selection criteria.

10.3 Every Pistol NZ shooter shall be eligible for selection to The NZ Pistol Team, however no person shall be selected unless that person:

10.3.1 is a current financial member of Pistol NZ

10.3.2 is in good standing with Pistol NZ (including acceptance of any "Athletes Agreement")

10.3.3 is likely to represent New Zealand and Pistol NZ with distinction in regards to general demeanour as well as shooting ability.

10.4 Selection shall be based on the member's provable shooting standards, as well as previous local and international experience. Misfortunes such as illness, accident and unavoidable firearms or equipment malfunction, shall be taken into consideration when selections are made. An individual's ability to pay for all or part of the costs to attend any international competition or trial shall never be a prerequisite for selection or non-selection.

10.5 Each Section will appoint it's own selectors who will monitor the standards of their shooters and maintain records of such standards in relation to any international competitions they plan to attend.

10.6 Programmed national events (South Island, North Island and National Championships) will always be used for selection purposes and if deemed necessary selectors will set dates for the holding of further selection trials. Details of such further trials must be advised to all Clubs and competitors in contention for selection no less than 90 days in advance.

10.7 Council will be responsible for final approval of all selections to The NZ Pistol Team.

10.8 On advice of their selection, all members of The NZ Pistol Team will be required to sign an "Athletes Agreement", and place themselves under the control of the Team Manager appointed by Council.
(does this actually happen?)

SECTION TWO - SAFETY AND BASIC MATCH RULES

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11. SAFETY

Safety is the most important aspect of taking part in pistol shooting. You will hear about it regularly from a number of different people, particularly the Range Safety Officers. Please heed what they say - if any person acts in an unsafe manner, we are all at risk.

11.1 General Points

- Never point a pistol at any person, or handle the pistol in such a way as to appear to be pointing it at someone.
- You may only load the pistol on the range, at the firing point, under instruction.
- All new shooters, visitors and children, must be kept under strict supervision while on the range.
- Anyone participating in pistol shooting must wear eye and ear protection.
- Any member or visitor who does not hold a "B" endorsed firearms licence may only shoot if they are under the immediate supervision of a "B" endorsed licence holder.

11.2 Seven Basic Rules of Firearm Safety

(Remember these from the MSC training for your firearms licence?)

1. TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS LOADED

- Don't take it for granted – check it yourself
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot
- If you don't know how to check a pistol is safe, seek the help of the Range Officer
- Don't touch anyone else's pistol without permission

2. ALWAYS POINT FIREARMS IN A SAFE DIRECTION

- It doesn't matter if it is unloaded – ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction (ie. muzzle pointing down range)
- Be aware of safe direction limits at your range and make sure your pistol muzzle always stays pointed within it

3. LOAD A FIREARM ONLY WHEN YOU ARE GIVEN THE INSTRUCTION TO DO SO BY A RANGE OFFICER

- Don't load the pistol until you are at the firing line and are under the supervision of a range officer
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot

4. IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET

- Make sure that you understand the course of fire, and which target(s) you are shooting at
- Make sure that you are shooting at your target, and not someone else's

5. CHECK YOUR FIRING ZONE

- Make sure the range is clear of people and animals forward of the firing line before you shoot, and stays clear while you are shooting

6. STORE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION SAFELY

- There are special legal requirements for the storage of pistols. Make sure that you are aware of these (refer to Section 5)
- Store your firearms and ammunition separately
- Check that the gun is not loaded before you put it away in your safe
- 7. AVOID ALCOHOL AND DRUGS WHEN HANDLING FIREARMS
- You may never consume alcohol prior to or during shooting
- Don't allow others to drink before or during shooting
- Avoid shooting when you are tired or ill - this reduces your concentration

11.3 Protective equipment and recommended clothing

Anyone participating in shooting activities (including spectators) on a shooting range must wear eye and hearing protection.

11.3.1 Hearing protectors

It is mandatory to wear hearing protection on pistol ranges. All pistol shooting other than air pistol shooting is noisy, and loud enough to damage hearing if ear protection is not worn at all times when shooting is in progress. Choose earmuffs or earplugs of good quality with a good "noise reduction rating".. We recommend Grade 4 earmuffs as a minimum. If your hearing is especially sensitive you may wish to use earplugs as well as earmuffs.

11.3.2 Safety glasses

The use of safety glasses or goggles is mandatory for all shooting on Pistol NZ ranges. If you wish to wear your prescription glasses while shooting, make sure they have safety glass or safety plastic lenses. Tinted glasses may be worn to accommodate different light conditions.

11.3.3 Footwear

Special pistol shooting shoes do exist (made to comply with ISSF rules). For all disciplines, wear enclosed shoes with reasonably flat soles, such as running shoes. These provide good stability, and will protect you and others from your reaction if a hot shell case lands on your foot. For disciplines requiring movement, you need footwear which will provide good grip in all weather.

11.3.4 Recommended clothing

Wear clothing that is comfortable and which covers you reasonably well. There are few things more uncomfortable than having a hot case slide down inside your shirt. Avoid wearing tight or restrictive clothing. As well as being uncomfortable, it may prevent your assuming a correct shooting position. Ensure your "match" clothing complies with the rules for that discipline. Note: Wearing of camouflage or "para-military" clothing, or clothing carrying offensive slogans is not allowed on Pistol NZ ranges.

11.4 Safety on the Range

This manual covers two broad styles of pistol shooting:

"Bench shooting" where pistols are placed on a bench or table when not being fired, in which a number of shooters are supervised by one Range Officer and fire during the same time period at fixed targets. This includes ISSF, Muzzle Loading and HMS matches in this manual.

