

# MSA'S UNOFFICIAL COPY OF IHMSA OFFICIAL RULES

## SECTION I: General

### A. Name

The official name of the organization is International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association, Inc. For convenience, it may be referred to by its initials, IHMSA.

### B. Membership

1. Membership in IHMSA shall be defined and described as one of the following:

- a) Individual Member: membership is US \$30.00 per year and is open to any person 18 years or older. New members, upon payment of dues, shall receive a Membership / Classification Card, Official Rules, and a subscription to the *IHMSA News*, the official journal of IHMSA. An Individual Member has voting rights.
- b) Individual Junior Member: membership is US \$15.00 per year. An individual shall be considered a Junior for membership purposes until his / her 18th birthday, and shall be upgraded to an Individual Member upon his / her following renewal date. An individual shall be considered a Junior for competition purposes until his / her 18th birthday; however, any match may be completed as a Junior provided he / she is a Junior on the first day of the match. Individual Junior membership application must include parent or guardian approval.
- c) Family Member: additional members of an Individual Member's immediate family (i.e., spouse, son, daughter) may join for a fee of US \$7.00 each per year. They will be assigned the same membership number as the Individual Member with an appropriate suffix, ("H" for husband, "W" for wife, "S" for son, or "D" for daughter). The additional family memberships do not include a subscription to the *IHMSA News*.
- d) Life Member: members may obtain a Life Membership at a cost of US \$420.00. This fee includes a life subscription to the *IHMSA News*, a new membership card with suffix "L" following the membership number, IHMSA Life Member pin, and a special certificate.

2. Special arrangements may be made for Surface, First Class, or Air Mail delivery of the *IHMSA News* to Affiliated Nations and members residing outside the USA. The procedure, options, and costs of postage and handling are published in the *IHMSA News*.

### C. Competition

1. The object of all IHMSA competition is to knock down metallic silhouettes with a handgun. There are four types of IHMSA competition: Big Bore, Small Bore (.22), Field Pistol and Air Pistol. Specific rules for each type of competition are covered in Sections [VII](#), [VIII](#), [IX](#) and [X](#) respectively.

### D. Competitor Classification

1. The first score fired in a sanctioned match by a competitor in a particular type and category of competition shall establish a classification for that match only. The competitor's official classification shall be one class lower, effective at the next match in which he competes. The score shall qualify as one "leg" into the class in which it was fired. During the following twelve month period, the next score fired, including re-entry scores, which exceeds the break point of his official class in that category, will move the competitor to the next higher class, effective at the next match in which he competes.

Example: If an unclassified competitor fires a "AA" class score in his first match, the score shall count as a "AA" score for that match only. The official classification marked on his Classification Card shall be "A", one class lower. If the shooter fires another "AA" class

score within the next twelve months, his classification will then be "AA", effective at the next match in which he competes.

Thereafter, any two scores, including re-entry scores, fired by a competitor during any twelve month period, which exceed the break point of his class in that category, will move the competitor to that class, effective at the next match in which he competes.

2. If a competitor fires a single score that exceeds the break point for a class that is two or more classes above the competitor's current class, he shall be advanced to the class immediately below the class of the score fired, effective at that match. Such score will also be the first "leg" into the class in which it was fired.

Example: If a "B" class competitor fires a "AA" class score, he is immediately reclassified as an "A" class competitor, effective in that match, and has one "leg" into "AA" class.

3. For classification purposes, 60 or 80 round matches fired straight through will be converted to a 40 round match equivalent and treated as a single score per Sections [I-D-1](#) and [I-D-2](#), above.

Examples: Conversion of an 80-round-match score is accomplished by dividing the score by 2 and dropping any fraction of a point (e.g., a score of 79 or 78 would both equate to a score of 39). Conversion of a 60-round-match score is accomplished by multiplying the score by 2 and then dividing the result by 3 and dropping any fraction of a point (e.g., a score of 58 or 57 would both equate to a score of 38).

4. Reclassification to a lower class will be based on eight consecutive sanctioned match scores below the break point of the competitor's current class. Reclassification to a lower class is allowed only by approval of both the competitor's respective State and Regional Directors in the USA, or National Director in other Nations. Downward reclassification will only be allowed during the period between the annual IHMSA International Championship and the following January 1st.

5. Any National/Regional/State/Match Director, or member of the Executive Committee, shall have the authority to classify or reclassify any competitor into any IHMSA class according to "known ability" at any time before, during, or after a match. Should there be any questions regarding this procedure or any decisions there from, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee for a final decision.

To determine "known ability," any available facts and information should be taken into consideration including:

- Any scores fired at sanctioned, unsanctioned, or practice matches, whether said competitor was an IHMSA member or not.
- Any and all other facts and information relating to the competitor's ability to shoot and hit silhouette targets with a handgun.

6. Any IHMSA member who omits scores in order to continue competing in a lower class is subject to suspension from IHMSA for one year.

7. Classification for each type of competition (Big Bore, Small Bore / .22, Field Pistol and Air Pistol) shall be considered separately. However, "known ability" in one type of competition may be considered in those situations referred to in Section [I-D-5](#), above.

8. Competitors may not initially be classified in an Unlimited category with a Production handgun.

9. Individual classifications. Each category shall be divided into classes as follows:

**a) Big Bore / Small Bore (.22) / Air Pistol Production and Revolver**

International	38 - 40
AAA	33 - 37
AA	24 - 32
A	18 - 23
B	11 - 17
C	0 - 10

**b) Big Bore / Small Bore (.22) / Air Pistol Standing**

International	28 - 40
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AAA	22 -27
AA	16 - 21
A	8 - 15
B	0 - 7

**c) Big Bore / Small Bore (.22) / Air Pistol Unlimited**

International	40
AAA	37 - 39
AA	30 - 36
A	25 - 29
B	18 - 24
C	0 - 17

**d) Big Bore / Small Bore (.22) / Air Pistol Unlimited Standing, Air Pistol Unlimited Standing Iron Sights and Field Pistol Production Any Sights**

International	36 - 40
AAA	30 - 35
AA	22 - 29
A	15 - 21
B	0-14

**e) Big Bore / Small Bore (.22) / Air Pistol Unlimited Any Sights and Big Bore Unlimited Any Sights Half-Scale**

International	40
AAA	37 - 39
AA	0 - 36

**f) Big Bore Unlimited Half-Scale**

International	38 - 40
AAA	33 - 37
AA	24 - 32
A	18 - 23
B	11 - 17
C	0 - 10

**g) Field Pistol Production**

International	30 - 40
AAA	23 - 29
AA	16 - 22
A	8 - 15
B	0 - 7

## E. Matches

1. Sanctioned matches will consist of a 40, 60, or 80 round course of fire with an equal number of targets being engaged at each distance. Target distances for each type of competition are specified in Section [XI-B](#).
2. Targets consist of steel silhouettes of chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams. Target specifications are detailed for each type of competition in Section [V](#).
3. Targets will be fired upon in timed, two minute stages, five targets per stage.
4. Shooting positions will be Freestyle and Standing. Rules for shooting positions are specified in Section [VI](#).
5. Specific rules for the conduct of matches are detailed in Section [XI](#).

