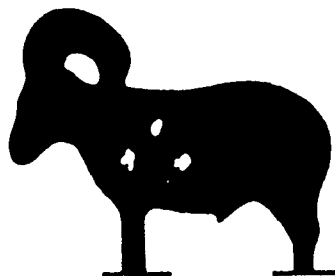


**IHMSA
RULE CLARIFICATIONS
1976 - 1986**

INTERNATIONAL



**HANDGUN
METALLIC
SILHOUETTE
ASSOCIATION®**

**issued by:
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This booklet contains all the official rule clarifications and interpretations by the Executive Committee, the Combined Committees and the voting delegates of IHMSA during the period of 1976 through January, 1987.

Many of the rule clarifications from past years have been adopted as official rules, but are listed as they were published in THE SILHOUETTE with the date of publication given.

Clarifications are listed in the same order that rules are printed in the official Rule Book.

By extension, all published Rule Clarifications are considered as part of the Official IHMSA Rules.

PRODUCTION GUNS AND EQUIPMENT 1978 RULINGS

PRODUCTION GUNS 3/78

All production guns and models manufactured and in use as of January 1, 1977, will be allowed to compete in the production category within the present rules.

PAINT ON SIGHTS 5/78

Said modification was in a Directive issued last year, and specifically allows the sights of any production gun to be **PAINTED**. No metal work is allowed, nor the use of anything except the original factory sights as offered by the manufacturer. In the case of S&W, the red front blade insert is offered as a factory option on certain models, and is, therefore, allowable, but not if the owner puts his own (or a gunsmith) in a different make or model.

To be specific, shooters may paint both their front and rear sights any color or combination of colors as desired. The intent was to allow the shooter to achieve a contrasting sight picture against the normally black silhouettes.

GUN FINISHING 5/78

As of this writing, painting the sights is the **ONLY** external modification officially allowed on production guns. Re blueing and re-nickeling is allowed to match the original finish from the factory, but other finishes or plating processes are not allowed on production guns.

MORE ON GUN FINISHES 8/78

On production guns, only the original factory finish such as blueing or nickel, including re blueing or re-nickeling will be allowed.

CHECKERING 8/78

Removal of the factory checkering from the stock, grip or forend of any production gun is not allowed in the process of refinishing.

TRIGGER JOB 11/78

The new rule allows a "Trigger Job." 'Vhat's a trigger job? Keeping in mind that all parts in your gun are from the factory, you (or your gunsmith)

can smooth or stone the burrs off the sear and hammer notch to achieve a smooth (but safe) release. You can stretch or cut a coil or two off your trigger return spring and reshape the cut end with a pair of birdbill pliers to properly fit it. There is no objection to bending the hammer spring to get a bit more tension.

1979 RULINGS

GRIPS 3/79

By a vote of 96.2 per cent the entire board of IHMSA State Directors, Match Directors, Executive Directors and including the Rules, Technical and Evaluation committees voted for the concept that, for IHMSA competition, a production handgun is limited to a single hand grip.

Likewise, the vote was 81.4 per cent for the single grip concept as regards unlimited guns.

Multiple grip and knee-hook forends were ruled out by a 98.6 per cent vote that such devices did not meet the spirit of the rules.

Items like the Schiermier Manlicher style curved T-C forend and that so-called banana forend for T-Cs in their present configuration are allowable in production and unlimited competition although another ruling may be required if any maker attempts to deepen said undercurve to the point of making a hook style forend out of them.

1980 RULINGS

CLARIFICATION ON ENGRAVING & ETCHING 11/80

Several inquiries have been received relative to engraving and etching on various catalog offerings, commemorative and limited edition production guns, as well as the status of certain special items such as custom sights, tuned actions, etc.

Most of the major handgun manufacturers offer their standard catalog models available with several grades of engraving.

It was ruled long ago that any such models offered by the respective manufacturers with their listed grades of engraving, and including such as the IHMSA Limited Edition models with specific engraving, logos and serial numbers stamped or etched on the barrel and/or frame, are legal for IHMSA production gun competition.

Otherwise, private or custom engraving or etching is not allowed, nor are such items as the Eliason sights and special tuned actions offered by the Colt Custom shop.

1981 RULINGS

SIGHTS FOR COLT PYTHON 1/81

In a further clarification, the combined committees have re-examined the matter of Eliason rear sights on the Colt Python. Since this sight came as standard equipment on older models, and now is offered as a factory installed option on new models, it will be considered as a legal sight on the six and eight-inch standard Pythons.

In the case of the "hunter" sights offered on the new 8-inch Python, the ruling is that if the factory catalog offers the "Hunter" sights (front blade insert) as a standard factory option for ALL Pythons, then they will be allowed. Otherwise, only on the Hunter model as shipped from the factory.

