



**LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES DISCIPLINE**

**AUSTRALIAN POLICE SERVICE MATCH**

**INTERIM  
OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES**

**Revised  
2015**

## HISTORY / AMENDMENTS

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# AUSTRALIAN POLICE SERVICE MATCH

## OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES

**Interim Edition**

**Revised 2015**

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# **AUSTRALIAN POLICE SERVICE MATCH**

## **OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES**

**Revised 2015**

**Interim edition**

### **SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The SSAA Law Enforcements Activities Discipline (LEAD) aims to encourage organised competitive shooting of law enforcement orientated Australian and International handgun matches. These matches involve the use of centrefire revolvers and self-loading pistols shooting at various targets from various distances and positions.

### **SECTION 2: STANDARD RULES**

The SSAA Standard Rules cover common rules, including the protest and appeals process that apply to all disciplines.

The current edition of the Standard Rules is available on the SSAA website at [www.ssaa.org.au/standard-rules](http://www.ssaa.org.au/standard-rules)

These Standard Rules should be used with each disciplines current rule book and they take precedence over any standard rule that may be in a discipline's rule book.

The Rules covered are shown as heading and subheadings in this rule book.

- 2.1 COMPETITOR'S ELIGIBILITY
- 2.2 JUNIOR COMPETITORS
- 2.3 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
  - 2.3.1 Authorisation
  - 2.3.2 Substitute position
  - 2.3.3 Awards, trophies, records, etc.
  - 2.3.4 Protests

- 2.4 COMPETITORS RESPONSIBILITY
  - 2.4.1 Competitors and Officials to be familiar with the Rules
  - 2.4.2 Sportsmanship
  - 2.4.3 Behaviour
  - 2.4.4 Range Safety Rules
  - 2.4.5 Safety Equipment
- 2.5 STUCK LIVE ROUND: MANDATORY RULE
- 2.6 RULE INFRINGEMENTS
- 2.7 DISCIPLINE CHAIRMAN'S AUTHORITY
- 2.8 PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
- 2.9 SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS

### **SECTION 3: COMPETITIONS**

1. The Competition shall be known as the Australian Police Service Match.
2. The approval of venues for open competitions may be sanctioned by the SSAA Law Enforcement Activities Discipline (LEAD) National Sub-Committee. For scores to be considered for State and/or National Team selection they must be achieved at sanctioned events. No sanctioning is required for club events.
3. When seeking sanctioning of a competition the host club shall supply details of a preferred date and venue, and at the time of supply of the said notification, shall also advise the following details which are to be included on the match entry form:-
  - (1) Range distances, i.e. yards/metres (including distances between target centres)
  - (2) Firing details applicable to range being used (refer rule 67)
  - (3) Orientation of the range (e.g. Down-range is South)
  - (4) Types of ammunition allowed to be fired on the range, e.g. FMJ or not.
  - (5) The entry fee.
4. A Match Director/ Event Coordinator shall be appointed for an Open competition and their details included on a sanctioning request.

5. Competition conditions, regarding classifications and divisions of shooters and firearms as well as the target layout dimensions, shall be at the discretion of the Match Director. This information must be declared in the Match entry form.
6. The Australian Police Service Match shall be shot as an individual event, but a Match Director may include teams' events at their discretion. This information must be declared in the Match entry form.
7. The Annual Competition shall be conducted over two days with the 90 shot course being fired on each day, unless otherwise determined by the Match Director. Aggregate individual scores for both days may be used to determine individual winners.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

8. The Match Director shall be the LEAD National Chairman or their appointed nominee. The Match Director may appoint such suitable qualified members to assist him as necessary
9. Any proposed amendment to these Rules must be approved by SSAA via the LEAD National Sub-Committee.

## **THE RANGE**

10. The range for shooting shall have a line of targets all the same height and fixed to supports and parallel to all firing lines.
11. The targets shall be placed in groups of four, with each group corresponding to the firing positions of each range. The distance between the centres of targets in each group will be one metre and the distance between the centres of the last and first target of the next group of targets will be at least two metres. Where the match is to be shot in yards the distance between the centres of targets in each group will be 0.75 metre and the distance between the centres of the last and first target of the next group of targets will be at least 1.5 metres
12. Each target backing will be made of 5mm Masonite type hardboard or other suitable material.
13. Targets are to be erected in such a way that the supports do not obstruct the face of the targets.
14. Each target in a group will be numbered and clearly marked from left to right 1, 2, 3 and 4. Each group of targets will be marked alphabetically for identification. The numbers and letters will be at least 150mm in height.
15. At some time prior to the start of the competition, range positions will be allocated by the Match Director.