## F. Rules

1. All IHMSA rules, and any new rules which may be adopted from time to time, including any and all rule interpretations and clarifications thereof, and/or rule changes as officially established by the voting Delegates or by the IHMSA Executive Committee, are an integral part of the IHMSA Bylaws.
2. All articles and sections of the Bylaws and the provisions contained therein, likewise, are an integral part of the IHMSA Official Rules and shall apply accordingly.
3. All members and competitors agree to abide by the final decisions of the Executive Committee in all matters having to do with the Official Rules and Bylaws.

## G. IHMSA Pledge

1. In making application for membership in the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association, Inc., I hereby acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Official Rules and agree to read and be bound by said rules.
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## SECTION II: Safety

### A. General

1. Adherence to generally accepted firearms safety procedures, and the specific procedures detailed below, is the absolute top priority at any IHMSA-sanctioned event. While the Match Director has the primary responsibility for overseeing the conduct of the match, safety is the responsibility of every competitor, spotter, and match official. **Safety is the only reason a competitor can be interrupted during the course of fire.**

### B. Specific Safety Procedures

1. If a safety or rule violation occurs, the competitor should not be interrupted during the loading or firing period unless it is a serious safety problem (i.e., poses an immediate threat to the safety of the competitor or any other individual). The Match Director or Line Officer shall give the competitor a warning of the rule or safety violation. If, after the warning, the same violation recurs during the same course of fire, the competitor shall be disqualified for that course of fire.
2. It is mandatory that appropriate eye and ear protection be worn by all competitors, spotters, line officers, and any other personnel on the designated firing line. It is recommended that side shields be worn on the eye protection. Hearing protection is optional for Air pistol only.
3. Upon the command "Cease Fire", shooters shall immediately unload their handguns and put them in a "safe" condition (i.e., action open). Other than transporting their handguns to the next shooting position. Competitors may not handle their handguns until the command "Load" is given. Upon reaching the next shooting position, the handgun must be immediately placed on the shooting mat (or in a suitable stable carrier) and visible so that its safe condition can be verified by a Line Officer.
4. Muzzle Control:
  - a) From the moment a handgun is placed on the firing line, until it is removed, the muzzle shall point down range.
  - b) At no time during the loading or firing stages shall competitors allow their handgun to point at any part of their anatomy or any other person.
  - c) While in the firing position, no part of the competitor's body may be in the "Danger Zone", which is a cone-shaped area extending down range from the muzzle at a 45 degree angle above and below, and to the left and right, of the centerline of the bore.
  - d) During firing, competitors shall not allow the muzzle of their handgun to recoil past vertical.
5. A Match Director shall have the authority to remove from the firing line any handgun that shaves bullet material. The competitor may substitute another handgun, which must pass inspection for the appropriate category. However, the match will not be delayed.

6. Competitors have the responsibility to assemble ammunition that is safe to fire in the handgun for which it is loaded. Since there are no commercial standards for the popular "wildcat" and "improved" cartridges, it is up to the competitor to exercise caution and common sense in working up loads. Handgun silhouette shooting requires higher working pressures than any other handgun usage except hunting. There is, however, no acceptable reason for subjecting a handgun to dangerous pressures, or risking injury to any person as a result of using such ammunition.
  7. Triggers set so light as to be prone to accidental discharge are not allowed. This will normally be tested by cocking a unloaded handgun and rapping the butt sharply, with the palm of the hand. If the sear mechanism disengages, the handgun will not be allowed in competition. The above procedure notwithstanding, the Match Director may disqualify a handgun if it is believed to be unsafe for any reason.
  8. A misfire must be handled as if it is a hang fire and the handgun must be pointed down range for a safe period of time after the trigger is pulled. It is not considered safe to open the action on a firearm immediately after it has misfired.
  9. Any load that regularly requires extraction of the cartridge by any method other than the internal extractor of the handgun will be considered unsafe and not allowed. The Match Director shall use his discretion in determining the safety of reloaded ammunition and is given the authority to enforce this rule.
  10. Should any round be discharged before the "Load" command is given, the competitor will be disqualified for that match. Should any round be discharged after the "Load" command, but before the "Fire" command, it will be judged as a lost shot.
  11. All handgun actions must be open, except on the firing line after the "Load" command is given.
  12. For the safety of the competitors on the firing line and the target setters in the field, handguns shall not be handled between firing stages, except for the purpose of moving to the next firing position.
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## **SECTION III: Handguns**

### **A. Production**

1. A pistol or revolver that is or was a catalog item as of January 1, 1977, or before, for Big Bore competition, or before January 1, 1979 for Small Bore (.22) competition, and was readily available to the general public.
2. Barrel length not to exceed 10 3/4", by manufacturers specifications. If a muzzle brake/compensator is used in Small Bore (.22), it must be included in the barrel measurement. If it is optionally removable as manufactured, and removing it allows the handgun to qualify under the barrel length rule, then the handgun may be used without the muzzle brake/compensator.
3. Weight shall not exceed 4 pounds, unloaded with magazine for open-sight categories, and 5 pounds for the Field Pistol Production Any Sights category, including optical equipment. The weight of any CO2 or other propellant containers shall be included in the gun weight for the Air Pistol category.
4. The overall length of Production handguns shall not exceed 18 inches. Measurements to be square and parallel to the centerline of the bore.
5. The handgun must be complete at all times in form, finish, and mechanical function as manufactured. Only parts which are manufacturers' catalog items for the particular model may be used for repair or replacement.
6. Small Bore (.22) Production handguns shall include:
  - a) All standard .22 caliber pistols as manufactured in the USA.

b) All .22 caliber pistols manufactured outside the USA which conform to the criteria and specifications of UIT rules for Sport Pistol and Standard Pistol, as well as all IHMSA rules and criteria.

7. The original sights (front, rear, or both) may be replaced, except in the AIR category, with sights which are catalog items, manufactured to fit the handgun without alteration to the sights or handgun. Replacement sights may not extend the original sight radius by more than 1 inch. In the Air Pistol category only, the front or rear sights may be filed to raise or lower the point of impact, and the rear sight opening may be widened.

The following are allowed or not allowed:

a) Covered front sights are allowed.

b) Scope rib type sight bases are allowed.

c) Tube sights are not allowed.

d) Covered rear sights are not allowed.

Exception: .22 caliber Browning Buckmark Model with covered rear sight is allowed as previously approved.

8. Stocks which are standard catalog items, and which are finished by the stock maker to standard patterns, may be used as replacement parts.

9. Removal of factory checkering, in the process of refinishing any Production handgun stock, grip, or forend, is not allowed.

10. Adjustable grips as provided by the manufacturer on Small Bore (.22) UIT pistols are allowed. However, no adjustments of such grips are allowed after the competitor has begun a course of fire. No other adjustable grips will be allowed on any Production handgun.

11. A trigger job may be performed on a Production handgun. Sear engagement surfaces of the hammer and trigger may be smoothed and re-hardened to achieve a controlled release. The factory trigger spring may be stretched, bent, or cut. No other springs from any other manufacturer may be used. Polishing the sides of the hammer, trigger, or insides of the frame is not permitted. No internal parts other than standard catalog parts from the manufacturer of the handgun may be used. No other modifications are allowed.

