



**International Shooting Sport Federation
Internationaler Schiess-Sportverband e.V.
Fédération Internationale de Tir Sportif
Federación Internacional de Tiro Deportivo**

2015 ISSF RULE INTERPRETATIONS

The 2013-2016 ISSF Rules have now been in effect for two years. One edition of “Rule Interpretations” for the current ISSF Rules was issued in February 2013. In January 2015, the ISSF Technical Committee approved some additional recommendations and rule interpretations. These new 2015 interpretations are provided in this document to give further guidance regarding the interpretation and application of ISSF Rules during 2015 and 2016 ISSF Championships.

- **Entries in 2015 Championships.** With Olympic qualifying taking place at all 2015 ISSF World Cups and Championships, record numbers of entries are expected. Some events are expected to exceed maximum entry limits so entries that arrive after maximum entries are reached must be placed on a waiting list. Entries on waiting lists will only be accepted, strictly in the order received, when a cancellation occurs. The best way for National Federations to ensure that their athlete entries are not placed on a waiting list is to make entries as soon as possible, well before the 30-day Final Entry Deadline.
- **Limited MQS Entries.** Due to range capacity concerns for 2015 Shotgun World Cups, MQS entries are not permitted prior to the 30-day Final Entry Deadline. MQS entries for the 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol Men event in Munich also will not be accepted before the Final Entry Deadline. If there are open entry positions after the Final Entry Deadlines for Shotgun World Cups or the RFP event in Munich, MQS entries will then be accepted without the late entry penalty applying (3.7.3.4.3 will not apply) in the order these entries are received and until the maximum entry is reached.
- **Fair Allocation of Unofficial Training Opportunities.** Organizers must use a procedure for allocating Unofficial Training range spaces and times according to the number of nations and athletes present. A first-come, first served sign-up procedure does not fulfill this requirement because it allows those first in line to claim more than their share of the training spaces. Organizers can ensure a fair allocation of Rifle-Pistol firing points by considering the number of athletes entered by each nation with athletes present. Spaces on Shotgun training squads and the number of rounds that can be fired must also be allocated by nation according to the number of athletes each nation has entered in the competition. A nation with four entered athletes should be allocated two times the number of training

spaces as a nation with two entered athletes (every athlete must have equal training possibilities).

- **Recommendation to National Federations: Placement of National Flags on Competition Clothing.** The ISSF is cooperating with the Olympic Broadcast System (OBS) to plan live television coverage of the 2016 Olympic Games Shooting events. For fans and spectators, there are strong emotional ties to national flags and OBS is encouraging International Sport Federations to increase the use of flags to help spectators and television viewers identify the nations of competing athletes. To further that objective, OBS strongly recommends that the ISSF encourage its National Federations to include their nations' flags on their athletes' competition clothing. Here are some guidelines for doing this:
 - **Shotgun Vests.** Rule 9.12.3 requires the IOC abbreviation of the nation to be displayed on the back of Shotgun vests. It is permitted to also place a national flag next to the IOC national abbreviation (see ISSF Eligibility Rules, p. 135). Some nations already do this. The ISSF encourages all National Federations to consider placing national flags on their athletes' Shotgun vests. Flags can also be placed on the front of caps or visors.
 - **Pistol Shirts.** Several national teams now place flags on the upper left side of the front of their pistol shooters' shirts (right-handed shooter). This is an excellent, visible way to provide national identification of pistol athletes. National Federations whose athletes are not already displaying national flags on their outer garments are encouraged to consider doing this.
 - **Rifle Shooting Jackets.** These present a more difficult challenge because many rifle jackets now incorporate athlete colors and not national colors. A national flag placed on the upper right shoulder would fulfill this requirement if the jacket design accommodates this. Flags can also be placed on the front of caps or visors.
- **Medalist Presentations.** Television production and sports presentation experiences during the 2014 WCH and WCs demonstrated how important it is to present the three medal winners for TV, the media and spectators immediately after the final ends. The ISSF will continue having medalist presentations after 2015 and 2016 Finals. For these presentations to be successful, Jury Members must assist in bringing medalists to the presentation area. Coaches or other athletes must wait for a few moments after the Final while the medalists are announced before they enter the FOP.
- **6.2.3.1, Definition of "Load."** Question: Is a gun loaded when a cartridge is placed on the gun or in the chamber or is it only loaded when the action is closed? Answer: A gun is considered loaded when a


cartridge or pellet touches the gun. No one may place a cartridge or pellet on the gun or in its chamber or barrel until the command “**Load**” is given.

