



SSAA PRECISION TARGET PISTOL

A GUIDE TO THE

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

and

CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

PISTOL RULES

2023

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For the current edition of the SSAA Standard Rules go to SSAA website for these Rules
[SSAA Standard Rules](#)

SSAA NATIONAL GUIDE TO THE NRA and CMP PISTOL RULES

INTRODUCTION

This SSAA Guide to the NRA & CMP Pistol Rules is a precis written to assist members understanding and knowledge of the Rules of the competitions. On matters where this Guide is silent refer to the current edition of the NRA Precision Pistol Rules for all matches except Service Pistol where reference is made to the CMP Pistol Rules.

In all matters regarding safety the standard SSAA conventions, including procedures for a stuck live round, and any applicable local Range safety Rules will apply. In all other matters standard SSAA conventions and Rules for its target shooting disciplines should be taken into consideration. The current edition of the SSAA Standard Rules should be read in conjunction with this Guide.

Competition consists of 1 basic primary match (the National Match course) shot with 6 classes of handgun and a second primary match (Mayleigh), shot with 1 class of handgun.

1. EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION- (NRA Precision Pistol Rules-section 3, CMP Pistol Rules Section 4.1.1)

This section defines authorised equipment. Where alternative types of equipment are shown, the least restrictive conditions apply unless the tournament program sets forth limitations.

1.1 GENERAL SERVICE PISTOL SPECIFICATIONS

1.1(a) Required

- 1 Standard stock of wood or synthetic material, a similar stock of commercial manufacture, or another comparable design that does not interfere with the functional or maintenance feature of the pistol.
- 2 Metal grips and Pachmayr-style wrap around grips are not permitted. The stock must be functionally identical for right and left hand use.
- 3 Open sights only with a non-adjustable front sight. The rear sight may be adjustable and must have an open “u” or rectangular notch.

1.1(b) Permitted.

- 1 A higher front sight may be used to accommodate the height of the adjustable rear sight. Trigger shoes and stops, internal and external.
- 2 External finish may be blued, parkerised or bright.
- 3 All other external alterations or internal modifications to improve functioning and accuracy

(e.g. a special match barrel may be fitted). However, the modifications may not interfere with the proper functioning or safety devices of the firearm as issued. All safety features must operate properly.

1.1.2 SERVICE PISTOL SPECIFICATIONS- CMP PISTOL RULES 4.1.1

- (a) **Service Pistol Design.** The pistol must be a semi-automatic pistol. The pistol design should be of a type that is suitable for use in a general duty military or law enforcement use scenario.
- (b) **Cartridges.** The pistol must be chambered for a centrefire cartridge that is no smaller than a 9x19 mm cartridge and no larger than a .45 ACP.
- (c) **Safety Features.** All standard safety features must remain in place and operate as designed, except that magazine safeties may be disabled.
- (d) **Operational Features.** Extended and/or ambidextrous controls are permitted, provided they do not provide any additional support or mechanical advantage to accuracy.
- (e) **Match Conditioning.** Pistols may have internal match conditioning modifications, provided those modifications do not violate Rule 1.1.1 c).
- (f) **Grips.** Grips must adhere to the general design parameters of the original pistol as manufactured. Grips may not provide any additional orthopedic support (i.e., thumb rest, palm rest, palm swell, etc.). Grips must be functionally identical for either right or left hand use.
- (g) **Trigger.** The trigger pull must be at least 4.0 lbs. Internal modifications to the trigger are permitted as long as the trigger maintains its original safety and design features and complies with the minimum trigger pull requirement.
- (h) **Sights.** Sights may be fixed or adjustable open sights. The use of fibre optic, light enhancing, tritium inserts, or coloured sights are permitted. Extended front sights are not permitted. Optical sights are not permitted.
- (i) **Barrel.** Barrel length may not exceed 5.5 inches.
- (j) **Overall Weight.** The weight of the pistol, with a magazine inserted, may not exceed 45 ounces.
- (k) **Prohibitions.** Recoil reduction systems are not permitted.
- (l) The **former M9 Match pistol** qualifies for this event.

1.1.3 Standard Smallbore Pistol .22 calibre rimfire

The pistol may be any .22 rimfire pistol, either semi-automatic or revolver. The pistol may have orthopedic or specially shaped grips. The pistol must have the same type of sight as a service pistol. An adjustable rear sight may be used. The pistol must have a trigger pull of at least two (2) pounds.