MERRILL PRODUCTION CHANGES APPROVED 1/81

The combined committees have approved for 1981 production gun competition, a 10 1/4-inch barrel and a roller trigger assembly as offered by Merrill as a standard production change. All production guns now being built by Merrill will incorporate these two changes.

Also approved for production gun competition were two cartridges, the 7mm and .30 Merrill, along with other standard calibers previously offered.

STOCKS GRIPS AND FORENDS 3/81

As there still seems to be some confusion outstanding as regards stock and forend shapes, the following ruling from a 1979 decision is herewith published:

In short, several manufacturers brought out a variety of what came to be known as "trick" stocks, grips and forends that were designed, at least in part, to take advantage of the artificial rest rule and thus be used as a shooting aid above and beyond their normal function.

The entire matter was put up to the combined committees as well as every state and match director in the entire country for a vote.

The essence of the vote was that any and all of the "trick" stocks, grips and forends offered as well as any such similar non-standard type items that could be used as a shooting aid, violated the spirit of the rules and were not allowed.

The vote was 98.6 percent that such items were not to be allowed on production guns, and 81.4 per cent that they not be allowed on Unlimited guns.

Thereafter, any unusual designs were to be submitted to the combined committees for evaluation and vote.

HOLES FOR SCOPE MOUNTS 3/81

A ruling was made by the Combined Committees in 1980 regarding holes drilled and tapped in the barrel and/or the receiver of production guns to mount a scope for use during the hunting season.

The ruling was that such guns remain legal for production gun competition with the scope and mount removed so long as the holes are "plugged" with filler screws, and the gun meets the production gun rule in all other respects.

WHAT IS A TRIGGER JOB 5/81

The engaging surfaces of the hammer and sear notches may be smoothed or stoned to achieve a more controlled release. The standard factory trigger springs may be stretched, bent or coils may be cut off, but **NO OTHER SPRING FROM ANY OTHER MANUFACTURER MAY BE USED** other than the standard "catalogue" part from the builder of the gun. No other modifications may be made, period.

TIMING MODIFICATIONS 7/81

Revolvers have been modified internally by filing or removing metal from the bolt and/or other parts in an effort to "time" the gun. This is not allowed under the production gun rule.

The fact that any such modified production gun may have competed in any previous match does not indemnify or make it legal for any other match, or for the **INTERNATIONALS**.

1982 RULINGS

MERRILL CHANGES 1/82

By majority vote the Combined Committees have approved production changes for the Merrill pistol as follows, effective January 1, 1982.

There will be a small change in the shape of the trigger guard and a new trigger will be added that includes a trigger-stop adjustment for over-travel. Existing models can be retrofitted.

Due to difficulty in obtaining previously used sights, current models will come with a Millett rear sight as optional equipment.

Also approved for the Merrill is a shortened .225 Winchester case necked to 7mm, called the 7mm Rocket.

NEW DAN WESSON .44 SIGHTS 7/82

The combined committees of IHMSA have approved a new accessory rear sight for the Dan Wesson .44 Magnum. It is designed to be used with Dan Wesson's new Patridge type front sight. It features a 16 click, very distinct, per revolution adjustment screw for both elevation and windage. This is a standard screw head to be adjusted with a small screwdriver, not an Allen hex head. This rear sight does **NOT** have a white outline around the notch in the sight, which is .080 wide. (The notch on the DW standard sight is .120 wide.) The upper corners are square.

The new Patridge type front sight to be used in conjunction with the new .44 Mag rear sight, and which will fit any Dan Wesson revolver having the interchangeable feature, is offered in three different heights, .275, .250 and .225. The width on the upper part of the blade is .100.

STERLING X-CALIBER APPROVED 10/82

The new Sterling X-Caliber single shot pistol has been unanimously approved for production gun competition in IHMSA sanctioned matches.

This is a break-open pistol for which interchangeable barrels of several calibers will be offered.

Now available in .357 Mag and .44 Mag, the **SILHOUETTE** is offering this pistol chambered in .357 Mag at a special introductory price to IHMSA members. See ad elsewhere in this issue for details.

RUBBERIZED STOCKS AND RULE ADDITIONS 10/82

There seems to be a never ending effort on the part of some shooters to beat, bend, twist or subvert the rules having to do with padding and friction materials as regards artificial rest and/or shooting aids.

1. Rubberized crinkle finish on Unlimited gun stocks and forends.

On the one hand, normal crinkle **PAINT** has been allowed on stocks as the grip effect is little or no different than various types of legal "checkering."

On the other hand, "rubberizing" the finish seems to be carrying the matter to the point of artificial rest if not violation of the Spirit of the Rules.

Immediately, someone is going to ask: "What's the difference in rubberizing an Unlimited gun forend when all Pachmayr grips and forends are rubber?"

Pachmayr grips were manufactured as standard items well before the handgun silhouette game came along and are available to all. Rubberizing

the forend of an unlimited gun comes across as deliberate intent to gain more "grip" as a shooting aid.