"Field shooting" where pistols are normally kept in holsters on the shooter's belt when not being fired, and are drawn from the holster as part of the shooting sequence; one or only a small number of shooters are supervised by one Range Officer. This includes Action, Practical and Cowboy matches.

While "field" shooting requires some extra safety precautions, and has greater Range Officer involvement, in this manual the contents are arranged with ISSF "bench" shooting first and variations for all other types shown after. "Field" shooting training is covered briefly, as it is covered in detail in the Holster Training Course which you must pass to take part in these matches. For non-holster trained people, as all new pistol shooters are, any "field" shooting that is allowed is done from the 45° position, and the majority of the information relating to "bench" shooting is relevant. You will not be able to move with a loaded pistol in these events until you obtain a Holster Badge.

11.4.1 The Range Officer

A Range Officer or "RO" will look after each range. This person controls the shooting on the particular range, and his/her instructions must be obeyed immediately and without question. Range Staff are here for your safety - make sure you follow their instructions.

The Range Officer will usually be able to answer general questions about shooting and pistols, and will also be able to answer questions that you may have on the particular discipline that is being shot on a particular range. All shooting must be under the control of a Range Officer. (this should probably be removed as bothering the RO while they are busy is not recommended practice!)

When only two or three shooters are present and having a non-shooting RO may not be practical, one of the shooters must be in charge of the range. This person shall issue the instructions before shooting.

11.4.2 Safety Envelope

On any range and at any firing point, there is a "Safety Envelope" outside which the pistol must never be pointed at any time during the match or practice. This includes when the pistol is being loaded, rested on a bench, placed into or drawn from a holster or unloaded. While actually engaging a target the pistol must be pointed downrange in a direction such that any accidental discharge will hit only the target backstop area or the ground in front of the targets.

Pistols must not be pointed at the roof or the sidewalls of the range structure, at the sky or at the shooter's feet.

When a pistol is open on the bench with its magazine [if any] out, it should be placed with its muzzle pointed down range.

Using the proper "Ready" position, in which the barrel of the pistol is at approximately 45 degrees below the horizontal line to the target and directly on a line between the shooter and the target area, will help to ensure that the shooter stays within the safety envelope.

See attached diagrams in the back of the booklet.

11.4.3 Range Etiquette and Safe Behaviour

Bench Shooting (ISSF, HMS and ML)

Most of these items are common to ISSF and M/L, and there are a few extra considerations for M/L and HMS as well.

When you enter a range, you must make the RO aware of your presence on the range, and ask if you may take part in whatever activity is going on before you do anything else. After this you may select a firing position, and under the instruction of the RO, unpack your pistol, and prepare to start shooting. If you turn up during a match, or while other people are shooting, the RO will probably require you to wait for a break in the shooting (end of a series) before moving to a shooting bay. Note: If you are participating in an organised match, the RO will call shooters to the line for preparation time.

Once you have the Range Officer's permission to set up, you may get a club gun from the Armourer, or you take your own pistol out of your gun box. You may also set up your spotting scope etc at this time.

When first unpacking your pistol, and at any other time when it is not actually being used, it must be placed on the shooting bench, with the muzzle pointed down range, the action open, and with any magazine removed and unloaded. Revolvers should have the cylinder open. The box should also be at the shooting position to have the pistol removed from it, not on the seat behind you!

All pistols must be unloaded, and be checked by the RO as empty, before anyone goes forward of the firing line. You must check with the Range Officer before going forward of the firing line to put up a target, to pick up spent

brass or for any other reason. You may not handle any pistol or ammunition while any person is forward of the firing line - this includes removing your pistol from gun boxes prior to placing on a shooting bench.

During a match shooters remaining on the range during scoring must stand back from the firing line, and not handle any equipment. You may not load, make ready or fire a pistol without the Range Officer's permission – given as a standard command (covered later). Only one magazine may be loaded, and only when the command is given to load. Avoid placing your finger on the trigger until you are ready to fire at the target.

Loaded pistols must be pointed downrange in a safe direction at all times. If you want to rest your arm, for instance to look through your spotting scope, rest the barrel of the pistol on the front of the shooting bench with the muzzle pointed safely down range. When you have finished shooting a series, or when you want to have a break from shooting, you must unload your pistol, place it on the shooting bench with the muzzle downrange, the action open, with any magazine removed and unloaded. The magazine should sit with the open end of the magazine pointed away from the targets, so that the RO can see clearly that there are no rounds in the magazine. A revolver should be placed so that the cylinder is extended and the empty chambers can be easily seen. You should then stand back from the bench.

If you wish to fire a shot at any other time than during a series or course of fire, you must have the permission of the RO. If it is necessary to handle a pistol between series to make some adjustment or repair, the RO must be asked for permission to remove the pistol from the shooting bench or range after they have cleared the gun. It may not be placed back on the shooting bench until permission is again given by the RO. Sights may be adjusted at the firing line while shooting is in progress .

Note that pistols are not to be worn in a holster on the range except under controlled conditions or in the appropriate matches. You must have your pistol (and magazines) checked ('cleared') by the RO as being unloaded before they can be removed from the shooting bench and put away. Pistols should never be left unattended. If you need to leave the range briefly, you must tell the RO that you want to leave and ask the RO to look after your pistol while you are gone. If pistols are left unattended in a shooting bay when a match is finished, the RO will clear the pistol for removal and call the club armourer to remove them.

Your pistols must always be kept in a box or case with you, or locked away securely. Do not leave your pistols (even in a locked box) in one part of the range while you are elsewhere. If you are going to have lunch, either take your pistol with you in its box, or put it back in the locked car.

You should keep shooting gear you are not using locked in the boot of your car, or in a secure area at the range if one is provided. It is preferable to take into a range building only that equipment you are using in that place and to take it with you when you leave. If you are moving onto another range, you must have your pistol cleared and carry it unloaded, in its box.