1.1.4 Distinguished Revolver

The revolver must be capable of chambering and firing a 158-grain round nose or semi-wadcutter .38 special cartridge. It must be a factory manufactured revolver with no external modifications except for stocks which may be modified or changed because of the size of the competitor's hand or to facilitate loading. Except for stocks and the honing of the sear or sear notch to make a more crisp trigger, and maintain a 2.5 lb. minimum trigger pull, no external or internal modification may be made to the revolver as manufactured and sold by the factory of origin. No parts may be removed from the revolver, either externally or internally, nor may any part be added. Specifically

prohibited is any system of recoil control based upon compensators, barrel porting or weighted grips.

- (a) Trigger- Must have single and double action capability and must be capable of lifting 2.5lbs when the revolver is cocked for single action firing. Triggers will be weighed. Any trigger, sold by the manufacturer of the revolver, without modification, may be used.
- (b) Sights- Fixed or adjustable rear sights may be used. An adjustable front sight is not allowed.
- (c) Barrel- Length not to exceed six and one-half inches. (6.5")
- (d) Stocks- Except as set forth above, the right and left stocks must be mirror images of each other.
- (e) Ammunition- Any safe .38/357 ammunition using the 158 grain round nose or semi-wadcutter lead bullet only. (Handloaded ammunition is permitted.)
- (f) The following are not allowed: Trigger shoes, compensators of any type or design; any external trigger stop device or any internal trigger stop not originally installed by the factory as original equipment in stock revolvers of the same make and model; tape on the stocks, stocks flared at the base, or any substance which results in a sticky surface to the stock or hand.

General Conventional Pistol specifications

1.2 Any Centre Fire Pistol or Revolver, Any Revolver

Centre-fire pistols (single-shot or semi-automatic) or revolvers of .32 calibre or larger (including 7.65mm pistols and revolvers); barrel length including cylinder, not more than 10 inches; trigger pull not less than 2.5lbs. Sights may be adjustable but not over 10 inches apart, measured from the apex of the rear sight to the apex of the front sight. All standard safety features of the gun must operate properly. Any sights including telescopic, are permitted with the exception of those sights which project an image on to the target. Any sighting device programmed to activate the firing mechanism is prohibited.

1.2a Any Revolver

A genre of the above class of handgun where only the revolver class applies.

1.3 Any .22 Calibre Pistol or Revolver

Any pistol (single-shot or semi-automatic) or revolver using a .22 calibre rimfire, cartridge having an overall length of not more than 1.1 inches and with lead or alloy bullet not greater than .23 inches in diameter and weighing not more than 40 grains. Barrel length including cylinder, not more than 10 inches; sights may be adjustable but not over 10 inches apart measured from the apex of the rear sight to the apex of the front sight. Trigger pull not less than 2lbs. All standard safety features of the gun must operate properly. Any sights, including telescopic, are permitted with the exception of those sights which project an image on to the target. Any sighting device programmed to activate the firing mechanism is prohibited.

1.4 Any .45 Calibre Semi-automatic Pistol or Revolver- (where permitted by State legislation)

A .45 calibre semi-automatic pistol or revolver, barrel length including cylinder, not more than 10 inches; trigger pull for revolvers not less than 2.5lbs, .45 calibre semi-automatic pistol trigger pull not less than 3.5lbs. Sights to be adjustable but not over 10 inches apart, measured from the apex of the rear sight to the apex of the front sight. All standard safety features of the gun must operate properly. Any sights including telescopic, are permitted with the exception of those sights which project an image on to the target. Any sighting device programmed to activate the firing mechanism is prohibited.

