



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES DISCIPLINE

GUIDELINES

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HISTORY

The Discipline origins and directions began in the early 1960's when the National Rifle Association (NRA) in USA developed a training/competition course, named Police Pistol Combat (PPC). By the mid 1960's, Law Enforcement Instructors in Australia further developed this course to include multiple targets and further handling skills. They introduced the Australian Police and Services Match, (AP&SM). This competition was conducted by Police Pistol Clubs within States and included participants from Armed Services and Government entities which were armed. Nationally the Australian Police Pistol Association (APPA) conducts the Australian Police and Services Pistol Championship (AP&SPC), supported by the other Services.

Over the years, the NRA USA further developed their PPC to three courses, for three distinct levels of pistol development; Open 150, Distinguished 60 and Duty 48. However, the single target, timings and basic skills remained.

The latest NRA USA course is the Tactical Police Competition, (TPC), a three-”USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” event in scenario-based exercises. This event has limited application in Australia because it is limited to police issue type firearms. The multiple “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” skills and scenario- based activities may be practiced with other firearms if required. This does have limited benefit to international competition but is ineffective without the appropriate firearms.

In 2014, a version of the AP&SM, (the Australian version as above), was adopted by SSAA Law Enforcement Activities Discipline (LEAD) as Australian Police Service, (APS). The SSAA version is the shooting, range, and equipment rules only, none of the competition organisation. SSAA LEAD also adopted the NRA USA PPC and TPC competitions as they can apply locally.

In 2019, a further course of fire, developed by LEAD in Australia to combine the PPC and AP&SM skills, was introduced. This new course is currently named the APS 150 round Challenge Course. The course of fire is designed to respond to further developments in training which are generating shooter interest in increased activity in courses. The new course uses the same range layout as AP&SM, and SSAA APS.

SSAA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES DISCIPLINE ESTABLISHMENT

SSAA Law Enforcement Activities (LEAD) was initially established as a discipline in 2014 in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Discipline is established to facilitate the delivery of law- enforcement oriented shooting competitions.

PHILOSOPHY

Law Enforcement oriented competitions can be characterised as “competition as part of training” to support and practice the principles of knowledge, skills, and attitude. Not to be confused with “training for a competition”.

To deliver identifiable relevant competitions for our members in an efficient manner with the benefits of stability, clarity, and mobility.

To encourage personal development to be available at all levels.

Matches use law enforcement related equipment and are shot on paper targets, at distances from 3m to 50m.

Shoots are timed from the holster and include reloads and changing position within time limits.

Skill in safe and effective handling is required, especially for change hand drills and target to target drills.

Positions include standing unsupported, left, and right barricade, sit / kneel and prone.

Unless otherwise indicated in rules or guidelines; philosophically, all LEAD courses of fire should be fired from the closest distance first, then moving further away; and from the position of least advantage first, moving through other positions to that of most advantage.

Providing a venue for “Duty” level entry with its own separate recognition of performance with comparable equipment levels is the main goal of this Discipline. Those progressing further can also take advantage of a wide range of other competitions with their own conditions for equipment and awards systems.

SSAA STANDARD RULES

All LEAD courses of fire, competitions and other activities are subject to SSAA 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

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.

LEAD RULES

All LEAD Rules and Guides, including PPC, APS 90, APS 150 Challenge should be read in conjunction with these LEAD GUIDELINES

SCOPE

The Discipline includes the following matches as recognisably relevant to law enforcement orientation.

PPC150 - The NRA PPC Open, a 150-round match from 7m, 15m, 25m, 50m, 25m, 7m, 25m, 50m, and 25m. Includes handling and positional skills within time. An Open, (revolver or self-loader), is as per USA NRA PPC rules for a 150 round Open match i.e., big bull barrels, ribs, multi set sights, etc.

PPC60 - The NRA PPC Distinguished, a 60-round course from 7, 25, 50 and 25. A Distinguished (revolver or self-loader) is as per USA NRA PPC rules for a 60 round Distinguished match i.e., as from factory, six-inch barrel.

PPC48 - The PPC Duty/Service/Production, a 48-round course, single hand at 3m and then 7, 15 and 25m. A Duty (revolver or self-loader) is as per USA NRA PPC rules for a 48 round Duty/Service/Stock/Production match i.e., as from factory, four-inch barrel revolver, five-inch s/loader.

