

9. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

9.1 Changing Equipment - The same equipment, including firearm, optical or electrical sights, holster and ammunition will be used to fire all matches in the same tournament. Magazines used must be the same capacity, dimension and design in all stages of all matches in the same tournament. Should a handgun become unserviceable, it may be exchanged for another of similar make, model, barrel length, and caliber. and with similar make and model of optical or electronic sights as on the original, with the approval of the Match Director. The same restrictions on exchanges will apply to holsters and ammunition. If the substitution is approved, the competitor will accept the score fired up to the point of breakage; no refires will be made.

9.2 - 9.4 (Blank)

9.5 Disabled Handgun - Any handgun which cannot be safely aimed or fired, or has suffered the loss of a sight or damage to the sights rendering it impossible to properly aim at target or cannot be fired because of mechanical failure. There must be evidence of physical damage to sights, the fact that sights are improperly adjusted does not constitute disablement. Optical sight failure will not be accepted as an excuse for a retire. A handgun once declared disabled shall not again be used for competitive firing until the defect has been corrected and until the handgun has been ruled as safe by the Jury/Referee. (See Rule 9.1 for procedure.)

9.6 - 9.7 (Blank)

9.8 Equipment Inspection - Novice competitors must submit to a mandatory equipment and match procedure check by the hosting club. It is the responsibility of the Match Director to carry out this requirement. (Refer to Section 3 for definitions of authorized equipment.)

9.9 Weighing Triggers - Triggers may be weighed with official NRA trigger test weights at the discretion of the Match Director, Official Referee, Jury or Supervisor. Triggers of pistols used in establishing National Records shall be weighed by a tournament official immediately after the firing of such record score and must meet the specifications of Section 3 for the pistol prescribed by the tournament program. Failure of the trigger to meet the trigger pull requirements shall disqualify the competitor in matches previously fired.

While trigger pull is being weighed, the pistol shall be held with the barrel perpendicular to the horizontal surface on which test weight is supported. The rod or hook of test weight shall rest on lowest point of the curve in curved triggers, or on a point approximately one quarter of an inch from lower end of straight triggers. To pass the weight test, a weight of the correct number of pounds shall be lifted by the pistol trigger while in the cocked position and while all safety devices are in firing position from the horizontal surface on which it is resting, until the weight hangs free and without releasing the trigger. Magazine must be removed and pistols unloaded while trigger is being weighed. Pistols equipped with a device to prevent firing while magazine is out must be closely inspected to see that no cartridges are in a magazine or chamber. Magazine will then be inserted and trigger pull weighed. Competitors will be permitted to adjust triggers which have failed to pass the weight test provided they do not occasion any delay. Failure of trigger to pass the weight test is the competitor's responsibility.

(See Fig. 5 in Illustrations)

9.10 Coaching Prohibited in Individual Matches - Coaching is prohibited in all individual matches of an NRA Approved or Registered Tournament.

9.11 Matches Not Complete - When a match or stage is not completed by all competitors in accordance with the tournament schedule, the match or stage may be rescheduled or canceled. Any match or stage which has been completed by all competitors will not be refired. Only scores of a match or stage which has been completed will be included in an aggregate event or for National record purposes, and a match or stage is not completed unless all competitors have tired.

9.12 (Blank)

9.13 Interference - With the exception of competitors actually firing and such range personnel as may be necessary, the firing points and line will be kept clear at all times. Loud or disturbing noise or talk is not permitted near the shooting stations. Range officials, jury members, team officials, and competitors shall limit their conversation to official business when they are near the competitors. The Range Officer shall also ensure that the noise of the spectators is kept at a minimum level.

9.14 Refiring - No refires will be allowed for defective guns or ammunition or for other malfunction of the shooter's equipment. A competitor may clear jams or malfunctions and replace the necessary cartridge(s) that have misfired or have been dropped, provided all safety requirements are met. Completing a string of fire in this manner will not constitute a refire. No additional time will be allowed,

(a) When the firing of a string is interrupted by some occurrence which renders it impossible for one or more competitors to complete the string under the conditions of the match, the Chief Range Officer will proceed as follows: Without being permitted to examine their targets, competitors in the relay who have been so prevented from completing their strings will be asked if they wish to refire or to accept their score as fired. Targets will then be scored in the usual manner for all competitors except those who have elected to refire. Without being scored, the targets of such competitors who have elected to refire will be pasted or new targets substituted and a complete string will be fired and scored. Reasons authorizing this procedure are:

(1) failure to allow full time, (2) failure of targets to operate properly or uniformly for the entire string, (3) failure of paper target to remain in position on frame, (4) damage to target rendering impossible proper aiming or scoring, (5) the appearance of some object in line of fire constituting a hazard, (6) some accident involving a Range Officer or competitor on the firing line, (7) if due to faulty target operation or error in timing, one or more competitors are allowed more time to complete the string than provided by conditions of the match. The Chief Range Officer will immediately order all such targets required pasted, or new targets installed. The fired targets will not be scored. A complete new string will then be fired by the competitors who were allowed extra time. If in the same relay some targets operate properly in accordance with the legal time limit, such targets will be scored in the usual manner and competitors firing on those targets will not be required or permitted to refire.