If you want to show someone a pistol, or before you hand anyone a pistol, make sure that it is unloaded, and prove this to that person. This is done by:

- pointing the pistol in a safe direction, then
- for a single shot - opening the action;
- for a revolver - swinging out the cylinder;
- for a semi-auto - removing the magazine, opening the slide and locking it back,
- THEN showing the other person that the pistol [and the magazine, if any] is empty.

If someone is about to hand you a pistol, ask them to show you it is unloaded. Never pull the trigger on another person's pistol without asking.

If you have a misfire and need another person's assistance (such as the RO), take your finger off the trigger, and keep the muzzle pointed downrange (resting the barrel if you need to). Then signal for the RO's attention, by raising the non-shooting arm above shoulder level, so that it is a clearly visible signal.

Avoid disturbing other shooters by talking or making undue noise. Spectators should be made welcome, but must remain behind the firing line, and not distract the shooters.

11.4.4 Special Safety Requirements for Muzzle Loading

Dealing with Misfires

Precision: If a cap fails to fire the charge, point the pistol downrange for 15 seconds (10 seconds for MLAIC) and then repeat firing. If cap still fails to ignite, replace it carefully and try again. No time is allowed for rectifying ignition failures.

Rapid-fire (PA only): If cap fails, hold the pistol down range for at least 5 seconds, and re-cock for subsequent exposures. Call a misfire at the end of the series. A re-shoot of all non-fired shots is allowed. The re-shoot is done after the same series. Only one re-shoot is allowed per series, and any misfires in the re-shoot series are not re-shot.

Loading

- Projectiles may be lead only.
- Powder must be in single charge containers, and may be black powder only. No bulk containers are allowed on the range.
- Mouth (front) of revolver chambers to be sealed with grease after loading.
- Patches are not allowed for revolvers.
- Safety glasses must be worn while loading, as well as when firing.
- The safe loaded condition is with 5 chambers loaded (or one less than the maximum the pistol will take), and hammer down on the empty, uncapped, chamber.

**ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING ON THE RANGE BY ANYONE,
AND NO NAKED FLAMES ANYWHERE**

11.4.5 Special Safety Requirements for Handgun Metallic Silhouette (HMS)

Although this is not a fast match, some of the pistols can use very powerful loads. The rules include some specific precautions to avoid any hazards arising from these sources. Some of these are common to other matches.

- The muzzle of the pistol must point downrange at all times.
- Pistols only to be handled after command "LOAD" is given.
- Extra care is sometimes required to ensure the pistol is not pointed at any part of the shooter's anatomy, and that the muzzle is always in a safe direction. No part of the shooter's body may be in the "Danger Zone", a cone of 45° from the muzzle of the pistol.
- The muzzle of the pistol must not be allowed to recoil beyond the vertical.
- Ammunition must be safe, and able to be extracted by the internal extractor of the pistol.

11.4.6 Range Etiquette and Safe Behaviour

Field Shooting (Action, IPSC & CAS)

Many of the safety and etiquette requirements for "field" shooting are basically the same as for "bench" shooting. Placing guns on benches may not be relevant but most other information is the same, particularly for non-holster trained shooters. However, each match does have its own specific rules for safe behaviour.

Action/IPSC Shooting

Action shooting as a class includes the use of centrefire pistols with powerful loads usually fired quite quickly. The RO to shooter ratio is higher to reflect this, and there are a number of safety and pistol handling items that are specific to Action Matches.

Detailed instruction is provided in the Holster Training Course, so the information in this manual consists of more general items which will allow new shooters to participate safely in Action events, with restrictions. They must hold the pistol in the 45° Ready position to start, and may only shoot from a fixed position (ie no movement of the feet).

After arrival at the range, pistols must be transferred from the carrying box to holster or to a carry pouch if this is how the shooter prefers to carry the pistol when not shooting. This may only be done in a safety zone or on the firing line (and then only with the permission of the RO). There will also be times when it is necessary to clean or repair a pistol at the range, or when you wish to show someone else the pistol for some reason. These activities may only take place in a Safety Zone.

All clubs will have at least one Safety Zone. This is the only area other than the firing point in which pistols may be handled. You may not take a pistol from its box and holster it at your car.

The Primary Safety Zone (which must be provided) is an area with benches on which pistol boxes may be placed while removing the pistols for holstering. Note that on an Action range, all pistols are considered to be in a permanently cleared condition, as they should have been cleared before being holstered, and always after being used. Nevertheless, it is still sensible to check a gun is unloaded every time it is removed from its box to its holster, or vice versa. Pistols are not allowed to be carried around a range with a magazine inserted, whether the magazine is loaded or not.

Ammunition may be taken into a Safety Zone, but it must not be handled. Loaded magazines may be worn on the belt or in a shooting bag, but must not be handled in a Safety Zone.

While not actually shooting or at a firing point a pistol must either be kept in a closed bag or box, or in a holster worn on the person, and not handled except in a Safety Zone. We recommend that pistols should be bagged when shooters have to wait between shooting stages. If the pistol is placed back in a bag or box, it can only be transferred to the holster again in a Safety Zone (or at the firing point with permission from the Range Officer).

All holsters for semi-auto pistols and double action revolvers must cover the trigger. The holster must be "serviceable and safe" and must retain the pistol during movement, and during a retention test if applied.

Most action events allow for magazines to be loaded at any time, and may be worn on the holster belt, or carried in a bag, or pocket. A shooter should arrive at the Firing Point with enough ammunition to complete the stage. All magazines needed should be loaded and easily available. IPSC require that during the course of fire, a shooter must carry all the magazines and equipment needed for the course of fire on their person.