- **6.3.6.4, Backing Targets for 25m Events.** This rule requires that full backing targets must be in place for all 25m electronic targets that cover the entire width and height of the 25m frames. There was a question regarding whether full backing targets are also required for 25m paper targets. The answer is yes, full backing targets must be in place for all 25m events because their purpose is to identify shots that miss the targets.
- **6.7.7.1, b), Equipment Control Center.** This is a reminder that this rule requires Organizers and Equipment Control Juries to have the Equipment Control Section “*open to provide voluntary inspections for athletes’ equipment, starting with the Official Training day and continuing through the last day of Rifle-Pistol-Running Target competition.*” It is important for all athletes to have the possibility to check their equipment at any time during a competition. For Pistol athletes who want to check triggers or ammunition velocities, it is possible to have trigger weights and a chronograph available on the 25m range.
- **6.7.7.1, e), Seals for Rifle jackets and trousers.** Rifle and Equipment Control Juries are reminded that all rifle shooting jackets and shooting trousers must have a one-time inspection and a serial-numbered seal placed on them. This serial number must be recorded in the ISSF database. Rifle athletes can have only one active seal for each item and compliance should be checked on a random basis. If numbered seals are not available at a Championship, jackets and trousers can be checked on a temporary basis and an equipment control sticker can be placed on them. However, without a permanent seal this check applies only for that competition.
- **6.7.9.1. Post Competition Testing.** This rule identifies specific items that post-competition checks must cover. Rifle checks must include shooting clothing, underclothing, taping and rifles. Pistol checks must include shoes, taping, trigger weighing, pistol dimensions and grips and ammunition velocity checks. Shotgun checks must include ammunition and Skeet marker tapes. This rule is interpreted to mean that specific items listed in 6.7.9.1 are subject to disqualification when violations are found in post-competition testing. Items that are not listed such as blinders and caps are regarded as minor violations and should receive warnings, but are not subject to post-competition disqualifications. Juries should detect and correct these items during training or before qualification competitions are completed.
- **6.14.1, Posting Preliminary Results.** This rule requires the Classification Office to “*publish Preliminary Results on the Range Scoreboard as soon as possible after each relay and stage and completion of each event.*” Posting Preliminary Results and offering a 10-minute Protest Time

(6.16.6.1) are necessary before a Finals Start List can be produced. This must be done immediately after a relay is finished, even if post-competition equipment tests (6.7.9.1) are not yet completed. Do not wait until equipment control post competition tests are completed. If there is a DSQ, version 2 of the Preliminary Results can be published. This procedure is necessary to avoid delaying the publication of Finals Start Lists and the start of Finals.

