

SSAA DISCIPLINES 16 Target Pistol



A Brief Description

Target Pistol was introduced into the SSAA's stable of shooting disciplines in 2005 and is derived from the National Rifle Association (NRA) of America's 'Bulls Eye' Pistol match. So enthusiastic was the uptake of the discipline in Australia that two years later, the SSAA sent a team to the USA for the NRA Nationals.



The Matches

Competition consists of one primary match and a number of secondary matches shot with five classes of handgun. A second primary match, International Mayleigh for instance, is shot with one class of handgun, such as a .22-calibre pistol, either single-shot or self-loader, or a revolver with any sights using only rimfire ammunition. The basic course of fire is the 30-shot National Match consisting of 10 shots at 50m in 10 minutes. This is followed by five shots at 25m in 20 seconds in two strings of five shots and then five shots at 25m in 10 seconds, again shot twice. Both centrefire and .22 handguns can be used in this match. The 900 Match contains the National Match as described above with additional strings to make up a match of 90 shots. The additional strings consist of two strings of 20 shots at 50m in slow-fire time, 20 timed-fire shots at 25m and another 20 shots at 25m in rapid fire. This match is the basis for the Camp Perry Championship, the annual tournament in the USA.

Competitions

In addition to international competitions, state and national titles are conducted annually. Postal competitions are becoming a popular way of competing without the expense of travelling vast distances. For competition details or further information about Target Pistol, visit the SSAA Competition Information page at www.ssaa.org.au or contact your SSAA state or territory office.

Dress Rules

Target Pistol rules do not provide for specific clothing restrictions or allowances. Gloves may be worn, provided they don't form an artificial support. Clothing should be suitable for the conditions, but not restrict movement, and hearing and eye protection is highly recommended.

Events

Target Pistol can be regarded as a combination of events similar to ISSF Standard Pistol and Service Pistol. Target Pistol comprises six events, each of which is based around a particular handgun type, and there are three types of matches to suit one or more handguns. The sport offers shooters a variety of events using centrefire and rimfire pistols, ranging from 30- to 180-shot events. Being of American origin, distances are in yards as per the NRA Rule Book. However, at Australian handgun shooting clubs, metres can be substituted. There are five handguns required for the full Target Pistol program. It is not necessary to purchase five handguns though, as the one can be used for more than one match in some cases. Also, many handgun shooters will already have the necessary firearms in their safe without the need for further purchases. As with most target shooting disciplines, the choice of firearm depends a great deal on what you can afford, but generally speaking, the more expensive a pistol is, the better it will group.

Any .22 Calibre Pistol or Revolver

In the Any .22 Calibre Pistol or Revolver event, a .22-calibre pistol, either single-shot or self-loading, or a revolver with any sights using only rimfire ammunition is allowed. It is worthwhile consulting the rule book for the finer points as to what is and isn't allowed.

Any Centrefire Pistol or Revolver

In the Any Centrefire Pistol or Revolver event, a centrefire pistol, either single-shot or self-loading, or a revolver with any sights of .32-calibre or larger is allowed. However, under current Australian firearms regulations, this only allows up to a maximum calibre of .38 (.357").

International Mayleigh

The International Mayleigh event only allows the use of the same handguns as used in the Any .22 Calibre Pistol or Revolver event, but is conducted at 50m.

Distinguished Revolver

The Distinguished Revolver event is specifically for standard factory revolvers capable of firing a .38 Special cartridge using a 158-grain round-nose or semi-wadcutter projectile. The barrel is not to exceed 6.5" and only open sights are allowed. The revolver must be able to operate in single- and double-action modes.

US M9 Service Pistol

The US M9 Service Pistol event was designed around the commonly available Beretta 92-style pistol. Most handgun manufacturers produce a similar pistol that fits this category.

Standard .22 Pistol

The Standard .22 Pistol event allows any .22-calibre rimfire pistol, self-loading pistol or revolver. The pistol may have orthopaedic or specially shaped grips. It may also have an adjustable rear-sight and a trigger pull of at least 2lb.



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Shooter