By a near unanimous vote, the combined committees have rules that: RUBBERIZING THE STOCKS AND FORENDS OF UNLIMITED GUNS VIOLATES THE ARTIFICIAL REST RULE AND IS NOT ALLOWED.

PUNCH MARKS NOT ALLOWED 10/82

The matter of adding a punch prick mark to production gun sights to establish a zero point, and to production revolver cylinders to establish which chamber is not to be loaded, was put to the Combined Committee for a ruling.

By majority vote, punch marks are not allowed on production guns for these or any other purposes.

7mm INT-R APPROVED AS PRODUCTION CARTRIDGE 11/82

By unanimous vote the Combined Committees have approved the 7mm International Rimmed case as a production gun cartridge.

John Leek, president of Sterling Arms, called IHMSA Headquarters to announce that Sterling: "would chamber immediately for the 7mm INT-R as soon as reamers were received."

It was on the basis of this call that the Combined Committees were polled.

Sterling's X-caliber pistol, as announced on the bulletin page of the October issue was approved for production gun competition after proof had been received that well over 200 of these pistols had been distributed and sold through regular trade channels.

Loading dies will soon be available in addition to the pistols. To allow time for them to be received, the date for this pistol and cartridge to be legal in production gun competition will be January 1, 1983. An updated announcement will be made in the January-February issue of THE SILHOUETTE.

1983 RULINGS

RUGER SUPER MAG APPROVED 1/83

The new Ruger .357 Super Mag Maximum has unanimously been approved by the Combined Committees for production gun competition.

GUNS APPROVED FOR .357 SUPER MAG MAXIMUM 3/83

Any and all previously approved production guns now being chambered for the .357 Super Mag Maximum cartridge have been approved by unanimous vote of the Combined Committees.

RUGER FRAME INTERCHANGEABLE 3/83

There have been several inquiries as to the legality of having the Ruger Factory install optional grip frames on the new Ruger Super Mag Maximum Revolvers.

We hereby print this excerpt from the SRM/10-82 instruction Manual for the .357 Maximum Revolver, Page 14.

"The New Model Blackhawk revolver, caliber .357 Maximum, can be fitted with a Blackhawk Grip Frame (XRN-3), a stainless steel Blackhawk Grip Frame (KXRN-3), or a Super Blackhawk stainless steel Grip Frame (KMRN-3D), with charges computed as follows: Price of Grip Frame, plus fitting charge of \$10.00, plus refinishing charge of \$15.00.

Only these grip frames as optionally installed on the Super Mags at the factory will be allowed. Match Directors take notice.

RUGER SIGHT OPTIONS 6/83

The following sights have been listed by Ruger as available as an option of the .357 maximum: 5XB6, and the BB36. They are both .120 wide with a slightly different shape and height being the difference from the present .100 wide sight shipped on the front from the factory.

The BB36 sight is the standard front sight on the new 10½" bull barrel stainless .44 being shipped as model KS411N.

All of this information was obtained from Bill Ruger Jr. and approved for immediate release.

CHANGING AMMO 6/83

Regarding the .357 Super Mag Maximum, this question has come up: Is it legal to shoot regular .357 Mag at the chickens, javelinas and turkeys, and the longer, more powerful .357 Super Mag Maximum ammo at the rams?

The answer is yes, so long as the same gun is used during that complete course of fire in accordance with the rules.

LOC-TITE FOR DAN WESSON BARRELS 6/83

We have been advised by Dan Wesson that using Loc-Tite to solidly seat the screw-in DW barrels is a standard factory service department procedure when requested by a Dan Wesson customer.

Therefore, the same procedure may be used by any gunsmith or Dan Wesson owner. In many instances, this procedure has improved accuracy.

RUGER AND S&W SILHOUETTE REVOLVERS APPROVED 7/83

The new .44 Magnum silhouette revolvers have been approved by IHMSA for sanctioned competition.

The Ruger is the well known Super Blackhawk in stainless steel with two important features. It has a 10½ inch untapered bull barrel that provides extra weight at the muzzle for reduced recoil, a steadier sight picture and improved accuracy. Also, the sighting system is improved with a blue partridge-type front blade and a rear narrow notched rear sight fitted with a redesigned elevation screw which provides 16 clicks per turn for precise and fine control of elevation adjustment. The ejector rod and housing have been lengthened by one inch to insure complete, full-length ejection of fired cases.

The new S&W is essentially the model 29 with a 10½ inch barrel and the Wichita built adjustable front sight.

Again, no matter what kind of claims or counter claims may be made by certain magazine flacks, the longer barrel is a direct result of suggestions made to S&W's Vice President of Marketing in his office long ago by Elgin Gates and David Bradshaw.