12. Sights may be smoked or painted any color to suit the competitor. This includes painting of sight setting marks.

13. Hammer extensions are allowed. Extensions must be a manufacturer's catalog item and may not be altered.

14. Optical equipment may be used in the Field Pistol Production Any Sights category only. Scopes, mounts, and other optical devices shall be as manufactured with no modifications.

15. Production handguns may be drilled and tapped for scopes and still be used in the Production gun categories so long as the holes are fitted with filler screws.

16. Open sights may be removed to install a scope mount for Field Pistol Production Any Sights (PAS).

17. Scopes and optical devices must be removed from handguns which are used in a Production gun open sight category.

18. It is permissible to leave scope mounts on Production handguns, provided they are not used as a shooting aid.

19. No other external or internal changes may be made to a handgun which is used in a Production gun category. Exception: Engraving of metal parts of a handgun by the manufacturer or other party is allowed, provided it is strictly commemorative or decorative and does not constitute nor is used as a shooting aid.

20. A revolver or semi-automatic pistol used in any Production gun category must be loaded with five rounds and fired as such. Revolvers and pistols used in Unlimited categories may be loaded and fired single-shot, at the option of the competitor.

21. Bolt action handguns are not allowed in any Production category, with two exceptions: Remington XP-100, 10 3/4" inch barrel, chambered for the .241 Fireball cartridge is allowed for the Big Bore Production category and bolt action handguns are allowed for the Air Pistol Production category.

22. Fox Ridge Outfitters and Thompson Center (T/C) Custom Shop replacement barrels are allowed on T/C Contender and Encore frames.

23. No Production Air Pistol shall have a manufacturer's suggested retail price greater than \$150.00 U.S. based on 2001 MSRP.

24. The Evaluation Committee shall have the responsibility for determining the category in which any new model handgun will compete. Any handguns manufactured after January 1, 1977 for Big Bore or January 1, 1979 for Small Bore (.22), will be subject to examination by the Evaluation Committee and such Officers and Directors of IHMSA as may be appointed by the President. Such handguns and/or accessories will be allowed to compete in Production categories if so warranted by majority vote. Otherwise, such equipment may be eligible to compete in Unlimited categories only. All design changes and/or modifications of handguns approved for Production must be submitted to the Evaluation Committee for approval. All new equipment, design changes, and modifications must be approved at least 90 days prior to the annual International Championships to be allowed for use in that competition.

## **B. Unlimited**

1. A handgun with a maximum barrel length and sight radius of 15 inches and a maximum weight of 5 pounds, unloaded, with magazine, may be used in all Unlimited categories.

2. A handgun with a maximum barrel length of 15 inches and a maximum weight of 6 pounds, unloaded, with magazine, including telescopic or other optical device and mounts, may be used in the Unlimited Standing, Unlimited Any Sights, and Unlimited Any Sights Half-Scale categories. Scopes and other optical devices must be removed from handguns that are to be used in the Unlimited and Unlimited Half-Scale categories. It is permissible to leave scope mounts on such handguns, provided they are not used as a shooting aid.

3. The sight radius shall be measured from the rear edge of the front blade or aperture insert of a covered sight to the rear surface of the rear sight leaf, blade, peep hole, or aperture, as seen by the eye in the sighting position. The overall length of the sighting apparatus including hoods, covers, tubes, sunshades, extensions, or other device shall not exceed 18 inches.

4. The official barrel length shall be the distance between the bolt or breech face and the highest part of the muzzle crown. This distance shall be measured by inserting a rod down the barrel bore until it makes contact with the bolt or breech face, then a straight edge is placed across the muzzle at the highest part of the crown. The rod may then be marked and measured. An alternate method shall be a rod with a fixed stop that is pre-set to the maximum barrel length. If a muzzle brake is used, it must be measured as part of the barrel length.

5. The overall length of Unlimited handguns may not be more than 25 inches. Measurements shall be square or parallel to the centerline of the barrel bore.

6. Adjustable grips are not allowed on any pistol in this category, except Air Pistol unlimited categories.

7. All .22 caliber UIT Free pistols are classed as Unlimited handguns, provided they comply with other IHMSA handgun rules.

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## **SECTION IV: Cartridges**

### **A. Big Bore Cartridges**

1. Bottle-neck and straight-wall centerfire cartridges may be used for Big Bore competition.

### **B. Small Bore (.22) Cartridges**

1. Only .22LR rimfire ammunition shall be used for Small Bore competition, and shall be fired as manufactured.

## C. Field Pistol Cartridges

1. Straight-wall, centerfire pistol cartridges of standard manufacture are allowed with a maximum case length of 1.29 inches, as specified for that cartridge. Also allowed are the .32-20 with a length of 1.32 inches, .270 REN, .22 Hornet, 25-20 and Rimfire (.22LR and .22WMR). Rimfire ammunition must be fired as manufactured.

## D. AIR Pistol

1. Pellets shall be .22 caliber or smaller, made from lead or similar soft metal. BB's or other round balls are not allowed, due to possible ricochet.

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# SECTION V: Targets

## A. Big Bore Targets

1. Targets shall be "full scale" steel silhouettes of chickens, pigs, turkeys, and rams per official IHMSA scale templates for all Big Bore competition, except Unlimited Half-Scale (See Section [V-C](#)).

2. Targets shall be made from steel plate and shall be 1/2 inch thick for the chicken and pig, and 3/8 inch thick for the turkey and ram, or the nearest metric equivalent.

3. The "feet" upon which the targets rest should be made from the same type and thickness of steel as the targets. The feet shall be welded to the targets per the official templates. The dimensions of the feet shall be:

- a) Chickens 3 inches wide by 4 inches long
- b) Pigs 2 inches wide by 4 inches long
- c) Turkeys 3 inches wide by 6-8 inches long
- d) Rams 4 inches wide by 5 inches long

The nearest metric equivalent may be used.

4. Tempered steel targets (at least one set) will be mandatory before any club will be allowed to sponsor a Big Bore championship match. In the event that tempered steel targets are not available, the sponsor club will waive the target damage rule which limits bullet penetration to 25% of target thickness (See Section [XII-G-1](#)).

## B. Small Bore (.22) Targets

1. Targets shall be 3/8 scale of "full scale" targets, per official IHMSA scale templates for Small Bore (.22) competition.

2. Targets shall be made from steel plate and shall be 3/16 inch or 1/4 inch thick for all targets, or the nearest metric equivalent.

3. The "feet" upon which the targets rest should be made from the same type and thickness of steel as the targets. The feet shall be welded to the targets per the official templates.

## C. Field Pistol/Big Bore Unlimited Half Scale Targets

1. Targets shall be 1/2 scale of "full scale" targets per official IHMSA scale templates for Field Pistol competition.

2. Targets shall be made from tempered steel plate and shall be 3/8 inch or 1/2 inch thick for all targets, or the nearest metric equivalents.