At each stage or course of fire there will be at least one Range Officer, and they are in charge of all the shooters on that range, and responsible for their safe behaviour while shooting. Once a shooter has been called to the Firing Point, they will follow the RO's instructions.

Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS)

In addition to the safety items covered under Action/IPSC Shooting, there are some specific points for CAS. Only holster qualified shooters may draw from the holster and the only handguns which may be used are single-action revolvers. The safe loaded condition is with 5 rounds loaded, and the hammer down on the empty chamber.

The shooting hand should not be used to cock a revolver unless the course of fire, the class being shot or physical impairment requires it. The RO will closely supervise this aspect of the shooting. "Fanning" of the hammer is prohibited under all circumstances.

Two revolvers may be used in one stage. The second revolver may be carried in a cross-draw holster, but strict safety precautions apply to the use of such holsters. In three gun stages, rifles and shotguns must be cleared before and safely staged before the shooter moves on. Prior to shooting, long guns are stored in racks, and carried action open and muzzle towards the sky.

Ammunition for revolvers and lever-action rifles must be loaded with lead projectiles and have a minimum velocity of 650 and maximum of 1000 fps for revolvers and 1400 fps for lever action rifles. Single shot rifles have no maximum. Shotguns may only be loaded with two rounds.

11.4.7 Dud or "Squib" Loads

In practically all matches this means a round of ammunition (or load for muzzle loaders) in which the projectile does not leave the barrel of the pistol after the trigger has been pulled. This is usually (but not always) because of an incorrect amount of powder (or no powder at all) and is usually associated with a hand-loaded centre-fire round, but it can occur with a muzzle loaded charge, or even with rimfire .22 ammo.

Squib loads can be annoying, and cause unwelcome time delays while being attended to. The dangerous element is that if you fire another round into the blocked barrel, it is possible for the gun to break up, sending bits of metal in several unplanned directions. In a well made gun with fairly low-powered ammunition, it is more likely to bulge the barrel, which, while less dangerous, can still ruin the gun.

So, it is important to be aware of this possibility, and if you suspect a "soft" load, i.e. one in which there is less recoil than usual, (or you can't see the shot have any downrange effect), STOP. Range Officers are prepared for this, and in all matches it is required that you stop if this happens; if you don't, the alert RO will stop you if he believes a squib load has been fired. If he is wrong you will be able to reshoot that course of fire.

Once you have discovered this problem, you have to get the projectile out, and this will always involve the RO's permission (and possibly assistance). The first thing to do is to stop and alert the RO (hold the pistol at 45°, and hold up your other hand if you are bench shooting). The RO will supervise your clearing the gun, or do it for you if you are uncertain or a learner.

You unload the pistol, open the action and using a rod, push the projectile either forwards or backwards out of the barrel (depending on the type of pistol). With revolvers it is possible that the projectile is half in the barrel and half in the chamber, in which case you have to ram it back toward the case. Do this only under RO supervision, because any other unfired rounds are still in the cylinder – be extra careful about direction and not pointing at anyone or anything. A muzzle loading single shot pistol cannot generally be opened at the breech and so a ball part-way up the barrel must either be extracted with a special screw, or fired out with a small amount of powder added through the flash-hole (a practised job).

12. SHOOTING

12.1 THINGS TO TAKE TO THE RANGE

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Ear muffs | 1 Spotting Scope |
| 1 Glasses | 1 Tools |
| 1 Firearms Licence | 1 Pistol, ammo and bag for used cases |
| 1 Membership Card/badge | 1 Cellphone |
| 1 Sunglasses and sunblock | 1 Water or drink |
| 1 Basic first-aid kit for yourself | 1 Notebook and pen |

12.2 RANGE COMMANDS

Range commands are used by the Range Officer to inform the shooters as to the actions they may take. Range commands are generally simple, using as few words as possible. However, each range command, although expressed in few words, is essentially an instruction to carry out what may be a complicated procedure, which has to be followed exactly. It is very important that you understand exactly what is meant by each range command.

12.2.1 Informal Range Commands for ISSF Matches (club level)

When you first begin to shoot, you will probably start with shooting at a static "precision" target. While general practice shooting is going on, the Range Officer will use very basic commands rather than full match commands to indicate when you may and may not shoot.

These will be something like:

"Unpack Pistols"

You can take your pistol out of your box in which you brought it to the range and place it on firing point. This command also reminds you that you should not take your pistol out of the box until the range RO gives you permission to do so.

"Range is Clear - you may go forward to put your target up"

Pretty self-explanatory, but it means that no-one will be able to touch their pistols, etc, while you are forward of the firing line. It is RULE ONE of range safety that once this command has been given and shooters or range staff are forward of the firing line, NO-ONE who remains at the firing line may touch, handle, remove, place or adjust his or her pistol for any reason. It is good practice for the RO to stay behind during this time to make sure that nobody handles any pistols.

Once the Range Officer has made sure that all shooters are back behind the firing line, the RO will call:

"Range in Use - shooters to the line - you are free to shoot in your own time"

At this point, you may also load and fire your pistol in your own time. It is also during this time that you make sight and any other adjustments to your pistol, always making sure the pistol is pointing safely down range. If you are joining the firing line during the competition this is the time when you may enter your firing point and get your pistol out of your gun box (with the RO's prior approval), organise your firing point and set up your spotting scope, etc .