TPC3”USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” - The NRA TPC is the latest scenario-based course of the NRA USA, for the duty weapons currently in use for LE, i.e., pistol, rifle, and shot”USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3”. Although we can use this match, legislation creates limited application in Australia.

- NRA PPC and TPC Rules are found on the NRA website.
- They are found under Law Enforcement Assistance, LE Competitions.
<https://lecompetitions.nra.org/police-pistol-combat/>

APS 90 - Australian Police Service, a 90-round match from 7m, 10m, 25 m and 50m including further handling and positional shooting skills within time. For LEAD, the NRA USA PPC divisions of Open, Distinguished and Duty are applied to APS to enable parity of level of equipment in competition. To encourage entry level competition, LEAD values Duty as the primary division in hierarchy. To encourage shooter development the matches are usually fired from closest to longest range. This may be reversed if required to fit in with AP&SM delivery. The 7, 10 and 25 metre details may be fired as a 66 round match if required by range type or “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” division. Examples of when this may be required could be if only a 25m range was available or if mirroring the AP&SM (Div 6) which only requires the 7m, 10m and 25m ranges to be fired.

- Rules for APS 90 are on the SSAA web site for disciplines:
<https://www.ssaa.org.au/disciplines/all-disciplines/law-enforcement-activities/>

The above LEAD matches are shot as close as possible to their parent matches of PPC and AP&SM, so the shooting rules are mirrored. This facilitates international and national competition under the same conditions.

APS150 Challenge - An Australian SSAA LEAD course of fire, of 150 rounds, combining and expanding the skills of PPC and APS, on the same ranges using the same equipment. The rules for this match are SSAA LEAD and guidance for the philosophy of the match is also provided within the rules.

Although this match is developed from the historical PPC and AP&SM, the rules are not linked and there is no requirement to “mirror” them to facilitate competition.

Guidelines – These Guidelines direct how to deliver the respective courses of fire within the philosophy of the Discipline.

“Conventions” - The Guidelines also contain some agreed “Conventions” for dealing with minor “philosophical” differences in match rules within the discipline. Agreed conventions are listed in a separate annex and may be updated as further advice on relevant issues is presented.

These rules and guidelines should be rarely changed, and never to make anything “easier”, or “fairer”, other than for administrative purposes.

EQUIPMENT

Personal Protection

Eye and ear protection, sun and insect screen.

Protective clothing for active outdoors; collars, sleeves, socks, shoes.

Pistols and Rigs

Centre-fire revolvers/self-loading pistols, holsters, speed loaders, magazines and pouches. All as per NRA USA PPC rules

Service type equipment is used generally. Open “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” class may require open class holsters. All as per NRA USA PPC rules

Ammunition

Ammunition of approximate equivalent power to service issue type. 9mm and 38spl most common. Projectile type controlled by local range requirements.

A power factor of 120 may be nominated, as per NRA USA Action Match Rules.

Targets

Targets are paper with scoring rings. Such as SSAA Service Match, or SSAA Gallery Rifle as found in the current SSAA Target Catalogue. See relevant LEAD Discipline Rules for specific targets required. Local conditions may require slightly different targets

OBJECTIVE

A successful event will be one which enables a competitor to compete equitably, at an appropriate level, and in a safe and supportive environment with fellow competitors, including those from the law enforcement community.

EXPECTATIONS

Indications are that growth will be individual or small groups, very modest and probably sporadic. Expectations are that entry would be at “Duty” level with the opportunity to take the option of moving to other levels within LEAD when ready.

This Discipline is also expected to be a feeder for more advanced Disciplines within the SSAA.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES and PROCEDURES

The Law Enforcement Activities discipline of SSAA creates an opportunity for interested Competitors to take part in a widely inclusive competition environment which values law enforcement related interests. To this end, the Match Director may depart from some traditional customs in favour of encouraging entry level competitors.

Divisions “USA NRA PPC “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division”

The types of firearms for use in this Discipline are described in the parent rules of USA NRA PPC Rules (3), “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Divisions. These divisions should be applied to all LEAD competitions to allow for fair competition based on choice of equipment at known and accepted levels and standards. Reference as “USA NRA PPC “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division”

To reflect and encourage the nature and interests of the Discipline, the divisions, “USA NRA PPC “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division”, will be ranked in order: i.e., divisions are favoured above others in order. This order is ranked by level of difficulty indicated by choice of pistol. The Hierarchy of Divisions is to encourage and develop entry level competition.

In LEAD Philosophy, Duty is the favored division, followed by Distinguished and Open. Other Disciplines can more favourably cater for higher grades of equipment.