3. The "feet" upon which the targets rest should be made from the same type and thickness of steel as the targets. The feet shall be welded to the targets per the official templates. The dimensions of the feet for all targets shall be 2 inches wide by 4 inches long, or the nearest metric equivalents.

## D. Air Pistol Targets

1. Targets shall be 1/10th scale of "full scale" targets per official IHMSA scale templates for Air Pistol competition.
2. Targets shall be made from steel plates and shall be 1/8 inch thick for all targets, or the nearest metric equivalent. Commercially available targets of die cast metal construction are allowed.
3. The feet upon which the targets rest shall be made from the same type and thickness of steel as the targets and shall be welded to the targets. The feet shall be 1 inch wide, or the nearest metric equivalent and length proportional to the target.

## E. Automated Reset Target Systems

1. Automated reset target systems are permitted. Due to various designs which may be utilized, exact toppling forces are not mandated. The following values, derived from test data on manually-set, free-standing targets, is furnished as a guide. Using a trigger pull gage applied to the top of the back of each target, centered over the leg of chickens / turkeys and centered between the legs of pigs / rams, the measurements should be:

Big Bore:	Chickens	28 - 34 ounces
	Pigs	44 - 55 ounces
	Turkeys	44 - 50 ounces
	Rams	44 - 50 ounces

Small Bore:	Chickens	less than 8 ounces
	Pigs	less than 8 ounces
	Turkeys	less than 8 ounces
	Rams	less than 8 ounces

Field Pistol / Big Bore Unlimited Half Scale:		
	Chickens	28 - 34 ounces
	Pigs	44 - 55 ounces
	Turkeys	44 - 50 ounces
	Rams	44 - 50 ounces

The nearest metric equivalents may be used.

2. When automated reset systems are used, rules pertaining to target feet, setting, topple, turning, and knockdown of freestanding targets shall be waived.

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## SECTION VI: Shooting Positions

### A. Freestyle

1. The Freestyle shooting position shall be any safe shooting position without artificial support. The competitor may sit, kneel, lie down, or stand. (Exception: See Section [II-B-4c](#)) The handgun may only come in contact with the competitor's body and/or clothing. No part of the handgun may touch the ground or ground cover. The handgun must be held in such a manner that a Match Official can see that the handgun is visibly clear of the ground at all times when in the firing position. A competitor placing a shoe or boot sideways on the ground must not place any part of the handgun on the heel. This position will only be allowed if the competitor's hand, or some portion thereof, is placed between the handgun and the heel. Nesting the barrel in the top part of a shoe or boot, or across the sole or notch of the heel, constitutes artificial support and is not allowed.
2. A physically challenged competitor may fire from a wheelchair with one or both elbows supported.
3. The Freestyle categories are Production, Revolver, Unlimited, Unlimited Any Sights, and Unlimited Half-Scale.

### B. Standing

1. Except as provided in Section [VI-B-3](#) (below), a competitor must assume a safe standing position with the handgun supported only by one or both hands. No part of the one or both hands supporting the handgun may come in contact with any other part of the competitor's anatomy, clothing, or hat.
  2. No part of either arm, from the shoulder to the wrist, is allowed to come into contact with any other part of the competitor's anatomy, or be artificially supported in any way.
  3. If prevented from doing so, by the nature of their condition, physically challenged competitors need not assume a full standing position. They may fire from braced crutches, or with support from a chair or stool to replace a missing leg. However, the support of their handgun must conform with Section [VI-B-2](#), above.
  4. The Standing categories are Standing, Unlimited Standing, Field Pistol Production, and Field Pistol Production Any Sights and Air Pistol Unlimited Standing Iron Sights.
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## **SECTION VII: Competition - Big Bore**

### **A. General**

#### 1. Categories

a) Competition will be in three Production handgun categories and four Unlimited handgun categories:

Production (P)

Revolver (R)

Standing (S)

Unlimited (U)

Unlimited Standing (US)

Unlimited Any Sights (UAS)

Unlimited Half-Scale (UHS)

Unlimited Any Sights Half-Scale (UASHS)

The letters in parentheses are the official abbreviations for each category.

Note: The Unlimited Half-Scale (UHS/UASHS) categories are optional. They may be offered if the sponsoring organization has targets and range space available.

#### 2. Handguns:

a) Production handgun definition: See Section [III-A](#).

b) Unlimited handgun definition: See Section [III-B](#).

3. Cartridges: See Section [IV-A](#).

4. Targets: See Section [V-A](#).

#### 5. Shooting Positions:

a) Freestyle shooting position categories are: Production, Revolver, Unlimited, Unlimited Any Sights, Unlimited Half-Scale, and Unlimited Any Sights Half-Scale. (See Section [VI-A](#))

b) Standing shooting position categories are: Standing and Unlimited Standing. (See Section [VI-B](#))

#### 6. Classifications:

Production/Revolver	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9a</a>
Standing	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9b</a>
Unlimited	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9c</a>
Unlimited Standing	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9d</a>
Unlimited Any Sights	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9e</a>
Unlimited Half-Scale	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9f</a>
Unlimited Any Sights Half-Scale	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9e</a>

7. The Standing category may be fired with any handgun meeting the specifications for a Production handgun. (See Section [III-A](#))
  8. The Unlimited Standing category may be fired with any handgun meeting the specifications for an Unlimited handgun. (See Section [III-B](#))
  9. The Freestyle categories are ranked: Unlimited, Production, and Revolver, with Unlimited being the highest ranking.
  10. No Production handgun may be fired in a category lower than that in which it is first fired in a match.
  11. The Standing category may be fired at any time, with one exception: if a competitor chooses to use the standing position in a Production Freestyle or Unlimited Freestyle category and wishes to enter the Standing category using the same handgun, the Standing entry must be fired first.
  12. The Unlimited Standing category may be fired at any time, with one exception: if a competitor chooses to use the standing position in an Unlimited category and wishes to enter the Unlimited Standing category with the same handgun, the Unlimited Standing category must be fired first.
  13. If a competitor chooses to use an open-sighted handgun in the Unlimited Any Sights category and wishes to enter the Unlimited category with the same handgun, the Unlimited category must be fired first.
  14. If a competitor chooses to use an open-sighted handgun in the Unlimited Any Sight Half-Scale category and wishes to enter the Unlimited Half-Scale category with the same handgun, the Unlimited Half Scale category must be fired first.
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## **SECTION VIII: Competition - Small Bore (.22)**

### **A. General**

#### 1. Categories:

a) Competition will be in three Production handgun categories and three Unlimited handgun categories:

Production (P)

Revolver (R)

Standing (S)

Unlimited (U)

Unlimited Standing (US)

Unlimited Any Sights (UAS)

The letters in parentheses are the official abbreviations for each category.

e) Any action type may be used in the Unlimited categories.

#### 2. Handguns:

a) Production handgun definition: See Section [III-A](#).

b) Unlimited handgun definition: See Section [III-B](#).