“Cease Fire (or Stop) - pistols down, actions open, shooters back from the line”

The RO will call this at the end of a competition series, or after a period of time. If you have not finished shooting, you must immediately stop shooting. You then unload your pistol (including removing and unloading the magazine), and place the gun on the shooting bench, action open, muzzle pointed safely downrange and magazine (if any) empty. Leave the magazine with the top towards you so the RO can see that it is empty (Never fire “a last shot”!). Step back from the firing point. If you intend finishing shooting and removing your pistol from the firing line, this is the time you do this, but first you must obtain the RO's permission. The RO will check that your pistol is unloaded and safe before you remove it and put it in your gun box. Your pistol must be inside the gun box before the RO gives his (or her) next range command.

“Range is Clear — forward, score and patch”

At this point, you can go forward, look at your target, take down your scores, group size, etc, and patch your target. If you have finished shooting for the day, you can remove your target and put it away at this time. After this command nobody may handle a pistol, place a pistol on the firing point or remove a pistol on the firing point.

“STOP! (or Cease Fire!)”

Stop shooting IMMEDIATELY!!! The Range Officer will give this command at the end of a competition when time has run out. But this command can also be given when something unexpected has happened on the range that affects safety. You must stop shooting immediately, lower the pistol, and then wait for further instructions. This command may be used by anyone, including you, if something unexpected has occurred on the range or at the firing line that is dangerous or affects safety. If you see someone (or something) about to wander onto the Range - you may be the only one who can see them - so yell out!! This is not a moment to be shy!

12.2.2 Range Commands for HMS Matches

All HMS matches use the same Range Commands and these are:

“Shooters to the Line” means that all groups of shooters in a detail will advance to the shooting line(s) with their equipment, and be ready for the next command;

“Load” means to load the pistols and make ready to fire. Pistols may not be touched until this command is given. The RO waits for 30 seconds after giving this command, and then;

“Fire” means that the shooters have two minutes to fire five shots, one at each of their bank of targets;

“Cease Fire, Make your Gun Safe” means that even if you have not fired all the shots in the series, you must still stop. You must remove any unfired ammunition from the pistol, and hold it with the action open and the muzzle pointing downrange, until the RO has checked that it is safe.

“Range is Clear – reset targets” means that the guns have been cleared and it is safe to go forward to put up targets.

12.2.3 Range Commands for Action Matches (including IPSC & CAS)

Most Action Matches use common basic commands (with minor variations), and these are:

“Range in use”. This warns all present that the range has been declared safe for shooting, which will start shortly.

“Load and Make Ready”: This means to load the pistol, make it ready to fire and place in the holster. The shooter then adopts the Ready Position applicable to the match. For a non holster-trained shooter this is always the 45° Ready position.

The ready conditions for the pistols used are:

- Double action Revolver – hammer down on a loaded chamber
- Single action Revolver – hammer down on an unloaded chamber
- Single action semi-automatic pistol – loaded, hammer cocked, safety engaged
- Double action semi-automatic pistol – loaded, hammer down or decocked.

Ready position: This is the position which the shooter must adopt before the stage can start. For IPSC matches it is commonly standing with the hands relaxed at the sides. For all other matches, it is often standing with both hands raised above shoulder level. Adoption of, and remaining in, the ready position is a signal from the shooter to the RO that they are ready to start.

“Are You Ready?”: When the Range Officer sees the shooter(s) adopt the ready position they will ask “Are you ready?”. If the shooter does not call “Not Ready” quickly, the RO will prepare to start.

“Standby”: This is the command given by the Range Officer to tell the shooter that the timing cycle will start within a few seconds. The Range Officer will start the timer within 5 seconds, and this will give a sound signal to show the time has started (or targets will turn to face the shooter).

“Unload and Show Clear”. In a fixed time match the timer will give a stop signal. In all matches when the shooter has finished shooting the RO gives this command. The command means to unload and demonstrate that the pistol is empty. The procedure is covered under Holster Training.

“Gun Clear, Hammer Down, Holster”. When the Range Officer is satisfied that the pistol contains no ammunition, this command instructs the shooter to test fire the gun, and holster it. A semi-auto pistol must have the hammer dropped as if it were to be fired. This means to point the pistol towards the backstop and to allow the hammer to fall by pulling the trigger in the normal way. For a revolver, the cylinder is closed and the gun holstered, with the hammer down. It is not necessary for a revolver to have the hammer dropped. In IPSC shooting this is called “If clear, hammer down, holster”.

“Range is Clear” When they have cleared the shooter’s pistol and it has been replaced in the holster, the Range Officer announces that the range is clear and that range staff may go forward. This is the standard IPSC command for the end of the series and should be used for all disciplines and matches, as an unambiguous statement that the Range is in a safe condition for people to go forward of the firing point. No-one is to go forward of the firing line before this command has been given. After this command the shooter may inspect targets, collect brass, and leave the range.

In CAS competitions, Loading and Unloading tables may be used to expedite the proceedings and if so firearms may be loaded and unloaded under RO supervision at a safe location near to but other than the actual firing line.

12.3 HOW TO SCORE YOUR TARGET

Even for non-scoring matches or practice, you need to know how your shots will be scored and how the scorer will deal with a marginal shot (ie when the score value is not immediately clear). And of course for most practices you will do your own scoring and so need to know how it is done.

In most instances the location of a shot is quite clear and in nearly all matches a shot is given the score of the highest value scoring zone it is in or touches. When a shot is very close to the line marking the edge of a zone, however, it can be difficult to decide if it is touching the zone or not. There are several aids that the scorer may use to determine the value of a hit on your target.

The first is common sense and giving you the benefit of the doubt. The second is a clear plastic overlay with the scoring lines and bullet holes engraved on it. This helps to reconstruct the original scoring line, which may have been damaged by a messy hole, or several holes near each other. A second opinion from another member of the scoring party is very useful and is why scoring should be done by more than one person.

