

Handgun Metallic Silhouette



SSAA Handgun Metallic Silhouette is a rimfire and centrefire pistol discipline where competitors aim to knock down metal animal-shaped targets. Its origins lie in Mexico in the early 1900s, with the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association (IHMSA) being formed in 1976.

Targets and matches

Targets are fired from left to right in two-minute stages, with a group of five targets (called a 'bank') per stage.

Big Bore matches use centrefire handguns to knock down the almost life-sized targets, which are chickens at 50m, pigs at 100m, turkeys at 150m and rams at 200m. The matches are broken up into four main categories.

Smallbore matches use rimfire handguns to knock down chickens at 25m, pigs at 50m, turkeys at 75m and rams at 100m. The targets are scaled down to three-eighths of full size, making this match more difficult compared to Big Bore. Smallbore is conducted with .22 Long Rifle ammunition, in four main categories.

Field Pistol is a centrefire match available to clubs with a range limited to 100m. These targets are scaled down to half-size and include two categories fired from the standing position.

Firearms and categories

Production category handguns must be used complete in form, finish and mechanical function as manufactured. The Revolver category allows a revolver which also meets the Production category rules. The handgun must be loaded with five rounds and fired as a revolver. The Standing category must utilise one or both hands from a standing position with a Production-class handgun, which may be a single-shot, revolver or self-loader. In the Unlimited categories, the shooter's imagination can practically run wild with few restrictions including a barrel length and sight radius of 15", and 2.7kg maximum weight.

Getting started

Contact your SSAA state or territory office to find the nearest range that conducts the match. However, 200m handgun ranges are not common, so you might start with a club that shoots the 50m match.

