



SSAA STANDARD RULES
OFFICIAL NATIONAL RULES

Revised Nov 2022

No. 9.2

SSAA Standard Rules

Document History

Edition	Date	By	Amendment / revision
Version 1	Nov 2009	SSAA NDC and National Board	The Standard Rules to be added as Section 2 to all discipline rule books
Version 2	2010	SSAA NDC and National Board	Revisions
3	2010	SSAA NDC and National Board	The Standard Rules issued as a separate Rule Book. Discipline rule books to still contain Section 2 until their scheduled revision.
4	2013	SSAA NDC and National Board	Minor revisions
	2014	SSAA NDC and National Board	Only references & section heading for Standard Rules to be included in Section 2 of the Discipline rule books.
5	2015	SSAA NDC and National Board	Minor revisions
6	2016	SSAA NDC and National Board	Minor revisions
6.1	Aug 2017	SSAA National Board	Revision of Rules 2.3 & 2.4.4
7	Nov 2017	SSAA NDC and National Board	Statement to indicate these rules are common to all disciplines.
8	Nov 2018	SSAA NDC and National Board	Revision of Rule 2.3.3
9	Nov 2019	SSAA NDC and National Board	Revision of Rule 2.3.2, 2.6 and 2.9
9.1	July 2021	SSAA National Board	Minor Revisions
9.2	Nov 2022	SSAA NDC & National Board	Additions & minor revisions

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These Rules, for the conduct of National Championships, have been compiled and revised by the SSAA National Discipline Chairman's Conference and National Board, and approved and ratified by the SSAA Inc National Board.

SSAA STANDARD NATIONAL RULES

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The SSAA Standard Rules are common to all SSAA Disciplines and the latest version of these Rules take precedent over the relevant rules in a SSAA National discipline rule book.

SECTION 1: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1.1 See the Discipline's National Rules for their Aims and Objectives.

1.1.2 Each SSAA Discipline has their own Aims and Objectives.

SECTION 2: SSAA STANDARD RULES

2.1 COMPETITOR'S ELIGIBILITY

A competitor who competes in a National Championship must be a financial member of a State or Territory Sporting Shooters Association of Australia or an Association affiliated with the SSAA Inc or under special invitation from the SSAA Inc National Board.

A current SSAA State or Territory membership card or official documentation from the SSAA National Membership Office or a SSAA State or Territory Association showing current membership details shall be accepted as proof of their financial membership, providing they are not under suspension from membership.

Members of Affiliated Associations must provide adequate documentation of their current membership of the Affiliate Association.

A person who is unfinancial or is unable to provide proof of their financial status may pay their full membership fee for the applicable SSAA State or Territory Association, to the Host Branch / Club, providing they are not under a suspension from membership. The membership fee must be paid prior to them commencing competition.

2.2 JUNIOR COMPETITORS

A junior member is any member of a State or Territory SSAA Association, who is under the age of 18 years at the commencement of the Championships.

A junior competitor in a National Championship shall pay no more than one half of the standard adult entry fee.

If the Discipline's National Championship includes Graded and / or Junior categories, a junior competitor is eligible to compete for Junior, Grade and Open medals and awards. The winning of a Junior medal or award does not preclude a junior competitor from winning any other category of medal or award.

Junior competitors are divided into two classes

- Under 15 years
- Under 18 years and 15 years and over

2.3 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

A competitor who, because of a physical disability, cannot fire from the prescribed shooting position outlined in these Rules, or who must use special equipment when firing or requires special assistance to place and/or load the firearm, is entitled to petition the National Discipline Chairman for permission to assume a special position or to use modified equipment or both or have special assistance to place and/or load the firearm. The special position must simulate, as much as possible, the original firing position/s required by the Rules, for example boards or tables placed in front of a wheelchair may be used for the prone or kneeling positions.

This petition will be in the form of a written request from the competitor to the National Discipline Chairman outlining in detail the reasons why the special position must be assumed or the special equipment must be used or the special assistance is needed. The petition, in duplicate, shall be accompanied by pictures of the competitor in the position they desire approved, and if special equipment is required, the pictures will show how this equipment is used and if special assistance is needed to place and/or load the firearm. The petition must be accompanied by a medical doctor's statement if the physical disability is not completely evident in the pictures submitted.

2.3.1 Authorisation

Each petition will be reviewed by the National Discipline Chairman on its merits and may require additional or supplementary statements or pictures. If approved, the Chairman will issue a special authorisation certificate to the individual concerned. Such authorisation will have necessary pictures attached that will be signed and dated by the

National Discipline Chairman. Competitors who have received special authorisation certificates are required to present them when requested by Competition Officials or the Range Officer.

