

Some explanations to the ISSF Pistol Rules (2009, 1st printing) – V3.01

Compiler's notes:

This set of 'explanations' has been set in the context of an ISSF supervised competitions, and expanded from the previous versions covering the pistol rules and a separate document covering the general Technical Rules (2001 and 2005 rules).

This document has never been intended to be a 'complete explanation': the selection of items for explanation is purely subjective. The selection is based on those rules which have I have found required further clarification at ISSF Judge Seminars and workshops, and ISSF competitions.

ISSF rule numbers and quotations from the rules are in *italics*.

In this version:

- The previous two explanation documents have been combined.
- Generally, relocation of rules is without comment, though some rules identified as having changed in the 2009/1st printing have been included to reinforce those changes.
- A number of the interpretations given in versions 1 and 2 have been reviewed in light of possible protests to the Jury of Appeal. Juries of Appeal can be expected to take full regard for the written rule/s rather than any 'interpretation' that conflict in whole or part with the written rule/s.

Unless Rule changes for the 2009 1st printing affect the application or interpretation of the rules they are not included in this summary. In this category are:

- Some re-numbering and reordering of individual clauses,
- The extensive relocation of clauses from Section 8 (Pistol) to Section 6 General Technical),
- The wording within some sentences has been re-ordered, and
- Minor changes in grammar that are considered unlikely to need clarification.

While care has been taken trying to identify the rule changes and the importance of rule changes, further input on items we may have missed, corrections, disagreements over my interpretations, etc. **will be appreciated.**

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Version

1.01	Jun 2003	SCT	
1.02	Aug 2004	SCT	Minor changes to wording
2.01	Feb 2005	SCT	Revised for 2005 1 st printing
3.01	Feb 2009	SCT	Revised for 2009 1 st printing

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6 General Technical Rules

6.1 GENERAL

6.1.1.3 *ISSF Technical and Discipline Rules are subordinate to the Constitution of the ISSF and the ISSF General Regulations.*

It is all too easy to forget the hierarchy of the ISSF Official Statutes Rules and Regulations. For all ISSF Championships and ISSF Supervised Competitions, both the Constitution of the ISSF and the ISSF General Regulations apply and **must be fully observed!**

6.1.2.3 *The ISSF recommends that ISSF Rules be applied at competitions where ISSF events are in the program, even if **World Records** cannot be established. Such events are referred to as "ISSF Supervised Events".*

Examples of ISSF Supervised Events where World Records cannot be established are Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Shooting Championships.

National Championships fall at a level below this:

- Depending on the available range facilities for these competitions it may be necessary to vary some conditions – if this is done; the changes should always be with the spirit and intent of the ISSF Rules.
- National Championships will be subject to the sponsoring body's Constitution and Regulations.

6.1.5 *Organization and Conduct of ISSF supervised Competitions / Championships*

Refer *ISSF Guidelines for Organization of ISSF World Cups*.

A number of organisational matters have been moved from the *Official Statutes Rules and Regulations* to the *Guidelines for Organization of ISSF World Cups*.

Although listed in the ISSF rulebook, this document is currently (Feb 2009) not available from the ISSF Shop or for download from the ISSF website.

6.2 SAFETY

SAFETY IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

6.2.1 *ISSF Rules state only specific safety requirements which are required by the ISSF for use in ISSF supervised Competitions / Championships. Necessary and special safety regulations for ranges differ from country to country. For this reason no details are stated within these Rules. The safety of a shooting range depends to a large extent on local conditions...*

The ISSF rules provide a workable minimum (but it is only the **MINIMUM**) requirements!

... so additional safety rules may be established by the Organizing Committee. The Organizing Committee must know the principles of range safety and take the necessary steps to apply them.

The Organising Committee must:

- Provide a safe environment for the shooters, officials and spectators, and
- Ensure that the safety procedures are followed, particularly with respect to the handling and use of firearms.

This applies not only to the range areas. Firearms are handled elsewhere (cleaning, Armoury, Gunsmithing, Equipment Control, Customs control, etc.). The safety rules must cover these locations and situations.

The Organizing Committee bears the responsibility for safety.

While the 'on the ground' safety procedures are applied and administered by the competition officials (range officers, juries, armoury and Equipment Control personnel, etc.) the Organizing Committee has the responsibility of ensuring that these personnel are applying the safety rules and measures.

Juries, Range officials, team officials and shooters must be advised of any special regulations.

Any special safety requirements MUST be publicised; mentioning these requirements at the Technical Meeting is not enough (attendance at the Technical Meeting is not compulsory) and there is no guarantee that information at that meeting will get to all shooters and team officials.

6.2.2 *The safety of shooters, range officials and spectators requires continued and careful attention to gun handling and caution in moving about the range.*

To achieve this:

- Range officials need to continually move along the assigned range section.
- The supervision applies to **all** areas where firearms are handled.

Self-discipline is necessary on the part of all. Where such self-discipline is lacking, it is the duty of range officials to enforce discipline

However, this does not authorize officials to be aggressive or rude.

Any shooter with safety discipline problems has usually developed a bad habit, and this will normally be exhibited during practice and training sessions. Preferably, it is during these sessions that the matter should be addressed by the range personnel (6.10.6.5.1 ... *Whenever possible, the warning should be given during the training period or sighting shots*).

...and the duty of shooters and team officials to assist in such enforcement.

Note the word 'duty' in relation to shooters and team officials. See also 6.10.2.1

6.2.2.1 *In the interest of safety, a Jury Member or a Range Officer may stop the shooting at any time.*

A degree of judgment is called for. This may well require action as a shooter is about to fire a shot.

Shooters and team officials must notify immediately Range Officers or Jury Members of any situation that may be dangerous or which may cause an accident.

I.e. there is a duty of care on all persons throughout the competition.

6.2.2.2 *An Equipment Inspector, Range Officer, or Jury Member may pick up a shooter's equipment (including a gun) for control without his permission, but in his presence and with his knowledge. However, immediate action must be taken when a matter of safety is involved.*

A measure of care is required to ensure that the firearm is not damaged.

Further, if a firearm needs to be moved away from the firing line and the shooter (or a team official) is not available, a Jury member can direct a Range Officer to check the firearm and remove it; an example would be the situation at the completion of a Final at a major competition with media and others crowding around the shooters at the firing line.

6.2.2.3 *To ensure safety, all guns must be handled with maximum care at all times.*

Not only at the firing point!

... The gun must not be removed from the firing line during the course of fire except with the permission of a range official."

This is a common problem:

- with shooters who train without proper range supervision, and
- with shooters who have completed their competition shots in the 50m and 10m events before the command "STOP".

This rule cannot be taken in isolation as only applying to during the course of fire; 6.2.2.5 applies at all times – note that 6.2.2.5 provides "...may be disqualified."

6.2.2.4 *While the shooter is on the firing point, the gun must always be pointed in a safe direction.*

This is at all times when the firearm is uncased – **INCLUDING** casing and uncasing the firearm.

This is now well respected by most shooters. Unfortunately, there are still shooters and coaches who are either unaware of the requirements of this clause, or do not consider it significant.

When not actually firing, all guns must be unloaded and the bolt or action must be open.

Simply, the **only** time a pistol may be loaded is at the firing line, and under the control of a Range Officer.

The action, breech or loading device must not be closed until the gun is pointing down range in a safe direction toward the target / butt stop area.

An accidental shot downrange into the 'target / butt stop area' is at worst inconvenient and in some circumstances a 2-points penalty – an accidental shot outside this area could result in damage to the range, the shot leaving the range section's safety profile or worse, an injury.

Not all ranges are full 'safety ranges' (i.e. fully baffled), and shooters should be aware that an accidental shot could escape the range area – whether the range is fully baffled (or not) is not a consideration; pistols are not to be raised to point above the backstop area.

The '...backstop area...' will vary from facility to facility depending on local conditions. These variations are not a consideration; the shooters are to comply with the particular range conditions.

Lowering a pistol below 45° to the READY position is a special case applicable to the 25m pistols events, as is raising the rifle to point above the backstop area in Running Target events.

6.2.2.4.1 *Even if a Rifle or a 50 m Pistol has a magazine, only one cartridge may be loaded.*

There is no specific penalty if more than one round is loaded when the firearm has a magazine, however this would be an infringement to be dealt with under 6.10.6.5.1.

If a 5-shot air pistol is used in the 10 m Air Pistol Event(s) only one pellet may be loaded.

This sentence in the rules refers to loading the magazine of multi-shot air pistols with more than one pellet. This differs from the situation when a shooter thinks he has loaded two pellets in a single-shot firearm – which procedure is set out in 6.11.4.2.

A pistol for the 5-shot Air Pistol events may have a magazine capacity greater than five shots.

6.2.2.4.2 *In the range, when the gun is not on the firing point, it must always be in its case, unless otherwise authorized by a Range Officer.*

It should be noted that this rule now applies to **all** ISSF disciplines. Previously it was only for Pistol (2005/8.2.5.1)

i.e.:

- the firearm is un-cased at the firing point, not the firearm taken from the case (away from the firing point) to the firing point.
- The firearm is cased **at the firing point** to remove the firearm from the firing point.

This is a major change for **PREVIOUSLY** acceptable procedures for the **rifle** disciplines where shooters typically removed uncased firearms from the firing point for cleaning, etc, before casing the firearm. 9.2.2.1 provides for **Shotgun** (refer wording changed from 2005/7.2.5.2, 9.2.2.4).

This does **NOT** imply that it is automatically permitted for a shooter to un-case a firearm

provided this is done at the firing point: the Range Officer's permission is required before a firearm can be uncased. See notes to 6.11.2.1.1

Some shooters may have thought that the rule only applies to official training and 'competition' – the rule applies at all times!

"...authorised..." would be unusual, other than at the firing point or for Equipment Control purposes.

For Equipment Control, and the checking of firearms into the armoury, the competition officials are *de facto* Range Officers. The requirement for safe direction applies at EC and the Armoury.

6.2.2.5 *Before the shooter leaves the firing point, the shooter must ascertain and the Range Officer **must verify** that the action is open and there is no cartridge or pellet in the chamber or magazine.*

The Range Officer **MUST** verify!

This applies **ANY** time the shooter leaves the firing point when the firearm is out of its case, including practice and training sessions; i.e. not only when the stage/event has been completed.

If the shooter boxes his gun or removes it from the firing point without having it checked by the Range Officer, he may be disqualified.

Note these are two different circumstances; the first section of this rule deals with the shooter leaving the firing point after uncasing the firearm at the firing point: the second section deals with removing the firearm from the firing point.

Both relate to all occasions when the shooter has uncased the firearm at any firing point (training, competition, function testing ranges).

6.2.2.6 *Dry firing and aiming exercises are permitted, but only with the permission of the Range Officer*

See also notes to 6.11.2.1.1.

Simply put, without a Range Officer on the range section there is NO dry-firing allowed.

Further, there are restrictions on how/when a pistol may be dry-fired:

- During Finals, and
- During Qualification Rounds on 10 m ranges.

...and only on the firing line or in a designated area.

The only 'designated area' is usually the Function Testing range, and this has two aspects:

- Shooters must not assume that it is permitted to 'warm up' with the firearm except in an officially designated and supervised area, and
- Organisers should provide suitable designated and supervised area/s for shooters to 'warm up' for Elimination, Qualification and Finals rounds.

Handling of guns is not permitted when operating personnel are forward of the firing line.

This is for any reason "...Handling of firearms is not permitted"; this covers all situations, not only dry-firing. See also 6.2.2.7.3

6.2.2.6.1 *Dry Firing means the release of the cocked trigger mechanism of an unloaded cartridge gun*

Covers the situations during Preparation Time for 50 m and 25 m events (and scheduled training). We are normally not interested in the shooter dry firing during Preparation Time or after the command "LOAD" on the 25 m and 50 m ranges.

...or the release of the trigger mechanism of an air or gas gun fitted with a device which enables the trigger to be operated without releasing the propelling charge (air or gas).

This covers the situation for 10 m events.

10 m shooters using pistols without a dry-firing mechanism still have to comply with (6.11.4.1) and (6.11.4.1.1).

This definition of dry-firing for 10 m firearms was introduced in the 1997(?) rules – prior to then the discharge of 10 m firearms with the release of propelling charge was allowed as dry-firing, including during competition shots. See 6.11.4.1 and 6.11.4.1.1.

6.2.2.7 *Guns/magazines may be loaded only on the firing point and only after the command or signal “LOAD” or “START” is given. At all other times, the guns/magazines must be kept unloaded.*

While there is no specific penalty included in this rule, 6.10.6.8 undoubtedly applies!

6.2.2.7.1 *If a shooter fires a shot before the command “LOAD”...*

25m events

...or “START”,

For 10 m and 50 m:

- **IF** there are no personnel forward of the firing line a 2 points penalty is mandatory for a shot before “START” (6.11.2.3.2).
- Certainly disqualification could apply if there were any personnel forward of the firing line.

For 25 m where there are separate LOAD and ATTENTION commands, any shot or shots fired before the command “LOAD” must incur disqualification (8.6.4.2.3.2)

...or after the command “STOP” or “UNLOAD” has been given

See notes to 6.2.2.7.3.

...he may be disqualified if safety is involved.

The wording “...**may** be disqualified...” gives the Jury a degree of latitude (other than for a shot before LOAD at 25 m) depending on the circumstances.

6.2.2.7.2 *During the competition the gun may be put down only after the cartridge(s) and/or magazine are removed and the action is open.*

And remain open.

A warning **must** always be given if this infringement is detected.

Air and gas guns must be made safe by opening and keeping open the cocking handle and/or loading port.

And **keeping** open.

This sentence recognises the problems of removing a pellet from 10 m pistols. Opening an Air Pistol in itself is not enough; the additional wording is to ensure the cocking handle and/or loading port must remain open while the air pistol is put down – everyone must be able to see that the pistol is in a safe condition.

A warning **must** always be given if this infringement is detected.

6.2.2.7.3 *When the command or signal to “STOP” is given, shooting must stop immediately.*

Shooters can not assume that the command ‘STOP’ is only given at the completion of a Stage/Series: there may be a safety situation that requires the range to stop shooting **IMMEDIATELY**.

While any shots after STOP are to be scored as per 6.11.3.3. A warning must be given for any shot fired after a command “STOP” or “UNLOAD”.

It is worth noting that for 25 m events the command 'STOP' is not given after the timing for the series is completed, whereas for 10 m, 50 m and 300 m events STOP indicates the end of the stage. .

When the command “UNLOAD” is given, all shooters must unload their guns and magazines, and make them safe

The obvious exception to “...must unload their pistols...” is for 25 m events when the shooter claims a malfunction as provided in 8.7.4.1.

See also, notes to 8.6.4.2.4

...(to unload air guns ask the Range Officer for permission).