- **6.17. Shoot-offs and Malfunction Refires/Completions in Finals.**
During the last two years, we have had a few unfortunate situations where athletes became confused as to whether they were supposed to shoot or not shoot in tie-breaking shoot-offs or malfunction refires or completions. The ISSF agrees that in these situations, it is often difficult for athletes to clearly understand what they should do. When these circumstances occur, athletes must not be penalized. When necessary to clarify a situation, a Jury Member should intervene to make sure any athlete who is in a shoot-off is aware of this and is advised to load and complete the shoot-off. Jury Members and Range Officers should also be prepared to stop any athlete who is not in a shoot-off or malfunction refire/completion from loading.
- **6.17.1.3, Athletes may not receive assistance during Finals.** Rule 6.17.1.3 requires athletes to *“report with their equipment including sufficient ammunition to complete a Final.”* This means that once a finalist is called to the line to start a Final, a coach, Range Officer or Jury Member may not assist them in preparing for the Final or in changing positions. Delivering forgotten or fallen items of equipment is not permitted. If an athlete must return to the Preparation Room to obtain a forgotten item, this is permitted if it does not disturb other athletes, but no additional time will be allowed and athletes must be present for the presentation.
- **6.17.1.12 d) and 6.17.1.12 k), When can finalists remove safety flags.**
There is a conflict in these two rules. 6.17.1.12 d) states that when rifle-pistol finalists take their positions on the FOP, they may *“remove safety flags, but they may not dry fire....* 6.17.1.12 k) states, *“Safety flags must remain inserted until the Sighting and Preparation Time starts.”* The ISSF Rifle and Pistol Section Committees have decided that 6.17.1.12 k) is the prevailing rule. When finalists are called to their firing points, *“they may handle their guns, get into firing positions and do holding or aiming exercises, but they may not remove safety flags or dry fire until the Preparation and Sighting Time starts.”*
- **6.17.3, Rifle 3-Position Finals.** The reason special equipment boxes were introduced for 3-Position Finals is to provide a means of keeping the field of play (FOP) clean and orderly so 3-Position Rifle Finals will be more attractive on television and to spectators. Image is important to the success of our sport! The fundamental rule regarding the use of equipment boxes is that all of the equipment the athletes use except rifles and shooting stands must be brought to the FOP in these boxes and all

equipment not used during a firing position must be in the boxes. If shooting trousers are removed for the prone position, they must be folded and placed in the equipment box. All 3-position finalists are kindly requested to place all unused equipment in their boxes. If something is unintentionally missed, a Jury Member or Range Officer can place it in the box. Range Officers and Jury Members should also try to fold or remove shooting mats after athletes change from prone to standing.

- **6.17.3, d. Insertion of Safety Flags During Finals Presentations.** The rule in this case is clear. *"Finalists must unload their rifles and insert safety flags for the presentation"* and further that *"A Range Officer must verify that gun actions are open with safety flags inserted."* Range Officers and Juries are reminded to continue to enforce this safety flag requirement during the presentation of Rifle-Pistol Finalists.
- **6.17.5, 25m Pistol Women Finals.** A new system for managing athletes' equipment during 25m Pistol Women Finals was introduced at the Granada WCH. Finalists were given small equipment boxes for their pistols, ammunition and equipment, which they used to bring their equipment to their firing points. After the semifinal, the two athletes in the bronze medal match used their boxes to move their equipment to points C and H; the two athletes in the gold medal match were authorized to take their pistols to the preparation room where they can do warm up exercises. All other athletes used their boxes to move their equipment to a table on the side of the range and then take their seats with their coaches. This system facilitated a much better transition from the semifinal to the medal matches and will be continued in 2015 and 2016.
 
- **6.19, Does the ISSF Dress Code apply to coaches?** The ISSF Dress Code clearly applies to Athletes (6.19.2) and Officials (6.19.3). While 6.19.3 does not specifically name coaches, the ISSF wants all coaches who will appear on the field of play where they can be seen by spectators, media and television to be appropriately dressed. This will be especially important during the Olympic Games when our Finals will be seen by millions of TV viewers. This means coaches who are going to be on the FOP for qualification or Finals competition should not wear sandals, jeans, cut-off shorts or other non-sporting clothing.
- **7.4.5.1, e). Prohibited Lower Butt Plate Projections.** This Rule prohibits the use of devices or weights projecting from the lower part of the butt plate. It is not permitted to wrap tape around such a device and another part of the butt-stock and then claim that the device or weight is part of the stock. Any device or weight that projects out from the lower

part of the butt plate and that violates the intent of 7.4.5.1, e) is illegal even if it is covered with tape.