Competitors may nominate in a division within the NRA definition of Open, Distinguished and Duty but with their personal choice of either revolver or semi auto within that Division.

LEAD guidelines create local flexibility for when there is enough variety within a division to justify creation of temporary redirection or sub-division.

The Match Director, in conjunction with the National Discipline Chair, may find it useful to invite prospective shooters to bring along their equipment, and, if necessary, an appropriate division may be allocated.

The “USA NRA PPC “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division” divisions within LEAD may be locally sub divided to create a repeatable environment for a fair competition based on equipment levels.

Sub-Divisions

In the case where a clear group of users can be identified who use a variation of any of the above divisions, e.g., adding optic sights, which would otherwise be a breach of the rules or create a clear advantage; a subdivision may be formed according to the allocation of awards e.g., five nominated competitors for medals.

Temporary Upgrade Divisions

In the case where individual equipment may strictly fall within one division but are such an upgrade on the basic models that they create a clear advantage; they may be temporarily upgraded to another division. Duty, which are so equipped, could be temporarily upgraded for just a particular event and shoot in Distinguished, thereby leaving Duty clear for the basic Glock or similar. When enough nominations are received the temporary upgrade arrangement can be re-structured into subdivisions as above.

For example, a Match Director may find it useful to create subdivisions such as Duty Fixed Sight and Duty Adjustable Sight, within the Duty Division. Or a separate “Optic” subdivision.

NRA Competition Rules (civilian) allow for .22lr division in their competitions which would allow their use concurrent with LEAD. However, they would not be part of the LEAD Awards. (Invitational)

Match Notices

A Match Notice outlining the Rules, Conditions and Conduct of each Match. should be distributed as early as possible.

Matches should be presented to facilitate shift workers where practicable.

Matches within PPC may be shot concurrently.

Matches within APS may be shot concurrently with AP&SM if required

Scoring and Patching

May be on the line with an independent scorer. Always in accordance with the competition rules and range procedure set out for the match.

Teams

May be nominated in peak events depending on nominations and interest.

Teams are expected in international events especially PPC.

Teams are to be structured by PPC rules, i.e., coached two or four-man, aggregate score.

Representative teams are formed by SSAA policy.

Nominations / Expression of Interest/ Notice of Intent

Include on the nomination form, information about division, possible subdivisions etc., and any other details relevant to the logistics of planning and catering.

Early nomination / expression of interest assists with planning for eligibility, divisions, etc.

Pre-Nominations

In the case of travel restrictions, if no pre-nomination has been received by a fortnight before the competition, from a State so affected, then the event may still go forward as a “State” or “National”.

A discount of a percentage of the nomination should be applied to pre-nominations received up to a fortnight before the competition.

The full nomination fee is applied to nominations received after a fortnight before the event or on the day of the event.

Tournaments

May be scheduled as required to facilitate the conduct of several matches at the same venue on the same or consecutive dates. Although several matches may be included in a Tournament, they are all conducted individually.

There are no aggregates over different matches.

Aggregates

Compiling aggregate scores is not necessary, does not actually contribute to the goals of the organisation, and may even detract from them. If the organisers so desire a “Points Accumulator” formula could be applied to encourage wider participation with a modest local award. A good example would be the competitor with duty equipment who nominates for all the events.

Order of Firing

The order in which shots are fired within a match may be nominated in the rules of that match. In principle, for LEAD, when an order is not so nominated, LEAD courses of fire should be fired from the closest distance first, then moving further away; and from the position of least advantage first, moving through other positions to that of most advantage.

Including Match Rules where applicable, the LEAD Order of Firing, for each match is as follows:

The order of firing for APS 90 (SSAA) is 7m, 10m, 25m and 50m.

This order of firing for APS 90 may be reversed in the case of firing concurrently with AP&SM (Australian Police and Armed Services).

The order of firing for AP&SM is that all details will begin shooting from 50m and move forward to 25m, then 10 and 7. Note that this is not an actual requirement of AP&SM only a convention due to range layouts used in the past.

The order of firing for PPC 150, 60, 48 and APS150 is to begin at the closest range and move back in sequence.

Target Management

See SSAA Discipline Rules for Targets used. APS uses Service Match, PPC uses Gallery Rifle.

For PPC:

PPC X ring targets are great to shoot on. Subsequently X rings get shot out early. For PPC events we need to supply a new X ring centre for each “match” fired. This is currently the only way to ensure there is an actual X on the target and will create an extra expense.