Finally if the matter is still in question, a Jury member will be asked to use a plug gauge. This is a precision made cylinder of the same diameter as the bullet, with a tapered point. The target is removed and laid flat, and the plug gauge is inserted in the hole. The self-centring action will show the true outside diameter of the bullet, and it will be clear whether or not it would have touched the scoring ring. Because this damages the hole, it can only be done once, and requires experience to use it properly. This is why only trained people should use a plug gauge. (Note this is not normally used in Action match scoring).

Try to see these processes in action so that you can understand them. You will sometimes find that shots which you were sure touched the line when you looked through your spotting scope, are declared as missing the line by the scoring party. Bear in mind before challenging this that the scope does generate an optical illusion and more importantly that the scorers are there to do their job properly. They have no interest in your score or making it lower than it is. Once you have done some scoring yourself, you will be more sympathetic to the difficulties that scorers face in making fair decisions. Of course if all your shots are in the centre of the target, there will be no problems!

Be aware of skid shots. If the shot hits a turning target as it is turning away at the end of a timed series, it may make a non-circular hole. This may range in size from an oval to a line virtually cutting the target in half. The length of the hole determines whether it is scored as hit or a miss. A hole longer than 7mm for .22 rimfire or 11mm for centrefire (ISSF) is scored as a miss. In the case of doubt a skid gauge is used - this is a sheet of clear plastic with three lines engraved on it, spaced apart by the distances shown above.

International Black Powder

A shot must have its centre more than half way over the scoring line to count as the higher score. This can take some experience to gauge accurately.

12.4 MALFUNCTIONS

When a pistol or revolver does not fire when the trigger is squeezed, a malfunction has occurred. It is a potentially dangerous situation to have a firearm that has failed to fire a loaded shot. Great care must be taken by the shooter and the Range Officer.

Malfunctions can occur during training or sighting-in, or during a competition precision series. You may clear the malfunction yourself but must wait for at least ten seconds before opening the chamber to check and remove the failed cartridge. Make sure the pistol continues to be aimed down range at all times. Never put down the pistol; always keep it in your hand, pointed downrange while you or the RO fix the problem.

If your pistol malfunctions during a timed series (when time is too short for you to fix the problem) do not let go of the pistol or put it down. Continue to hold the pistol in your hand, keep the pistol pointing down range and then raise your free hand so that the Range Officer can see it. Do not call out and disturb other shooters. Do not look at the Range Officer in case you shift your body and turn the pistol away from the safety zone. Wait until the RO approaches you. An alert RO is always looking out for malfunctions.

12.4.1 During an ISSF competition, the RO will check your pistol to determine if the malfunction you had was (a) allowable or (b) non-allowable. (see rule book for further explanation)

12.4.2 In all Action Matches, no allowance is made for malfunctions. In a fixed time series, if you can't fix the problem within the time, then you lose the score you were not able to shoot. In an IPSC stage where the time is open-ended, you are expected to fix the problem, and then carry on, and just take a large time for that stage!

An exception is where there is a suspected bullet stuck in the barrel. The RO can demand that a shooter stops. If there is a bullet stuck in the barrel, the shooter loses the stage. If there is not, he gets a reshoot.

12.4.3 In MLAIC Muzzle Loading matches no malfunctions are allowed - you fix it in the time without assistance or lose whatever shots you have not fired. In Action matches you are supposed to fix the problem and continue even if this means a very slow time. If you have to stop for pistol failure you can lose all score for that series.

13. SHOOTING TIPS FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

13.1 Basic Shooting Tips

Pistol shooting, or the art of getting a good shot every time, can be broken down into the simple statement:

Align the sights correctly, on the correct part of the target, and allow the shot to break without altering that alignment. Simple, but not necessarily easy! There are a number of basic techniques that go into making this alignment happen, and they are part of any kind of pistol shooting. Your coach will be able to go through these with you, but as a guide, there is a summary below.

13.2 Stance

Your stance has a lot to do with how well you shoot. Human beings are not actually well designed for pistol shooting, so we need to make an effort to produce a good stable shooting platform.

For shooting one handed in a standing position, a good stance to start with is with your feet about shoulder width apart, the toes turned slightly out, and with all of you turned at about 45° to a line coming directly at you from the target.

In general for one-handed shooting (ISSF and ML and sometimes in Action matches) your leading foot will be the same as the hand with which you are holding the pistol; ie right foot if you are right-handed; left foot if you are left-handed.

You may need to adjust this to suit yourself (and your stance will probably need to change slightly over the course of a day). To do this, try this simple test:

Set yourself up in the "starting" stance. Close your eyes. Lift your shooting arm (and gun if you can) toward the target. Open your eyes and check where you are pointing. Are you pointing at the centre of your target? The centre of someone else's?? If you need to change your stance, move the BACK foot around, by a very small amount, until your arm is pointed directly at the centreline. Then repeat the procedure. Keep doing the test until your arm comes smoothly up the centreline of the target!

It is a good idea to check your stance for each series you shoot. For shooting two handed in Action matches there are two basic positions – the "Weaver Stance" and the "Isosceles Stance". In the first the non-shooting foot is forward; the shooting arm is straight out and braced by the bent non-shooting arm. In the latter stance, you stand with feet apart, on a line parallel with the targets, both arms in a similar position, bracing each other. The main purpose of either is to make sure you have a steady platform for the pistol.

13.3 Grip

A good consistent grip is essential to firing accurate shots. Your grip will determine how the sights are presented to your eye and how good your sight alignment will be, which along with good stance, allows you to get that part of the statement above sorted out.

Holding the gun by the barrel in your non-shooting hand, fit the gun into the web of your shooting hand. Wrap your fingers around the grip and allow your trigger finger to sit in the trigger guard. Your thumb should be relaxed, either just touching the grip, or sitting slightly away from it. Your fingertips should be loose - if the tips of your fingers are white - you are holding the gun too tightly!!