16. The firing line shall be set out as follows:
  - (1) A line 50 metres from and parallel to the line of targets, extending the full width of the range.
  - (2) A line 25 metres from and parallel to the line of targets, extending the full width of the range.
  - (3) A line 10 metres from and parallel to the line of targets, extending the full width of the range.
  - (4) A line 7 metres from and parallel to the line of targets, extending the full width of the range.
17. Each firing line will be clearly defined by means of a drawn line, rope or wire, or line of barricades.
18. There shall be a barricade located centrally for each group of targets at the 50 metre and 25 metre firing lines.
19. Each barricade must be of wooden or metal construction at least 1.8 metres high and stable when erected. During the 50 metre series, the 25 metre barricades shall be positioned in such a manner that they do not obstruct the competitors' view of the targets.
20. If the range being used is constructed with firing line dimensions laid out in yards then the Rules 16 to 19 firing line distances will be accepted in yards. This information must be declared in the Match conditions
21. The range is to be constructed, available for use, and inspection prior to a competition.

## **TARGETS**

22. The targets to be used will be as per Annexure 'A' affixed to target backing in accordance with Rule 14. This information must be declared in the Match conditions.
23. Targets or centres may be replaced after each range is completed unless the Range Officer decides otherwise.

## **VALUE OF SHOTS**

24. There shall be no more than six shots fired on any one target before scoring.
25. The competitor will only be able to claim bullet holes on their target of the calibre diameter of the firearm being used.
26. A shot, which touches or cuts a scoring line, will be scored at the highest value of the scores separated by that line. Magnified gauges may be used to decide the disputed shots. Points of multiple projectile entry ('Doubles') do not have to be nominated by

the competitor. NRA calibre scoring gauges will be used.

## **FIREARMS**

27. Each competitor will use a personally owned pistol or revolver, or one, which has been issued or supplied.
28. In all matches, a revolver or semi-automatic pistol which has;
  - (1) a maximum barrel length of 165 mm, and
  - (2) a barrel calibre between .352" to .455" inclusive, and
  - (3) open sights with a maximum sight radius of 210 mm, or as per factory specifications, and
  - (4) grips suitable to the shape and size of the competitor's hands.

However, the use of

- (5) magna-ported or compensated barrels, and/or,
- (6) telescopic, peep, magnifying, or electronic sights, and/or,
- (7) orthopaedic grips, and/or,
- (8) grips, magazine wells or magazine extensions which enable the base of the grip, magazine well or magazine extension to be rested on the ground when shooting prone,

are not permitted, unless specifically permitted pursuant to Rule 5.

- (9) Semi-automatic pistols specifically designed to feed and chamber full wad-cutter ammunition are not permitted.
- (10) Competitors desirous of clarifying the eligibility of a firearm prior to attending a State or National Championship may submit an application, including a complete description and photographs of the firearm in question (plus 4 copies, if not in electronic format) to the LEAD National Sub-Committee for a determination. Such applications shall be made at least 4 months prior to the next Championship. The LEAD National Sub-Committee shall advise the competitor at least 2 months prior to the next Championships regarding the eligibility of the firearm.

## **AMMUNITION**

29. The ammunition used must be sufficiently powerful to penetrate a sheet of 5 mm Masonite at 50 metres.



30. By entering the match the competitor undertakes to use the same load throughout the match. Any infringing competitor will be disqualified from the entire match.
31. Only six live cartridges may be loaded in a revolver or semi-automatic pistol at any time. If a competitor is using a semi-automatic pistol, they may have only six cartridges in each magazine in their possession. When moving between shooting positions during a series the barrel must be pointed down-range and if loaded, a pistol may be cocked but the safety catch must be applied, or the hammer de-cocked or placed in a half-cocked position.
32. It will be the responsibility of the competitor to have sufficient ammunition in their possession to complete the event.

## **HOLSTERS**

33. In all series, all loading will be with cartridges taken from the competitors' pockets, cartridge belt or special pouch. Cartridges may be contained in magazines or speed loaders.
34. In all series, a competitor must have on their person on the firing line only the required number of cartridges for the series being fired, unless directed otherwise by the Range Officer. Six speed loaders/magazines may be carried at 25 metres/yards.
35. A strong side holster with a covered trigger guard must be used. Spring loaded, fall away, break open holsters, shoulder, cross draw holsters, or holsters which release by the insertion of a finger within the trigger guard are not to be used.
36.
  - (1) Each holster must be fitted with a safety strap fastened over the firearm when the firearm is in the holster and away from the firing line only, or fitted with an effective factory retention system.
  - (2) When drawing from the holster, the trigger finger must remain outside the trigger guard until the firearm is pointing down the range.
37. At the beginning of all series the firearm must be in the holster and the hands at least chest height.