PPC 150 round Open Course. Targets need to be re centred after Match 1 at 7/15, Match 2 at 25, Match 3 at 50, Match 4 at 25, and Match 5 A&B at 7/25 and Match 5 C&D at 50/25 “quick 6”). That will be six centres, cost to be included in nominations.

PPC 60 round Distinguished Course. One target for 7 and 25 (30 rounds), the second for 50 and 25 (30 rounds). A total of two centres, cost to be included in nominations.

PPC 48 round Duty Course. One target for 3 and 7 (18 rounds), the second for 15 and 25 (30 rounds). A total of two centres, cost to be included in nominations.

PPC matches may be shot concurrently. The detail can be filled initially with 150 competitors and 48 competitors, with 60 competitors behind the 48’s on their lanes. 48 begin first at 3m and then join in with the 150’s back to 25m when the 48’s retire. The 150’s continue through 50 and back to 25. The 60’s take their place in the lanes vacated by the 48’s at 7m and shoot match 5 (60 rounds) finishing with the 150’s.

If there are enough bays available, and local range safety allows, it may be possible to use dual bays per competitor, with a barricade on one at 25 and leaving the other lane clear for the 50. A single PPC target was set up for each lane. This saves time on the PPC course which moves back and forward.

All three PPC courses may be run concurrently to make best use of range time.

PPC 72 - A Match Director may find it useful to conduct a HYBRID PPC course of fire consisting of the 48 round course for Duty, etc, plus an additional 50m detail of 24 rounds for the Distinguished and Open shooters, making a total, for them, of 72 rounds.

PPC targets are set up singly and replaced as required. Targets may be removed from the range for scoring at completion of shooting.

A minimum “workable” number of competitors for competition conditions is three with a “hospital” target on either flank.

For APS:

90 round APS Course. If there are enough bays available, and local range safety allows, there may be an advantage to allocating two bays (of four targets each) per shooter, one set up for 50 the other with a 25 barricade. 10 and 7 can be shot straight across the two bays.

For APS 150 Challenge:

This course uses the same four targets as in APS, but 150 rounds are fired instead of 90 rounds. This may require replacement of centres, possibly as many as three times. This may create an expense to be allowed for in the nominations.

Range Procedures

The Match Director may appoint a Chief Range Officer (CRO). The Chief Range Officer is responsible for all the details of all the competitions. The CRO may appoint a Detail Range Officer (DRO) to conduct each detail. DRO's will form up their detail, conduct their detail and retire with them so that supervision is continuous throughout the process. Further DRO's may be appointed to repeat the process. By this process ROs may be given an opportunity to prepare to take part in the competition later. The RO may be assisted by appointing Assistant Range Officers (ARO) to assist as Line Safety Officers.

MANDATORY RANGE SAFETY BRIEFING: All competitors are required for the mandatory "range specific" briefing each day before firing commences. This may be followed by a separate "competition" briefing. No Brief, no shoot.

At the briefing, the traditional photo of all participants will be taken in one large group, with all participants wearing all safety equipment, caps, safety glasses and earmuffs.

All competitors are inherently responsible to maintain and monitor safety as well as assisting the conduct of the shoot. Advise Range staff of any concerns immediately.

Competitors are required to demonstrate familiarity with, and safe conduct of this type of course of fire including holster proficiency, etc.

During the nomination process, the Match Director will cause to have documented, an acceptable, appropriate level of competence for each shooter. Some RPL may be acceptable from sources familiar with this type of event and assessment and documentation will be available on the preparation days. Competency records will be collated for each competitor and securely retained for future reference.

Competitors undergo the course of fire as individuals, no coaching once shooters are called to the line. Teams may be coached as per PPC rules.

An independent competent referee is required for each shooter; such referee is not drawn from the next detail.

Firing positions on the range will be allocated as shooters report to the range officer, ready to shoot. As details fill up, the next detail will form up behind the bay, under the direction of their own Detail RO; they will be briefed and ready to step up as soon as the range is cleared.

Many competitors, especially shift workers, require a fair degree of flexibility and co-ordination to enable them to fulfil the requirements of the competition in balance with other responsibilities. In many circumstances, formal squadding is impractical, so, if there is a workable number of shooters present on the firing line, the detail should start.