You should hold onto the pistol firmly and evenly, with the pressure being applied between the web of the hand/base of the thumb area, and the joints of the second and third fingers. This is called a "fore and aft" grip.

To test your grip ; take up your normal stance, fit the gun into your hand, lower your arm to the 45° degree position, and then raise the gun up to the target. You should see the front sight neatly bracketed by the rear sight. If the front sight is to the right or left of where it should be, adjust the gun in your grip, using your non-shooting hand, and do the test again. Keep doing this until you get a consistent sight alignment (see below).

For a two handed hold; punch the shooting hand into the other hand and check your sight position as above. If the front sight is too high or too low, you will need to adjust the angle of your wrist!

13.4 Sight Alignment

For almost all pistols you will ever come across, the front and rear sights should be aligned so that the sight blades are all level across the top and the front sight is bracketed by the rear sight with equal amounts of light on either side.

This will make sure that your shots are centred in your aiming area.

13.5 Sight Picture

This includes “what you see” when you are looking at the sights and the target. As you can only focus on one thing at a time, the front sight should be where you concentrate. You cannot see the rear sight, the front sight and the target all clearly at one time — the human eye is not capable of it!

The front sight is the most important feature of your sight picture, and therefore it should appear most clear in your vision — try to see the grain in the metal! The white bits between the rear sight and the front sight blades (what isn’t there!) are also important.

The target is least important of all — your stance should make sure that you are “on target”. However, you need to make sure that you are aiming at the right part of the target. It is recommended that you use an area (rather than a point) to aim at, and that this area should be centred about half way between the bottom of the black area on the target, and the bottom of the target. (If your sights are too close to the black area of the target [this is commonly called “six o’clock hold”], an optical illusion may make it difficult to see the sights clearly.) As it is physically impossible for any person to hold a pistol absolutely still, you must accept that there will be some movement. (Don’t try to concentrate on a point, let the sights move within the area of aim.) The target and the rear sight should both be in your peripheral vision, and thus be rather fuzzy. The whole thing should look like this:

Note that nearly all people have one eye stronger than the other. This is called the master eye and it governs the alignment of objects with your eyes. For most purposes it doesn’t matter which it is, and most people don’t know which is their master eye. As soon as you do directional things with your eyes, like shooting, it is important. Most people find that they need to use their master eye to shoot with, even if it means using the eye different to the strong hand. A simple test will determine which eye is which for you. To check this - look at a point in the medium distance eg a spot on the wall, and holding a finger at arms length line up the finger with the point with both eyes open. Now close each eye alternately. You will find that with one eye open the finger and the point will still line up, and with the other open the point will “move” in relation to the finger. The eye for which the point does not move is your master eye.

If you are right-handed and left-eyed, as quite a few people are, you should use your left eye for sighting with (unless you shoot with both eyes open), but still hold the pistol with your right hand. Vice versa if you are right-eyed and left-handed of course! This is definitely better than forcing yourself to use the wrong hand or the wrong eye.

You may find that the master eye is the one which you can keep open on its own anyway. An alternative is to keep both eyes open but “blank out” the non-master by applying patches (or “invisible” adhesive tape) to the shooting glasses.

13.6 Trigger Control

The next basic technique to master is control of the trigger. This is one of the major factors in whether you are able to “allow the shot to break” without messing up the perfectly good alignment that you have worked so hard to develop!

There are two parts to this:

- You need to have the right part of your finger on the trigger
- You need to be able to move the trigger straight back into the area of support (in your grip!)

In order to test whether your finger is on the right part of the trigger, take up your grip, hold the pistol out in your normal shooting position, watch your sights and carefully bring your finger back until it just touches the trigger surface. If the front sight moves one way or the other, your finger isn’t in the right place. If the front sight stays put, everything is great!

This is where things differ for left and right-handers. For **right handed people** - if the front sight moves to the left, you do not have enough finger on the trigger. Move your finger through the trigger guard a bit, and try again! If the front sight moves to the right, you have too much finger on the trigger, and need to pull your finger back a bit.

For **left handed people**, it is exactly the opposite. If the sight moves to the left, you have too much finger on the trigger. If it moves right, then you need to put your finger a bit farther into the trigger guard.

Remember to control your trigger after each shot, too. When you are practising, or shooting individual precision shots, keep the pressure on the trigger even after the shot has gone and as you “follow through” (see below). As you lower your arm to the 45°, release the trigger. **Don’t take your finger completely off the trigger** though - otherwise you will lose the position that you have just carefully set up!!

13.7 Breathing

Breath control is also important. Your breathing basically moves all the bones and muscles in the top half of your body each time you breath. This does not make it any easier to hold the sight picture or control your trigger. The recommended way of dealing with breathing is to continue breathing normally as you prepare for the shot (like doing all the “tests” outlined above). As you lift your arm to take aim, breathe in (in your usual way). When your arm is pointing at the target, let out a small amount of air, then hold your breath until the shot is fired!

13.8 Follow through

Once you have fired the shot, let the pistol settle back into your grip from its recoil position. If your grip is steady, the position of the sights in the follow through will give you a pretty good idea of where the sights were when you triggered the shot. Look at the sights and see where they are! Then lower your arm and release the pressure on the trigger!! Be prepared to realign the sights for the next shot if they are not pretty well on the target.

Please note: There are really excellent reasons (generally from human physiology or from physics) for all of the above. If you want to know more, or to discuss other ideas, talk to your coach.

13.9 Additional Tips

Like any other sport, the skills that you need to be a good shot, in whatever discipline, must be learnt thoroughly and then practised. The amount of practice that you need to do depends on your ultimate goal. If you wish to shoot for relaxation, then your only practice may be your trips to the range. If, however, you decide that you wish to be a serious competitor, then your practice commitment will reflect this, not only in your time at the range, but through "dry firing" at home or even working out at the gym.