3. Cartridges: See Section [IV-B](#).

4. Targets: See Section [V-B](#).

#### 5. Shooting Positions:

a) Freestyle shooting position categories are: Production, Revolver, Unlimited, and Unlimited Any Sights. (See Section [VI-A](#))

b) Standing shooting position categories are: Standing and Unlimited Standing. (See Section [VI-B](#))

6. Classifications:

Production/Revolver	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9a</a>
Standing	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9b</a>
Unlimited	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9c</a>
Unlimited Standing	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9d</a>
Unlimited Any Sights	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9e</a>

7. The following Big Bore Competition rules apply equally to Small Bore (.22): Section [VII-A-7](#), [-8](#), [-11](#), [-12](#), [-13](#).

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## **SECTION IX: Competition - Field Pistol**

### **A. General**

1. Categories:

a) Competition will be in two Production handgun categories:

Production (P)

Production Any Sights (PAS)

The letters in parentheses are the official abbreviations for each category.

2. Handguns:

Production category must compete with open sights only. (See Section [III-A](#))

Production Any Sights category may compete with open sights, scopes, or other optical devices. (See Section [III-A-14 thru 18](#))

Optical equipment: Scopes, mounts, and other optical devices must be as manufactured, with no modifications. Scopes and optical devices must be removed from handguns which are used in the Production category.

Revolvers and pistols of other action types shall compete on an equal basis.

3. Cartridges: See Section [IV-C](#).

4. Targets: See Section [V-C](#).

5. Shooting Position: All Field Pistol competition will be conducted in the Standing position. (See Section [VI-B](#))

6. Classifications:

Production	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9g</a>
Production Any Sight	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9d</a>

7. If a competitor chooses to use an open-sighted handgun in the Production Any Sights category and use the same handgun in the Production category, in the same match, the Production entry must be fired first.

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## **SECTION X: Competition - Air Pistol**

### **A. General**

1. Categories:

a) Competition will be in two Production handgun categories and four Unlimited handgun categories:

Production (P)

Standing (S)

Unlimited (U)

Unlimited Standing (US)

Unlimited Any Sights (UAS)

Unlimited Standing Iron Sights (USIS)

The letters in parentheses are the official abbreviations for each category.

2. Handguns:

a) Production handgun definition: See Section [III-A](#).

b) Unlimited handgun definition: See Section [III-B](#).

3. Cartridges: See Section [IV-D](#).

4. Targets: See Section [V-D](#).

5. Shooting Positions:

a) Freestyle shooting position categories are: Production, Unlimited, and Unlimited Any Sights. (See Section [VI-A](#))

b) Standing shooting position categories are: Standing, Unlimited Standing and Unlimited Standing Iron Sights. (See Section [VI-B](#))

6. Classifications:

Production	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9a</a>
Standing	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9b</a>
Unlimited	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9c</a>
Unlimited Standing	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9d</a>
Unlimited Any Sights	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9e</a>
Unlimited Standing Iron Sights	See Section <a href="#">I-D-9d</a>

7. The following Big Bore Competition rules apply equally to Air Pistol: Section [VII-A-7](#), [-8](#), [-11](#), [-12](#), [-13](#).

8. If a competitor chooses to use an open-sighted handgun in the Unlimited Any Sights category and wishes to enter the Unlimited category with the same handgun, the Unlimited category must be fired first.

9. If a competitor chooses to use an open-sighted handgun in the Unlimited Standing Iron Sights category and use the same handgun in the Unlimited Standing category, in the same match, the Unlimited Standing entry must be fired first.

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## SECTION XI: Match Procedures

### A. Requirements For Match Sanction

1. To qualify for a sanctioned match, the hosting organization must first apply to the State Director, National Director, or any Executive Director of IHMSA. Upon being awarded the match, a match package consisting of the required materials, will be sent to the sponsoring organization.

2. Upon completion of the match, a sanction fee for each registered entry, including re-entries, together with a copy of the Match Recap Sheet, must be sent to IHMSA Headquarters within 30 days. Sanction fees are US \$1.00 per registered entry. Said reports and sanction fees should be mailed to:

HQ, IHMSA WEST, 160 Northwoods Drive, Merlin, OR 97532-9735

For Affiliated Nations, such reports and sanction fees are to be sent to the National Director within 30 days. If a club discounts its entry fees for Junior competitors by an amount of 50% or more, the US \$1.00 sanction fee is waived for Junior entries.

3. Any organization hosting sanctioned matches that fails to adhere to IHMSA rules may have their sanction withdrawn by the Executive Committee. In the event of sanction being withdrawn, the affected organization shall, upon written request to the Secretary / Treasurer, be able to have the decision to withdraw sanction reviewed by the Board of Directors.

## **B. Range Layout/Target Set-Up**

1. A silhouette range consists of a firing line and four different target lines, one for each of the four animals (chicken, pig, turkey, ram). Distances from the firing point to each bank of targets shall be:

a) Big Bore (+/- 5 meters)

Chickens	50 meters
Pigs	100 meters
Turkeys	150 meters
Rams	200 meters

IHMSA will sanction matches held at ranges that have a maximum distance of 200 yards due to range construction. This is permitted, provided that all match announcements state that the 200 meter rams will be fired at 200 yards.

b) Small Bore (.22) / Field Pistol (+/- 2 meters/yards)

Chickens	25 meters (or yards)
Pigs	50 meters (or yards)
Turkeys	75 meters (or yards)
Rams	100 meters (or yards)

All Small Bore (.22) and Field Pistol targets must be set by the same unit of measure (meters or yards). The unit of measure shall be posted at the match and stated in all match announcements.

c) Air Pistol (+/- 6 inches)

Chickens	10 meters (or yards)
Pigs	12.5 meters (or yards)
Turkeys	15 meters (or yards)
Rams	18 meters (or yards)

2. A silhouette range may be set up on an existing high power range. If desired, it can be placed in a natural setting such as a ravine or canyon. Trees and brush need not be removed, and variation in height above and below the firing line is allowed and desirable.

3. Improvements such as paved firing line, firing line cover, or dirt berms behind the targets are optional, unless required for safety considerations.

4. Target stands are to be flat and level.

5. Targets shall be set in banks of five animals each (five chickens, five pigs, etc.) The recommended distance between each animal is the width of that animal.

6. Targets for all types of IHMSA competition shall be set with the rear edge of the target's foot/feet flush with the rear edge of its target stand, except Big Bore rams.

7. Each Big Bore ram target shall be set so that its center of gravity is no more than one inch from its topple point. To accomplish this, the ram should be carefully moved backward on its stand, with the feet overhanging the backside of the stand until the topple point is achieved. It may then be moved forward to achieve stability, but not more than one inch forward of the topple point. It is recommended that this final resting place be marked by spraying paint around the feet, so that the target may be placed in the same position each time it is reset. If the target is not stable at the one inch forward set, because of wind conditions, it should be

clamped or fastened in position. At no time may a regulation ram target be set "full footed", shimmed, etc. to prevent it from failing due to wind conditions.

Optional ram topple rule: A Big Bore ram target will be legally set if 3/4 inch is removed from the rear of both feet of a regulation IHMSA ram target and the target is set full foot with the rear of the feet flush with the rear edge of a level steel stand.

8. Targets will normally be painted with flat black paint. At a range where the background prevents adequate target visibility with black paint, the sponsoring club shall have the option to use other colors to improve visibility.