Unfortunately, no suggestions are given for achieving this:

- For minor delays, 6.2.2.7.2 *Air and gas guns must be made safe by opening and keeping open the cocking handle and/or loading port* would suffice.
- If the relay is finished, the air gun must be unloaded. It is permissible for the air gun to be discharged under the Range Officer's direction and supervision;
 - The obvious (and designed) location is at the pellet trap!
 - for EST, this will typically be recorded either as a competition shot (most 10m EST installations do not register a 'late' shot), or as an 'illegal' shot (if the required number of competition shots have already been recorded). In either case the matter must be reported to the Range Jury and an incident report generated and forwarded to the EST Control Room.

Shooting may only be resumed when the appropriate command or signal to “START” is given again.

For 10m and 50m events this would be 'START'. For 25m events this would be the range commands for the applicable event.

6.2.2.7.5 *Any shooter who touches a gun or magazine, except to unload, after the command “STOP” has been given during an elimination or qualification, relay stage or series, without the permission of the Range Officer, may be disqualified.*

Before anybody gets the idea that it is OK to touch a gun or magazine, except to unload, after the command “STOP” at times **other than** ‘...during an elimination or qualification, relay stage or series...’; the exemption (6.2.2.7.5) applies between shots in a **FINAL!**

6.2.2.7.5 only (partially) limits the disqualification outcome.

Notwithstanding the apparent limit of *this rule*, ‘6.10.6.8 *If a shooter handles a gun in a dangerous manner or violates any safety rules, the shooter may be disqualified by the Jury*’ still applies and a shooter could be disqualified for unsafe practices under this rule.

6.2.2.8 *It is the shooter's responsibility that any air or Co2 cylinder has been certified as safe and is still within the validity date.*

There is considerable interest (Feb 2009) in how this rule will be interpreted and applied. Not all cylinders have a manufacturer's recommended expiry date, and for those that do there is considerable variation in the life-span (before re-certification or disposal). This is further complicated by the various OHS requirements in different countries – most have no requirement for re-inspection for cylinders less than 100mPI.

6.2.5 **Sound Producing Equipment.** *Only sound reducing devices may be used. Radios, tape recorders, or any type of sound producing or communication systems are prohibited during competitions and any training.*

This DOES NOT preclude 'electronic ear **protection**. It DOES exclude radios, tape recorders, or any type of sound producing or communication systems.

“...any training.” was “Official training”. Technically, this left the use of 'communication systems', etc. available during unofficial/unscheduled training. Note that this now applies during a competition from the commencement of the programme, including training days.

6.3.1 General Target Requirements

The Classification Office has a duty to inspect EVERY target to be used in the competition. This inspection is conducted with the numbering.

6.3.1.3 *Target paper must be of a non-reflecting color and material so that the black aiming area (center) is clearly visible under normal light conditions at the appropriate distances.*

There is no requirement that the target paper be 'white'. The colour must be consistent (certainly for all targets to be used in any particular event and scheduled training at a competition – minor variations may be acceptable between events).

The 'black' should be 'deep' and consistent for all targets.

The target paper and scoring rings must retain dimensional accuracy under all weather and climatic conditions.

Even with the best quality paper targets, moisture will affect dimensional accuracy. Typically, the target line for 25 m and 50 m at an ISSF competition will be protected from rain.

The target paper must register shot holes without excessive tearing or distortion.

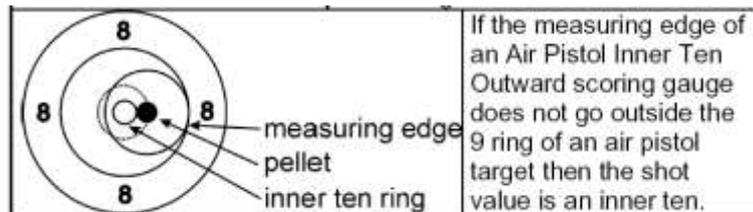
With ISSF approved targets, this is usually only a problem when shooters use low velocities in 10 m events.

6.3.2.4. *(25 Meter Rapid Fire Pistol Target) ...White horizontal aiming lines replace the ring values at the left and the right side of the target center...*

'...white...' here means the same colour as the target paper. There is no need for a separate 'pure white' overprint.

6.3.2.8.4.2 *Use of the Air Pistol INNER TEN OUTWARD scoring gauge for scoring Air Pistol Inner tens*

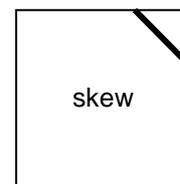
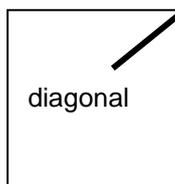
This is a new gauge with an 18mm rim size that is compared with the 9-ring of the Air Pistol Target.



6.3.3 (Paper Sighting Targets) *Sighting targets must be marked clearly with a black diagonal stripe in the upper right hand corner of the target....*

There is a difference between a 'diagonal' and a 'skew' line. While the rule refers to a 'diagonal', a 'skew' is used. While either is acceptable:

- both pistol (paper targets) and EST (pistol and rifle) use the 'skew'.
- For rifle disciplines on paper targets, the 'skew' is most commonly used, though occasionally a diagonal line is encountered.



...The stripe must be clearly visible to the naked eye at the appropriate distance under normal light conditions (Except for Rapid Fire Pistol Target)."

For 25 m and 50m, a line at least 10 mm wide is needed – 20mm is recommended.

6.3.4.2 Backing Targets for 25 m Ranges

6.3.4.2.2 *Backing Targets must, as a minimum, cover the entire width and height of the 25 m frames (5 targets).*

It is preferable that they also extend by about ½ m beyond the targets in both width and height.

They should be located a uniform distance of one (1) meter behind the competition targets...

While 1m is suitable for EST, this can be a major safety hazard for personnel patching the backing targets on turning target installations if the targets accidentally turn while anybody is between the targets and the backing targets – a minimum of 1½ m is needed!

6.3.4.3.1 *The areas behind the aiming marks must be covered by Control Sheet which can be changed after every series of five shots in the Rapid Fire stages and after the sighting series and after each five shot series in the Precision stages. In the 25 m Rapid Fire Pistol Event, the control sheets must be patched or changed after each relay.*

Note that this rule states '**...can** be changed...', not '**...must** be changed...'

The patching or changing of the control cards (and backing targets) after every series of five shots in the Rapid Fire stages and after the sighting series and after each five shot series in the Precision stages unnecessarily delays the procedure of these events – any Jury member who can not efficiently and accurately resolve any target problems with 35 shots each on the control sheet and backing target possibly should not be assigned to a 25m event.

6.3.5 Range Standards

6.3.5.1.2 *New outdoor ranges should be constructed in such a way that the sun is behind the shooter as much as possible during the competition day. **Care must be exercised that there are no shadows on the targets.***

While this has no obvious application to shotgun ranges, it definitely applies to 25, 50 and 300 m ranges.

'*...Care must be exercised that there are no shadows on the targets...*' has been added – to be considered for 25, 50 and 300 m ranges are the shadows cast on targets by range dividing walls, overhead safety baffles, building support structures, etc.

This is easiest achieved by covering the target line with translucent plastic roofing such that even at the lowest angles of the sun there is no direct sunlight on the targets.

6.3.6 Common Standards for 300 m, 50 m, 25 m and 10 m Rifle and Pistol Ranges

6.3.6.3.3.1 *50 m and 25 m ranges should, whenever possible, be outdoor ranges but may be exceptionally indoor or closed ranges if required by legal or climatic conditions.*

'Outdoor' is defined in 6.3.6.3.1, 6.3.6.3.2 and 6.3.6.3.3

Outdoor conditions are meant to include variable light conditions, weather, and cross-winds – part of the skill of shooters for 25m, 50m and 300m events is their ability to accommodate variable outdoor conditions. See also notes to 6.3.12.2.8.

6.3.6.3.4 *10 m ranges must be installed indoors*

Previously '*...10 m air gun ranges for ISSF competitions and Olympic Games must be installed indoors in accordance with ISSF General Regulation Article 3.5.1*'.

Now it is a blanket rule for 10m ranges.

In contrast with shotgun, 25 & 50 m ranges (for which 'outdoor' conditions are expected), 10 m ranges operate in a 'controlled' environment for which:

- Light conditions remain constant. To achieve this, lighting on 10m ranges must be completely from artificial illumination – i.e. no daylight.
- Variable cross-winds are not a factor

6.3.6.3.5 *It is prohibited to put any substance on the floor of the Firing Point. It is prohibited to wipe the firing point without permission.*

This rule is new.

The intent is to stop shooters (or coaches) adding non-slip substances on the floor of the firing point – no doubt some Juries will overextend their interpretation to include any substance (e.g. a mark to indicate the shooter's preferred position of the feet).

If any shooter finds the firing point floor surfaces too slippery, this should be brought to the attention of the Technical Delegate and the organisers and dealt with through official channels.

6.3.6.5.1 *Space must be provided for spectators. This area must be separated from the area for shooters and officials by a suitable barrier located at least 5 m behind the firing line.*

This minimum is barely sufficient for ranges using paper targets. For EST where printer tables take up additional space FoP, a greater distance is required.

Where the media is to also be accommodated in the competition area, further additional distance is required.

'*This area must be separated from the area for shooters and officials by a suitable barrier*' – this does not call for a person-proof barrier, but the barrier should be at least waist high and of rigid construction.

6.3.6.6 *The use of mobile telephones, walkie-talkies, pagers or similar devices by competitors, coaches and team officials while within the competition area is prohibited. All mobile telephones etc. must be switched OFF.*

Obviously not applicable to any needed communication equipment for competition officials, though any such use should not be intrusive; most communication equipment is available with earpieces and these should be used.

In the same category would be those accredited media allowed on the field of play.

"...within the competition area..." is open to interpretation – the intent relates to the field of play.

6.3.6.6.1 *Notices must be displayed to indicate to spectators that mobile phones must be switched **OFF** and **flash** photography is prohibited until all competition is completed.*

This rule relates to the front of house areas. While obviously not applicable to the entire FoH area for the venue, it definitely applies to any area where the use of mobile phones or flash photography could create a distraction to the shooters.

Certainly this rule applies during Preparation Time, Eliminations, Qualification Rounds and Finals. At the completion of a Stage or Final, 10 m relay, 50 m round, or 25 m stage (after ALL shooters in the relay/stage have completed), flash photography that would not interfere with the other ranges would be acceptable and is permitted.

6.3.6.7 *Each range must be equipped with a large clock at each end of the hall that can be seen clearly by shooters and officials. The clocks must be synchronized to show the same time.*

'...synchronized...' etc. has been added. I.e. no matter where a shooter is on the venue the (venue) time should be the same – important in relation to reporting and protest times, transport, etc.!

Competition administrators and range officials should be aware that there may be three

slightly differing 'times' in operation at a major competition.

E.g. at Olympics:

- Computer 'time' for the ESTs
- Broadcast 'time' for the media
- Range time, as shown by the range clocks

6.3.6.8 *Target frames or mechanisms must be marked with numbers (starting from the left) corresponding to their firing point number. The numbers must be large enough to be seen easily under normal shooting conditions with normal vision at the appropriate distance. The numbers should be of alternating and contrasting colors (300 m must) and be clearly visible throughout the competition, whether the targets are exposed or concealed. On 25 m targets each group of five (5) targets must be numbered starting from the left.*

This numbering may vary due to differing range configuration through the competition programme; e.g.:

- For dedicated Finals ranges dealing with differing events,
- For ranges used for both Qualification and Finals rounds
- For 25 m ranges

6.3.7 Wind Flags for 300 m and 50 m Rifle and 50 m Pistol Ranges

6.3.7.2 *...They must be placed as close to the bullets' flight path as possible without interfering with the bullets' flight or the shooter's view of the target...*

The height of the flags is a compromise between the three positions encountered (Prone, standing and kneeling) and the variation in height of the shooters.

6.3.7.3.1 *If a 50 m range is also used as a 10 m enclosed range the 10 m wind flags must be placed far enough down range so that they give an indication of the wind.*

This situation is encountered on Finals ranges combining 10m and 50m facilities. Typically, the 10m wind flags then are placed 1-1½m beyond the 10m wall.

6.3.9 Height of Target Center (Center of the Ten Ring)

...All target centers within a group of targets or range must have the same height (± 1 cm).

For the Rapid Fire Pistol event ± 1 cm would not be acceptable - the white lines of the targets must visually be in alignment.

6.3.12 General Firing Point Standards for 300 m, 50 m, 10 m Ranges

6.3.12.2 *The firing point must be equipped with:*

6.3.12.2.1 *a bench or stand, 0.7 m – 0.8 m high;*

Note that the previous '*...removable or adjustable bench or stand...*' has been removed.

For 10 m ranges a fixed bench is commonly encountered. Note 6.3.15.1.1

6.3.12.2.8 *on new ranges wind breaks forward of the firing line are not **recommended**, but steps should be taken to ensure that weather conditions are as equal as possible throughout the range.*

Previously, (2005/6.3.12.2.8) *On new ranges wind breaks forward of the firing line are not permitted. It is recommended that wind breaks are removed from all ranges.*

6.3.15 Range and Firing Point Standards for 10 m Ranges

6.3.15.1 *The firing point must be a minimum of 1 m wide.*

To avoid 'disputes' between shooters, it recommended that these bays be marked.

6.3.15.1.1 *The nearest edge of the bench or stand must be placed 10 cm forward of the 10 m Firing line*

Introduced in the 2001(?) rules, this provides some room for Air Rifle shooters' stands.

The use of a board as a firing line is not permitted.

'...The use of a board as a firing line is not permitted...' has been added for 2009

6.3.16.4 In 25 m events, the targets must be placed in:

6.3.16.4.2 groups of five (5) or exceptionally (sic) four (4) or three (3) may be used for the 25 m Pistol, 25 m Center Fire Pistol and 25 m Standard Pistol events.

6.3.16.5 25 m ranges must be divided into sections which are composed of two (2) groups of five (5) targets (each being one bay).

Despite the opinions of some people, **the normal configuration for both paper and EST** is groups of **five** targets – irrespective of the 1-3-5 or 1-2-4-5 configuration.

6.3.16.5.1 Protected walkways should allow range staff **safely** to get to the target line.

Previously, (2005/6.3.17.5.1) '...Protected walkways should be provided to allow range staff to get to the target line...'

6.3.16.9 Standards for 25 m Turning Target Installations

6.3.16.9.1 The time for turning to face the shooter must not exceed 0.3 seconds.

There is no method stipulated for checking the timing of 25m turning targets in the 2009 rules (previously 2005/6.3.17.8). However, it is reasonable for the Technical Director to accept the 2005 procedures:

2005/6.3.17.8.1 by placing the stopwatch on the edge of the target to allow the target movements to start and stop the stop watch;

2005/6.3.17.8.2 by using three (3) hand operated stopwatches with the middle (median) time being accepted;

2005/6.3.17.8.3 by using other systems or devices which have been approved by the ISSF Technical Committee.

6.3.16.9.2 When the targets have turned, there must be no visible vibration to distract the shooter.

I.e. when the targets face the shooters – this is less important when the targets face away.