Shooting is rather unusual in that, unless you have a physical limitation, the level that you achieve is limited only by your drive to succeed. If you set a goal to shoot at the Olympics - you can! - as long as you are prepared to put in the time. The only thing that can hold you back is your own willingness to put in the effort required.

- Keep a notebook, and note down anything that you have learned during your coaching or practice sessions, any questions that you want to ask, and a record of how your shooting is progressing. At first, you might only want to note down the size of each 5-shot group (like "a group the size of the 6 ring") and the group's position on the target. Once your group is consistently centred on the middle of the target, then note down your score.
- Every month or so, shoot a group of 20 shots, without checking the target or looking through your scope. When you have fired all of the shots, check the target. Ignore the 3 shots that are farthest from the centre of group. Check the group of the other 17 shots, and take a note of it in your shooting notebook. This is your "current" group.
- Now and then, set yourself up in your stance, bring your arm and the gun up onto the correct area of the target, and then close your eyes. Count to 20, and then open your eyes again. Where is the gun pointing? How are the sights aligned?
- **Hint:** It helps to "visualise" what you expect to see when you open your eyes again!
- Don't be surprised if your group size or your score sometimes slips back a bit. It is quite normal for new shooters to increase their ability for a while, then for things to go backwards, then start getting better again. At first, there is so much to learn that concentration on one thing may disturb your concentration on other things - causing shots to go astray. Once you get used to what you are doing, things will come back into line.
- Any time that you "plateau" - that is when you don't appear to be getting better - go back to concentrating on "The Basics"...Chances are that you have skipped something.
- Celebrate your successes!! As a generalisation, we don't really allow ourselves to take credit for something we have done well. About the most we will ever admit to is "That wasn't too bad...". Well, now is the time to give yourself a break. If you shoot well, tell yourself "That was great!". Enjoy the feeling when it goes just right - then remember what it felt like to shoot the shot, and do it again!

14. DEFINITIONS

Like any other sport, we use a fair amount of jargon. Some of the more basic terms are defined below. If you hear any other words or phrases that you are not precisely sure of, please ask a Club member to explain.

Muzzle: The business end of any firearm (the end of the barrel from which the bullet exits)

Front sight: The sight element above the muzzle.

Rear Sight: The sight element nearest your hand (and eye).

Cartridge: A loaded "round" of ammunition.

Projectile/Bullet: The bit that flies to the target.

Ready position: The position from which all timed events must start. This varies according to which discipline or match you are shooting.

Power factor: The momentum of the bullet - measured by weight times speed and used to determine your class in some Action matches.

Gauge: A device to assist in assessing the value of a shot hole.

Skid: An oblong hole in a target caused by the bullet hitting it at an angle. In most matches, there is a maximum width allowed for this before it is scored as a miss.

Malfunction: When the pistol does not fire after one pull of the trigger.

Re-shoot: This is allowed after a malfunction in ISSF and PA Muzzle Loading matches.

S&T: Safety & Technical Sub-Committee

HMS: Handgun Metallic Silhouette

CAS: Cowboy Action Shooting

Shooting Organisations

ISSF - International Sport Shooting Federation (until 1998 called UIT).

International body controlling world-wide all the Olympic shooting matches, and other matches associated with its name. The most internationally recognised and senior international shooting body. Based in West Germany and founded in 1907. (www.issf-shooting.org)

PA - Pistol Australia.

Controlling body for international pistol shooting in Australia. Pistol NZ has a close relationship with this body and has adopted its Muzzle Loading and Service Pistol matches. (www.pistol.org.au)

MLAIC - Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee.

An international body founded in 1971 to run international muzzle loading rifle, pistol and shotgun competitions to rationalised rules. We have incorporated their pistol matches into our muzzle-loading programme. Based in France. (www.mlaic.org)

NRA - The National Rifle Association

Refers to the NRA of the USA (founded in 1872) which promotes many different shooting disciplines. In New Zealand we use the HMS and Action Pistol matches. (www.nra.org)

IPSC - The International Practical Shooting Confederation

Is the international body which promotes and controls Practical shooting of pistols, shotguns and rifles, and in New Zealand we follow its principles and we are a member (a Region) of IPSC. It was set up in 1976. The New Zealand affiliate is Pistol NZ. (www.ipsc.org)

IHMSA - The International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association.

The major international body for HMS shooting, although primarily based in the USA. (www.ihmsa.org)

IMSSU - The International Metallic Silhouette Shooting Union

This is a smaller but more international HMS body based in Paris. (www.imssu.org)

NZPA - The New Zealand Pistol Association

The national association to which you now belong. Established in 1969 it controls all the international pistol matches shot in New Zealand, and the vast majority of New Zealand pistol shooters belong to this association. The NZPA is now known as Pistol NZ.

(SPEED)- Steel Challenge Shooting Association (inc)

Is the international body which promotes and controls speed shooting of pistols, Shotguns and rifles and is based in the USA.

New Zealand has adopted these rules to run speed matches and use the international courses of fire developed by SCSA. (www.steelchallenge.com)

Pistol New Zealand

The name that the New Zealand Pistol Association has adopted for its day to day use and operation. The decision to change the name brings the identification into line with Pistol Australia as the prime pistol shooting association in the country. (www.pistolnz.org.nz)

NZSF - The New Zealand Shooting Federation

Is the ISSF affiliate for New Zealand and is formed of all the shooting associations which follow ISSF shooting including Pistol NZ. It runs the National Shooting Complex at Auckland (Ardmore). (www.nzshootingfed.org.nz)

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