Score Collating

The information about competitors, which is necessary to collate scores should be recorded on the score sheet at nomination and scrutineering. This includes, but is not limited to, SSAA membership number and expiry and the description of the equipment to enable identification of proper "USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3" division of Open, Distinguished or Duty. To be endorsed by an appointed scrutineer.

Scoring is by independent referees, usually on the line.

Collection of score sheets will be at end of course of fire, once submitted, score is final. Competitors scores will be collated and ranked within their Division. Scores will be checked, collated into score order, and further collated into Divisions on a separate collation sheet for each division.

Meetings

The National Discipline Subcommittee meeting will be conducted at the end of shooting but before display of scores.

Presentations

Display of scores will be at the end of the meeting and before the presentation. All participants are gathered from all duties for the physical personal presentation of medals, and prizes as per these guidelines. Photos may be taken with personal permission.

Competitor Classification

At this time Classification based on a record of personal scores, does not apply.

Classification may be applied at some time in the future, when the level of nominations indicates that it will be beneficial to the efficient fair recognition of the different levels of competitor's achievement within the discipline.

When there are enough competitors to support competitor classification, for the benefits of stability, clarity, and mobility the NRA PPC system shall apply.

The formula for allocating medals may also be applied to nominations of classified competitors if required. Awards by "USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3" Division would still apply even if competitor classification were used.

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Medals

In LEAD, the SSAA medals are allocated in the following manner. After five nominations are received for each Division, medals will be awarded for First, Second and Third in the Division. In the case of less than five but at least three nominations received, a medal for First only will be awarded. This reflects the Disciplines desire to encourage competitors to recruit within their division. Sample medals will be available for photo opportunities. Individually engraved medals will be provided as per SSAA guidelines.

The formula for allocating medals is five nominations for three medals, three nominations for one medal

Prizes

Sponsorship of an event must have prior approval by SSAA.

Goods donated by sponsors will be allocated as per the sponsors directions.

In the absence of sponsors specific direction, prizes will then be awarded in order of favoured division and then by score within that division.

Competitors will have "pick of table" in the following order, Duty Division in scoring order;

then Distinguished Division and then Open Division.

Any surplus prizes, not otherwise subject to direction by the sponsor, may be held over to the next LEAD competition.

This reflects the Discipline goal of encouraging participation in the basic level of competition.

MATCH NOTICES

Match Notices should contain all the information required to prepare for a particular event. Notices may also contain further advice on relevant factors of interest to a potential nominee.

Match Notices should request the earliest advice of nomination or at least an expression of interest to allow for better planning.

Match Notices should be posted as early as possible; at least six months in advance would be a preferred goal.

Match Notices can be posted on the SSAA web site, along with the Rules and Guidelines. The web site can show a brief note on the front page and have the full Match Notice uploaded.

These Guidelines should be used to develop a Match Notice, for each event, in which the relevant information can be distilled and distributed.

The Discipline's National Chair will have previously prepared Match Notices available for Match Directors to cut and paste as required.

Match Notices should at least show information under the following headings –

Authority for the Match,
Outline of the Program,
Rules,
Conditions,
Conduct,
Admin

Authority

The authority for the Match should be stated to define the official program and any procedure for updates.

Outline

Brief outline of the Match offered and under what rules / conditions / conduct.

Rules

The Rules for each of the LEAD Matches and the associated Guidelines for conduct of the Discipline, are publicly published on the SSAA web site. These are only changed at National / International level

Example list

State and National Legislation

SSAA Standard Rules
LEAD GUIDELINES
LEAD Rules/Guides/ for PPC, APS 90 APS 150 Challenge
Host Range Standing Orders
Host Range Procedures

Conditions

The Conditions of the Match are set by the host to reflect the character of the event, and the scope of the event, as indicated by expressions of interest or nominations in specific course of fire competitions, divisions, etc.

The earlier the competitors express their interest in the match the better the organisers can cater for that interest.

Match Conditions may vary in application according to local rules, conditions and interest.

Conduct

Conduct on the Range is set by the Range Officers to best facilitate the optimal use of the available facilities for the broadest experience of the competitors.

The selected range layout and the number and type of competitors may cause the Range Officer to conduct the activities in a certain way. The earlier the prospective competitors are advised, the better for the smooth running of a competition.

Administration

Administration information should include but limited to:

Contact procedures and details, addresses, emails, phone numbers.

Fee structure, cost of targets, consumables, range fees, etc = fee for publication

Nomination procedure, info required, date required, etc.

Accommodation and Transport advice.