6.3.17 Indoor Range Light Requirements (Lux)

In 'simplifying' this section of the rules the ISSF (in its wisdom) has removed some wording from previous rules:

- '...entire...', and '...evenly...' has been removed
- 'Evenly' remains important. The firing points and down-range area should not have any noticeably bright, or dull areas.
- The illumination method shown in 6.3.17.4 is descriptive, not prescriptive! The use of individual lamps for each target face is not without problems when it comes to adjustment to obtain even lighting across the face of the target.
- all the target faces in a 10 m range should appear to have equivalent lighting.
- Where a separate Finals range is installed for the Olympics, the TV media will expect at least 5000 lux on the shooters.

Indoor Range for	General		Targets	
	Minimum	Recommended Minimum	Minimum	Recommended Minimum
10 m	300	500	1500	1800
10 m RT	300	500	1000	1000
25 m	300	500	1500	2500
50 m	300	500	1500	3000

Final Ranges must have a minimum general lighting of 500 lux and minimum 1000 lux on the firing line. For new ranges near to 1500 lux on the firing line is recommended.

Given that Finals are broadcast and on ISSF TV, this increased lighting is reasonable.

See also 6.3.6.3.3.1, 6.17.2.1.

6.3.17.1 *All indoor ranges must have artificial illumination providing the necessary amount of light without glare or distracting shadows on the targets or firing points.*

It should go without comment, but indoor ranges (and this means **ALL** 10m ranges) have artificial lighting **ONLY**. Outdoor ranges can have (and often require) supplementary artificial lighting.

The background area behind the targets must be a non-reflecting, light even neutral color.

I.e.:

- ‘...light...’ **NOT** dark,
- ‘...even...’ **NOT** uneven,
- ‘...neutral...’ **NOT** a primary colour

6.3.17.2 *Measuring of the target illumination must be done with the measuring device held at the level of the target and pointed toward the firing point (A).*

I.e.:

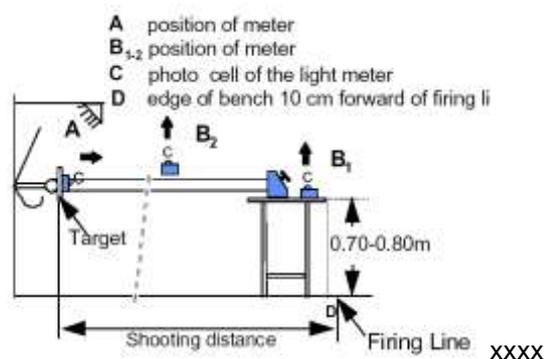
- At the centre (10-ring) of the target, and
- With the sensor at the position of the face of the target.

6.3.17.3 *Measuring general range illumination must be done with the measuring device held at the firing point (B1) and midway between the firing point and the target line (B2) with the device directed toward the ceiling illumination.*

This method of measuring the general range illumination only at the firing line and mid-way can often lead to range lighting being somewhat strange – a well lighted at the firing line, a dark area in front of the firing line, a well lighted area half-way down range, a dark area beyond this and the targets appearing overly bright...

6.3.17. *Indoor Range Light Measuring*

The illumination method shown in the diagram is descriptive, not prescriptive!
The use of individual ‘gooseneck’ lamps for each target face is not without problems when it comes to adjustment to obtain even lighting on the face of the target.



6.4 EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION – GENERAL

6.4.1 *The Organizing Committee must provide a complete set of gauges and instruments for equipment control before and during ISSF supervised Competitions / Championships.*

This includes the additional test equipment to be on the range as per 8.4.1.6.3.

The test equipment should be checked for compliance with the rules before Equipment Control begins operation. These items are to be approved by the Technical Delegate.

...Calibration Certification or Test Equipment must be provided..”

While the certification of trigger weights, scales, etc. is straightforward, the procedures for calibration certification of chronographs for the testing of Rapid Fire Pistol ammunition is yet to be notified.

- 6.4.2** *Shooters must use only equipment and apparel that complies with the ISSF Rules. Anything (guns, devices, equipment, accessories, etc.) which may give a shooter an unfair advantage over others and which is not mentioned in these Rules, or which is contrary to the spirit of the ISSF Rules and Regulations, is prohibited.*

See also 6.10.6.5.2 *Concealed Violations*

The shooter is responsible for submitting all equipment and apparel for official inspection and approval to an ISSF-supervised Equipment Control prior to its use in ISSF competitions.

It is the shooter's responsibility to submit these items, not the competition personnel's duty to detect...

Team leaders are equally responsible for ensuring that the shooters' equipment and apparel comply with the ISSF Rules and Regulations.

While the primary responsibility is with the shooter, Team Leaders (as the contact between the team members and the Organising Committee 6.10.3.6) are equally responsible. This particularly important in relation to 6.17.5.5, *During the Award or other Ceremonies*

6.4.2.1 **Clothing Regulations**

*It is the responsibility of the competitor to appear on the ranges dressed in a manner appropriate to a public event. This must be controlled by the Jury. **Clothing made of camouflage material is prohibited.***

'Clothing made of camouflage material is prohibited' has been added.

- 6.4.2.1.1** *The use of any special devices means or garments which immobilize or unduly reduce the movement of the shooter's legs, body or arms is prohibited in order to ensure that the performance skills of the shooters are not artificially improved by special clothing.*

The Range Jury also inspects each shooter prior to every shooting session to ensure that the clothing, blinkers, advertising, etc. still complies.

- 6.4.2.2** *Prior to the competition each shooter's gun and other equipment must be examined by the Equipment Control Section to ensure that it conforms to ISSF Rules. The shooter is responsible for presenting all guns and equipment, including any questionable equipment and/or accessories for official inspection and approval before use.*

This rule goes further than 6.4.2, dealing with the shooter's responsibility in relation to '...any questionable equipment and/or accessories...'

- 6.4.7** *After equipment has been approved, it must not be altered at any time prior to or during the competition in any way that would conflict with the ISSF Rules.*

- 6.4.8** *If there are any doubts regarding an alteration, the equipment must be returned to Equipment Control for re-inspection and approval.*

This applies to all of the shooter's equipment and complements 6.6.2.4 – the eligibility requirements, etc. of each shooter is checked.

- 6.4.9** *Approval of any equipment is valid only for the competition for which the inspection was made.*

For rifle clothing, see also 6.4.9.1 "One time only" equipment control.

For Pistol, approval of firearms and other equipment at previous competitions is immaterial (despite the sometimes aggressive protestations of shooters and team officials).

-
- 6.4.10.1** **Bib (Start) numbers** *must be worn by all shooters, on their backs and above the waist, at all times while participating in pre-event training if available and competition. If the Bib (Start) number **is available and** not worn, the shooter may not commence/continue.*

'...if available...' has been added. This recognises that occasionally the Start Numbers are

not available for the commencement of training days.

The intent is that the Start Number will be clearly visible at all times.

If the shooter wishes to add/remove clothing to suit the weather conditions the rule still applies. No additional time is granted.

As an aside, the requirement for all shooters to wear their Bib Number at all times (including pre-event training) when at the firing points ensures that shooters 'register' before going to the firing points – an excellent administrative move that will make the duties of the competition administration easier.

6.4.10.2 *All shooters must comply with the ISSF Eligibility and Sponsorship Rules (Section 4 of the Official Statutes Rules and Regulations).*

This covers at the venue throughout the period of the competition, and definitely includes training days, pre-event training, competition, Finals and Awards ceremonies.

The Range Juries must ensure that this is observed during training days, pre-event training, competition and Final, and should assist as needed prior to Awards ceremonies.

6.4.10.3 ***Side Blinders** (either or both sides) attached to the hat, cap, shooting glasses, or to a head band, not exceeding 40 mm deep are permitted (A). These blinders must not extend further forward than to a line from the center of the forehead. A piece to cover the non aiming eye not larger than 30 mm wide is permitted (B).*

Compliance with this rule needs to be constantly monitored by the Range Officers and the Range Jury. A shooter whose blinker position complies in Preparation Time and at the commencement of shooting might inadvertently (?) be in breach of the rule at a later stage of the event.

6.5 PRE-MATCH ADMINISTRATION

(Firing Point Allocation and Elimination Matches)

Most of these matters are now dealt with by computer-draw for start positions, etc. and are covered in the ISSF World Cup Organizers Manual

6.5.3 *A shooter, in a team event only, may be replaced **by an already registered shooter not later than 30 min before the scheduled start time for that event**. This rule also applies for competitions composed of several parts or carried out over several days.*

See also 3.7.3.6

This replaces the previous (2005 6.5.4) If a shooter has fired his first sighting shot in the competition and must withdraw, he may not be replaced.

6.5.7 Training

6.5.7.1 *Official Training*

Official Training must be provided the day following the official arrival day.

Organizing this will take some careful planning – provision must be made for all shooters to have some training in their events.

The Range Juries must pay attention to 6.4.10.2 and 6.10.6.5.1.

6.5.7.2 *Pre-Event Training*

For Rifle, Pistol and Running Target the range must be available; a minimum of one (1) hour (minimum total time – not per shooter) for a short training period on the day before the event. This is in addition to the official training day(s) in the program (for Shotgun see separate rule).

For most events, one hour will not enable shooters to complete a course of fire.

While shooters and coaches may find this onerous, they should remember that the range personnel and technicians do not have the luxury of only being required to 'perform' for a

few hours over the period of the competition; these personnel are effectively on-duty continuously for many days.

6.5.7.3 Unofficial Training

In addition to the Official Training shooters should be given the opportunity to train, insofar as this is possible from the organizational point of view.

The competition organizers and the Technical Delegate decide ‘...possible...’, not the shooters and coaches.xxxx

6.5.7.4 Function Firing Range

A specially designated supervised function firing range, without targets, must be provided for shooters to test guns.

Note ‘...**supervised**...’: this supervision is by a competition official.

The Function Testing Range is normally part of the 25m range, and as such supervised by the 25m range personnel.

All safety requirements must be met – shooters are **NOT** allowed to uncase firearms, load firearms, etc. other than under the direct supervision and permission of a Range Officer.

It should be noted that the Function Testing Range is not automatically considered to be a warm-up area. Shooters may not use the Function Testing Range for warm-up exercises without permission of the competition organizers.

At the option of the organisers, shooters may be allowed warm-up/fouling shots on the Function Testing range before the start of the event/relay. (6.5.7.4 *A specially designated function firing range, **without targets**, must be provided for shooters to test guns during competition days.*)

If this is permitted, this is only:

- under the supervision and command of the Range Officer for the Function Testing Range, and
- such that it does not interfere with competition series.

Typically, for 25m events at an Olympics (and other competitions):

The shooters assemble in a designated, off-range ‘warm-up’ area under the control of a competition official, where physical exercises using the **unloaded** pistols are permitted,

- They proceed to the function testing range and may carry out live firing exercises (6.5.7.4) under the control of a competition official. This is controlled such that it does not interfere with the competition series of the shooters at the firing points. Given that for 25m Pistol Womens there may be 32 shooters in a relay, the Function Testing range will be somewhat crowded and will require good management skills from the controlling Range Officer.
- After all pistols at the Function Testing Range are cleared **and cased**,
 - **and** the 25m Chief Range Officer has ensured that all range checks for the following relay are completed,
 - **and** the Chief Range Officer has indicated that the shooters for the next relay may take their positions at the firing line,
 - **only then** may the shooters move to their assigned firing points to await the command ‘PREPARATION TIME BEGINS NOW’.

6.6 COMPETITION JURIES

6.6.1

At ISSF supervised Competitions / Championships, juries must be formed in accordance with ISSF General Regulations to advise, assist and supervise the competition officials appointed by the Organizing Committee. A Range Jury must be appointed to supervise the conduct of events.

There is:

- a Range Jury for each discipline (pistol, rifle, running target, shotgun as appropriate)
- Classification Jury
- Equipment Control Jury (drawn from members of the discipline Juries)

- Jury of Appeal

A Classification Jury must be appointed to supervise scoring and ranking.

Note the rules allocating Classification Jury members to assist in the scoring of 25m paper targets (6.7.8.1).

An Equipment Control Jury must be appointed.

3.4.5.1 ...One (1) person from each of the Rifle, Pistol and Running Target Jury must be designated by that Jury to serve on the Jury for Equipment Control. Usually one of these is appointed EC Jury Chairman, though at a number of ISSF Championships a separate Judge is appointed solely as EC Jury Chairman.

Although 'Running Target' is included in 3.4.5.1, this discipline is not part of ISSF World Cups; in this case the EC Jury would be composed of Rifle and Pistol Judges. Strangely, Shotgun has not been included (9.4.1), though the shotgun range facilities are often some distance from the pistol and rifle facilities.

All Juries when on duty are required to wear the "ISSF Jury vest" which must be purchased from the ISSF Headquarters.

These can be ordered from [the ISSF Shop](#) at €45.

6.6.1.1 *The Range Officers are responsible for the actual conduct of the competition while the Jury acts in an advisory and supervisory capacity...*

There are numerous items in the ISSF rules that delineate the roles of the various range officials – some roles are performed by the Range Officers (not the Jury members) and some roles are performed by the Jury members (and not the Range Officers).

This rule unambiguously states that '*...the **Range Officers** are responsible for the actual conduct of the competition...*' and that '*...the **Jury** acts in an advisory and supervisory capacity...*':

- Range officials appointed as Range Officers should not try to be Jury members **AND** range officials appointed as Jury members should not try to be Range Officers.
- Provided the Range Officers are competent in their role/s, the Jury members should not interfere in the normal on-range conduct of the competition.
- The time for the Jury to satisfy themselves as to the correct range procedures and competency of the Range Officers is before the competition phases (i.e. training day/s and pre-event training)
- Jury members must allow the other range officials space to perform their duties, e.g.:
 - For the inspection by the **Range Officer** of the pistol in 25m malfunctions (8.7.4.4) the Range Officer and probably the shooter will be in the firing bay – a Jury member must observe but allow the Range Officer space to conduct the inspection. The Jury member may advise (if needed) but his role is limited to advice and supervision.
 - For random trigger checks (8.4.1.6.4) even more space is needed by the official performing the check – while a Jury member **observes** the check the shooter and official must be given the needed space. On this, there is no place for a team official at this check - 6.10.5 applies; the event/relay is not over.
 - When shot locations are being indicated in 25m paper target events, the Jury member/s must allow clear sight lines to the targets

6.7.1 *Duties and Functions of the Chief Range Officer*

In many clauses through the ISSF rules the CRO is responsible for designated tasks... This does not mean that the CRO personally performs these tasks, but he is responsible for the management of the personnel carrying out tasks listed.

6.7.1. *if necessary to participate in the drawing of lots for the assignment of firing points.*

'...if necessary' – the CRO may well be needed for advice (local knowledge such as firing point availability, etc.). The draw is conducted according to (6.5>> and as set out in the *ISSF World Cup Organizers Manual*).

6.7.8 Jury Members on the Target Line – 25 m

This section of the rules has not kept pace with the changes reducing the number of Judges on the Pistol Jury as introduced at the 2002 General Assembly, Lahti. It calls for more 25m-experienced Jury members than are normally available.