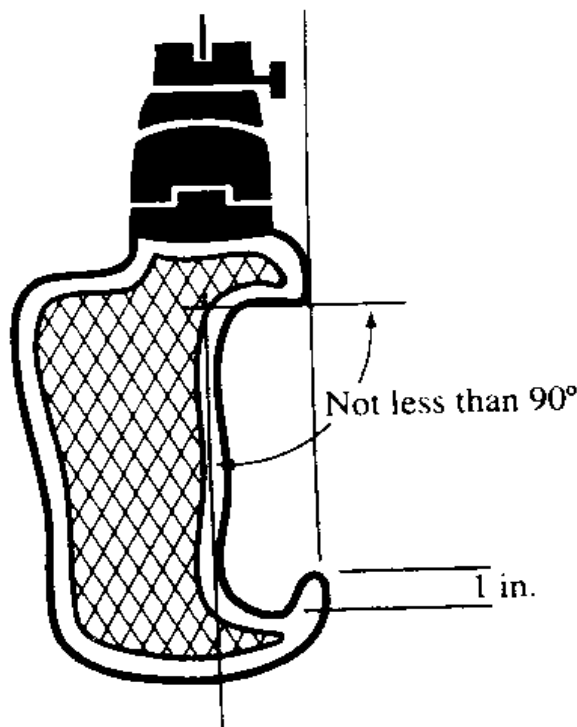
1.5 Use of Authorised Equipment

- (a) The .22 Calibre Pistol as described in Rule 1.1.3(Standard Smallbore Pistol) may be used in the 1.3 (Any .22 Calibre Pistol match).
- (b) The centrefire pistols described in 1.1.1(Service Pistol) and 1.1.4(Distinguished Revolver) may be used in the 1.2 (Any Centrefire Pistol match).
- (c) The centrefire pistol as described in Rule 1.1.4 (Distinguished Revolver) may be used in the 1.2a (Any Revolver match).

1.6 Grips - (all handgun classes except Service Pistol and Distinguished Revolver)

The grip, or any part of the firearm, may not be extended or constructed in any way which would give any support beyond the hand. The wrist must remain absolutely free and visible when the pistol is held in the firing position.

No part of the grip or accessory may encircle the hand (see Fig. A) Adjustable grips are permitted as long as they conform to the dimensions as shown in Fig A.



(Fig A- grip dimensions)

1.7 Spotting Scopes-

The use of the telescope to spot shots is permitted.

1.8 Release Triggers-

Triggers which function on release are prohibited.

2. **TARGETS** (NRA Pistol Rules - Section 4)

2.1 50 yard slow fire standard American target –B6 (the locally available MAYLEIGH Target F-1 is of identical dimensions.)

2.2 25 yard rapid and timed fire target-B8 (same as B6- except only 9&10 rings are black)

2.3 25 yard slow fire target-B6a a scaled version of the 50yd B6 target used on 25 yard/metre ranges.

2.4 50 METRE INTERNATIONAL SLOW FIRE- 13M used in the Mayleight and Civilian Team .22 matches only.

3. COURSES OF FIRE-(NRA Pistol Rules-Section 7) With the exception of Mayleight match, the National Match course is standard basis for all classes of handgun.
The Mayleight match will be shot with an Any .22 calibre handgun as described in Rule 1.3

3.1 National Match Course Number of shots - 30

Range	Type fire	Time per 10 shot string	Strings	Target
50yd/mts	slow	10 minutes	1	B-6
Range	Type fire	Time per 5 shot string	Strings	Target
25 yd/mt	timed	20 seconds	2	B-8
25 yd/mt	rapid	10 seconds	2	B-8

3.2 International Mayleight Match

Range	Type fire	Time per 10 shot string	Strings	Target
50yd/mts	slow	10 minutes	3	13-M

3.3 900 Match Course Number of shots - 90

Long Range

Range	Type fire	Time per 10 shot string	Strings	Target
50yd/mts	slow	10 minutes	2	B-6

National Match

Range	Type fire	Time per 10 shot string	Strings	Target
50yd/mts	slow	10 minutes	1	B-6

Range	Type fire	Time per 5 shot string	Strings	Target
25 yd/mt	timed	20 seconds	2	B-8
25 yd/mt	rapid	10 seconds	2	B-8

Timed Fire

Range	Type fire	Time per 5 shot string	Strings	Target
25 yd/mt	timed	20 seconds	4	B-8

Rapid Fire

Range	Type fire	Time per 5 shot string	Strings	Target
25 yd/mt	rapid	10 seconds	4	B-8

A registered course of fire exists for 25yd/m only ranges (3.4), substitute the B6a 25 yd slow fire target for the 50yd B6-see NRA Rule Book Section 7. A Branch level unregistered course of fire exists for a One and Two Handed Probation Match (ref: Section 24 NRA Rules) which uses the below 25yd/m only Course of Fire.

3.4 25 yard/metre Short Course Match Number of shots - 30

Range	Type fire	Time per 10 shot string	Strings	Target
25yd/mt	slow	10 minutes	1	B-6a
Range	Type fire	Time per 5 shot string	Strings	Target
25 yd/mt	timed	20 seconds	2	B-8
25 yd/mt	rapid	10 seconds	2	B-8

4. TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS (NRA Pistol Rules - Section 9.)

4.1 Changing pistols - Competitors are to use the same pistol during a single match (e.g. the National Match course, with a Distinguished Revolver). If a pistol becomes disabled at any time and is designated as such by the Chief Range Officer, all shots fired up to the time the claim is made will stand as part of the official score.