LETTER FROM RUGER ON SIGHT OPTIONS 8/83

Dear IHMSA:

The new edition of the Instruction Manual for the SRM .357 Maximum has not yet gone to press, but it will have the following additional note in the parts list, quoted here verbatim.

"Front Sight Note, 10½" bbl models only: Also available either factory fitted (at \$9.50, incl. labor) or as spare parts (at \$4.50 each) to be used at the shooter's option, are Part Number BB-36, SXR-36, and SXRN-36. BB-36 is a partridge sight, about .045" higher than SRM 36, and has a blade about .125" thick. SXR-36 is a partridge sight about .015" higher than SRM 36 and

has a blade about .125" thick. SXRN-36y is a ramp type sight, about .080" higher than SRM-36, and has a blade about .125" thick. These optional sights are designed for barrels of a smaller diameter than the SRM-6A barrel, and, though functionally entirely satisfactory, the barrel contour on the bottom of the sight base will not exactly match the outer diameter of the 10½" Blackhawk SRM Bull Barrel (SRM-6A)."

Similarly, when a new edition of the Instruction Manual for the Blackhawk and Super Blackhawk is printed, it will contain similar language, the import of which will be that the KS4111N Bull Barrel Super Blackhawk will have front sight part numbers SRM-36, SXR-36, and SXRN-36 offered as factory installed alternates to its standard BB-36 front sight.

In any case, all four sights will be available from the factory as spare parts.

The rear sight elevation screw, part number MR-59B, has been revised, most notably in that there are now 16 detents per turn, instead of eight, as previously. This screw is now standard on all single action revolvers and target model .22 autos. It will soon be standard on double action revolvers also. In fact, the eight detent screw has been discontinued, and will become unavailable when supplies are exhausted.

Thus all elevation screws supplied by the factory from now on as spare parts for all models will be the 16 detent type.

With best wishes,
Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc.
William B. Ruger, Jr.
Senior Vice President, Manufacturing

PACHMAYR .44 DW GRIPS 10/83

We have been advised from several sources that the new Pachmayr grip for Dan Wesson .44 Magnums will put several models overweight for IHMSA competition, including the 44 VH8 and the 44 V10. We do understand that the .44 V8 model may make weight, but cannot confirm this. Members are urged to verify the weight of their .44 DW Magnum if they contemplate using the new .44 Pachmayr grip.

1984 RULINGS

PRODUCTION GUNS 6/84

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

The production gun rule is one of the major reasons that IHMSA has grown to its present size and continues to grow every year. You could rightly say that the production gun rule is the BACKBONE OF IHMSA.

Let's look once again at what constitutes a production gun. Page 3 of the 1984 Official Rules book covers the definition in detail, but the basis of the rule is that a production gun has a barrel length not to exceed 10 1/4", weight not to exceed 4 pounds, and be complete at all time in form, finish, and mechanical function as manufactured. You may do a trigger job on the gun (only the sear may be stoned and factory springs cut if necessary), replace the grips (only with standard catalog items which are finished by the maker to standard patterns), and paint the sights. These are the ONLY things you can do to a production gun (be it a single-shot or revolver).

The reason that the production gun rule is so strict is that we want to keep the equipment race out of IHMSA. If you win in a production class it is because you out-shot someone and not out-spent him in equipment. This basic philosophy is what has kept IHMSA from becoming an equipment race like so many other sports. There are people in any sport that will spend unlimited money if they think that they can "buy" an advantage. The production gun rule prevents this from happening.

Unfortunately, there are always a few individuals that still try to win at "any price." These people are fortunately a very small number in IHMSA, but they do exist. They will try to tune their guns by methods that aren't allowed under IHMSA rules. The work is usually done internally in the gun where it is not visible without a gun being disassembled. This is the reason that the rules exists that at a championship (like this year's Internationals) the top winners can be requested to submit their guns for inspection and disassembly.

Hopefully, nothing is found illegal, but things are found that the shooter did to his gun that make it illegal and thus it is disqualified. Often, the shooter didn't realize that he was doing anything illegal (at least we like to think that this was the case).

What do we find when we tear down a gun? Polishing of the entire insides of a revolver to "smooth" it up, shimming of sights to remove excess movement, parts installed (such as springs) which are not from the

manufacturer, shimming of triggers to remove play, etc. All these things are illegal under IHMSA rules if the gun is to be used in the production category.

REMEMBER, if you have a problem with your gun it is probably best to return it to the factory. They can legally repair it and correct that problem that your local gunsmith isn't allowed to fix. True, we may never know that your local gunsmith filed your rear sight, or polished your cylinders, etc. but if you're caught the whole world will know. Also, factory tolerances of such things as rear sights, etc., are known to us. If you open a rear sight notch to "look good" to your eye, it may well not pass a tough gun inspection. Why take the chance and know that you are doing something illegal? Play the game by the rules and everyone can have a fair chance and a good time.