6.7.8.1 *For 25 m events when using paper targets, a Jury Member from the Classification Jury and/or the Pistol Jury must be appointed for each Range Section or for each five to ten targets (i.e. one per Target Officer). He must accompany the Target Officer at the Target Line.*

However, 6.7.8.3 requires two Jury members per range section.

6.7.8.2 *The Jury Member must check that the targets are inspected...*

By the Target Officer, 6.7.7.2.2.

...before scoring commences, looking for the correct number of shots, proximity to the scoring lines, etc. Doubtful situations must be resolved before scoring commences.

Beyond 6.8.7.1 and 6.7.7.2.2 this will require both Jury members to be **fully** conversant with resolving problems and scoring 25m malfunction re-shoots.

6.7.8.3 *Decisions on doubtful situations must be made simultaneously by two (2) Jury Members and the Target Officer. One member of the Jury will act as chairman and will insert the plug gauge, if necessary.*

Note that the use of a plug gauge is with the target horizontal, etc. 6.8.14.2

6.7.8.4 *The Jury Member at the Target Line must ensure that all results recorded by the Second Register Keeper at the Target Line are correct, also that Jury decisions are duly noted and certified on the score cards.*

This reinforces the fact the Second Register is **the scorecard** to be signed by the shooter.

6.7.8.5 *The Jury Member must ensure that the targets are not patched, and shots are not indicated by the colored discs until after doubtful situations have been resolved and the score has been recorded correctly by the Second Register Keeper.*

While this rule refers to '*...colored discs...*' in 6.9.1.2.4.1, it is generally applicable to the scoring of all 25m paper targets and includes '*...discs...*' in 6.9.1.2.4.3:

- for 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event, each bank of five targets is checked (and resolved as necessary) then that bank of targets may be called and indicated with the spotting discs 6.9.1.2.4.1
- for the other 25m events on paper targets, each target is checked (and resolved as necessary) then that target may be called and indicated with the wand as per 6.9.1.2.4.3. It is not necessary to check all the targets in a range section before any scores are called and the location indicated with the wand on a target.

6.7.8.6 *When using Electronic Scoring Targets, member(s) of the Classification Jury will be present to assist in the resolution of any matters relating to scoring. Members of the Pistol Jury must assist in cases where actions or decisions need to be taken and there are only two or less Jury Members available from the Classification Jury.*

A number of duties will be carried out by the Classification Jury:

- assisting (and advising) the resolution of any protested shot values, or unrecorded shots
- Providing additional Jury members to comply with 6.7.8.3
- Verification that any manual intervention is entered correctly as per the Malfunction Score Computation sheets in 6.19

This 25m rule recognises that not all members of the Classification Jury will necessarily be au fait with all aspects of discipline being conducted (e.g. Category 1 and/or 4 Judge assigned under this rule to a 25m pistol event) – i.e. the Pistol Jury will **assist** the Classification Jury in the resolution of any matters relating to scoring; not that the Pistol Jury will act as members of the Classification Jury.

6.7.10.2 *Prior to the commencement of each relay of an event, a Jury Member must inspect the Electronic Scoring Targets to confirm the following...*

This is in addition to the checks by the Target Officer (6.7.9.1)

6.7.11.5 *A Jury Member must supervise any manual intervention of the control computer results (e.g. introduction of penalties, corrected scores after malfunctions etc.).*

While not specified, this supervision is normally by a member of the Classification Jury as a member of the Classification Jury 'signs off' on the intervention.

The supervision needs to be in the context of the procedures:

1. The Range Officer completes the appropriate form (malfunction, incident)
2. A Range Jury member checks the Range Officer's computations and signs off the computations
3. The Classification Officer takes the form to the Control Computer

On some later versions of the Sius Ascor targetry the manual intervention can be done at the printer table.

4. The Classification Jury member checks the computation and authorizes the manual intervention
5. The Technical Officer – Electronic Scoring Targets (6.7.10) performs the manual intervention
6. The Classification Jury member checks the outcome of the manual intervention, signs off the form, and enters the intervention in the Range Register.

6.7.8.3 *Decisions on doubtful situations must be made simultaneously by two (2) Jury Members and the Target Officer. One member of the Jury will act as chairman and will insert the plug gauge, if necessary.*

"... two (2) Jury Members and the Target Officer..." - where do all these jury members come from for paper targets? Following the General Assembly (Lahti, 2002) the number of Jury members available at World Cups has been reduced.

The Technical Delegate may approve the use of suitably skilled (and qualified: e.g. an ISSF Judge license) personnel to supervise and resolve 25 m scoring procedures. In practice, it would be best if there were one suitably skilled person among the scorers or markers, on each range section – otherwise there will be unacceptable delays to the scoring of 25m paper targets while Jury members rush from one range section to another to resolve scoring 'situations'.

...One member of the Jury will act as chairman and will insert the plug gauge, if necessary... – This is not the Chairman of the Pistol or Classification Jury, it is Chairman of the (sub-) Jury making the particular decision.

6.8 SCORING PROCEDURES

Note that these rules apply to all disciplines and events

6.8.1 *The Classification Office must publish Preliminary scores on a Range Scoreboard as soon as possible after each relay and stage and completion of each event.*

Note that this rule relates to Preliminary Scores on the **Range** Scoreboards

These scores on the Range scoreboards are for the information of shooters and spectators only and have no effect in relation to the 10 minutes Protest Time..

Preliminary scores on the **Range** Scoreboards are **NOT** the Preliminary scores on the **Main Scoreboard** '6.15.4.1.1 All results protests must be submitted within 10 minutes

after the preliminary scores are posted on the Main Scoreboard. The time when the scoring Protest Time ends must be shown on the Main Scoreboard, immediately after the posting.'

With paper targets, this is in addition to the requirements found in 6.3.12.2.5, 6.3.16.8.4, 6.7.3.4.

6.8.1.1 *The Final Results must be published on the **Main** Scoreboard after the Protest time has expired.*

The use of 'Final' in this rule can cause confusion – this rule is not exclusive to results of events with Olympic Finals, and includes results for:

- Completed non-IOC events
- The completed Qualification Rounds
- The completed events with Final
- MQS-only events

6.9 SCORING PROCEDURES (PAPER TARGETS) 25 M EVENTS

6.9.1 *The score card (kept by the Second Register Keeper) must be signed by the Target Officer and the Target Line Jury Member. This original card must be sent to the Classification Office by a secure means, for verification of addition and final recording.*

The 'Second' Register is the official register card. See also the note to 6.9.2.4.

6.9.1.2 *The Jury must supervise all scoring procedures.*

6.9.1.2.1 *Marking, Scoring and Recording Shot Values*

6.9.1.2.2 *As soon as the Target Officer receives the signal that the range is safe, the targets must be faced.*

On many 25m target system controllers, the targets will automatically face some fixed time after the end of the series (usually after about 7 to 10 seconds). If this is the case, the target line personnel **MUST** be aware that the facing of the targets does not automatically indicate that the range is safe!

Extreme care must be taken to ensure that the range is safe before any personnel approach the targets or go forward of the firing line!

Ranges with target-line access for the target personnel should be provided with:

- some form of safety interlock for doors to the down-range area
- a positive signalling system between the Range Officers and the target personnel

The Target Officer, along with at least one Jury Member,

This rule has not been revised to reflect either the reduced number of Jury Members at World Cups, or the requirements of 6.7.8.3.

must signal the values of the bullet holes on each target and call them loudly to the Register Keeper on the firing line. The Register Keeper records them on the Range Register and on the small scoreboard near his desk.

i.e. the First Register Keeper

6.9.1.2.4.1 *using colored spotting discs in the **25 m Rapid Fire Pistol Event**. ...*

6.9.1.2.4.2 *...The series total must also be called. The discs must then be removed and the targets patched;*

The scoring personnel must at some point allow the shooter an unimpeded view of all five targets – once all five discs are in place and the target crew aside so that the shooter can view the 'pattern'.

6.9.1.2.4.3 *in the 25 m Standard Pistol, 25 m Pistol and 25 m Center Fire Pistol Events,...The disc must be placed over the bullet hole(s) in the ten ring with the red side facing the shooter, as the Target Officer calls the value of the hit(s).*

For bullet holes with a value less than ten, the white side must be shown.

It is equally important that the disc must be placed over the bullet hole(s) for values less than 10

Where a series of shots are fired at the same target, the scores should be called commencing with the

tens...

This has not caught up with the recording of inner-10s.

Inner-10s must be called and recorded!

6.9.1.2.4.4 *Sighting shots must be indicated and recorded.*

Far more important than many realize (until they have to resolve the problem of a fallen patch or a crossfire, etc.).

6.9.2.4 *The completed scorecard...*

This is the score card kept by the Second Register Keeper and it is also signed by the Target Officer and the Target Line Jury Member 6.9.1.

...should be signed by the shooter next to the score total before leaving the range to identify their score.

This refers to the scorecard kept by the **Second** Register Keeper. Many shooters will sign the scorecard kept by the First Register Keeper.

Given that the shooter and the first Register Keeper are at the firing line area, most shooters (incorrectly) will sign the first register Keeper's 'scorecard'. There have been cases where the shooter has signed the first Register Keeper's scoreboard, and there has been a difference between the scores on the two scorecards.

6.10 RULES OF CONDUCT FOR SHOOTERS AND OFFICIALS

6.10.2.1 *Knowledge of the Rules*

All shooters, team leaders and officials must be familiar with the ISSF Rules and must ensure that these Rules are enforced.

'Officials' here definitely refers to '...team...officials...' – not to competition officials.

This rule places responsibility on the team officials for ensuring that their shooters fully comply with the ISSF rules – this definitely includes the team coach/s.

It is the responsibility of each shooter to comply with the Rules.

I.e. it is the shooter's responsibility to ensure that he complies; not the responsibility of the competition personnel to detect any infringement or questionable matter.

6.10.3 ***The Team Leader has the responsibility of:***

6.10.3.4 *checking scores and filing protests, if necessary;*

6.10.3.5 *observing preliminary and official bulletins, scores and announcements;*

6.10.3.6 *receiving official information and requests and passing them on to team members.*

I.e. the Official Notice Board and the administrative 'mail-boxes' for teams are the official means of 'general' communications.

It is the responsibility of the team officials to check the notice board and 'mail-boxes', not the responsibility of the competition administration to chase up the team officials.

6.10.4 ***The shooter should report, ready to shoot, at the designated firing point at the correct time, with approved equipment.***

It is the shooter's responsibility to report in good time – it is **not** any range or competition official's responsibility to find the shooter! See also 6.10.3.3.

6.10.5 ***Coaching during the conduct of any Event***

6.10.5.1 *All types of coaching while a shooter is on the firing line are forbidden. While on the firing line, a shooter may speak only with Jury Members or range officials.*

This refers to "...on the firing line...".

The shooter can approach a coach or team member at the spectator barrier (having complied with the requirements of unloading the pistol and informing the Range Officer).

“...only with Jury Members or range officials...” should not be enforced to the point where two shooters wish to speak to each other are warned for an infringement (provided this does not interfere with another shooter, or disrupt/delay the competition).

- 6.10.5.2** *If a **shooter wishes to speak** with anyone else, the shooter must unload his gun and leave it in a safe condition on the firing line (on the firing line bench if possible). In the case of bolt action guns, the bolt must be both open and back. A shooter may leave the firing line only after notifying a Range Officer and without disturbing other shooters.*

Further, “6.2.2.5 *Before the shooter leaves the firing point, the shooter must ascertain and the Range Officer **must verify** that the action is open and there is no cartridge or pellet in the chamber or magazine*”.

Rule 6.2.2.5 draws no distinction as to why the shooter leaves the firing point.

- 6.10.5.3** *If a team official wishes to speak with a team member on the firing line, the team official must not contact the shooter directly or talk with the shooter while he is on the firing line. The team official must obtain permission from a Range Officer or Jury Member, who will call the shooter off the firing line.*

The shooter must comply with both 6.10.5.2 and 6.2.2.5.

- 6.10.5.4** *If a team official or shooter violates the rules concerning coaching, a warning must be issued the first time. In repeated cases two (2) points must be deducted from the shooter's score and the team official must leave the vicinity of the firing line.*

“6.10.5.1 **All** types of coaching while a shooter is on the firing line are forbidden. While on the firing line, a shooter...” – determining some coaching techniques can be an interesting exercise for the Range Officers and Jury members...

6.10.6 Penalties for Rule Violations

- 6.10.6.1** *In cases of violation of the Rules or instructions of Range Officers or the Jury, the following penalties may be imposed on the shooter by a Jury Member or the Jury.*

‘...by a Jury Member or the Jury...’ includes warnings (6.10.6.1.1).

Although this might appear to be in conflict with several Shotgun rules (where a warning may be issued by a ‘Referee’), there is no conflict in the pistol or rifle rules – warnings can not be issued by a Range Officer.

If a Range Officer is aware of a situation or action that requires a penalty (warning, points deduction or disqualification), he must bring the infringement to the attention of a Jury member for the imposing of any penalty.

- 6.10.6.1.1** *A warning to the shooter must be expressed in terms that will leave no doubt that it is an **WARNING** and the yellow card must be shown. However, it is not necessary to precede other penalties with a warning. This must be recorded on a Range Incident Report and noted on the Range Register by a Jury Member.*

A warning is a penalty – while a warning is not a penalty in terms of deduction of points or disqualification, the effect of having a warning issued can be devastating on a shooter.

There must be a record of the infringement

Any temporary unavailability of a Jury Member to immediately comply with “...noted on the Range Register by the Jury Member...” is not a technicality that would negate or annul the warning; the Jury member can “...note on the Range Register...” (i.e. confirm the warning) at a convenient time, though undue delays should not occur.

- 6.10.6.2** *Deduction of points from the score, expressed by a minimum of two (2) Jury Members, showing a green card with the word **DEDUCTION**. This must be recorded on a Range Incident Report Form, marked on the printer strip, and noted on the Range Register by a Jury Member.*

Note the comma in “...Jury Members, showing...”. I.e. only one Jury member needs to

show the green card.

The wording is:

- "...expressed by two Jury Members..." – i.e. two Jury members must 'confirm any deduction of points. This may well be difficult to arrange at the time of the incident, particularly for 25m events; there may be some delay before a second Jury member becomes available.
- This does not mean that a penalty cannot be imposed unless two Jury members are available – a second Jury Member may confirm when available. It does mean that a penalty is to be confirmed by two Jury members before the provisional scores are posted.
- "...showing a green card..." does not mean that both the confirming Jury Members must each show a green card; one is enough, and the "...showing a green card..." by a Range Officer authorized by a Jury member would suffice.

6.10.6.3 *Disqualification, expressed by the Jury showing a red card with the word **DISQUALIFICATION**. A disqualification may only be given by decision of a majority of the Jury.*

Previously "...expressed by a Jury Member...". The Jury must confer, and a majority agree before disqualification can be imposed.