CONVENTIONS for Rule differences between matches

History

At the LEAD National Discipline Subcommittee Meeting, held on 7 Nov 2019 in Canberra, all relevant parties were represented. Subsequent National Discipline subcommittee meetings revise these Conventions.

Philosophy

It was noted that, although the discipline conducts several separate, but similar, courses of fire, each with its own specific rules, that there should be some consideration given to competitors who may be regularly taking in part in more than one course of fire.

Courses of fire often contain rules which are “philosophical” in intent and origin and may conflict with another course of different philosophy / origin.

These “philosophical” rules usually have no effect on the outcome or conduct of the course when considered according to law enforcement related shooting philosophy.

It would be in the interest of the competitor and the sport to refrain from unduly interrupting an otherwise acceptable outcome.

It was therefore resolved that, (while maintaining our law enforcement related philosophy), in the case of a competitor inadvertently breaching a minor “philosophical” rule, which has no effect on the outcome; that the referee / coach, without interfering with the performance, remind the competitor of the correct procedure for the relevant course, but no further action is required. In this case, for LEAD, there is no penalty breach.

Each case to be examined on its merits, considering the intent of the discipline, the rules, and the circumstances.

All parties agree to the following conventions for the better conduct of our matches.

AGREED CONVENTIONS

For example, but not limited to:

Reloading before or after moving, APS vs PPC.

Rationale as at 2019: There is no difference in outcome, the condition is philosophical only.

Agreed Convention: In the interest of competitor safety and comfort, for the purposes of LEAD, it is not a penalty breach.

Number of rounds held on person. APS vs PPC.

Rationale as at 2019: APS states that only the number of rounds to be fired per detail may be held on the person, PPC does not. There is no difference in outcome, the condition is philosophical only.

Agreed Convention: In the interest of competitor safety and comfort, for the purposes of LEAD, it is not a penalty breach.

“Unload and Show Clear”

Rationale as at 2019: For PPC, involves the competitor showing an empty mag or six fired cases to a line safety officer, APS does not. There is no difference in outcome, the condition is philosophical only.

Agreed Convention: In the interest of competitor safety and comfort, for the purposes of LEAD, it is not a penalty breach.

PPC, Capable of firing d/a, must fire first round d/a.

Rationale as at 2019: Many popular pistols are quite safely capable of “cocked and locked”, with an additional option of double action. In that case there is no difference in outcome, the condition is philosophical only.

Agreed Convention: In the interest of competitor safety and comfort, for the purposes of LEAD, it is not a penalty breach.

But to be clear:

“De-cockers” which do not have the ability to have the hammer back with the safety on, must de-cock. Safety is indicated by the resultant hammer down condition, easily supervised on the range, same as revolver.

Safety catches, for single action, or those with a choice as above, must always be applied in all cases. Hammer back, safety ON.

“Safe action” pistols may rely on their internal safeties but, if fitted with a safety catch, it must be applied.

Competition Scoring

Rationale as at 2019: If LEAD APS competitions are held in conjunction with AP&SM, the information on the score sheets indicating SSAA member number and “USA NRA PPC “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division” details allows the collating of the divisions onto separate summary sheets for SSAA APS90 and AP&SM. Those SSAA collation sheets are used for the LEAD presentation. The AP&SM presentation uses all scores regardless of “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” division.

Agreed Convention: Previously this procedure has created no problems, there is simply a separate presentation as both matches were completely compatible.

State And National Two Day Shoots

Rationale as at 2024: To allow for maximum opportunity for participation by i.e. oriented shooters, shift work, operational duties etc, and, also, for future expansion:

Agreed Convention: State and National LEAD competitions should be scheduled for at least two days.

Firing More Than Once

Rationale as at 2024: To allow for maximum opportunity for participation and interest; shooters who may have a Duty, Distinguished or Open, should not be limited to using just one type..

Agreed Convention: Shooters may shoot revolver or semi auto in any division allowed . Sub-Divisions may be created to cater for any disparity.

For competitions, the first score fired counts; but shooters may also fire more than once, provided the extra fee is paid and the second score does not count for the competition.

Lead Scores Collated Annually

Rationale as at 2024: To recognise participation and progress; LEAD scores can be accumulated over all LEAD shoots in all LEAD competitions, for all divisions, annually.

Agreed Convention: Where feasible, scorers and match directors to facilitate collation of participating members in all LEAD shoots for the year. This creates recognition of participation and progress at the end of the competition year.