9. Once a match is started, target color shall not be changed.

## **C. Sighter Targets / Sighter Shots**

1. Sighter targets are mandatory at all IHMSA championship matches. There is to be a minimum of one target at each distance for each type of competition offered.

2. Sighter targets, or sighter shots, are allowed at the Match Director's option at non-championship matches.

3. When used, sighter targets shall be of the official size and shape for the type of competition, set at the same distances, with approximately the same background as the equivalent match targets.

4. Competitors will be allowed five sighter shots for each category in which they are competing. The five shots must be taken during a normal, two-minute, match firing period. Competitors will have the option of shooting at the sighter targets of their choice.

5. No practice will be allowed before or during any sanctioned match other than the five sighter shots which are allowed.

## **D. Handgun Certification**

1. Handguns must be weighed, checked, and certified before shooting for score. No competitor may win an award with an uncertified handgun.

2. Only one handgun per category may be certified. The same handgun, barrel, grips, sights, etc. shall be used throughout a particular course of fire. (Exception: See Section [XI-G-5](#))

3. The Match Director shall appoint one or more persons to certify handguns in accordance with these rules. In the interest of safety, said person(s) shall be experienced handgun silhouette competitors, or persons with the required knowledge.

4. When a competitor's handgun is checked during registration, internal inspection of Production handguns is not mandatory unless there is reason to believe it does not comply with Production handgun rules. In such cases, the competitor may be requested to disassemble the handgun to the extent necessary to permit visual inspection by a jury.

5. A jury should be composed of the Match Director, the individual responsible for handgun certification, any senior IHMSA officials who may be present, or other persons with the required knowledge.

6. Only the competitor, or a person he designates, shall disassemble, remove, or replace any parts of the handgun. Upon inspection, the jury shall retire and discuss the matter. The jury may also request information from other knowledgeable persons to assist in making their decision. A majority vote by the jury shall be final. If the handgun does not comply with IHMSA rules, the competitor's entry with that handgun will not be accepted.

7. If a competitor refuses to comply with Section [XI-D-4](#), above, the handgun in question will not be permitted for use in any Production category.

8. At State, Regional, National, or International championships, the match sponsor, upon request of the State, Regional, or National Director, may require first, second, and third place competitors to submit their handguns for inspection by a jury as previously described. This should be accomplished as soon after the conclusion of competition as is practical.

## **E. Match Commands**

1. There are four commands to be given by the Range Officer (i.e., the individual responsible for calling the line) at an IHMSA match. To ensure uniformity and avoid confusion on the part of the competitors, these commands should be used consistently by Range Officers at all IHMSA-sanctioned matches:

a) "Shooters to the line" - Given when the range is safe, to alert competitors to ready themselves on the firing line. Handguns shall not be handled at this time. Unloaded handguns shall be in a safe and stable position on the firing line, visible to the Line Safety Officer, with the muzzle pointing down range, and action open.

b) "Load" - Given at the start of a 30 second period in which the competitor prepares to shoot, including (but not limited to) adjusting/blackening sights, dry firing, and loading. Competitors shall not handle their handguns until the "Load" command has been given.

c) "Fire" - Given at the conclusion of the 30 second loading period, it signifies the start of the two minute period to fire five shots.

d) "Cease fire..., make your guns safe" - Given at the end of the two minute firing period, When given, competitors must immediately cease firing, unload their handguns, and put them in a safe and stable condition (i.e., unloaded, visible, muzzle pointing downrange, action open). If a competitor encounters any difficulty or delay in doing so, he must notify the Range Officer immediately. Any shot fired after the beginning of the "Cease Fire" command, or audible signal if used, is a lost shot and should be called as such by the Range Officer.

## F. Scoring

1. Targets shall be shot in sequence, left to right, one shot fired at each target.

2. Scorecards shall be marked as follows (assuming the competitor has fired a shot at the correct target):

a) An "X" is marked in the appropriate box on the scorecard if the target is knocked from its stand as the result of the shot.

b) An "O" is marked in the appropriate box on the scorecard if the target is still standing on its stand after the shot.

3. If a target is knocked down out of sequence, it is scored as "O", as is the intended target. The maximum penalty shall be two targets.

4. "Turning" a target on its stand, without knocking it off the stand, will be scored as an "O".

5. A ricochet hit which knocks down the correct target will be scored as an "X".

6. When there are wind conditions requiring the targets to be fastened (clamped/bolted/etc.) to the stand(s), one or more in each bank, all hits on the target shall be scored as "X"s. In championship matches, if one target in a bank must be fastened, all targets at that distance must be fastened and hits will be counted as "X"s. Standard target setting and scoring procedures are to be resumed, immediately, when wind conditions allow.

7. If either foot of any pig or ram target is completely off its stand, but resting on the ground (or any other obstruction) so as to prevent the target from falling, the hit will be scored as an "X", even if the target is still standing with the other foot still on the stand.

Otherwise (except as provided in Section [XI-F-6](#), above) in no case shall a hit target be scored as an "X" unless it is knocked down and/or off its stand as a result of the shot fired by the competitor at that target.

8. If a target should be knocked down by another competitor or blown down by wind before being fired at by the competitor. the remaining targets shall be fired at in order, left to right. If the competitor has one or more of his five shots remaining after firing at each of the available targets, he should return to the left end of his bank of targets and fire his remaining shots at the targets still standing. If no targets are available in his bank and shots remain, he may fire at available targets on an adjacent bank or request an "alibi". (See Section [XI-G](#), below)

9. Whenever it becomes necessary for a competitor to shoot a five-shot string in other than standard fashion (i.e., targets being engaged in sequence, left to right), the competitor should alert the scorer to ensure that the shots will be scored correctly. All scoring

differences must be resolved immediately, before either the competitor commences another string of fire at the same bank of targets, or the competitor or scorer leave the firing line.

10. The total number of "X"s for each five-shot string shall be entered on the competitor's scorecard. The totals for each five-shot string shall be totaled to determine the competitor's score which shall be entered on the scorecard.

11. In the case of identical total scores fired by one or more competitors in a particular type and category of competition, "reverse animal count" shall first be used to resolve ties. Reverse animal count consists of first comparing the total ram target scores: the competitor having the highest ram count is the winner. If a ram count is equal, the same procedure will be used for turkeys and, if necessary, pigs in order to determine the winner. Competitors who still remain tied shall compete in a shoot-off to determine the winner. (See Section [XI-H](#), below). At the Match Director's option, all numeric ties (regardless of "reverse animal count") may be required to be resolved by a shoot off.

12. At all IHMSA-sanctioned matches, the scorer shall be any person other than the competitor. The competitor's coach/spotter or an adjacent competitor/spotter shall mark the "X" and "O" entries on the scorecard. The score shall be certified by another adjacent shooter/spotter who shall then sign or initial the scorecard in the appropriate box at the completion of each five-shot string. The competitor shall sign or initial the scorecard in the same manner. It is the scorer's responsibility to ensure that:

- a) The correct entries are made on the scorecard.
- b) The competitor observes the rules and time limits.
- c) The competitor fires no more than five shots per string.
- d) When strong winds exist, the targets are observed closely to distinguish between targets knocked down by hits and those knocked down by the wind.