6.10.6.5 *Infringements should be graded by the Jury as follows:*

This provides for 'other' circumstances, although it would be **very** unusual (brave?) for a Jury to vary any prescribed warnings and/or penalties in the rules.

6.10.6.5.1 *in the case of **open violations** of the Rules a **WARNING** must first be given so that the shooter may have the opportunity to correct the fault.*

This is in general terms – for a number of infringements the rules specify procedures, and/or points deduction, and/or disqualification – these procedures, and/or points deduction, and/or disqualification are in addition to the warning.
E.g. a shooter is out of position by being beyond the firing line.

Whenever possible, the warning should be given during the training period or sighting shots.

This can not be over-emphasised!

The range officials (Range Officers, CRO and Jury members) should monitor the shooters and their equipment during all training and practice sessions, and during Preparation Time, etc. and whenever possible bring any 'problems' to the attention of the shooter.

If the shooter does not correct the fault within the time stipulated by the Jury, two (2) points must be deducted from his score. If the shooter still does not correct the fault, disqualification must be imposed

There is no time period suggested, only '...within the time stipulated by the Jury...' The time period should be reasonable to enable the shooter to comply, however the situation is to be corrected before any further competition shot/s.

No additional time would be granted.

6.10.6.8 *If a shooter handles a gun in a **dangerous manner** or violates any safety rules, the shooter may be disqualified by the Jury.*

Note that there is no requirement for a warning before disqualification re 'handles a gun in a dangerous manner or violates any safety rules' in 6.10.6.8.

6.11.1.1 **Paper targets**

6.11.1.1.1.1 *... The shooter is responsible for shooting on the correct targets. (10 m)*

This is not (only) in relation to cross-fires: it is expected that the shooter will shoot on the targets in the numbered order.

Implied in this clause is that the shooter will check the targets to ensure that they are all there, properly numbered and in the correct order (...*shooter is responsible...*).

It can happen that (one or more) additional targets are mistakenly included in the parcel of targets for a shooter – (see notes to 6.11.7.1 & 6.11.7.2)

6.11.1.1.2 *Immediately after each series of ten shots the shooter must put the ten targets in a convenient place for the Register Keeper...*

This is to enable the Classification Office to score the targets and have progressive scores available as soon as possible (for the benefit of the shooters, spectators and media).

“...*immediately...*” is to be tempered; the shooter is allowed to examine the targets and record estimated shot values, etc., but should “...put the targets in a convenient place for collection...” before commencing the next shots.

6.11.1.1.2 *50 m Rifle and 50 m Pistol*

6.11.1.1.2.1 *If automatic target carriers or changers are used, the shooter may control target changing or target changing may be controlled by the Register Keeper. In either case, the shooter is responsible for shooting on the correct target.*

For automatic target changers

Typically, each ‘bundle’ of targets includes a few additional targets, both before and after the allocated sighting and competition targets.

To be considered:

- Often it is comparatively easy to wind the targets too far forward in the target machinery, and comparatively difficult to wind back a complete target. In this case the jury may authorize the shooter to ‘skip’ a target.
- Where a shooter is granted additional sighting shots (breakages, interruptions, etc.) the Jury authorizes the sighters to be fired on what would otherwise be a scoring target.
- Occasionally, a shooter will commence firing 10 shots per scoring target. If detected, it is usual to inform the shooter after the first target is completed (i.e. 10 shots).

“...**other changers...**” would include wind-back mechanisms with the shooter placing the appropriate target in the target carrier - the shooter is responsible...

6.11.1.2 *Electronic Scoring Targets*

6.11.1.2.1 *It is not permitted to obscure the shooter’s monitor-screen or any part of the screen. The whole screen must be visible to the Jury and range personnel.*

The shooter may position the screen so that he (the shooter) cannot see it, as long as it is readily visible to the Jury and Range Personnel.

The range staff needs to be able to see the monitor screen to verify:

- that the target is correctly set
- the target is operational (e.g. no STOP when competition shots are to be recorded)
- the shooter’s name is correct for the firing point
- etc.

6.11.2 *Rules for 10 m and 50 m Rifle and Pistol Events*

Note that these rules relate to 10m and 50m events – they can not be **directly** applied to 25m events!

6.11.2.1 *Preparation Time*

Note that this is 10/50m Preparation Time. 25m Preparation Time is covered by rules 8.6.4.1>>

6.11.2.1.1 *‘...The Chief Range Officer must permit shooters to bring their equipment to the firing point before the*

Preparation Time, providing any previous relay has finished.

Note that this is ‘...bring their equipment to the firing point...’, **not** uncase firearms. There is **NO** provision in 10m 50m Preparation Time rule for shooters to handle firearms before Preparation Time is announced.

‘...providing any previous relay has finished...’ directly relates to avoiding the melee that results if the shooters in the next relay bring their equipment to the **FoP** before the shooters from the preceding relay have cleared themselves and their equipment from the firing points.

The Chief Range Officer will announce when the previous relay has finished.

This is often misinterpreted!

- Shooters (and coaches) will ignore the next sentence in this rule.
- The Chief Range Officer decides when ‘...the previous relay has finished...’, this decision is not made by the shooters or coaches.

Pre-competition checks by the jury and range officers must be completed before the Preparation Time begins.

Refers to down-range checks (i.e. it does **not** mean that **target-line** checks of shooters’ equipment must be completed before Preparation Time commences)

Preparation Time must not commence until the Jury and range officers (and target technicians) have completed the **down-range** checks of targets, backing targets, etc.

i.e. there are no personnel downrange.

Target-line checks of shooters’ equipment should be commenced as soon as possible after the CRO has permitted shooters to bring their equipment to the firing point.

6.11.2.2 Start

6.11.2.2.1 *No shot may be fired before the start of the event.*

While this rule refers to ‘events’, at other times (e.g. training days, pre-event training, use of the Function Firing Range, etc.) the overall safety requirements of 6.2.2.7 *Guns/magazines may be loaded only on the firing point and only after the command or signal “LOAD” or “START” is given... definitely applies.*

There is no provision in these rules for shooting that is unsupervised by a Range Officer.

Specifically, this rule relates to there being no additional sighting time before an event. See 6.11.2.3.2

6.11.2.3 Sighting shots – shots before START and after STOP

6.11.2.3.1 *Sighting shots (unlimited in number) may be fired only before the beginning of each competition or position.*

Within the constraints of 6.11.2.2.1 and 6.11.2.3.2: i.e. after the command START

Once the first competition shot has been fired...

The definition of the start of the **competition** shots is “...Once the first competition shot has been fired” – for 10m events this would include a discharge of propellant gas without a pellet if the shooter has changed to a competition target – i.e.:

- For EST, the shooter fires a shot after switching from sighters to competition
- For paper targets, the shooter fires a shot after changing from sighting targets to a competition target

Note that this relates to ‘...the first competition shot...’, not to changing from sighting target to competition target – if the shooter has changed to the first competition target, but **NOT** fired a competition shot, he can change back to a sighting target and continue to fire further sighting shots.

For:

- Automatic target systems, the Jury should ensure that a process/procedure is available to cope with this
- For EST, many systems do not provide a procedure for the shooter to change back to

sighters once the firing point has been set to competition shots. Invariably, the firing point can be changed back to sighters from the printer table (and/or the control computer)

...no further sighting shots are allowed unless permitted by the Jury in accordance with these Rules.

E.g. change of firing point, delays, etc.

Any further sighting shot(s) fired in contravention of this rule must be scored as miss(es) in the competition.

I.e. if a shooter fires additional unauthorised sighting shots after the first competition shot in a relay/stage.

If the additional shot/s are in excess of the authorised number of shots a 2-points penalty would apply under 6.11.7.1.1

6.11.2.3.2 *A shot or shots which are fired before the start of the official shooting time must incur a penalty of two (2) points on the first competition target for each shot fired*

Specifically, before the command START. See note to (6.2.2.7.1) regarding "...may be disqualified..." – 6.11.2.3.2 does **NOT** automatically replace 6.2.2.7.1.

...A shot or shots, which are not fired at all, must be scored as miss(es) on the last competition target(s). The same applies to shots fired after the end of the official shooting time, unless the Chief Range Officer or a Jury Member has authorized extra time.

While this sentence remains strangely located (under 6.11.2.3», *sighting shots*):

- It obviously applies to competition shots, and
- Does **NOT** apply to unfired sighting shots.

If a late shot(s) cannot be identified, such shot(s) must be nullified by deducting the highest value shot(s) from that target.

This is unlikely to apply to EST where shots can be identified from the EST log.

6.11.4 Specific rules for the 10 m Air Gun Events

6.11.4.1.2 *If a shooter wishes to change, or to fill, his gas or air cylinder, he must leave the firing point to do so (permission must be obtained). No extra time will be allowed to compensate for time lost by a shooter who leaves the firing point to change or to fill his gas or air cylinder.*

This is so that other shooters will not be disturbed by any accidental discharge of gas, etc. By implication, a shooter who wishes to change, or to fill, his gas or air cylinder is to do so [BoH](#) at a suitable distance from the firing points (outside the range – but **NOT** in a spectator area).

6.11.4.2 *The gun may only be loaded with one (1) pellet (10 m).*

6.11.4.2.1 *If the gun is accidentally loaded with more than one (1) pellet:*

6.11.4.2.2 *if the shooter is aware of the situation, he must raise his non-shooting hand to indicate to a Range Officer that he has a problem. A Range Officer must then supervise the unloading of the gun and no penalty will be incurred. No extra time will be allowed, but the shooter may continue in the normal way;*

On most modern 10 m firearms it will be immediately obvious to the shooter that he has loaded two pellets – as the front pellet is forced into the rifling the action will have a completely different 'feel' when it is being closed.

The obvious method to unload a 10m firearm is to fire the shot **AND** discharge it **from the shooter's firing point** into the shooter's pellet trap (this avoids any potential safety problems from attempting to 'rod out' a pellet):

- For paper targets, the shooter can be authorised by the Jury to fire the shot/s at a sighting target, then go back to the competition targets for subsequent shots.
- For EST, the shooter's target can be returned to 'sighting' by the range officials to enable the shooter to fire the non-competition shot/s, and then switched to the competition setting for subsequent shots.

In both cases, full reporting should be made on a Range Incident Report and the Register

Keeper's score card (for EST a note on the shooter' printer strip).

.... if there are two (2) hits on the (paper) target – The Jury members should satisfy themselves that the shooter has not fired a 'bad' shot then remedied this by firing another shot at the same target, then claimed to have loaded two pellets.

10 m ESTs will not register two separate shots fired with one discharge of gas – only the first that strikes the target.

- 6.11.4.2.3** if the shooter is unaware of the situation at the time, as soon as he realises what has happened he must report it to a range officer, then the following procedure will apply:
- 6.11.4.2.4** if there are two (2) hits on the target, the score of the higher value shot will be counted and the second shot will be annulled.
- 6.11.4.2.5** if there is only one (1) hit on the target, this will be counted.

Again, there have been instances when using paper targets when a shooter has fired a 'bad' shot, fired a second shot at the target, then claimed he must have loaded two pellets. On EST, the timing of the shots will verify (or otherwise) the shooter's claim.

6.11.6 *Infringements and Disciplinary Rules*

- 6.11.6.1** If a shooter begins an event with an unapproved gun or equipment, he must be penalized with the deduction of two (2) points from the result of the lowest value shot of the first competition series. He must not be permitted to continue until his gun or equipment has been approved by Equipment Control.

Note this is different to not being able to produce the Equipment Control Card 6.11.6.5

The Range Officers (and range Jury) should have checked every shooter in the event/relay for Equipment Control approvals before the event/relay commenced

He may only resume firing at a time determined by the Jury. No additional sighting shots or extra time will be allowed.

'No additional sighting shots or extra time will be allowed' applies equally to 25 m events: the shooter will inevitably lose shots as he is unlikely to comply with having the pistol approved before additional series are commenced by the other shooters.

- 6.11.6.2** If a shooter **alters a gun or equipment** which has already been checked so that it no longer conforms to the rules, before or during the competition, he must be disqualified.

I.e. this is considered to be a concealed violation (6.10.6.5.2)

'... or equipment...' – now clearly include clothing, eligibility provisions, blinders, etc.

This rule has the wording "...before or during the competition..."

Some latitude should be allowed for:

- Equipment inadvertently losing adjustment (e.g. the position of a side blinder 6.4.10.3), **but** these matters should be detected before the event/relay commences.
- Shooters adjusting trigger weight in the period between the initial Equipment Control approval and the event/relay – provided the trigger weight complies for the event/relay.

This rule would be better worded as 'If a shooter uses in competition a gun or equipment which has been already been checked but altered so that it no longer conforms to the rules, he must be disqualified'.

- 6.11.6.4** If a shooter **arrives late** for a competition, he may participate but will not be credited with any extra time, except when his lateness is due to circumstances beyond his control. If it can be proved that his lateness was due to circumstances beyond his control, the Jury must whenever possible grant extra time without disruption of the overall shooting program.

For 10 and 25 m events, it may be possible to re-squad the shooter to a later relay (if there is one scheduled).

The proviso "...without disruption of the overall shooting program..." is often overlooked. Extra time will be limited by the scheduling for Finals and/or awards ceremonies.

In this case the Jury will determine when and on which firing point he may make up for the missed time (series).

A shooter can not assume that he can arrive late and occupy the firing point originally allocated – any shooter arriving late must report to the Jury before approaching the firing point.

- 6.11.6.5** *If a shooter's equipment has been passed by Equipment Control, but the shooter is unable to produce the Equipment Control Card at the start of the event, the shooter may commence, but will be penalized with a deduction of two (2) points from the lowest value shot of the first series, if he (or his coach or team official) cannot obtain confirmation that the equipment has been previously passed by the Control Section before the official end of the shooting time for that relay of that event. The responsibility rests with the shooter (or his coach or team official) to visit the Equipment Control Section for this purpose. No extra shooting time will be allowed.*

As for (6.11.6.1) this applies equally to 25 m events: the shooter will inevitably lose shots as he is unlikely to comply with having the pistol approved before additional series are commenced by the other shooters.

6.11.7 ***Irregular Shots in 10 m, 50 m and 300 m events***

6.11.7.1 *Too many shots in an event or position*

- 6.11.7.1.1** *If a shooter fires more shots in the event or position than are provided for in the program, the extra shot(s) must be annulled on the last competition target(s). If the shot(s) cannot be identified, the highest value shot(s) must be annulled on the last competition target. The shooter must also be penalized by a deduction of two (2) points for each excessive shot fired, deducted from the lowest value shot(s) in the first series. In 25 m events the rule above applies but the deduction will be made in the actual series.*

It can happen in 10m events on paper targets that (one or more) additional targets are mistakenly included in the parcel of targets for a shooter and the shooter inadvertently fires more shots.

The Jury would normally apply 6.11.1.1.1; it would be an exceptional case for the Jury to consider that the shooter was not at fault (and choose to not impose a penalty).