Interchangeable Firing Positions

Rationale as at 2024: LEAD has three competitions with slightly differing descriptions of firing positions. Some persons have some difficulties adopting some positions. Some rules

and SSAA have a procedure for adopting alternate positions; some rules do not have such provision.

In LEAD there are position rules which are different for each of PPC, APS and LEAD APS150. For LEAD, the philosophy is to, whenever practical, start at the position of least advantage and move to the position of most advantage. Therefore: At 25m shoot, in order, left barricade, right barricade and kneeling barricade. At 50m, left barricade, right barricade, kneeling barricade, prone clear of barricade. This is reflected in the APS150 rules.

Agreed Convention: For shooter safety, avoiding injury, and maintaining the LEAD philosophy: provided a shooter completes the required courses of fire, in the spirit of the design, the order of adopting positions is left to the shooter.

Shortened Courses of Fire

Rationale as at 2023: In the case where local conditions such as shortage of ammunition, components, range area/time or similar restraints create temporary conditions to make the conduct of a full course of fire unduly difficult:

Agreed Convention: The Match Director, may, in consultation with the National Chairperson, make use of a suitable shortened version of the course of fire to allow the competition to go ahead under the temporary circumstances.

This information to be distributed via the Match Notice in the usual manner.

Examples:

PPC72 Aussie

This hybrid course was developed as a temporary measure to facilitate local ammo and range use requirements, without loss of tests of skill. Adapted from elements of all three PPC courses this format has been successfully implemented creating benefits for shooters and range staff. All divisions can use the PPC72 course of fire. All PPC skills are still included, but tested only the once.

The PPC72 consists of two phases:

The first phase is the 48 round Duty course (PPC48), but for all shooters in all “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Divisions.

The second phase is for only the Distinguished and Open “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Divisions to continue with the 50m x 24 round detail. 72 rounds maximum.

To be known as PPC72 Aussie, this will be the PPC course in Australia until further notice. The original course can still be used by members to practice for competing in USA.

APS 150 (short) – For APS150, remove all the sections which are the same as AP&SM and the second 3m series

Rimfire Invitational

Rationale as at 2023: This initiative could be a potential opportunity for entry or support level of participation. Rimfire is not a part of formal LEAD law enforcement oriented courses of fire, but provision exists in NRA rules for rimfire so if required, could be a LEAD INVITATIONAL Division.

Agreed Convention: If required for local participation, the Match Director, may, in consultation with the National Chairperson, make provision for the inclusion of rimfire revolvers or pistols. Provided the pistols, revolvers and ammo are demonstrably suitable for safe and effective use in a LEAD course of fire.

INVITATIONAL MEANS NOT PART OF THE USUAL SSAA LEAD AWARDS.

This information to be distributed via the Match Notice in the usual manner.

Postal shoots

Rationale as at 2024: Postal Shoots for LE oriented members create a loss of valuable networking and social contact resulting from “shoulder to shoulder” competition.

For competition, a postal shoot is unable to provide for equitable shooting conditions so no records or awards can be made. The weather, range layout and conditions, procedures etc; and lack of “shoulder to shoulder” competition conditions are negative factors.

In the past, when travel has been restricted, some State and National competitions reverted to local shoots and maintained continuity.

Agreed Convention: It may be necessary to temporarily use a postal as a last resort to ensure some continuity of competition under extraordinary circumstances.

There may be some scope for a postal to include remote locations.

In this Discipline, Postal Shoots should not be adopted in any permanent manner.

Shift Workers (Supplementary Details)

Rationale as at 2024: As Law Enforcement oriented shooters may be shift workers, responders etc, provision should be made to facilitate conduct of competitions in such a way that attendance could be staggered. This would involve extensive communication, co-ordination, and co-operation and significant commitment from both shooters and range officers etc. It should be noted that a minimum of three shooters and independent range staff are required. Pre nomination and flexibility would be required, and it is realised that this is a goal which will take a lot of effort.

Agreed Convention: If conditions produce a group of shooters under the above circumstances, and the requirements can be met, the Chairperson, Match Director and any Range Officers may agree that the competition would benefit overall; then an extra detail may be scheduled.

Calendar

Rationale as at 2025: Consistency in the presentation of the annual competition calendar assists with planning and preparation for all members.

Agreed Convention: That the format as per the 2026 calendar be followed as feasible due to local events. i.e. same two day weekends, first 3 months in Qld, second in ACT, for States. National and Internationals first and second weekend in October. Work around overseas in July and APSPC whenever.