Let's shoot silhouettes legally!

GRIPS FOR WICHITA PISTOL 7/84

We are advised by Wichita that a number of grips of standard manufacture for the .45 ACP will fit the W.I.P. and are considered as standard catalog grips for the Wichita.

CAUTION: Any standard manufactured .45 ACP grip that requires even the slightest modification or alteration in order to fit the Wichita is NOT LEGAL. Only those standard .45 ACP grips that will readily fit the Wichita without any changes or modifications are allowed.

NEW T/C HAMMER 9/84

The Executive Committee voted unanimously to accept the offer from Thompson/Center arms regarding their introduction of a new style hammer incorporating a different type of firing mode selector from rimfire to center fire. This new hammer requires a minor clearance modification to the 1979 factory MAGNUM wood grip. All other factory grips will fit without modification. Thompson/Center offered to make the required clearance change to any grip sent to them. Said offer was accepted.

MOA PISTOL CLARIFICATION 10/84

by Allen W. Kirchner

Due to an oversight on my part, I failed to mention in the M.O.A. Report in the August issue that chamberings in full length 308, 7mm-08, 250 Savage, 243 Winchester, 22 - 250, and similar high pressure "rifle cartridges" would not be allowed in production category competition. IHMSA

took the position several years ago that these high performance type calibers would be restricted to unlimited category competition in any guns even if the guns otherwise satisfied production gun specifications. The IHMSA series of rimless cartridges based on the 300 Savage also are included in this unlimited only group.

The typical "pistol cartridges" which are approved for production category competition include the 7 R, 30-30 6.5 and 7 TCU, 7 BR, 30 and 357 Herrett, 7 and 30 Merril, among others. New chamberings will be approved on an individual basis.

1985 RULINGS

UNLIMITED TYPE CARTRIDGES NOT ALLOWED IN PRODUCTION 1/85

There still seems to be a small amount of confusion regarding the use of unlimited-type cartridges in approved production guns.

In due time, a complete list of individual "production" and "unlimited" cartridges will be compiled.

In the meantime, so there can be no misunderstanding, the following full-length cartridges are NOT legal in production gun competition:

.22-250 Rem, .243 Win, .25-06, .250 Sav, .257 Rob, .264 Win, .270 Win, .284 Win, 7mm Rem mag, 7mm/.308, 7mm-08, .300 Win mag, .300 Sav, .303 Sav, .308 Win, .32 Win Spl, .338 Win, .348 Win, .375 Win, and other such similar full length cartridges.

PAINT ON YOUR SIGHTS 1/85

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

"The sights may be painted to suit the competitor" (on a production gun Page 3, Official Rules). This rule seems clear enough but it seems to be misinterpreted by many competitors. The original intent of this rule was to allow a person to change the color of the front and rear "sights" to a color that their eyes could pick up. The rear sight blade and actual front sight surface was in mind when the rule was first written. Since then, many competitors (myself included) have gotten creative in using paint to put indexing marks on the rear sight to remind us of the various settings.

The question of the legality of this act has come before the Executive Committee for review in the past. It was agreed that paint would be allowed on the "sights" (both front and rear) so long as it was on the actual sight

itself. Note that the rear sight (which is most often questioned) is the entire unit that is mounted on the gun and not just the blade that the eye sees. If a competitor wants to paint index marks on the sight, it is not against the rules.

What is against the rules is punch marks on the sight (metal has been permanently moved), paint on the cylinder of a revolver to mark the bad hole (that isn't part of the sight), putting paint or sight black on the barrel or other surfaces between the sights on a production gun (that glare off that nickel gun came from the factory that way), etc. You cannot use paint to modify the gun as it was built by the factory – only on the sights proper.

DAN WESSON ENGRAVING 1/85

Dan Wesson Arms, through their dealer organization, is offering to engrave the owner's name on the side of the barrel, gold enamel filled, for \$20. This offer is good until Dec. 31, 1985.

So there is no misunderstanding, IHMSA ruled long ago that any engraving on guns that is OFFERED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE FROM THE MANUFACTURER – as in this case – is legal on production guns.

For complete details on this offer, write to Dan Wesson, 293 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057.

LEGAL PRODUCTION CARTRIDGES 3/85

The Combined Committees of IHMSA have established specifications for cartridges allowed in production gun competition.

All production cartridges previously approved by the Combined Committees are allowed. The official procedure for any cartridge NOT approved as yet is that maximum case and minimum chamber drawings, along with at least two sample cases of the cartridge must be forwarded to IHMSA Headquarters for consideration by the Combined Committees.

No cartridge will be allowed in production gun competition until it has been approved by the Combined Committees. Further, no cartridge will be allowed in production gun competition unless an established firearms manufacturer produces handguns chambered for said cartridge, and meets the minimum quantity requirement of 200 units. Note: The minimum unit requirement is going to be reviewed by the Combined Committees with the distinct possibility that the minimum unit quantity will be raised so that enough guns are manufactured so as to be readily available to the membership of IHMSA.