13. If a competitor is found to have signed an incorrect scorecard, that score will be disqualified. An "incorrect scorecard" is defined as one on which the number of targets scored as "X"s are not in agreement with the number of targets for which the competitor should be credited in accordance with the above rules. The entry will not be counted for any purpose, nor will the competitor be allowed to shoot a re-entry score in the type and category of competition for which he was disqualified.

## **G. Alibis**

1. An alibi is permitted in an IHMSA-sanctioned match only when a target is not available because it fell without being shot down by the competitor.

2. If another target is still standing in the competitor's bank, it must be used for the alibi shot within the same five-shot firing period. If not, and a target is available on an adjacent bank, it may be used for the alibi shot within the same firing string, or in a separate alibi string, at the competitor's option. If there is confusion about whether targets on an adjacent bank are 'available', or have not yet been fired on, the competitor is not required to shoot the alibi during that five-shot string.

3. If enough targets are not available to complete the five-shot string on the competitor's bank or adjacent banks, the competitor's entire bank shall be reset and the alibi targets will be shot in the standard left-to-right sequence, regardless of which targets caused the alibi.

4. If alibi shots are to be taken in a separate firing period, the competitor will be given a 30 second loading period and a firing period of 24 seconds per alibi shot to complete the five-shot string.

5. Handgun malfunctions or faulty ammunition shall not be cause for an alibi or the allowance of extra firing time. Should a handgun fail to function during a match, another handgun which complies with the rules for the applicable type and category of competition may be substituted to complete the match. This rule does not imply that competitors may use more than one handgun to complete an entry in one type/category of competition. It is only intended to provide relief to a competitor whose primary handgun has been damaged or broken. The Match Director or Line Officer must examine, approve, and authorize the use of the substitute handgun. Under no circumstances shall the malfunction of a competitor's handgun or ammunition be allowed to delay the progress of a match. Targets not fired on

due to equipment failure or malfunction are judged lost targets and cannot be shot as an alibi.

## H. Shoot-offs

1. The Match Director has the option to decide how to break all tie scores. The tie break option must be listed in a match program or posted at the range prior to the match. If not listed or posted, reverse animal count shall be used. (See Section [XI-F-11](#), above).
2. At all State, Regional, National, and International Championship matches, first place in all categories and classes, including championship titles, must be decided by shoot-offs, in the event of tie scores. Other places may be decided by reverse animal count or shoot-offs, at the Match Director's option.
3. Shoot-off targets for all championship matches must be visible, steel, standard IHMSA silhouette-shaped targets of chickens, pigs, turkeys, or rams. Targets may be of any size and may be set in any combination of shapes and size. Target color must be the same as the targets used in the match. Standard scoring procedures shall be used. (See Section [XI-F](#))
4. At all other matches, the Match Director may use any visible shoot-off targets capable of being knocked off the target stand. Shoot-off targets may be of a different color than that used in the match.
5. Shoot-off targets may be set at any distance, out to a maximum of the actual distance used to set the match ram targets. (200 meters/yards for Big Bore, 100 meters/yards for Small Bore and Field Pistol, and 18 meters/yards for Air Pistol).
6. Shoot-offs shall be fired in five-shot strings, on banks of five targets for each competitor at the distance(s) agreed upon. Standard loading, firing, and scoring procedures shall be used.
7. Competitors must use the same handgun used in the original course of fire.
8. A "sudden death" shoot-off format is not allowed.

## I. Awards/Trophies/Prizes

1. The match sponsor shall schedule all classes for the type and category of competition being held, and give at least one award in each class if a properly classified competitor completes the course of fire. (Exception: See Section [VII-A-1](#) Note)
2. No match will be sanctioned by IHMSA where the value of any prize, merchandise, or cash award to be competed for, exceeds twice the value of the entry fee paid by the competitor. Trophy value is not included, although this rule does apply to any merchandise, prize, or cash which is awarded in lieu of a trophy.
3. All donated or bonus prizes, without exception, are to be awarded in a manner whereby all competitors in the match are eligible on an equal basis. One chance per competitor, not entry, is recommended.

## J. Protests

1. All rule interpretations and protests will be handled by a jury appointed by the tournament director or Match Director. The jury should be composed of any senior IHMSA officials who are present. The decisions of said jury, in all instances, shall be final.
2. All protests must be submitted to the Match Director in writing, accompanied by a fee of US \$10.00, within one hour of any alleged violation. Should the jury rule in favor of the protesting party, the fee shall be returned to that person. Should the jury rule in favor of the protested party, the fee will be awarded to that person.
3. Any handgun not previously inspected by a jury may be protested by another competitor. However, no competitor shall be interrupted during the course of fire. After completion of firing, the protested competitor will be requested to make his handgun ready for inspection by a jury. (See Section [XI-D](#))
4. International Championship Protest Rules:
  - a) A member of the IHMSA Board of Directors will be appointed Protest Committee Chairperson for an International Championship. That person will be responsible for selecting a 5 to 7 person Jury, preferably composed of State or Match Directors, to handle protests at

that International Championship. The Chairperson will also accept protests and submit them to the Jury within a reasonable time period.

b) Official IHMSA Protest/Outcome Forms will be used to document a protest, the Jury's decision, Jury member's names and IHMSA numbers. When the Jury has reached its decision, the Form will be given to one of the elected IHMSA officers. At that point, the protester and the alleged violator will be advised of the decision by one of the elected officers.

c) A protest must provide the specific information upon which it is based.

d) Both the protester and the alleged violator may appear before the Jury to present their cases, proof, and/or witnesses testimony.

e) Protests regarding EQUIPMENT, ILLEGAL POSITIONS, ETC. will remain subject to standard protest rules and must be submitted within one hour of the alleged violation. (See Section [XI-J-2](#))

f) Protests of SCORES must be submitted within twenty-four hours of the alleged violation.

g) All protests/complaints will be brought to a conclusion prior to the awards ceremony. No protests/complaints will be accepted after the awards ceremony

## **K. Championship Matches**

1. Bids for State, Regional, and National Championships must be submitted to the respective State, Regional, or National Director.

2. To host a State, Regional, or National Championship, a club must have successfully held three prior IHMSA-sanctioned matches.

3. With the approval of the State, Regional, or National Director, any club sponsoring a championship has the option of holding a closed tournament, open only to bona fide residents of the State, Region, or Nation. Any closed tournament must be so listed in the printed program and the Championship Match Schedule in the *IHMSA News for USA* matches.

4. Experienced Line Officers must be furnished by the host club at all championship matches.

5. It is recommended that scorekeepers be furnished by the host club at all championship matches.

6. Category and aggregate titles will be awarded only to competitors who are considered to be residents of their respective State, Region, or Nation. When competitors move into a new State, Region or Nation, they will be considered a resident in the new location after a period of thirty days. With the approval of the relevant State and Regional Directors, a competitor may declare resident status in an adjoining State. If the adjoining State is in another Region, the competitor will then be considered a resident of the Region. Such competitors must reapply to the State and Regional Directors to return resident status to the State or Region of legal residency. For championship matches, a competitor may only claim resident status in one State, Region, or Nation in a calendar year.

