

Combined Services

by National Discipline Chairman Stephen Heidrich



Pistol shooters in the sitting/kneeling position.

The Combined Services discipline initially commenced in the 1980s in Victoria and Queensland, but is now proudly shot in all Australian states and territories. Although formerly called Military Rifle, the discipline has in recent years adopted Pistol competition. Pistols must be of 'service origin' conforming to the specifications and class as contained in the rule book.

The aim of the Combined Services discipline is to encourage organised competitive shooting with a view towards a better knowledge of the safe handling and the proper care of service firearms. The objec-

tive is to allow anyone to get into the sport quite cheaply and have everyone on an equal footing.

Rifle

Standard military rifles are the order of the day for events with the 3-Positional Core being the principal event shot from which a competitor's grading is obtained. Most popular rifles are SMLEs and Swedish Mausers, with P14s and M17s as well.

Rifles used in Combined Services Rifle competitions must fall into one of the following classes:

- **Class A:** Close-range (100m), short

barrel (21"), centrefire, carbine-type rifles.

- **Class B:** Medium-range (200 to 300m), bolt-action or lever-action, centrefire, manually operated or self-loading, repeating rifles.
- **Class C:** Long-range (500m+), long barrel, centrefire rifles, including antique military rifles.
- **Class D:** Breechloading cartridge rifles, such as black powder, single-shot, centrefire rifles and falling block action centrefire rifles.
- **Class E:** Muzzleloading, single-shot and non-cartridge breechloading rifles

(antique military rifles).

- **Class F:** Sniper rifles:
- **Class F1:** Vintage sniper rifles (genuine unmodified 'as issued' and faithful reproductions as before January 1, 1946).
- **Class F2:** Sniper Rifles (genuine unmodified 'as issued' and faithful reproductions as after January 2, 1946).
- **Class T:** Tactical rifles are rifles of service calibre fitted with a range-finding reticule equipped telescopic sight, as may be employed by the Combined Services, intended for precision shooting between 25 and 600m. Such rifles may be genuine sniper rifles as issued or may be a rifle built up to meet these requirements as after January 1, 1991.
- **Class H:** Modified/accursed rifles. Rifles of service origin and calibre comprising:



Pistol shooters in the prone position.

Checking the pistol target.



- Modification beyond service specifications; eg, plastic stock, floating barrel, glass bedded barrel, lightened trigger action and so forth; or
- Modification to enhance accuracy beyond the specification of the original regular service-issue rifle and adopted or evaluated for use by a defence or law enforcement for special issue, for purposes other than as a Class F rifle.
- **Class J:** Modified/accursed scope-equipped rifles. Class H rifles which are fitted with telescopic sights.

Class F, T, H and J rifles may only be used in events organised for their class or combination of class.

Pistol

Pistols must comply with the state firearms

legislation for the state of residency of the member, who must also possess the appropriate pistol licence and registration. The 3-Positional Core Match is used to obtain the competitor's grade. The rule book contains many different matches for pistol. Several of these matches are shot as graded, while the rest are contested as open.

Pistols used in Combined Services Pistol competition must fall into one of the following classes:

- **Class 1:** Defence pistols are an original issue or faithful reproduction centrefire service handgun (modified barrel length or calibre only, to comply with national and state laws), either a revolver or self-loading, which is, or has been, on regular issue to an army, navy or air force.
- **Class 2:** Law enforcement/police pistols are an original issue or faithful reproduction centrefire service handgun (modified barrel length or calibre only, to comply with national and state laws), either a revolver or self-loading, which is, or has been, on general issue to defence/law enforcement organisations. A Class 1 handgun cannot be classed as a Class 2 handgun.
- **Class 3:** Accursed/modified/target pistols are any Class 1 or 2 service issue centrefire handgun or faithful reproduction that has been modified from its original specification, either post-production or at the factory; eg, target shooting adjustable sights, hand-customised grips, barrels, trigger systems and trigger saddles, compensators, etc.
- **Class 4:** Rimfire pistols are any rimfire handgun that substantially replicates the functions of a Class 1, 2 or 3 handgun.
- **Class 5:** Black Powder pistols are any

Shooting prone from the firing line.



SSAA COMPETITION - THE DISCIPLINES ISSUE

original issue or faithful reproduction black powder military handgun, either a single-shot or revolver, which has been on general issue to an army, navy, police or para-military force.

For rifle competitions, targets used are the standard 1200mmx1200mm SSAA Military/Service rifle target (Core Target), which has a large black aiming point. A mini 600mmx600mm Core Target has been developed and is available for specific matches, but can also be used to simulate longer distances on ranges with range limits.

Scoring is taken at target value, with the centre 'V' bull used to decide tied scores. A shot that touches the line is given the higher value.

For pistol, the target used is SSAA Military Pistol Target 2001. Scoring is at target value, with the centre 'X' bull used to decide a tied score. Once again, a shot that touches the line is scored at the higher value.

Combined Services permits the use of any ammunition that is allowed by law and that is approved for use at that particular range. The same ammunition, type and loading must be used throughout an

event.

The spirit and intent of this discipline is embodied in the use of standard military specification loads - for instance, if a pistol is marked as a .357, then .357 loads must be used. This engenders the full recoil effect of such firearms and recovering of sighting for successive shots fired.

Pistol projectiles may be lead alloy round-nose, lead alloy semi-wad cutter or jacketed ammunition dependent on range approvals. Chargers or loaded magazines may be used on the firing point in the course of the competition, where allowed by the particular match rules.

National championships as well as state and territory competitions are held each year. There is also a National Postal competition. SSAA will be sending a team to New Zealand to represent Australia at the NZ Nationals and this team is subject to a selection criteria. Proficiency awards are achieved as the different scores are attained: bronze, then silver and then gold level.

For more information about the Combined Services discipline, visit the SSAA Competition Information webpage at www.ssaa.org.au/newssaa/disciplines/disciplines.html or contact the National



Checking the 3-Positional Core rifle target.

Discipline Chairman Stephen Heidrich on 07 4152 0125, 0400 308 220 or email smle@bigpond.com

sako 85

Sako 85 functions have been designed and purpose built with a serious hunter in mind. The rifle has classic appearance integrated to modern rifle building technology. Smooth handling and operating, excellent accuracy and safety are features most important to the hunter, wherever Sako rifles are used.



Hunter • Straight classic stock • Beautiful, upgraded wood • Action sizes S, M, SM.
New checkering areas • Silver pistol grip cap • Safari style cheek piece.
Hunter with stainless barrel now available.

Laminated Stainless • Grey laminated stock, matte lacquered
• Stainless barreled action • Black butt pad • Action size M.

Synthetic Stainless • Synthetic stock with 10 overmolding grip areas • Cheek piece, interchangeability LH/RH • New recoil absorption butt pad system • Action sizes S, M, SM.

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AUSTRALIA

Beretta Australia Pty Ltd. PO Box 4258. Dandenong South 3164
T: 03.97994999 E: info@berettaaustralia.com W: www.berettaaustralia.com

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