6.11.7.2 ***Too many shots per paper target***

- 6.11.7.2.1** *If a shooter fires more shots at one of his match targets than are provided for in the program of the event, he must not be penalized for the first two (2) shots. For the third and all succeeding such misplaced shots he must be penalized by a deduction of two (2) points for each one in the event from the series in which the occurrence happens. He must also fire a fewer number of shots at the remaining targets so that the number of shots does not exceed that provided for in the program.*

Loading and firing two pellets for 10m is covered by 6.11.4.2

It is worth noting that several National Federations have provision for 10-shots per target for 50m events when conducted without EST, automatic targets, or pit marking – this can lead to confusion for a shooter competing at an ISSF Championships.

Acceptable practice (notwithstanding 6.10.2.1 *Knowledge of the Rules*) is to inform a shooter's coach if the range personnel detect that a shooter fires more than seven shots on his first 50m competition target.

- 6.11.8.5** *If a shooter wishes to disclaim a shot on his target, he must report this immediately to a Range Officer.*

While the rule states 'a Range Officer' it normally should be the section Range Officer.

- 6.11.8.8.2** *if a missed shot is reported by another shooter or Register Keeper or other range official at approximately the same time, and from within the neighboring two or three firing points;*

Also to be considered with EST is the possibility of the time log of the target/s indicating that the shooter did not fire the shot. E.g. for 10 & 50 m shooters it is unlikely that a shooter will reload and fire a shot within a short time after his previous shot.

6.13 ***FAILURE OF ELECTRONIC SCORING TARGET SYSTEMS - 10 m AND 50 m***
For 25 m see Pistol Rules

6.13.5 **Failure of the paper or rubber band**

It will normally be impractical to correct this fault during an event.

6.13.5.1 *If Jury decides that the problem is because of the failure of the paper or rubber band to advance, the shooter will be moved to a reserve position. He will be permitted unlimited sighting shots to be taken within the time remaining for the competition plus any additional time granted.*

Detection of this fault is not always immediate:

- 10 m – CRO, Jury and Assistant Range Officers should regularly check throughout the event/relay that each 10 m target is feeding the paper correctly. Even on the rifle setting the paper below the target visibly moves after each shot.
- 50 m – detection of the required movement of the rubber band on 25m and 50m targets is not so easily accomplished (the movements are comparatively small); however, a routine check during precision stages/events that the centre target is not being 'shot out' can be conducted with comparatively low-magnification spotting telescopes.

In determining the amount of extra time (for that lost due to failure of the paper strip or rubber band) the Jury should consider that there will usually be some time between the failure of the target and the time this is reported and noted by a range official.

This is particularly important if the failure is due to the rubber band or 10m paper strip jamming: this usually does not become apparent until a number of shots have been fired after the jam occurs.

Part of the pre-event checks must include:

- the amount of paper roll in each target is sufficient for the following event
 - the amount of rubber roll in 25 m and 50 m targets is sufficient for the following event
 - the amount of paper roll in 10m targets is sufficient for the following event
- for 10m events, that the paper strip is central in the exit at the bottom of the target.
- the amount of printer roll in each printer is sufficient for the following event

Then he will repeat the number of competition shots determined by the Jury. The shooter will be credited with the score of all the shots which were correctly displayed on the monitor of the first target plus the score of all the necessary competition shots fired on the second target to complete the course of fire. After the relay the Classification Jury will decide which shots are to be counted from each target.

'...the number of competition shots determined by the Jury' determining the number of shots can be an interesting exercise.

for 10m events, with a little practice it is often possible to closely estimate the number of shots fired before the failure to feed by counting the number of competition shots on the paper roll below the EST and adding the estimated number of shots still behind the target face.

Unfortunately, for 50m events, the only method of estimating the number of shots before the failure to feed is by recovering the rubber strip, control sheet and backing target; this will normally require the range stopping shooting while personnel are forward of the firing line.

6.14 TIE-BREAKING

6.14.1 **Individual Ties**

Note that shoot-offs now apply to **ALL** events with Finals to decide ties **for the last ranking to go into Finals.**

6.14.2 *Ties for the 300 m, 50 m, 10 m and 25 m events (if there is not a Shoot-off) will be decided by the following Count Back Rules:*

6.14.2.1 *the highest number of inner tens;*

Although for paper targets this will involve some extra work for the scoring personnel, the first step in count-back is now more related to the shooting skills of the competitors.

6.14.2.2 *the highest score of the last ten shot series working backward by 10 shot series in full ring scoring (not*

inner tens or decimals) until the tie is broken;

- 6.14.2.4** if any ties remain, the shooters must have the same ranking and must be listed in Latin alphabetical order using the shooter's family name.

'...the shooter's family name...' as per the shooter's ISSF ID

6.14.6 For Olympic Events (with Finals)

If there is a tie to be eligible for the Finals from the Qualification Round, the tie will be broken by a **Shoot-off and the rules for individual ties will not apply for those shooters.**

- 6.14.6.1** The Shoot-off must begin as soon as possible and practicable after the Protest Time has expired. If the Shoot-off is not held at a prearranged time that has been formally announced, the shooters involved must remain in contact with the Chief Range Officer pending an announcement as to time and place.

i.e. it is the shooter's (and Team Manager's) responsibility to report to the range in time.
See 6.14.6.3

- 6.14.6.3** If a shooter fails to appear for a Shoot-off, he will be ranked last in this Shoot-off. If two or more Shoot-off shooters fail to appear they will be ranked corresponding to the rule for individual ties.

i.e. 6.14.2>>, starting with 6.14.2.1

During the Shoot-off, malfunctions and other irregularities must be treated according to the ISSF Rules, but only one (1) malfunction is allowed during the breaking of the tie and any re-shoot or completion will take place immediately.

It is unfortunate that this is part of 6.14.6.3: it deserves its own rule number.

As with Finals, any malfunctions, etc. should be resolved at the completion of the normal series in which they occur.

Although the wording is '*...only one (1) malfunction is allowed...*', it means 'only one (1) re-shoot or completion for an allowable malfunction is allowed'

There is only one re-shoot or completion for an allowable malfunction for the regular shoot-off series (not including the sighting series) together with any further continuation series/shots if the tie is not resolved by the regular shoot-off series.

6.14.7 Team Ties

- 6.14.7.1** Ties in team events must be decided by totaling the results of all members of a team and following the procedures for breaking individual ties. (No Shoot-offs for teams.)

i.e. if any team totals are tied, the first step will be the teams total number of inner-10s etc.

6.15 PROTESTS AND APPEALS

For pistol, this was part of 2005/8.13

6.15.3 Written Protests

- 6.15.3.1** Any shooter or team official who does not agree with the action or decision taken on a verbal protest may protest in writing to the Jury. Any shooter or team official also has the right to submit a written protest without making a verbal protest. All written protests must be submitted not later than 30 minutes after the matter in question and the protest fee becomes payable.

It is important that range Juries remain available until the completion of BOTH protest times (6.15.3.1 **AND** 6.15.4.1.1).

Jury members can not assume that there will not be:

- any protest/s submitted in the 30 minutes after the last shot is fired, or
 - a scoring protest that will require them to assist the Classification Jury
-

6.15.4 Scoring Protests

- 6.15.4.1** Protest Time

- 6.15.4.1.1** All results protests must be submitted within **10 minutes** after the preliminary scores are posted on the

Main Scoreboard. The time when the scoring Protest Time ends must be shown on the Main Scoreboard, immediately after the posting has been completed. The location, to which any score protest must be made, must be published on the official program.

Note that this has changed from 20 minutes.

This refers to posting of the Preliminary Scores on the **Main Notice Board** – it does not relate to ‘...*The Classification Office must publish Preliminary scores on a Range Scoreboard...*’ in (6.8.1).

It is worth noting that while 6.15.4.1 relates to scoring protests, with computer results services attached to EST targetry it is more than possible that the 30 minute protest time limit for range protests might not have expired (6.15.3.1).

6.15.4.2 Electronic scoring targets

6.15.4.2.1 *If a shooter contests the value of a shot, a protest will only be accepted when made before the next shot / series in 25 m events (except for failure of the paper or rubber band to advance) or if it is the last shot, within three (3) minutes.*

In the case of the 25m events, the ‘...next shot...’ might well be the first shot of the next series; it would be unreasonable to expect a shooter to be aware of a problem during a rapid fire stage.

‘...*failure of the paper band or rubber band to advance...*’ is not usually immediately obvious, and there may be many shots fired at the target before the condition is detected. The procedure and remedy for this occurrence is set out in 6.13.5.1, with the Jury to determine the number of shots to be annulled, etc.

6.15.4.2.3 *If the protest concerning a shot value other than zero, or failure to register, is not upheld, a two (2) point penalty will be awarded and the protest fee must be paid.*

While this rule clarifies the situation regarding the payment of the scoring protest fee, I am not sure about the meaning of ‘...*a shot value other than zero...*’. If a shooter protests a ‘zero’ and this is not upheld perhaps the lack of any score for the shot is considered sufficient ‘penalty’?

6.15.4.2.4 *The team official or shooter has the right to know the resolution of the disputed shot.*

Note that this is ‘...*know the resolution of the disputed shot...*’, it is not **be involved** in the resolution of the shot.

6.15.4.3 Paper targets

6.15.4.3.1 *When using paper targets.... The protest fee becomes payable.*

I.e. **any** protest that a shot was scored or recorded incorrectly is subject to a protest fee if the protest is not upheld – this includes on-range scoring of 25m pistol events.

6.15.4.3.2 *When paper targets are used and scored in the Classification Office, the team official or shooter has the right to see the protested shot hole(s) but is not permitted to touch the target(s).*

This applies to all 10m and 50m scoring of paper targets.

Note:

- When the targets are scored using a ring-scoring machine, protested values can **not** be resolved by using a plug gauge (unless every target for every shooter is to be re-scored manually). The accepted method for re-scoring a target scored using a ring-scoring machine is to re-score the target two more times (for a total of three readings), with the target rotated through 90° each ‘pass’ to give three passes each different by 90° - the score is then the majority reading.
- The shooter and/or team official should not be allowed into the main target scoring area; if available use an adjacent private area.
- It is important that ‘...*not permitted to touch the target(s)...*’ is enforced

6.16 FINALS IN OLYMPIC EVENTS

Note that the rules for Finals have been aggregated in section 6.16. Pistol and Rifle Finals have been relocated from the discipline-specific rules to the General Technical Rules.

6.16.2 Reporting to the Range for Finals

6.16.2.1 *Team Leaders are responsible for presenting their shooters to the Preparation Area, and report to the Jury at least twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled starting time, complete with all their shooting equipment needed for the Finals event.*

The Preparation Area should be fully screened from the spectators.

Note 6.16.2.3 in relation to late reporting.

They must be dressed...

This is to enable the Jury to check for compliance with the event and eligibility rules.

... and have only the required shooting equipment.

It is reasonable that the shooter will have some additional items:

- 'required shooting equipment' includes the normal items that a shooter would have at the firing point.
- It does not include an excessive amount of additional items. Most Preparation Areas have limited space. Items such as firearms cases should remain in the Preparation Area and not be taken on to the Finals Range.

Jury Members and Range Officers should complete their checks and trigger weighing were (sic) appropriate in the Preparation Area.

These checks include the shooters' firearms and clothing for compliance with the event **and eligibility rules.**

6.16.2.3 *Two (2) points penalty from the first Final shot will be awarded if the shooter has not reported to the Preparation Area in time.*

I.e. 20 minutes before the scheduled start time (6.16.2.1).

It important that some official time be recorded in the Reporting Area.

6.16.4.3 *Number of Targets: Ten (10)*

6.16.4.3.1 *One spare target must be available on the left and right of the eight (8) Finals targets and must show a competition target.*

These targets are numbered:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	00
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

6.16.6.4 *Malfunctions 10 m, 25 m, 50 m Events*

Note 6.16>> relates to **Finals** and should not be confused with the specific rules for Qualification Rounds.

6.16.7 ***Protests in Finals***

6.16.7.1 *Any protests must be immediate and made by the shooter or his coach by holding up his hand.*

This includes '*...or his coach...*' which poses some problems.

While seated coaches have been allowed at the rear of the Field of Play for Olympic Games Finals, this is not 'normal' practice at all ISSF Supervised competitions (see 6.10.5.3); coaches are normally located in the spectator area which would make it very difficult for the range officials to notice a raised hand.

6.16.7.2 *Any protest will be decided immediately.*

I.e. the Final does not proceed until the Protest is resolved.

Important here is '...immediately...'. This is not the time to cause any unnecessary delays (the stars here are the shooters, not the Jury!)

6.16.7.3 *The decision of the Jury is final, and the protest fee may become payable.*

Sensibly recognises that in the context of a Final the protest is accepted without demanding a protest fee before the protest is considered by the Jury: however, if the protest is denied the protest fee would become due.

7 Rifle Technical Rules

8 Pistol Technical Rules

8.1 General

8.1.1 *These Rules are part of the Technical Rules...*

This means that the Pistol rules do not stand in isolation. They are part of the overall rules for shooting, both:

- part of General Technical Rules (6>>), and
- governed by the overall ISSF Constitution, General Rules, etc.

This is important, as it is all too easy for officials and administrators with a background in one or two disciplines of ISSF competition to ignore the other disciplines. At a World Cup, matters such as training, transport, competition and awards ceremonies, etc. need to be integrated across the disciplines.

8.1.2 *All shooters, team leaders and officials must be familiar with the ISSF Rules and must ensure that these Rules are enforced. It is the responsibility of each shooter to comply with the Rules*

While '*familiar*' does not mean a deep and all-encompassing knowledge of the ISSF Rules and Regulations, a shooter will not be excused for an infringement on the basis of being unaware of the rule or regulation.

While the team leader also has responsibilities, the ultimate responsibility for a shooter's action/s rests with the shooter.

8.2 Safety

The safety rules have been relocated to Section 6.2>>

8.3 RANGE AND TARGET STANDARDS

Target and range standards may be found in the Technical Rules Section 6.

Note 6.3.17

8.4 Equipment & Ammunition

Note that the previous (2005) '*8.4.1.1.1. The shooter must use the same pistol in all stages and series of an event unless it ceases to function. (See Malfunction Rules 8.8.0)*' has been removed from the 2009 1st printing.

8.4.1.1.1 *Neither the grip nor any part of the pistol may be extended or constructed in any way that would allow it to touch beyond the hand.*

The proof of this is in the subsequent sentence in the rule, **NOT** that any part of the grip or pistol extends beyond the hand.

The wrist must remain visibly free when the pistol is held in the normal firing position.

"...touch..." in the **NORMAL FIRING POSITION** for that shooter. Note that even if a given pistol is correct for one shooter, it may not be correct for another.

This is best checked at Equipment Control, though Range Officers and Jury members should ensure that the shooters comply at the firing point.

Bracelets, wristwatches, wristbands, or similar items are prohibited on the hand, and arm, which holds the pistol."

Range officials do not carry out 'strip searches' to check for this, but should bring any suspicions to the attention of the Jury.