No cartridge will automatically be approved on the basis that any manufacturer chambers for it until said cartridge has FIRST been approved by the Combined Committees. Cartridges will be considered on an individual basis.

Any manufacturer, developer or gunsmith may apply to IHMSA Headquarters for the production cartridge specifications, including a self-addressed, stamped envelope for mailing.

Following is a partial list of cartridges NOT allowed for production gun competition. Others may be added from time to time.

.22-250 Rem., .243 Win., .25'06, .250 Savage, .257 Roberts, .264 Win., .270 Win., .284 Win., 7mm Rem. Mag., 7mm-30 Wat, 7mm/.308, 7mm-08, .300 Win. Mag., .300 Sav, .303 Sav, .308 Win, .307 Win, .32 Win Spl, .338 Win, .348 Win, .375 Win, .30'06, .458 Win Mag, and other such similar full length cartridges.

PRODUCTION REVOLVER 5/85

by Ted Krauss, Chairman, Rules Committee

Silhouette shooters have a love/hate relationship with the revolver. Back a few years ago, scores that now are needed to win in revolver category were not even being shot with a single shot! The revolver has come a long way in the last few years.

Credit is due the manufacturers. Companies like Ruger, Dan Wesson, USA Seville, etc., have kept on improving their revolvers to the point where they are mechanically capable of shooting 40x40. New calibers like Elgin's 357 Super Mag and the .375 Supermag are advances in the revolver field. Also, companies like Spear, Hornady, and Sierra have developed new bullets especially for silhouette that allow us to get every possible ounce of accuracy from our revolver. All of these factors have contributed to the revolvers rise to a Production International score level. But the revolver still needs that IHMSA shooter behind it to do its magic. That is the subject of this month's column. What can and cannot be done to your revolver and still be legal.

Every championship sees someone disqualified for a major or minor rules violation. Most shooters are being clever and trying to get every point available. What happens is that in their rush to win, they forget to check the rule book. The revolver must first meet the requirements of a production gun. That means that it must be as manufactured. A trigger job is allowed. Other stocks which are standard catalog items may be added, and

the sights may be painted. Beyond these obvious rules that "everyone knows" is where most people get into trouble.

There is no legal way to mark that "one" bad chamber that doesn't always shoot where you want it to. Paint is allowed on the sights. Index marks on the sight are allowed if in paint, but no paint is allowed on the cylinder! Also, while putting sight black on your sights, it is not legal to "accidentally" put sight black down the entire barrel and top strap to prevent glare.

One of the major things that shooters do is in trying to get that ultimate trigger job or that ultimate group, they make their revolver inoperable. "The gun must be complete in form, finish and mechanical function as manufactured." This means that a double action revolver MUST be able to fire single and double action. Also, back off that barrel gap you took down to nothing and now requires the shooter to "help" rotate around since the revolver can't rotate it without aid from the shooter. That revolver is not as manufactured. It does not work as the cylinder is designed to function.

Common sense applies to the revolver as it does to all the IHMSA rules. Work on your technique, ammo and find a revolver that shoots. Not all revolvers were born equal. Some shoot better than others as with all guns. The shooter is limited in what he can do to make a super revolver out of an ordinary one.

LOCTITE 5/85

by Ted Krauss, Chairman, Rules Committee

LOCTITE is legal to use on a production gun so long as it is used on a threaded part with the purpose of preventing it from coming loose.

TWO CARTRIDGES APPROVED 7/85

Two cartridges, the 7-35M and 6.5-35M have been approved for production competition in the M.O.A. pistol.

DESERT EAGLE PISTOL 7/85

Israeli Military Industries "Desert Eagle" 357 Magnum automatic pistol has been approved for production gun competition.

Because this gun was designed as a military or service pistol, the sights and action may not be optimal for target competition. Owners of these guns are advised to re-read the rules concerning acceptable trigger jobs. Adjustable sights supplied by the manufacturer and marketed for this specific gun may be installed, but owners are warned that the 6" fixed-sight model weighs 62.6 ounces, and the addition of adjustable sights may cause the gun to exceed the 64 ounce weight limit.

1986 RULINGS

FUNNY FORENDS 7/85

Again, it is time to call attention to the ongoing attempts to circumvent the artificial rest rule as well as the spirit of the rules regarding forends.

There are continual attempts to devise, create and build forends (primarily for unlimited gun) that have knobs, protrusions or other extensions (some with special checkering and/or rubberized surfaces) that are designed so that the net result is to provide a shooting aid (artificial rest) to the competitor.

Likewise, there are continual efforts to create similar "funny forends" with wedges or melon slices cut out of one side (or both sides) of the forend with the idea of providing a contour effect to fit the shooters leg or some other part of his anatomy as a shooting aid.