4.2 Sighting Shots - Sighting shots are not allowed as part of the Course of Fire in Target Pistol matches.

4.3 Defective Cartridge - A defective cartridge is one:

- (a) which has such evident structural defect as to cause a misfire or to cause a pistol to fail to function.
 - (b) which does not fire.
 - (c) from which the bullet has not left the barrel (no claim for a defective cartridge will be allowed if the bullet has left the barrel).
- (For procedure in event of a defective cartridge see: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3)

4.4 Disabled Pistol - a disabled pistol is one:

- (a) that cannot be safely aimed or fired
- (b) that has suffered damage so it cannot be fired or will not function properly
- (c) that has suffered the loss of a sight or damage to the sights

The fact that sights are improperly adjusted does not constitute disablement.
(For procedure in the event of a disabled pistol see: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3)

4.5 Malfunction - Failure of the pistol to function properly due to mechanical defects or to defective ammunition.

Functional failures due to improper manual operation are not to be considered malfunctions. (For procedure in the event of a malfunction see: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3)

5. RANGE COMMANDS and CONTROL (NRA Pistol Rules - Section 10)

The following commands are common to all events -

RANGE OPEN : For shooting

SHOOTERS TO THE LINE : Shooters/ detail come forward to the Firing Line

PREPARATION TIME BEGINS NOW : Competitors uncase their pistols and lay out their equipment. Range Officers check that each competitor is at the correct firing point with reference to the detail list and score card. At the end of the 3 minute preparation period the Range Officer states:

THE PREPARATION PERIOD HAS ENDED

LOAD - The load command would be based on the stage of the match being contested

In slow fire

10 SHOTS SLOW FIRE, 10 SHOTS IN 10 MINUTES, LOAD

In timed fire

5 SHOTS TIMED FIRE, 5 SHOTS IN 20 SECONDS, LOAD

In rapid fire

5 SHOTS RAPID FIRE, 5 SHOTS IN 10 SECONDS, LOAD

Slide forward, hammer cocked - Range Officer listens for "Not Ready" replies

IS THE LINE READY? THE LINE IS READY

READY ON THE RIGHT, READY ON THE LEFT, READY ON THE FIRING LINE - 3 SECONDS.

COMMENCE FIRE : Command may be given verbally, via audible signal or targets turning to face

CEASE FIRE : All firing to cease immediately, finger off trigger, await further commands

ARE THERE ANY REFIRES? Refer Section 5.1, 5.2

ABOVE (LOAD TO REFIRES) TO BE REPEATED UNTIL SECTION IS COMPLETED (eg Timed Fire, 2 strings)

UNLOAD AND SHOW CLEAR : Pistols to be unloaded, Ammunition covered, Range Officer will check each pistol on the Line, and then call:

RANGE CLEAR : All pistols clear, no handling of pistols

RANGE CLOSED, GO FORWARD, SCORE TARGETS AND PATCH (or CHANGE)

Shooters and Scorers move forward, score, patch or change targets.

PROCEDURES:

a. MALFUNCTIONS / MISFIRES -

(a) In the case of a malfunction/ misfire – stop - hand up - pistol at 45 degrees down Range-

Range Officer to attend and control outcome. See 5.2 and 5.3.

(b) Misfires and malfunctions allowed - 2 per string (NRA Rules are quite severe on this. 2 per string in our Rules at this stage to allow development of the discipline without undue pressure.)

(c) All reshoots as a result of malfunctions / misfires will be held at the end of each scoring set of 10 shots.

5.2 Procedure in case of Defective Cartridge, Disabled pistol in Slow Fire:

If the Range Officer determines that there has been a defective cartridge, the competitor will be allowed to replace the defective cartridge and continue firing. If additional time is required, one minute per shot will be allowed. In the event of a disabled pistol the Range Officer may allow time to repair the pistol or if not possible, allow replacement of the pistol. If additional time is required. one minute per shot will be allowed.

5.3 Procedure in case of Defective Cartridge, Disabled Pistol or Malfunction in Timed and Rapid Fire.

If the Range Officer determines that there has been a defective cartridge, disabled pistol, malfunction or optical sight failure, the number of shots remaining is to be recorded and on rectification of the problem the competitor will then fire another 5 shot string on the same target. On scoring the target, the scorer will score the 10 shots of lowest value on the target.