## **ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION**

### **RANGE OFFICER**

38.
  - (1) The competition is directed by the Range Officer.
  - (2) The Range Officer calls forward or supervises the calling forward of competitors, gives the necessary orders of the competition, and is the person responsible for maintaining good order on the range. The Range Officer also receives any protests or claims which may arise and decides upon these, or passes them on to the Match Director.

- (3) The Range Officer will decide disputes on any 'double' hole without recourse to the Match Director. If the Referee and the Range Officer disagree, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt. If both agree, the decision is final.

## **REFEREES**

39. (1) The Range Officer shall be assisted by a Referee who is another competitor or qualified volunteer who shall ensure that the competitor is correctly positioned on the firing line in accordance with these rules and that the competitor understands the course of fire.
- (2) Should the Referee detect a violation of these rules the competitor shall be advised of the violation at the completion of the particular course of fire. The Referee shall then immediately lodge a complaint with the Range Officer.
- (3) The Referee shall score and keep the score of the competition in conjunction with the competitor.

## **THE MATCH DIRECTOR**

40. The Match Director shall interpret the rules, including firearm eligibility.
41. The function of the Match Director is:
  - (1) To ensure before the beginning of the competition that the ranges conform to the rules and the general layout is both convenient and practical.
  - (2) To determine the rights of the competitor with regard to their use of material and installations put at their disposal.
  - (3) To ensure that the rules are applied, and approve the squadding of competitors prior to the commencement of the competition.
  - (4) To supervise the scoring of all targets and to decide with the Range Officer on any difficulties that may arise.
  - (5) To ensure the smooth and fair running of the competition and deal with any claims, complaints or protests that may arise.
42. Appeals against the decisions of the Range Officer shall be decided by the Match Director, whose decision shall be final.

## **PROTESTS**

43. At all registered Championships, all protests and appeals shall be dealt with by the Protest and Appeals Committee pursuant to the provisions of Rule 2.8 of the SSAA Standard Rules.

44. At unregistered events and club competitions, a protest can be lodged by a competitor verbally to the Range Officer prior to the commencement of the next course of fire. The protest must be lodged in writing and given to the Range Officer as soon as practicable.
45. At unregistered events and club competitions, the Match Director shall perform the functions of the Protest and Appeals Committee as stated in Rule 2.8 of the SSAA Standard Rules.

### **KEEPING OF RECORDS**

46. One or more Secretaries shall keep the records and scores of the competition.
47. A Master Register will be kept of each competitor's scores for each series of shooting, and, if applicable, Team scores.
48. A scoring sheet shall be kept with provision for scoring each shot on each target, and the total score for such target.
49. At the completion of the competition the competitor and referee shall attest to the accuracy of the score recorded.

### **ORDER OF FIRE**

50. Each competitor will compete in their squadded position unless a change is agreed to by the Match Director.

### **INTERRUPTION OF COMPETITION**

51. If the competition is to be interrupted for any foreseen reason (e.g. lunch, afternoon tea, Press relations etc.) such interruption may be allowed by agreement between the Match Director and the Range Officer and then only after each competitor has completed the distance series being shot.

### **RULES OF COMPETITION**

52. The standard 90 shot course of fire shall consist of the following five distance series:
  - (1) At 50 metres/yards there shall be one firing series of 24 shots;
  - (2) At 25 metres/yards there shall be three firing series with a total of 24 shots;
  - (3) At 25 metres/yards there shall be two firing series with a total of 12 shots;
  - (4) At 10 metres/yards there shall be three firing series with a total of 18 shots;
  - (5) At 7 metres/yards there shall be one firing series with a total of 12 Shots

Where local conditions demand, the program may not necessarily be fired in the above order.

## **FIRING POSITIONS**

The following firing positions will be used by competitors during the match unless the competitor has a temporary or permanent physical disability or impairment, that prevents them from using the specified firing position as defined in the Rules. In such cases the provisions of SSAA Standard Rule '2.3.2 Substitute position' shall apply.

53. **Prone:**

Body extended on the ground, head toward target. The gun may be supported by both hands which are extended towards the target. The competitor assumes this position by dropping to a knee/s. Whilst being drawn, the barrel of the firearm shall not point any further to the rear than when holstered, or that is necessary to remove the firearm from the holster, when the competitor is standing. The barrel is to be pointed down range when assuming the prone position.