There are likewise attempts to add on material to create the same sort of inverted curve or indentation to fit the shooters leg or anatomy.

ALL OF THESE AND ANY OTHER VARIATIONS HAVE LONG AGO BEEN VOTED BY THE COMBINED COMMITTEES AS VIOLATING THE ARTIFICIAL REST RULE AS WELL AS THE SPIRIT OF THE RULES.

Match directors and their juries have the authority (and are so directed) to rule on any funny forend at any match. If, in their opinion, any of these funny forends violate either the artificial rest rule, the spirit of the rule, or both, they are directed to not allow the entry of any such gun in any sanctioned match.

HAND TURNING CYLINDER NOT ALLOWED 9/85

Ruled that hand-turning the cylinder of a revolver was not allowed by the rules which state that: (page 3, first paragraph)The gun must be complete **AT ALL TIMES** in form, finish and **MECHANICAL FUNCTION** as manufactured....

LOADING FIVE ROUNDS 9/85

Regarding the question of loading semi-automatic pistols with five rounds:

It was decided by the delegates that in **PRODUCTION** classes only, that semi-automatic pistols would have to be loaded with five rounds and fired as such. They could not be shot as a single-shot.

It was also decided at the same time, that any pistol used in the **UNLIMITED** class, whether it be .22 or big bore, that the gun could be used as the shooter wishes. (A semi-automatic pistol or revolver could be shot as a single-shot.)

THREE CARTRIDGES APPROVED 1/86

Three cartridges have been approved by the Combined Committees for production gun competition, the 7/UR, .25 Rocket and 6.5mm Rocket. These are Merrill chamberings, but any production gun manufacturer may chamber for them.

DAN WESSON—BLUE VS: STAINLESS 3/86

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

Some confusion has arisen since the introduction of stainless finishes in some popular DW pistols used in IHMSA competition. With such models as the DW 357 Super Mag offered in both blued and stainless steel models, some people have tried to put a stainless barrel on a blued frame, etc. Even though these parts will fit, the factory will not do this and will not sell or modify a gun on request with the blue/stainless mix. Therefore, to be legal for IHMSA Production, a Dan Wesson must be complete as shipped by the factory in finish. **NO MIXING OF BLUED AND STAINLESS STEEL PARTS IS ALLOWED IN PRODUCTION.**

T/C ARMOUR ALLOY 3/86

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

Thompson Center Arms has announced that they are making their TC with an Armour Alloy finish. This plating process has many advantages over the regular blue finish. The factory is beginning next month to ship frames and barrels with this new finish. Because the plating process changes the clearances on the metal parts, the factory will not mix blued parts with Armour Alloy parts (frames and barrels). Therefore, for Production use in IHMSA, a TC must be either all blue or all Armour Alloy finish. **NO MIXING OF BLUE AND ARMOUR ALLOY finishes in frames and barrels is legal.**

PACHMAYR FORENDS 3/86

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

Pachmayr Gun Works has notified IHMSA of a change in its popular rubber forearm for the TC Contender. Effective immediately, the factory no longer makes the short forearm adaptor to fit the forearm on the 10" TC

barrel. All forearms are shipped with the longer model originally designed for the 14" TC barrel. Therefore, EITHER THE SHORT OR LONG ADAPTOR IS LEGAL TO BE USED WITH THE PACHMAYR FOREARM ON A TC10" BARREL IN PRODUCTION.

NAME CHANGE FOR MERRILL PISTOL 5/86

We have been advised by Jim Rock, president of RPM that a new name has been selected for what has previously been called the Merrill Sportsman Pistol.

Without any production lapse, nor any production changes, the pistol will now be known as the XL. New production procedures and capabilities have been changed and improved which warranted the new name.

MORE ON THE PACHMAYR .44 DW GRIP 5/86

There still seems to be some confusion about the Pachmayr grip for the big frame Dan Wessons.

The most commonly used DW models in IHMSA competition are the .44 VH8 (with 8 inch barrel and heavy shroud) the .44 V10 (with 10 inch barrel and LIGHT shroud) the .357 and .375 Super Mags (both with 8 inch barrels and light shrouds) and to a lesser extent the .41 VH8 and .41 V10 models. All of them are just UNDER the 4 pound weight limit with the factory wood grip. None of them, to our knowledge, will make official weight with either the "regular" Pachmayr grip or the newer "light-weight" Pachmayr grip.

HOWEVER, some of the big frame DW'S WITH, SAY, THE 8-inch LIGHT shroud and some of the 6-inch models WILL make weight with the Pachmayr light-weight grip.

The bottom line is simply this: The Pachmayr grip IS legal on any of the big frame guns where the weight limit of 4-pounds is not exceeded. Check the weight on a certified scale, and if the weight is four pounds or less, then that gun is legal.