6. SCORING (NRA Pistol Rules – Section 14)

6.1 When to score -Targets are scored after each 10 shot stage.

6.2 Where to score - Targets are preferably scored on the target frames, but may be removed and scored at the Firing Line or in the statistical office. The scorer must be at the target when scoring.

6.3 Targets are score cards - Targets constitute the score cards when scored in the statistical office and therefore must be retained in good order until the time allowed for filing challenges and protests has expired.

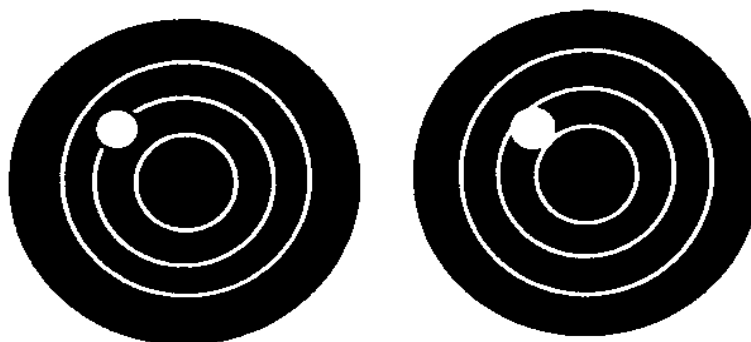


Fig B- The correct method of scoring
The shot on the left bullseye counts nine,
The one on the right ten.

6.4 How to score - A shot hole, the leading edge of which comes in contact with the outside of the bullseye or scoring rings of a target, is given the higher value (Fig B). A scoring gauge will be used to determine the value of close shots. The higher value will be allowed in those cases where the flange on the gauge touches the scoring ring. No scoring gauge will be used unless the diameter of the scoring flange is within these limits:

.22 calibre, .2225" - .2240"

.32 calibre, .310" - .314"

9mm & .38 Spl, .355" - .359"

Devices other than scoring gauges may be used in establishing the correct value of hits. These devices are not to be inserted into the bullet hole and do not constitute a scoring gauge.

- (a) In the case of keyhole or tipped shots, the higher value is awarded if the leading edge of the bullet hole touches the scoring ring of higher value, even though the hole is elongated to the bullet's length rather than being a circle of the bullet's diameter.
- (b) In the case of skid shots, the higher value is awarded if the leading edge of the bullet hole touches the scoring ring of higher value, except the value of a skid shot may not be more than one ring higher than the original point of bullet contact with the target. The target shall be defined as the entire card or paper on which the scoring rings are printed but shall not include the backing. When the original point of contact is on the target card, but outside the scoring rings, and the leading edge of the bullet touches a scoring ring, it will be given the value of the lowest scoring ring.
- (c) When a bullet enters a target from the back side it will be scored as a miss.

For further information on scoring procedures refer 2005 NRA PISTOL RULES – Section 14.

7. GRADING (NRA Pistol Rules – Section 19)

7.1 Graded Competitors - Are competitors who are officially graded in SSAA Target Pistol competition. Grades can only be awarded from Registered Matches. Matches are registered by notifying the National Chairman a minimum of 1 week in advance, and sending the National Chairman the scores from the match within 2 weeks of the completion of the match. The National Grading Register is maintained by the National Chairman and there is no grading card as such. The National Chairman will supply a copy of the match results in graded form after each event. The National Grading Register will be available at all National Championships. An individual may receive a copy of their Grading Register card by applying to the National Chairman in writing and supplying a stamped, return addressed envelope.

7.2 Ungraded Competitors - Are competitors who have yet to complete a registered 30 shot match, and receive a grade in SSAA Target Pistol Competition.

7.3 Establishing Grades - A competitor will receive their first grading on the basis of their first 30 shot match fired, or in a Championship with multiple 30 shot matches (900 Match). Their grade will be based on the average of that match aggregate. In a Championship, an ungraded competitor would be marked as “Ungraded” until completion of the match upon which they will be placed in a grade based on that score. For a shooter to go up a grade they must equal or exceed the qualifying score on 3 occasions (in the next shoot they are in the higher grade) and there is no time constraint on this.

Exceptions – Shooting a higher grade score at an International, National or State Championship level is an automatic upgrade.