Divisions “USA NRA PPC “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division” for SSAA LEAD in Australia

Rationale as at 2025: We follow NRA USA Rule 3 but they are a much bigger competition which has many divisions based on new developments.

For local conditions, to allow for clarity and flexibility in competition presentation and administration we can group them equitably, using our guidelines, as follows:

DUTY –the 48 round course, i.e. Revolver, Semi auto and Production. compete equitably together over the 25 metres.

DISTINGUISHED – the 60 round course, i.e. Revolver, Semi Auto, Production Optic; compete equitably together over the 50 metres. (also, the 72 round course of fire)

OPEN – the 150 round course, i.e. Revolver, Semi auto, Open Duty Optic Pistol or revolver, compete together over the 50 metres. (also, the 72 round course of fire)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

NRA

National Rifle Association, of United States of America, (NRA USA).
Affiliate of SSAA.

NRA USA PPC

National Rifle Association of United States of America, (NRA USA), Law Enforcement Assistance Division, (LEAD); Law Enforcement Firearms Competitions; controlling body of Police Pistol Combat (PPC) and Tactical Police Competition, (TPC), group of competitions.
Origin of our PPC and APS.

AP&SM

Australian Police and Services Match. An Australian update of PPC, origin in 1960s, conducted by State and Commonwealth Police Pistol Clubs.
Not a SSAA function.

APPA

Australian Police Pistol Association. Group of Australian Police Pistol Clubs.
Not a SSAA function

AP&SPC

Australian Police and Services Pistol Championship. The annual National Interstate peak competition conducted by APPA.
Not a SSAA function

LEAD

Law Enforcement Activities Discipline of SSAA. Not to be confused with the NRA USA version, activities vs “assistance”, Discipline vs “Division”.

APS

Australian Police Service course of fire conducted by LEAD SSAA. Uses AP&SM (APPA) shooting format but not the competition and administrative arrangements. Usually referred to as APS 90 for a single day event, and sometimes as APS 180 for a two day event.

PPC 150, 60, 48, and TPC

SSAA competitions using PPC (NRA USA) courses of fire and rules but conducted by LEAD SSAA but under local conditions.

APS 150 Challenge

A LEAD SSAA competition introduced to combine PPC and APS for optimal use of range facilities and competitor experience. No external influences.

GUIDELINES

A facility of LEAD to collate information relevant to the conduct of the Discipline, including conventions on how to deal with minor differences between the competitions. Not “Rules” so can be revised as required.

“USA NRA PPC GUN DIVISION RULE 3” – “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division

A term from the ““USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division” provision of PPC NRA international rules. Used in LEAD to divide the competitors into divisions by level of equipment. Provides fairer competition and the opportunity to further develop the entry level. In PPC, each “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” division has its own course of fire, Open 150, Distinguished 60 and Duty 48. The LEAD application of PPC ““USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division” to all LEAD competitions enables these benefits across the Discipline. In the other LEAD competitions, APS and APS 150 Challenge, the ““USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” Division” applies only to the single course of fire within that competition.

“USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” SUB-DIVISION

A SSAA LEAD Guidelines provision to cater for the various versions now available within the original NRA PPC rules. Dependant on nominations. Similarly, the Guidelines provide for a “Temporary Upgrade” local arrangement in the interest of fairness.

COMPETITOR CLASSIFICATION

Another NRA USA PPC rule provision to further sub divide competitors by ranking their previous performance, by score percentages, within nominated groups. Master, Marksman, Sharpshooter and similar.

COMPETITOR “RATING”

A SSAA LEAD Guidelines provision to facilitate fairness to competitors by excluding the advanced competitors from the entry levels. Prior personal possession of a higher level of pistol locks the competitor into that “Rating” guided by PPC divisions of Open, Distinguished and Duty.

PRO FORMA MATCH NOTICES

Pro Forma, or previously used, Match Notices can be accessed via the SSAA LEAD National Discipline Chairperson on request.

Samples of Match Notices on hand already include:

ACT

Nat APS90 State PPC48

Qld

State/Nat APS180 State/Nat PPC 150/60/48

State/Nat APS 150 Challenge

Score Sheets:

APS 90/180.

PPC 150/60/48.

APS 150 Challenge (with/without rules)

Nomination sheets, with / without State or National Cancellation Policy (Covid)

Collation sheets, generic or match specific and for each “USA NRA PPC Gun Division Rule 3” division.