7. To participate in any championship match, a competitor must be classified in all types/categories in which he intends to compete.

8. A competitor must complete a minimum of three entries in non-championship matches with 12 months prior to entering any championship. The entries may be completed at one match or several matches. Re-entry scores shall count toward championship qualification. With respect to this requirement, Big Bore, Small Bore (.22), Field Pistol and Air Pistol competition shall be considered separately. Entries may be any category, or combination of categories. The following entries may also be counted for championship qualification:

a) Entries completed in NRA-sanctioned matches by IHMSA members who reside in the USA.

b) Entries completed in non-affiliated Nations by IHMSA members who reside in those non-affiliated Nations.

9. The International Championship match shall be under the jurisdiction of the IHMSA Executive Committee. The IHMSA Executive Committee shall administer match entries and fees, and select trophies and prizes. The hosting club, as selected by the Executive Committee, shall furnish the range, targets, and coordinating activities.

10. At the International Championships, only one trophy per person per category will be awarded. No trophy will be awarded for first place in the class of a category champion.

## **L. Optional Competition**

1. At the match sponsor's option, special awards may be made for competition including, but not limited to the following: High Lady, High Junior, High Senior, Cast Bullet, and Team events.

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## **SECTION XII: Miscellaneous Rules for Competition**

### **A. Competitor Qualification**

1. To compete in any IHMSA-sanctioned match, a competitor must be a member in good standing of IHMSA, Inc. or, in the case of a resident of an Affiliated Nation, a member in good standing of that country's recognized affiliated body.

2. To encourage new members, a non-member may be allowed to shoot the course of fire only once, at the option of the Match Director. Such a score is not official, nor is it eligible for any IHMSA prize, trophy, or award.

3. When entering any IHMSA-sanctioned match, the competitor's Membership/Classification Card must be presented and left with the registrar. At the conclusion of the match, the registrar will enter on the card all scores shot in the match and certify them. If any score entered on the card is the second score above the break point of the competitor's current class, the card shall be upgraded, in the card's classification area, for that type of classification, and so certified by the registrar or any IHMSA Match Director.

4. At all times, it shall be the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all scores fired in IHMSA-sanctioned matches are recorded correctly on his/her Membership/Classification Card.

5. Any shooter of known ability who does not present his Membership / Classification Card shall be required to compete in International or AAA class, at the option of the Match Director.

6. No IHMSA competitor shall solicit or accept subsidy or sponsorship from any firearm or accessory manufacturer. The IHMSA is, and shall remain, an organization for the amateur handgun competitor.

### **B. Equipment and Accessories**

1. Allowed: The following equipment/accessories are allowed:

a) A flat shooting mat or ground cover of a thickness not to exceed one inch.

b) Athletic elbow pads or other such material used to protect a competitor's elbow. Such protection shall not be excessively padded or stiff, so as to be used as a shooting aid.

c) Shooting gloves, so long as they are not excessively padded or stiff, so as to be used as a shooting aid.

d) Blast shields used in the freestyle shooting position is used for protection only and not as a shooting aid.

e) Auxiliary lenses and/or loupes, so long as they are attached to the competitor's eyeglass lens or frame. Such lens or loupe may not extend more than one inch beyond the eyeglass frame.

f) Clip-on sun glasses over prescription eyeglasses.

2. Not Allowed: The following equipment/accessories/actions are not allowed:

- a) Scopes or any optical devices (except as allowed for Field Pistol, Unlimited Standing, Unlimited Any Sights or as specified in Section [XII-B-1e](#) above).
- b) Artificial rests or supports, slings. padded or unnecessarily heavy clothing, or any kind of wrist or arm supports or bracelets.
- c) Friction materials or padding used on the competitor's clothing or on any part of the competitor's handgun.
- d) Rubberizing the stocks or forends of Unlimited handguns.
- e) Muzzle brakes/compensators or ported barrels on Production category handguns. (Except as allowed on Small Bore (.22) Production handguns. See Section [III-A-2](#))

## **C. Sportsmanship**

1. IHMSA members have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with good sportsmanship. Their actions should reflect favorably on the shooting fraternity in general, and IHMSA in particular.
2. Any Nation, Region, State, or Match Director shall have the authority to bar any competitor from a match for unsportsmanlike conduct or actions unbecoming to IHMSA or the sport. Should there be any questions regarding this procedure, or any decision made there from, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee for a final decision.

## **D. Prohibited Behavior**

1. No person shall compete, officiate, or otherwise participate, in an IHMSA-sanctioned match while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
2. Any match competitor violating this provision is subject to immediate disqualification and possible further disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.

## **E. Coach/Spotter**

1. Each competitor may have one coach/spotter with him on the firing line who may advise him where his shots are going, keep time, and otherwise provide advice.
2. Said coach/spotter may not handle the competitor's handgun or assist in any physical manner once the "Load" command has been given.

## **F. Match Re-entry**

1. In a particular match, the first time a competitor completes the course of fire for a given type and category of competition the score shall be for record and award.
2. At the Match Director's option, the competitor may shoot a re-entry (i.e., repeat the course of fire in the same type and category of competition). However, the re-entry score shall only count toward classification of the competitor and qualification for championship matches.
3. A competitor may only shoot a re-entry after shooting all other entries for record and award. With respect to this requirement, Big Bore, Small Bore (.22), and Field Pistol competition shall be considered separately.
4. Re-entry scores must be entered on the competitor's Membership / Classification Card.

## **G. Excessive Target Damage**

1. Any club sponsoring a IHMSA sanctioned match shall have the right to bar or disqualify any handgun, cartridge load, and/or competitor at any time before or during a match when it comes to the attention of the club that the silhouette targets are being damaged by bullets being fired by said competitor. Maximum allowable bullet penetration on mild steel targets is 1/8" and on tempered steel targets is 1/16" (or nearest metric equivalent).
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## **SECTION XIII: Physical Challenges**

### **A. General**

1. Competitors who are unable to comply with all rules pertaining to shooting positions and allowable equipment, due to physical challenge, may apply for a waiver or special equipment permit allowing use of a specific position or shooting aid.
  2. Application may be made to the Physically Challenged Committee for a Physically Challenged Shooter's Card. The Shooter's Card would specify the nature of the competitor's condition and specific waiver or shooting aid approved.
  3. Application for a Shooter's Card must include all pertinent information describing the condition, photos or sketches of the shooting position or shooting aid for which approval is requested. Approval will be based upon the medical necessity and need of each applicant.
  4. A Physically Challenged Shooter's Card is not mandatory, however it is recommended, since the document will facilitate approval by Match Officials who are not familiar with the competitor.
  5. Approval of a shooting position or shooting aid will not be granted if such a position or aid creates an unsafe condition for the competitor or any other person on the firing range.
  6. A competitor who has been issued a special authorization certificate by the National Rifle Association of America (NRA), permitting the use of a specific shooting position or shooting aid, may use the certificate in lieu of an IHMSA Physically Challenged Shooter's Card. A copy of the NRA certificate should be forwarded to the Chairman of the IHMSA Physically Challenged Committee.
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