7.4 Downgrading - Any application for downgrading must be made in writing to the National Chairman with due reason and supported by documentary evidence (i.e.: score sheets, medical statements etc.) that will help the Chairman to reach a decision. If, upon being downgraded, a competitor shoots a higher grade score, they will be automatically upgraded.

7.5 Proof of Grade - the National Grading Register is the only proof of grading accepted. The National Grading Register will eventually be available on the National website.

7.6 Nominating to a higher Grade - A shooter can elect to shoot in a higher grade for a match, provided nomination is made prior to the commencement of the match, and there are a minimum of three shooters already competing in the higher grade.

7.7 Grades - The NRA grading system is based on percentages of a score. For the sake of convenience the following grades are based on those percentages as applied to a 30 shot score in the 2 matches applicable to this Rule Book. The grade titles also have been simplified to a letter in brackets (e.g.; Sharpshooter (A)). A score shot on a 25yd/m Range using the reduced B6a target for slowfire is graded the same as a score shot on a 50yd/m Range.

GRADE	SCORE	GRADE	SCORE
C grade	0 - 199	AA(Expert)	270 - 284
B (Marksman)	200 - 254	M (Master)	285 - 290
A (Sharpshooter)	255 - 269	H (High Master)	291 - 300

8. CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS - National Championships will consist of 5 National Match events –

Any .22 Pistol 900 match, Service Pistol match, Any Centrefire 900 match, Any Revolver match and Distinguished Revolver, plus the Rimfire Mayleigh match. National Championship medals will be awarded for the first 3 places overall, as well as the first 3 places in each grade in the contested matches, as well as for the first 3 highest placed Juniors in each event, Winners of the first 3 places overall in each match will forego any grade medals they may have won, which will not be awarded. 3 medals will be awarded for the 6 match Open Aggregate and the 6 match Junior Aggregate. 3 Medals will also be

awarded for the National Team Selection Match Aggregate - being the first 3 places in the 1800 Aggregate of the Any .22 900 and Any Centrefire 900 matches or where permitted a 2700 Aggregate including the Any .45 900 match. At each National Championships there will be a further 3 gold medals allocated for a State Teams match.

9. THE EVENTS -

9.1 Standard .22 Pistol Match - National Match 30 shot course of fire with a gun conforming to the Standard .22 Pistol specifications. This is a supplementary match.

9.2 Any .22 Pistol Match - May be either the National Match or the 900 Match course of fire with a gun conforming to the Any .22 Pistol or Revolver specifications.

9.3 Distinguished Revolver Match - National Match 30 shot course of fire with a revolver conforming to the Distinguished Revolver specifications.

9.4 Any Centrefire Match - May be either the National Match course or the 900 Match course of fire with a gun conforming to the Any Centrefire Pistol or Revolver specifications.

9.5 Mayleigh Match - The 30 shot Mayleigh Match course of fire with a gun conforming to the Any .22 Pistol or Revolver specifications.

9.6 Service Pistol Match - National Match 30 shot course of fire with a pistol conforming to the CMP Service Pistol specifications.

9.7 Any Revolver/ Any Sights Match - National Match 30 shot course of fire with a revolver that conforms to the Any Centrefire Pistol or Revolver Rules. As in the USA, very few competitors shoot the Any Centrefire Match with an any-sight revolver. This match is meant to stimulate the use of these guns which dominated International competition in the past.

9.8 Any .45 Calibre Semi-automatic Pistol or Revolver Match - May be either the National Match course or the 900 Match course of fire with a gun conforming to the Any .45 Calibre Semi-automatic Pistol or Revolver specifications.

9.9 1800 Match - An aggregate of the Any .22 900 Match and the Any Centrefire 900 Match.

9.10 2700 Match - An aggregate of all 3 900 Matches - Any .22 900 Match, Any centrefire 900 Match and Any .45 900 Match. This is the standard course of fire in International level matches.

9.11 State Teams Match - A team of 3 competitors from the same State, Team competitors are to be nominated before commencement of the National Championships. Where the 2700 Match is contested, the event will consist of 1 competitor from each Team being pre-nominated to supply their score from one of the 3 events. Where the Any .45 900 Match is not contested, the third Team member will supply their score from the Distinguished Revolver Match. Separate records will be maintained for the two versions of the Teams Match.

9.12 One or Two Handed Probationary Match - An ungraded competition with no records maintained for SSAA Branch level use only. The firearm used may be any approved in this Rule Book. The course of fire is any of the approved courses in this rulebook. These competitors should be encouraged to compete in the standard Precision Target Pistol registered courses of fire.