54. **Sitting:**

The weight of the body is supported on the buttocks, facing the target. Feet are on the ground and one or both knees raised. Arm or arms may be supported on the knees, the gun may be held in one or both hands, but arms and hand or back must not contact the ground. In this position, a foot fault penalty will not be incurred if the firearm is behind the firing line.

55. **Kneeling:**

Kneeling on one or both knees, one arm may be supported on a knee, the gun may be held in one or both hands.

56. **Standing with support:**

Standing on both feet behind a barricade, the hand holding the gun may extend beyond the barricade or be supported with the other hand which may be against the barricade. The majority of the body will be shielded by the barricade at all times.

57. **Standing without support:**

Standing, gun held in one or both hands. All portions of the competitor's clothing, body or firearm are to be clear of artificial support.

58. The firearm may be held in either hand (unless directed otherwise) and may be supported by the other hand (unless directed otherwise) but the hand nominated must hold and fire the firearm.

## CONDUCT OF THE COMPETITION

59. Every competitor must present themselves at their squadded time, ready to compete with 90 identical rounds of ammunition.
60. All firearms, whether loaded or not, must be handled with the greatest of care. Except when on the firing line and under the orders of the Range Officer, if not in a holster, the firearm will be carried with the breech open or the cylinder swung out.
61. No practice or sighting shots may be fired on the range on the day of the competition, unless unanimously agreed by the Range Officer and the Match Director.
62. Test shots, dry aiming and trigger action exercises may be practiced only in an area approved for that purpose.
63. Prior to the commencement of any competition, the Range Officer shall declare an area to be set aside for the cleaning of firearms and like handling. This will be known as the 'SAFE AREA' and firearms will not be removed from holsters in any other area, except when under command of the Range Officer on the firing line. NO AMMUNITION is to be handled in the 'SAFE AREA'.
64. When all competitors have come to the line, the Range Officer shall give the command "LOAD" and read the course of fire. If required by the competitor, it shall be read again.
65. A competitor is not permitted to load their firearm until directed by the Range Officer.
66. After being loaded, the firearm shall be placed in the holster. If the firearm is a revolver, it is to be uncocked. If the firearm is a semi-automatic pistol, it may be cocked but the safety catch must be applied, or the hammer de-cocked or placed in the half-cocked position. Under these conditions, the firearm is considered safe.
67. The Range Officer shall then call "READY" and then in a reasonable time call "FIRE". At the completion of the time allowed, the Range Officer will blow a short sharp blast from a whistle or mechanical device after which no shot will be fired. Alternatively, the course of fire may be commenced and ceased by the noise emitted by an electronic timing device.
68. If a competitor fires after the cease fire signal (whistle blast or timer cease noise), the Referee shall immediately notify the competitor and the Range Officer of the occurrence and impose the penalty.
69. Any shot discharged before the start signal (command "FIRE" or timer commence noise), or after the command "UNLOAD", shall result in the competitor being disqualified from the match.
70. No competitor shall use any timing device whilst shooting.
71. Except in the case of extreme danger, a competitor will not be disturbed or interrupted

between the order "FIRE" and the whistle blast.

72. After shooting each distance series, every competitor will ensure that their firearm is empty of all cases (this is to be checked by the Referee), and return the firearm to the holster, unless ordered to reload by the Range Officer. Competitors may reload and holster as required during each distance series without instruction by the Range Officer.
73. No person shall approach within 7 metres of any firing line or target except the competitor, the Match Director, the Range Officer, the Referee and patchers.

### **MISFIRES AND MALFUNCTIONS**

74. No reshoot will be allowed for defective firearms, ammunition or for other malfunctions of the competitor's equipment.
75. If, in the opinion of the Range Officer, a situation develops whereby the continuance of shooting by any competitor could cause danger, the Range Officer shall call "STOP" and sound the whistle. All competitors will immediately cease fire and unload their firearms.
76. Where a competitor sees immediate danger in the continuance of firing, they will stop firing, and when the series of fire is finished, they will notify the Range Officer who will decide if the situation warranted the competitor stopping, and will decide whether to allow a reshoot.
77. If the target falls over or becomes detached, the competitor affected may stop shooting.
78. If any of the above situations arise (Rules 75 to 77), any competitor who may have completed the relevant series may elect to have their score stand, provided they have not approached their target beyond the firing line, or may elect to re-shoot the relevant series after the target has been patched.
79. If more than the prescribed number of shots appear on any target, the Referee will attempt to determine the cause. If it is obvious, and acceptable to the competitor, that a patch has fallen off, or the hole was made by a different projectile, such hole shall be covered. Otherwise, the competitor shall have the advantage of the highest scoring shots.
80. Should a firearm break or cease to function and such firearm is not immediately repairable, the competitor will be permitted to use a substitute firearm but only after the end of the series of shots being fired.
81. If a competitor considers that the score is incorrect, they should inform the Referee before the series is recorded. If the score cannot be immediately determined, the Range Officer will adjudicate the result.