(b) In the case of some accident involving a competitor on the firing line, such as being hit by lead or powder residue, that competitor must stop firing immediately. Any shots fired will be counted. The entire stage in which the incident occurred must be refired on the same target. The highest scoring shots, which constitute the complete string, will determine the competitor's score for that stage.

9.15 Standard Safety Rules Shall be Strictly Enforced - Hosting organizations will be expected to devise and enforce safety rules to cover unusual situations. Any safety rules devised for a particular match shall be clearly explained to all competitors, along with any penalty, before the match begins. These rules shall also appear in the match descriptions as printed in the program.

9.16 Unsafe and Incompetent Gun Handling - Unsafe and incompetent gun handling during a course of fire will result in immediate disqualification. The match official may stop the competitor during a string of fire,

9.17 Safety Violations - An accumulation of two safety violations in any single match requires automatic disqualification. Safety violations will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- (a) Pointing an unloaded handgun uprange.
- (b) Dropping of an unloaded handgun.
- (c) Leaving the firing area with a loaded handgun.
- (d) Moving on a course of fire in breach of Regulation.
- (e) Picking up a dropped handgun, except under the direction of a Tournament Official.
- (t) Any accidental discharge. This does not include rounds fired overtime, but does include discharges while loading or clearing a handgun.

9.17.1 Disqualification Violations - The commission of a disqualification violation in any match requires automatic disqualification. Disqualification violations will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- (a) Pointing a loaded pistol uprange.
- (b) Dropping of a loaded pistol.

(c) Any shot in the holster, or into the ground less than six feet down-range from the firing line. into the air, or which strikes a wall or ceiling.

(d) The consumption of alcohol or drugs while competing in a match.

9.17.2 Disqualified from Entire Tournament - A competitor disqualified under Rules 9.17 and 9.17.1 shall be disqualified from that entire tournament, and not merely from the sub-match or stage in which the violation occurred. He shall be considered as having completed that tournament, but shall be placed at the bottom of the list of finishing competitors for purposes of ranking.

9.18 Electric Timing Device - Officials may not override the reading of an electric timing device. If such a device becomes manifestly unreliable in the opinion of the Match Director, its use shall cease at that point. If this occurs, the match shall be continued using back-up timing. but the scores or positions obtained prior to withdrawal of the timer shall stand.

9.19 Detachable Shoulder Stocks - Detachable shoulder stocks are not permitted.

9.20 - 9.22 (Blank)

9.23 Aliases - No competitor may fire under an assumed name nor substitute for another in a match; register. enter or fire in the name of another.

9.24 Score and Classification Falsification - No competitor will falsify his score. or classification, nor that of any other competitor, nor be an accessory thereto.

9.25 Cross Fire and Excessive Hits - No competitor will deliberately fire on the wrong target nor fire more than the required number of shots, including hits on some other competitor's targets and misses. (See Rules 14.7 and 14.10.)

9.26 Bribery - No person will offer a bribe of any kind to any of the range or statistical personnel or others nor be an accessory thereto.

9.27 Disorderly Conduct - Disorderly conduct or intoxication is not permitted on the range and anyone guilty of same will be expelled from the range.

9.27.1 Willful Destruction of Range Equipment - No competitor shall cause any range equipment to become damaged through a deliberate act, and anyone guilty of same will be expelled without a warning from the range. Expelled competitors will be disqualified from the competition with no return of entry fees.

9.28 Refusal to Obey - No person will refuse to obey instructions of the Match Director, Official Referee, Jury, Supervisor, Range Officer or any other officer of the tournament. if instructions are given in the proper conduct of the office.

9.29 Evasion of Rules - No competitor will evade nor attempt to evade nor be an accessory to the evasion of any of the conditions of a match as prescribed in the program or in these Rules. Refusal of a competitor or tournament official to give testimony regarding facts known to him concerning violations or attempted violations of these Rules will constitute being an accessory to the violation or attempted violations.

9.30 Disqualifications - The Match Director, Official Referee, Jury, or Supervisor upon proper presentation of evidence may disqualify any competitor or order the expulsion from the range for violations of rules or for other conduct considered discreditable or unsafe. In the event of a disagreement between Match Officials, the Official Referee or Jury shall prevail at the match with recourse only to the Protest Committee.

9.31 Suspension - For violations of these Rules deemed so to justify, any competitor may be suspended from competition and/or expelled from the National Rifle Association upon presentation of evidence and conduct of a hearing as prescribed in the Bylaws.