8.4.1.5 *Case catchers are allowed providing the pistol complies with all the Rules (dimensions and weights) when*

fitted. This must be marked on the Control Card by Equipment Control Section.

The check that "...the pistol complies..." is carried out with the case catcher empty; it is acceptable that flexible case catchers with empty cases may cause the pistol exceed the overall dimensions allowed.

8.4.1.6.2 *(Measuring the Weight of the Trigger Pull) The weight of the trigger pull must be measured, with the test weight suspended near the middle of the trigger (see illustrations)...*

Determining where the trigger weight is to be suspended along the trigger can be one of the most contentious matters arising at pistol events.

There have been some ludicrous examples of the location of grooves in the trigger to locate the trigger test weight that have no realistic relationship to where the shooter locates his trigger finger when firing a shot. At best these examples could be considered carelessness – at worst a concealed violation (6.10.6.5.2).

1. The **INTENT (!!)** is that the trigger pull is measured where the shooter applies the pressure to fire the pistol. **If the trigger pull cannot be measured at this place on the trigger, the pistol cannot be approved!**
2. It is not the role of the shooter, manufacturer, or the pistolsmith for any modifications to the trigger to determine where the trigger weight is to be suspended along the trigger if this differs from where the shooter applies the pressure to fire the pistol.
3. It **IS** the role of the Equipment Control officials and the Equipment Control Jury to determine where the trigger weight is to be suspended along the trigger.
4. The illustrations in 8.4.1.6 are descriptive, not prescriptive and are meant to illustrate that the trigger weight is measured where the shooter applies the pressure to fire the pistol.

Note that the artificial 'half way' between the pistol body and the trigger 'length' in the 2001 rules has long been removed.

...and the barrel held vertically...

This can make a big difference!

...The weight must be placed on a horizontal surface and lifted...

Additionally, the horizontal surface should be dry.

Note the new illustration in 8.4.1.6.2. The illustration in previous rules was indicative that the pistol supports the weight when visibly clear of the horizontal surface; the pistol is raised to lift the weight, not the weight lowered on to the trigger.

...The tests must be conducted by Equipment Control officials.

The tests must be conducted by Equipment Control officials – not the competitor, team official, etc. This includes random checks (8.4.1.6.4)

...The minimum weight of the trigger pull must be maintained throughout the competition...

Trigger weight is checked during the initial Equipment Control and random checks (8.4.1.6.4), unless "(6.4.8)... there are any doubts regarding an alteration, the equipment must be returned to Equipment Control for re-inspection and approval."

...A maximum of three (3) attempts to lift the weight is allowed

In a random trigger weight check (8.4.1.6.4) or a check under 6.4.8 **AFTER** the shooter has fired a competition shot, failure to lift the trigger weight after three attempts will lead to disqualification – the shooter is NOT allowed to adjust the trigger so that it passes.

If it does not pass it may only be resubmitted after adjustment."

'Resubmitted after adjustment' **ONLY** refers to the Equipment Control approval **BEFORE** the event. At the initial check, if the pistol does not lift the trigger weight after three

attempts it should be given back to the shooter for adjustment – after 3 attempts the shooter is not to hold up others waiting for Equipment Control.

When testing air or gas actuated pistols, the propellant charge should be activated.

I.e.:

- Trigger checks are conducted with the gun in 'firing' mode – not in dry-fire mode.
- air guns to be charged at least partially, to enable the discharge of a propellant charge.

8.4.1.6.4 *Random Trigger Weight control checks must be conducted immediately after the last series in all qualification rounds of 10 m and 25 m events. At least one shooter should be selected from each Range Section (or eight firing positions for Air Pistol) by drawing of numbered lots by the Range Jury. Equipment Control Officers must then conduct the tests before pistols are returned to their cases. A maximum of three (3) attempts to lift the weight is allowed. Any shooter whose pistol fails this test or when a shooter is selected fails to undertake the test, he must be disqualified.*

...at least one – previously (2001) 'one'.

...Equipment Control Officers – this ensures that the pistol will be checked by the same qualified personnel as at the original approval.

8.4.4 Ammunition

All projectiles used must be made of lead or similar soft material only.

Apart from any consideration relating to safety, projectiles for ISSF pistol events are required to be made of lead or similar soft material to prevent damage to the target equipment.

Minor additions of alloy materials are acceptable provided the projectiles remain 'soft'.

...High power and Magnum ammunition are not allowed.

This relates to Center Fire ammunition only and is to:

- Reduce damage to the targetry,
- Simplify range construction and
- Reduce discomfort from excessive noise to other shooters and range officials.

While 'high power and magnum' are not defined, for ISSF Center Fire Pistol .32 ammunition is typically <150 Joules and .38 ammunition is typically <280 Joules.

For reference, factory loads for .22LR ≈ 140 Joules, .32 H&R Magnum is ≈ 320 Joules and for .357 Magnum ≈ 1000 Joules

...Jacketed projectiles are not permitted.

This does not preclude the gilding of projectiles. The test used in Pistol Australia competitions is that the gilding is easily removed by scraping with a knife blade.

...10m Air Pistol: 4.5mm (.177")

The 4.5 mm is 'nominal'. 4.5mm pellets are available in a range of diameters, typically 4.45 to 4.52 mm to suit individual pistols.

...The Jury may take samples from the shooter's ammunition for checking.

This is not only for the testing of ammunition used in Rapid Fire Pistol. Samples may be taken if the Jury suspects that the ammunition does not comply with any of the requirements.

For the Rapid Fire Pistol Event: minimum bullet weight 2.53g = 39gr; minimum velocity 250 m/sec.

For testing procedures for Rapid Fire Pistol, see below.

From the ISSF

PROCEDURE FOR TESTING MINIMUM VELOCITY & BULLET WEIGHT

Note by ISSF Technical Committee

In accordance with the new 2005 Rules for 25 m Rapid Fire Pistol Men (8.4.4), the Jury may take samples from the shooter's ammunition for checking. The minimum bullet weight is 2.53 g = 39 gr; the minimum velocity allowed is 250 m/sec.

***For the World Cups 2005**, the Jury will take samples as follows, and the Organising Committee must provide Testing Officers, to conduct tests according to the following procedure. One to two shooters per relay in each 30 shot stage will be selected by the drawing of lots by the Jury. Immediately after the command "UNLOAD", after the last series has been fired in a 30 shot stage, the Jury must arrange for 5 cartridges to be taken from each of the selected shooter(s).*

These 5 cartridges must be put in an envelope, and sealed in the presence of the shooter. Then the selected shooter(s) must go with their pistol to the designated testing area.

One cartridge will be taken apart and the bullet weighed. If this fails, a second attempt will be made. If this fails the shooter must be disqualified.

The Minimum Velocity Test will be made using the shooter's own pistol from the competition with a calibrated velocity measurement device – to be provided by the Organising Committee.

The Testing Officer will fire one shot. If the requirement of the Minimum Velocity of 250 m/sec is fulfilled the shooter will have passed the test. If not, a second or a third attempt will be made. If the third attempt fails, the shooter must be disqualified. Unfired cartridges must be returned to the shooter. Care must be taken with the unfired case from which the bullet has been removed.

There is no description of "...calibrated velocity measurement device...". No doubt this will be subject to clarification.

...For safety reasons high power type 'Magnum' ammunition is not allowed."

8.5.1 Spotting Telescopes

The use of telescopes not attached to the pistol to locate shots or judge the wind is permitted for 25 m and 50 m events only.

I.e. spotting telescopes are not permitted at the firing points for 10m events (this exclusion does not extend to the spectator area).

8.6.0 Shooting Event Procedures & Competition Rules

8.6.1.1 *The shooter must stand free, without support, with both feet and/or shoes completely within the firing point.*

'...with both feet and/or shoes...' The range officials cannot determine where the 'feet' (could be implied in the previous wording) are positioned, normally only the shoes are visible.

The pistol must be held and fired with one hand only.

This rule dates back to an instance when a shooter held the pistol in one hand and fired the pistol with the other (via a Bowden cable). No doubt this technique would be updated to use wiring or a remote control – this would be in breach of 8.6.1.1.

The wrist must be visibly free of support.

Refer notes to 8.4.1.1.1

8.6.1.2 *In the 25 m Rapid Fire Pistol Event, the 25 m Pistol and 25 m Center Fire Pistol Rapid Fire Stages and the*

25 m Standard Pistol 20 seconds and 10 seconds series, shooting must start from the **READY** position. In the **READY** position, the shooter's arm must point downward at an angle of not greater than 45 degrees from the vertical...

Some range officials and Jury members will go to extraordinary lengths to establish a 'precise' 45°.

...but must not be pointed at the ground within the forward edge of the firing point.

Safety!

The arm must not be visibly moving in this position while waiting either for the appearance of the target or, when electronic scoring targets are used, for the green light(s) to come on.

Previously '...The arm must remain stationary in this position'.

With either wording, the intent is that the shooter does not begin to raise the pistol before the appearance of the targets / green light.

8.6.4.1 Preparation Time 25 m Events

Note that there are differences between the wording for this and 10/50m Preparation Time 6.11.2.1

8.6.4.1.1 Shooters should report at their Range Section, but wait to be called forward to the firing points.

'...but wait to be called forward to the firing points ...' is important here.

The shooters must not assume that the range is available and that they may start to set up their equipment.

It is not the responsibility of the range officials to find missing shooters.

Time permitting, before the commencement of the Preparation Time, the shooters will be called to the firing points where they may set up their equipment and handle their pistols providing any preceding relay has finished.

Given that the Range Jury and others have target line checks to perform before a competition session or relay can begin, the safety and operational aspects can not be overly stressed.

"*providing any preceding relay has finished*" is (extremely) unfortunate wording!

Despite the wording shooters can not automatically go to the firing points, set up their equipment and handle their pistols – **SAFETY TAKES PRECEDENCE!**

I believe that the **prime** intent of the wording '*may set up their equipment and handle their pistols providing any preceding relay has finished*' is to prevent shooters for a following event/relay from moving themselves and equipment to the firing point before the preceding relay/event has been completed and:

- the shooters in that preceding relay have had their firearms checked for casing, and removed themselves and their equipment from the firing points, **AND**
- the needed downrange procedures (backing targets, control cards for EST, marking of shots outside the target areas, etc.) are completed..

Instead, the wording sometimes is **mistakenly, improperly and unsafely** used by shooters to set up and handle (i.e. uncase) firearms once 'STOP' has been called for the preceding relay.

There are many more considerations before shooters should be permitted to uncase firearms at the firing points!

- While the preceding relay may have finished, there are a number of down-range procedures to be conducted before the next relay/event. This will require personnel to be downrange and firearms must not be handled (6.2.2.6)
- A shooter is not the person to decide that the range is fully prepared for the next relay/event – this is the responsibility of the Chief Range Officer.

Unfortunately:

- the wording ‘...The Chief Range Officer will announce when the previous relay has finished...’ in 6.11.2.1.1 for 10m and 50m has not been included in this 25m rule, and
- the reference to ‘...Handling of pistols is not permitted when operating personnel are forward of the firing line...’ has been omitted (now 6.2.2.6)”. **It is still equally in force!** With, or without the inclusion of this additional wording, these pre-requisites must be observed!

Pre-competition checks by the Jury and Range Officers must be completed before the Preparation Time starts.

Previously ‘...should be completed...’ is now ‘must be completed’. The Preparation time can not start until all necessary preparation and checks on the targets are completed by the technical, range staff and Jury members, **even if this delays the beginning of Preparation Time.**

- 8.6.4.1.2** *Then they will be given the command **PREPARATION BEGINS NOW**. During the Preparation Time the targets must be visible, facing the shooters. During the Preparation Period the shooters may dry fire and carry out holding and aiming exercises on the firing line.”*

i.e. after the command ‘PREPARATION BEGINS NOW’ shooters may uncase firearms.

8.6.4.2.3 **LOAD**

*In all 25 m events, **only one (1) magazine or** pistol may be loaded with not more than five (5) cartridges on the command “LOAD”. Nothing else is allowed to be inserted into the magazine or cylinder.*

Note the additional wording ‘*only one (1) magazine or pistol*’.

‘Nothing else is allowed to be inserted into the magazine or cylinder’ applies after the command LOAD, and this means **NOTHING!**

- 8.6.4.2.3.1** *If a shooter loads his pistol with more than a total of five (5) cartridges **or he loads more than one (1) magazine** on any command “LOAD” he must be penalized by the deduction of two (2) points, for each additional cartridge, from his competition score in that same series.*

Note the additional wording ‘...*he loads more than one (1) magazine...*’.

The wording of the clause has some problems, but, this 2-points penalty is **per additional** cartridge, e.g.:

- if a shooter loads a magazine with 6 rounds = 1 x 2-points penalty = 2 points
- if a shooter loads a magazine with 7 rounds = 2 x 2-points penalty = 4 points
- if a shooter loads two magazine, each with 5 rounds = 5 x 2-points penalty = 10 points

For malfunctions where the shooter ‘completes’, if the shooter loads more cartridges than needed to ‘complete’, any 2-points penalty **per additional** cartridge loaded in the completion re-shoot is not supported by the rules **unless he loads in excess of five cartridges in the magazine/s**: and then only to the excess of five cartridges.

An automatic 2-points penalty does not apply if a shooter loads more than one magazine – the penalty only applies to the excess number of rounds loaded **in the two magazines**.

For loading more than one magazine, for the first occurrence only a warning can be supported by the rules for a first occurrence (6.10.6.5) unless 6.10.6.5.2 applies.

8.6.4.2.4 **UNLOAD**

In all events, after the series or stage has been completed, the command “UNLOAD” must be given. In any case, immediately upon completing a series (unless there is a malfunction of the pistol), or when ordered, the shooter must unload the pistol.

Note that while the command ‘STOP’ normally only applies to 10m and 50m events, and in the normal context of 10m and 50m events indicates the completion of a stage or event time.

However, ‘STOP’ means that the shooter must be cease shooting **immediately**.

The command 'STOP' will normally only be used for 25m events if there is a safety or equipment problem – the wording of '6.2.2.7.3 *When the command or signal to “STOP” is given, shooting must stop immediately*’ **is unambiguous**, and applies to all ISSF events.

For 25m events the turning away of the targets/red light signifies the end of the series: the command 'UNLOAD' follows the end of the series:

- the command 'UNLOAD' comes immediately after the series completion.
- late shots (after the end of the series, but before the command 'UNLOAD') are treated as per 6.9.1.1.
- any shot after the command 'UNLOAD' comes under 6.2.2.7.1.