Two types of authorisations are issued, temporary and permanent. Permanent authorisations are issued to competitors who have permanent physical disabilities.

2.3.2 Substitute position

In competitions where different shooting positions are required, a competitor with a temporary or permanent physical disability or impairment, that prevents them from using the specified firing position as defined in the Rules, may notify the National Discipline Chairman or the Competition Officials of their intention to use a position more difficult than the position specified.

This substitution must comply with the rules for that position to be used and be approved by the National Discipline Chairman or Competition Official/s before the start of the shooting for that position.

2.3.3 Awards, trophies, records, etc.

Competitors using special authorisation certificates shall be eligible for all awards, trophies, etc. made under the competition Rules. Australian or National records can be established by the use of scores shot in special positions or with special equipment under a special authorisation certificate. See Rule 2.3.1

2.3.4 Protests

In the event of a protest involving the position or the equipment used by a competitor, under Rule 2.8 the Protest and Appeals Committee will compare the questioned position or equipment or assistance with the certificate and photographs presented by the competitor. If the competitor's position or equipment does not, in the opinion of the Appeals Committee, conform to that authorised by the National Discipline Chairman (or if the competitor has no authorisation certificate or pictures), the protest shall be allowed and the competitor will be required to change immediately to the position or equipment which has been approved or to an otherwise legal position or equipment or without special assistance.

2.4 COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

2.4.1 Competitors and Officials to be familiar with the Rules

Competitors and officials should be familiar with the Rules pertaining to National Championships.

2.4.1.1 Competitors and Firearms Licence

Adult competitors must hold a valid and appropriate licence or permit in their home state or territory for the category of firearm to be used.

2.4.2 Sportsmanship

Competitors shall behave in a sportsmanlike manner as befitting membership of the SSAA State and Territory Associations.

2.4.3 Behaviour

Competitors should refrain from boisterous conduct on the firing range during the conduct of an event. A competitor failing to observe this fact will be disciplined by the Range Officer. In the event of boisterous or unsportsmanlike behaviour by a competitor the Range Officer shall caution the offender once, and, if there is any repetition of the conduct, the competitor may be asked to immediately leave the firing line and may also be disqualified.

Any disqualification made under this Rule may be appealable under the procedure set down in Rule 2.8 for the Protest and Appeals Committee.

2.4.4 Range Safety Rules

All competitors should familiarise themselves with the usual safety precautions observed on SSAA State and Territory Associations ranges as well as any Rules specific to the range on which a particular championship is being conducted. Unsafe practices by a competitor on a SSAA range can be grounds for disqualification.

It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure any firearm or associated equipment is in a safe and serviceable condition.

2.4.5 Safety Equipment

It is strongly recommended that ear and eye protection be worn at all times by persons who are in the vicinity of the firing line whilst shooting is underway.

It is recommended that suitable clothing, including enclosed shoes or boots, be worn at all times by a competitor whilst engaged in the competition and in the vicinity of the firing line.

A competitor may wear medical equipment which may be seen as giving support if a medical certificate confirming the competitor's need to wear such a device for health reasons is submitted to the National Discipline Chairman and / or Discipline Subcommittee for approval prior to the commencement of the competition.

2.4.6 Clothing

When competing in a National Championship, competitors should not wear inappropriate or offensive clothing.

For safety reasons military style camouflage clothing is strongly discouraged.

2.5 STUCK LIVE ROUND: MANDATORY RULE

In the event of a malfunction which results in a stuck live round which cannot be simply removed from the breech end of the barrel, the

firearm is to be made safe and removed from the range to a competent person for repairs. Under no circumstance is an attempt to be made to remove the round by insertion of a cleaning rod or similar object from the muzzle end of the firearm.

2.6 RULE INFRINGEMENTS

A competitor found to be infringing the Standard Rules or the Rules of the Discipline can be given a warning by the Range Officer. If the infringement continues the competitor may be suspended or disqualified from the competition being contested and their scores will not be recorded.

Safety infringements or breaches may result in immediate suspension or disqualification.

2.7 DISCIPLINE CHAIRMAN'S AUTHORITY

The Discipline's Chairman shall have the power to direct the Host Branch / Club in the manner in which the Championships are to be conducted, and shall have the right to interpret the Rules and requirements to ensure the Championships are conducted in an acceptable and uniform manner.