82. In the event of any situation arising not covered by these rules, it shall be at the discretion of the Range Officer and Match Director to rule on the matter and decide any penalty.

## **TIES**

83. If the number of points scored is equal, placing is established by the total number of 10's shot by each competitor. If still a tie, then the number of 9's, then the number of 8's, etc.

## **PENALTIES**

84. All competitors and referees must know the contents of these rules insofar as they apply to themselves. In taking part in the competition, they undertake to submit to any penalty imposed upon them as a result of their contravening these rules.
85. A penalty of ten points will be imposed on a competitor for each shot fired in contravention of these rules.
86. When under the command of the Range Officer on the firing line, a contravention of these rules occurs and no shot has been fired, a penalty of ten points will be imposed on the offender for each offence.
87. Any Referee who wilfully neglects their duty to report any contravention of rules coming under their notice, will incur a penalty of ten points from their total score for each such neglect.
88. Any competitor on the line whose loaded firearm falls to the ground shall be disqualified from that match.

## **COURSE OF FIRE**

89. The Range Officer shall call the course of fire as per the Australian Police Service Match Rules.
90. Unless otherwise stated, the competitor may use two hands but must use the nominated hand to hold and fire the firearm. They may use the other hand for support or to cock or clear the firearm unless it is indicated that one hand only may be used. All series shall commence from the holster.
91. The course of fire shall be divided as follows:

### **1. At 50 metres/yards.**

24 Shots to be fired in 2 minutes and 45 seconds in the following manner:

- (a) Six shots prone at target four, reload in the prone position;
- (b) Six shots in the sitting or kneeling position in the open at target three, reload in the sitting or kneeling position;

- (c) Six shots on the right hand side of the barricade, standing with support, with right hand, at target two, reload behind the barricade;
- (d) Six shots left hand side of the barricade, standing with support, with left hand, at target one.

**2. At 25 metres/yards.**

- (a) Six shots standing with support on right hand side of barricade, with right hand, at target four in 15 seconds. Left handed competitors will shoot in reverse on target three;
- (b) Six shots standing with support, on the left side of the barricade, with left hand, at target three in 15 seconds. Left handed competitors will shoot in reverse on target four;
- (c) Twelve shots to be fired in 35 seconds in the following manner:

Standing with support, six shots from the left side of the barricade, with left hand, at target one, reload from behind the barricade, six shots, right side of barricade, with right hand, at target two; provided that where the competitor is left handed the series shall be shot in reverse order;

**3. At 25 metres/yards.**

- (a) Six shots unsupported clear of the barricade on target one in 7 seconds;
- (b) Two shots on target two, three and four, in 7 seconds, unsupported clear of the barricade;

(In an unsupported series where more than one target is used, it is at the competitors' discretion in which order they may shoot at the nominated targets. The term "Unsupported" means standing clear of the barricade).

**4. At 10 metres/yards.**

- (a) Six shots, standing unsupported, on target four in 5 seconds;
- (b) Three shots, standing unsupported, with each hand on target three in 8 seconds. Single hand only for each of the series of three shots, ie. one hand only to be used when the shots are being fired.
- (c) Three shots, standing unsupported, on target one and target two in 5 seconds.

**5. At 7 metres/yards.**

Twelve shots, standing unsupported in 12 seconds, with three shots on each of two nominated targets. Reload and repeat in any order.



## SSAA LEAD APSM Rules Annexure A

### APSM Target dimensions

The official target of the APSM is as per the dimensions and illustration on this page. All National and International matches must use this Target.

A shot, which touches or cuts the white scoring line, will be scored at the highest value of the scores separated by that line.

<i>Size: wide/height</i>	<i>Original Target (mm)</i>
Target over all	470 x 770
black area	450 x 755
X (optional)	50 x 75
10	100 x 150
9	200 x 300
8	300 x 450
7	400 x 600
6	500 (nominal) x 750
width of numbers	15
height of numbers	22
thickness of number lines	2
width of lines	1