Unless the shooter is claiming a malfunction, the requirements of 6.2.2.7.3 **must be met**. I.e. '*...shooters must unload their guns and magazines, and make them safe*':

- further, while 6.2.2.7.5 (2009, 1st Printing) does not cover 'UNLOAD', 6.2.2.6 '*...Handling of guns is not permitted when operating personnel are forward of the firing line...*' **definitely does apply!**
- It is **more than reasonable** for Organizers to require under 6.2.1 "*...so additional safety rules may be established by the Organizing Committee.*" And require as per the wording 2005/8.2.6 '*...When the command “UNLOAD” is given all shooters must unload their pistols, and make them safe, empty magazines if any, and place them on the shooting bench (to unload air pistols ask a Range Officer for permission).*'

8.6.4.3.4 *...(Rapid Fire Pistol) the shooters must prepare themselves immediately for their series within one (1) minute.*

Here, universally '*...one minute...*' means 60 seconds.

While Shooters, Range Officers and Jury members will normally expect 60 seconds, any protest to a Jury of Appeal reviewing a protest in relation to the rule might view this rule differently.

8.6.4.3.4 relates to '*...one minute...*', not to 60 seconds: as such, under international standards organisations '*...one minute...*' is more than ½ minute and less than 1½ minutes.

8.6.6 *Irregular shots*

8.6.6.1 *25 m Events and Stages*

8.6.6.1.1 *Too many shots fired*

8.6.6.1.1.1 *If a shooter fires more competition shots on a target than the program calls for, or more than one shot at one appearance of the target in a Rapid Fire Pistol Series, the highest value hit(s) must be disregarded from the score of that target. Two (2) points must also be deducted from the score of that series for each extra shot fired in the series. This penalty is in addition to the penalty of two (2) points that may be imposed when a shooter loads more than five (5) cartridges.*

This rule has not been revised to acknowledge the technology of EST. In a situation where a shooter fires '*more than one shot at one appearance of the target in a Rapid Fire Pistol Series*', however while the 'illegal' shot can be identified to do other than disregard the highest value hit/s would be in breach of the rule.

Note that this rule is different to 8.7.4.3.1.7 "the pistol fires automatically without the trigger being released." In 8.6.6.1.1.1 the shooter fires too many shots: in 8.7.4.3.1.7 the pistol 'maxims'.

8.6.6.1.1.2 *Two (2) points must be deducted on every occasion if two shots are fired during a single exposure of the target in the Rapid Fire stages of the 25 m Pistol and the 25 m Center Fire Pistol Events.*

Again;

This rule has not been revised to acknowledge the technology of EST. In a situation where a shooter fires '*more than one shot at one appearance of the target in a Rapid Fire Pistol Series*', however while the 'illegal' shot can be identified to do other than disregard the highest value hit/s would be in breach of the rule.

Note that this rule is different to 8.7.4.3.1.7 "the pistol fires automatically without the trigger

being released.”. In 8.6.6.1.1.1 the shooter fires too many shots: in 8.7.4.3.1.7 the pistol ‘maxims’.

- 8.6.6.1.1.3** *If a shooter fires more **sighting shots** than are provided for in the program, or are approved by the Range Officer or Jury, he must be penalized by the deduction of two (2) points from the first series of his competition score for each excessive sighting shot fired.*

8.6.4.2.3.1 could apply.

- 8.6.6.2.2** *In a Precision Stage, if a shot(s) is fired after the command or signal “STOP”, that shot must be counted as a miss. If the shot(s) cannot be identified the highest value hit(s) must be deducted from the score of that target and scored as miss(es).*

While this relates to the scoring procedure, see also note to 6.2.2.7.1 penalties for shot after STOP or after the command UNLOAD – a shooter may be disqualified.

Note that all the ISSF RO guides for pistol ([link to ISSF manual, pistol>>](#)) include the command UNLOAD at the completion of a series. A shot within a few seconds of the command STOP could be dealt with by issuing a warning: a shot deliberately fired, either some time after the command STOP or after the command UNLOAD deserves to be dealt with more severely.

- 8.6.6.3.1** *If, because of an incorrect command and/or action by a Range Officer, the shooter is not ready to fire when the signal to fire is given, he must hold his pistol pointing down range and raise his free hand, and immediately after the series report this to a Range Officer or Jury Member.*

While the requirement in this rule is that the shooter ‘hold his pistol pointing down range and raise his free hand’, if a shooter unloads the pistol and places it on the bench he is in effect lodging a protest (6.15.2) and (8.6.7).

8.6.6.4 **Cross-fires**

Cross-fires in 25 m events are now covered by 6.11.8>>

8.6.8 **Timing**

If a shooter considers that the time elapsed between the command specified in the Rules and the green light coming on or the facing of the targets was too fast or too slow, and therefore not according to the time specified in the Rules, he must hold his pistol pointing down range and immediately inform a Range Officer or Jury Member by raising his free hand. He must not disturb other shooters.

While the requirement in this rule is that the shooter ‘hold his pistol pointing down range and raise his free hand’, if a shooter unloads the pistol and places it on the bench he can still lodge a protest (6.15.2).

8.7.4 **25 m Pistol Events Malfunctions**

For 10 m and 50 m malfunctions, refer to 6.12

- 8.7.4.1** *If a shot has not been fired due to a malfunction, and if the shooter wishes to claim a malfunction, he must hold his pistol pointing down range, retain his grip, and immediately inform a Range Officer by raising his free hand. He must not disturb other shooters.*

The requirement to ‘hold his pistol pointing down range, retain his grip, and immediately inform a Range Officer by raising his free hand’ is important in relation to 8.7.4.1.1 and 8.7.4.3.2.1:

- For ‘down range’, it is reasonable and acceptable for a shooter to lower the pistol provided he complies with ‘not be pointed at the ground within the forward edge of the firing point (8.6.1.2).
- ‘...retain his grip’ means just that! See note to 8.7.4.3.2.1
- ‘...immediately inform a Range Officer by raising his free hand’ – ‘...immediately’ must be interpreted with some common sense;
 - it may take the shooter several seconds to realise what has happened,

- it may take the shooter some more time to 'react'
- the Range Officer might be engaged in some rightful activity other than observing the particular shooter.

8.7.4.1.1 *A shooter may try to correct a malfunction and continue the series, but after attempting any correction, he may not claim an ALLOWABLE MALFUNCTION unless the firing pin has broken, or any other part of the pistol is damaged sufficiently to prevent the pistol from functioning.*

I.e. 8.7.4.3.2.1 applies.

8.7.4.3.2.1 *the shooter has touched the breech, mechanism or safety catch or the pistol has been touched by another person before being inspected by the Range Officer; '...or the pistol has been touched by another person'.*

It is the Range Officer's role to conduct the examination of the pistol (8.7.4.4), and the Jury Member's role to observe – **it is NOT any Jury Member's role to handle the pistol** to conduct any examination, and doing so technically this would make the malfunction non-allowable.

8.7.4.2 *If a Malfunction (allowable or non-allowable) occurs in the sighting series it must not be registered as a malfunction. If an Allowable Malfunction occurs the shooter may complete the sighting series by shooting the unfired shots in the specified time for the sighting series for that event; fired immediately. In precision stages the unfired shots may be fired immediately, in a maximum of two (2) minutes. **If a Non-Allowable Malfunction occurs in the sighting series no further sighting shots may be fired.***

In the 2005 rules there was no distinction in a sighting series (i.e. the shooter was allowed to complete after an allowable or non-allowable malfunction and there was no need for the Range Officer to examine the pistol).

With the additional wording in the 2009 rules, the Range Officer must inspect the pistol and decide if the malfunction was allowable or non-allowable.

8.7.4.1.1 applies.

8.7.4.3.1.7 *the pistol fires automatically without the trigger being released. The shooter must stop firing immediately and must not continue to use such a pistol without the permission of a Range Officer or a Jury Member. When using EST the first shot will be scored by the system and this will be credited to the shooter. When using paper targets should the automatically fired shot(s) hit the target, the hit(s) found highest up on the target shall be disregarded before the repeat series. After any repeat series all the shot(s), except those that were disregarded on the one target concerned, must be included to establish the score;*

'The shooter must stop firing immediately and must not continue to use such a pistol without the permission of a Range Officer or a Jury Member' acknowledges that there might be a safety issue. Semi-automatic pistols encountered in an ISSF 25 m event have a maximum of five shots loaded and most (not all) a (comparatively) slow cycle rate and/or low recoil – as such, 'maxims' will normally not be a safety problem: a shooter using a 9mm or .38Super semi-automatic pistol (technically allowable for the Center Fire event) could pose a real safety problem is the pistol maxims.

Maxims are typically intermittent occurrences – an on-range inspection of the pistol usually will not reveal the cause.

This situation differs from 8.6.6.1.1

8.7.4.5.1 *In the case of a NON-ALLOWABLE MALFUNCTION every shot that is not fired will be scored as a miss (zero). No re-fire or completion is permitted. Only the values of shots fired will be credited to the shooter. The shooter may continue to shoot the remainder of the event.*

Simply, no re-shoots for a non-allowable malfunction.

8.7.4.5.2.1 *25 m Rapid Fire Pistol, 25 m Standard Pistol*

8.7.4.5.2.1.2 *The shooter must fire all five (5) shots at the target(s) in any repeat series. Any shot(s) not fired or not hitting the target in the re-fire must be scored as zero(s). Should a second malfunction occur, then the shooter may not re-fire again (but unfired shots must **NOT** be scored as zero(s)). The shooter may continue*

to shoot the remainder of the event.

'but unfired shots must **NOT** be scored as zero(s)
E.g. for a **non-allowable** malfunction in a re-shoot series

For Rapid Fire Pistol

Original		A/M	10	9	10	
Re-shoot				NAM	9	
	0	0	10	9	9	28

For Standard Pistol

Original	10	10	9	9	AM	
Re-shoot	9	NAM				
	10	9	9	9	0	37

8.7.4.5.2.1.6 If the shooter is unable to complete a full series in the one (1) permitted re-shoot, he must be credited only with as many of the lowest value hit(s) as the highest number of shots he has fired in the series or in the repeat series.

For Rapid Fire Pistol

Original		A/M	10	9	10	
Re-shoot				NAM	9	
	0	0	0	9	9	28

For Standard Pistol

Original	10	10	9	9	AM	
Re-shoot	9	NAM				
	10	9	9	9	0	37

8.7.4.5.2.2 **25 m Pistol and 25 m Center Fire Pistol**

8.7.4.5.2.2.3 Any shot(s) not fired or not hitting the targets must be scored as miss(es) (zero(s)).

This rule **ONLY** applies to completions in 25 m Pistol Womens and 25 m Center Fire Pistol – it has **NO APPLICATION** to the other 25 m events.

8.7.4.5.3 **All 25 m Pistol Events**

An ALLOWABLE MALFUNCTION may be claimed:

8.7.4.5.3.1 once in each 30 shot stage of the 25 m Rapid Fire Pistol, 25 m Pistol and 25 m Center Fire Pistol events;

8.7.4.5.3.2 once in the 150 seconds stage and once in the combined twenty (20) seconds and ten (10) second stages of the 25 m Standard Pistol event.

While the general rules in 6.12.1>> does not put any limit on the number of malfunctions, 8.7.4.5.3.2 provides the specifics for **re-fires** in the 25 m events.

8.7.4.6 In all cases, when scoring malfunctions, the appropriate form (A,B,C or D) must be used. For the forms to be used, see Technical Rules before the Index.

Note '**must**'!

8.7.5 **Failure of Electronic Scoring Target Systems or Paper Target Systems**

8.7.5.1 In the event of a failure of ALL the targets on a range:

8.7.5.1.1 the expired shooting time must be recorded by the Chief Range Officer and the Jury;

10 m, 50 m and 25 m Precision Stage

8.7.5.1.2 all completed competition shots of each shooter must be counted and recorded. In the event of a range power supply failure, this may involve waiting until power is restored to enable the number of shots registered by the target, not necessarily on the firing point monitor, to be established.

For 25 m paper targets, score and mark the targets

For 50 m paper targets, depending on the target system the targets may need to be

changed to sighting targets.

8.7.5.2 Failure of 25 m Electronic Scoring Target Systems

8.7.5.2.1 *The target is repaired and the full range, or Range Section, is in operation, an additional sighting series and a one (1) minute pause will be given before the start of the completion of the series in accordance with the rules below.*

6.13.2 (10 m and 50 m) contains ‘...The time for recommencing is to be announced over the loudspeaker system at least five (5) minutes beforehand. Shooters must be allowed to resume their position in the five (5) minutes before the competition restarts’.
This seems equally reasonable for 25 m events.

Note the automatic sighting series.

8.7.5.2 Failure of 25 m Electronic Scoring Target Systems

8.7.5.2.2.1 *The shooter will COMPLETE the series of five shots in the same way as for an Allowable Malfunction. The shooter should fire the number of shots that had not been recorded by the target when the failure occurred.*

Depending on the time taken to rectify the target problem this seems onerous.
If the delay is greater than 15 minutes, refer to 8.6.5.

8.7.5.2.4.1 *If there is a failure of a single target or a group of five targets (25 m Rapid Fire Pistol Event) the shooter may be moved to another firing position in the same, or if necessary, a following relay. After the problem is resolved, a separate sighting series and a one (1) minute pause will be given before the firing of the next series in accordance with the rule above.*

While not stated, the series in which the failure occurred is annulled

8.7.5.2.5 *Complaint concerning failure to register or display a shot on the monitor(s) of 25 m Electronic Scoring Target systems, or it shows a zero that was not expected.*

Note that this is not a failure of the target (8.7.5.2.4) but either:

- a failure to register or display a shot on **the monitor(s)**. I.e. the target, printer log and control computer have registered the shot, but not the shooters monitor, or
- ‘...shows a zero that was not expected...’ can be caused by any one of a number of reasons. Typically this arises from a ricochet from an adjoining target or splatter from the bullet trap.

8.7.5.2.5.1 *In the Precisions Stages of 25 m Pistol and 25 m Center Fire Pistol Events and in the 150 seconds series of the 25 m Standard Pistol Event, the shooter must immediately (before the next shot) inform the nearest range official of the failure.*

While most shooters will do so, there is no requirement for a shooter to inspect the monitor after every shot!

The Jury must consider that (even if the shooter had previous shots that did not register or display on the monitor) this rule requires that the shooter fire no further shots **after the failure is detected by the shooter** before informing, etc.

8.7.5.2.5.1.1 *The shooter will then be directed to complete the series in a time decided by the Jury.*

I.e. the shot/s in the series remaining after the shooter has reported the failure.

8.7.5.2.5.2 *In the Rapid Fire Stages of 25 m Pistol and 25 m Center Fire Pistol Events and in the Rapid Fire Stages of the 25 m Standard Pistol Event, the shooter must continue the five (5) shot series and must inform the nearest range official of the failure immediately after the end of the series.*

‘...immediately...’ can be taken as **after the failure is detected by the shooter**, but should be before the next command ‘LOAD’.

8.7.5.2.5.2.1 *There will be no repeated series. The score will be determined by the Classification Jury.*

Some Terminology

Areas within the venue:

For major competitions the various access areas within the venue are referred to in terms used by the theatre industry – anyone working at the Olympics will quickly understand this application.

Back of House (BoH)

All areas not accessible to the spectators

Field of Play (FoP)

The competition area – including down-range to the target area

Front of House (FoH)

The spectator accessible areas