2.8 PROTEST AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Rules for the Protest and Appeals Committee are common to all SSAA Disciplines and form part of each Discipline's Rule Book. The Rules are as follows:

2.8.1 At all registered Championships there shall be a Protest and Appeals Committee (hereinafter called "Appeals Committee") which shall be formed by the National Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee to hear and decide protests and appeals.

2.8.2 The Appeals Committee shall consist of a minimum of three people, including the National Discipline Chairman, any one of whom may be a Competitor. The National Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee will chair the Appeals Committee. But in no case shall an appellant or protester be included as a member of the Appeals Committee (notwithstanding any Rule or Rules of law to the contrary).

In competitions where more than one State is represented a delegate from any of the States represented may be appointed to be a member of the said Committee and such appointments shall be at the discretion of the National Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee.

2.8.3 A protest may be lodged by any competitor who feels aggrieved by a decision of the Range Officer, the target scorers, or any other organisational matters or methods of conducting the competition.

A competitor may protest the conduct of another competitor(s) or that another competitor(s) has not fulfilled their obligations according to these Rules, or has not properly obeyed the Rules.

- 2.8.4** The protest must be lodged in writing and accompanied by a fee set by the National Discipline Chairman. If the protest or appeal is upheld, the applicant is to be refunded the amount of the fee. If the protest is disallowed, then the fee shall be forfeited to the organisers conducting the competition.
- 2.8.5** The protest is to be lodged with the Range Officer or other persons nominated by the National Discipline Chairman or their appointed nominee to receive appeals. A protest may be lodged during the conduct of a competition or after the competition has been completed but not later than 30 minutes after the scores for that competition have been announced or posted. When received, the protest or appeal must be given to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee as soon as possible.
- 2.8.6** The Chairman shall convene the Appeals Committee without undue delay and the Appeals Committee shall be empowered to hear evidence from the protester, the appellant and person(s) involved in the protest; to require the Range Officer, Scorers or organisers to produce targets, score sheets or other material relevant to the protest; to call evidence from any other person(s) who may be able to help the Appeals Committee; and to do all such other things that the Appeals Committee believes will enable it to reach an unbiased and just decision.
- 2.8.7** Any accused person shall:
- 2.8.7.1 have a right to be heard before the Appeals Committee and to remain in attendance during each session of the Appeals Committee.
 - 2.8.7.2 be advised of the time and place the Appeals Committee shall hear evidence of the protest or appeal.
 - 2.8.7.3 be entitled to remain in attendance before the Appeals Committee until the Appeals Committee adjourns the proceedings to make its decision.
 - 2.8.7.4 be informed of the evidence or allegations made.
 - 2.8.7.5 be supplied the details of verbal or written statements made against that person or persons.
 - 2.8.7.6 be given an opportunity before the Appeals Committee to correct or contradict any accusations or allegations made.

2.8.8 Immediately the Appeals Committee has made a decision, the Appeals Committee Chairman shall verbally announce it to a gathering of competitors summoned to hear the decision or post the decision on a notice board.

The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the matter of the protest and on all persons concerned therein.

Note: Desirably the Appeals Committee proceedings and deliberations should be conducted out of the public gaze and free from distractions of the ongoing competition.

2.9 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SSAA holds National Championships annually at a date and times set by the various Disciplines. As a general principle, the date/s of these championships remain the same each year.

The SSAA National Association gives the National Championships to a State / Territory Association and they in turn give it to one of their Branches / Clubs to be the host of the Championships.

A minimum of two participating States is required for the conduct of a National Championships, including National Postal Championships.

2.9.1 Disruption to Competition

Once a competition has begun, it is to continue without unnecessary delays to its completion except for exceptional circumstances, i.e., shooting could continue through a rain shower but would stop for a torrential downpour. Range Officers are required to exercise their discretion in regards to circumstances that may affect the successful completion of the competition.

2.9.2 National Championships and Other Shooting Events

The National Championships are the top level of our SSAA Inc shooting competitions in recognition of this, there should not be any shooting events held concurrently with a National Championship, except for International Championships conducted / managed by SSAA.

2.9.3 Supplementary Events

SSAA State and Territory Associations or Bodies may devise their own type of shooting competitions and formulate their own Rules for the conduct of supplementary competitions, but in National Championships they agree to abide by the Rules laid down from time to time by the SSAA Inc for the conduct of National Championships.

The conduct of supplementary events shall not in any way infringe or interfere with the conduct and completion of the core National events.