- **7.5.7. Under Clothing.** Some 3-position rifle athletes have been observed putting on a second layer of underclothing when preparing for the standing position. This is permitted if the total thickness of all underclothing layers does not exceed 2.5 mm in thickness. Any athletes who use double layers of underclothing are advised that both layers together may not exceed 2.5 mm in thickness and that athletes who use double-layers of under clothing are subject to targeted post-competition testing.
- **7.7.3, Failure to change targets to Sighting for position changes.** There were several instances during 2014 WCs, when Rule 6.11.7.1 was incorrectly interpreted and penalties were applied to athletes in 3-position rifle events when those athletes neglected to switch their targets back to Sighting for the next position after completing their competition shots in one position. When an athlete does not switch his/her target to Sighting, the first sighter shot in the new position will be displayed as an additional illegal shot in the previous position. This does not warrant a 2-point penalty. The intention of Rules 6.11.7.1 and 7.7.3 is not to penalize an athlete for such a procedural lapse, especially one that can be so easily rectified. In the event this occurs, the Range Officer and Competition Jury Member must complete a Range Incident Report (Form IR) and immediately inform the SIUS Technical Officer and Classification Jury Member on duty in the Range Control Room. They will complete a manual intervention within the EST system and reset the individual athlete's monitor on the field of play to sighters.
- **8.7.6.2, 3), Disqualification for a shot fired before the LOAD command (25m Pistol events).** A question was received regarding the correct penalty for loading and firing before the command "**LOAD**." Rule 6.2.3.4 states that "*if an athlete fires a shot before the command "**LOAD**" or "**START**" is given,... "he may be disqualified if safety is involved."* Rule 8.7.6.2 e), which applies only to 25m Pistol events, states "*An athlete who fires a shot or shots before the command "**LOAD**" must be disqualified."* If such a violation occurs in 25m Pistol events, Rule 8.7.6.2, 3) must be applied. For other events, the Jury must decide whether this was a safety issue or resulted from confusion or some other cause.
- **9.4.3. Shotgun Ammunition.** Procedures adopted in 2014 were designed to strictly enforce Rule 9.4.3 that requires the disqualification of any Shotgun athletes who are caught with shotshells having a shot charge of more than 24.5 g. The ISSF is advising shotshell manufacturers to take care to ensure that no shot charges exceed 24.5 g. National federations are also advised that in 2015 and 2016, the Equipment Control Jury or the Shotgun Jury will conduct checks and that violators must be disqualified. Athletes and team leaders should be aware that ISSF Technical Delegates

and Jury Chairmen have government-certified check weights to confirm that the scales used to weigh shot charges are accurate.

- **9.7.3, 9.8.3, Preparation Time Limits.** In 2014, the ISSF began to strictly enforce preparation time limits for all Shotgun events. These rules apply to Trap and Double Trap and state, *“An athlete must take his/her position, close the gun and call for the target/double within 12 seconds after the previous athlete has fired at a regular target, has opened the gun and the result is registered, or after the Referee has given the command “START.”* Applying this rule for qualification and semifinal rounds is clear, but there has been some confusion regarding when to start the 12-second clock during Finals medal matches. In medal matches, the Referee must give the **“START”** command for the first athlete. The 12-second clock for the second athlete must automatically be started for the second athlete after the first athlete’s result is registered. A **“START”** command for the second shooter is not necessary. After both medal match athletes have fired and moved to their next stations, the Referee must again give a **“START”** command for the first athlete after both athletes have entered their next stations.
- **9.8.6.1, a), Double Trap Trial Targets.** This rule states, *“Each day, after the traps have been adjusted and approved by the Jury, one trial regular Double must be thrown for each setting (schemes A, B and C) before the start of the first round of competition.”* The question here concerns whether this means doing this only once on each range before the first squads start or doing this before each squad fires its first round for the day. Since this procedure can only be fair if all athletes have the same opportunity to see the trial Doubles, this rule must be interpreted to mean that one trial regular Double for each setting must be thrown before each squad fires its first round for the day.
- **9.9.3.6, c) Is tracking Skeet targets with one hand permitted?** This rule states, *“Prior to the start of the round an athlete is not permitted to make any aiming or sighting exercises with or without the gun on any other station.”* The intent of this rule is to prohibit shouldering and sighting the gun on stations other than station 1. Some Referees have interpreted this to include actions where athletes who are not shooting use their hand to track the targets. The intent of this rule is not to prohibit an athlete from using a single hand to track targets while another athlete is shooting.

Anyone with further questions about how ISSF Rules should be interpreted is encouraged to contact ISSF Headquarters with their questions.