HAND TURNING REVOLVER CYLINDERS NOT ALLOWED 7/86

Page 3, first paragraph of the rulebook, line five: "The gun must be complete at all times in form, finish and mechanical function as manufactured...."

Under this provision of the rule, assisting the cylinder to turn by hand or by any mechanical means other than the actual mechanism of the gun itself is NOT ALLOWED.

Shooters have set the cylinder gap so tight in certain revolvers that they will not turn by regular mechanical function of the gun itself – pulling the hammer back – especially when heated up by shooting, and have been observed "helping" the cylinder turn by hand or by other mechanical means while in the act of pulling back the hammer with the other hand.

THIS IS A VIOLATION OF THE RULE AS QUOTED ABOVE AND IS NOT ALLOWED.

What IS allowed, is that when the cylinder has been turned by normal mechanical function of the gun as manufactured, and WITHOUT ANY OTHER ASSISTANCE, then the shooter is free to reach up and "wiggle" or check the indexing of the cylinder to make sure it is in locked position.

This matter was announced last year in the September issue of THE SILHOUETTE, Official bulletin page (4).

PRODUCTION CARTRIDGES 7/86

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

The Combined Committees of IHMSA have ruled that not all cartridges are allowable in the Production Category. A guideline has been established for Production cartridges which have dimension criteria that prevent Unlimited type cartridges from being used in the Production Category. Also, any cartridge approved for use must be readily available to the IHMSA members so that everyone interested in using that cartridge can get a gun in that caliber from the manufacturer that offers that cartridge.

If you are using a "wildcat type" cartridge in Production, please verify from the manufacturer that the cartridge has been approved by IHMSA. Approval is not automatic and each cartridge must be individually approved by the Combined Committees before it is legal for Production.

We will be screening cartridges at the Internationals for purposes of determining that only approved cartridges are used in Production.

AN APPROVED PRODUCTION GUN DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT IT IS CHAMBERED FOR AN APPROVED PRODUCTION CARTRIDGE.

JANUARY 1987 RULINGS

RUGER SIGHT OPTIONS 1/87

The Ruger factory has informed IHMSA of a change in its front sight options. Effective immediately, all front sights for all models are considered interchangeable so long as they do not require modification to fit. .22 and big bore sights are also considered totally interchangeable. Therefore, it is legal to put a different front sight on the Ruger single six. Note that all front sights that fit different models may not fit the barrel contour exactly, causing a slight overhang in some applications. This is considered acceptable by the factory. For further details on front sight options, contact the parts department of Sturm, Ruger in Southport, Conn.

Note that there is no rear sight option available other than using different Ruger rear blades to change rear notch width.

.221 FIREBALL BOLT ACTION 1/87

The only bolt-action pistol that is legal for ANY production category is the Remington XP-100 chambered for the .221 Fireball cartridge, with 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch barrel. This pistol is eligible for production by virtue of the "Grandfather clause."

The .221 Fireball was accepted as a production gun back in 1976, shortly after IHMSA was founded.

No other bolt gun, either big bore or .22 caliber is eligible for competition in any IHMSA Production category.

QUALIFICATION OF PRODUCTION CARTRIDGES 1/87

By majority vote of the IHMSA Combined Committees, the following resolution becomes effective as of January 1, 1987.

No cartridge will be considered or approved for production gun competition, including the new IHMSA FIELD PISTOL course of fire until three or more separate manufacturers are chambering for said cartridge, with their pistols being available to the general public and the membership of IHMSA. This will NOT affect any cases or cartridges previously approved.

UNLIMITED

RIFLE ACTIONS NOT LEGAL 9/79

IHMSA's official policy is Match Directors are not to accept any entry in a sanctioned match of any shooter attempting to enter a pistol made from a rifle or from any action that was assembled and/or sold as a rifle or a barrelled rifle action.

SIGHT RADIUS DEFINED 7/81

Several questions have come up around the country regarding interpretation of the sight radius measurement for unlimited guns.

The rule reads: "THE SIGHT RADIUS TO BE MEASURED FROM THE REAR EDGE OF THE FRONT SIGHT IF AN OPEN SIGHT IS USED, OR FROM THE APERTURE INSERT IF A CLOSED SIGHT IS USED, THE REAR SURFACE OF THE BACK SIGHT AS SEEN BY THE EYE IN SIGHTING POSITION."

The interpretations had to do with the last phrase of the sentence, and in particular the words...."rear surface of the back sight as seen by the eye in sighting position."

In some instances it has been ruled that the rear edge of a hood, cover, sunshade, tube or any other extension or attachment on the rear sight was part of the sight and was the first thing seen by the eye in sighting position and therefore, the sight radius should be measured to the rear edge of any such hood, cover, sunshade, tube or other attachment.

The matter was put to the full combined committees for a more precise definition. By majority vote the Combined Committees ruled that the "rear surface of the back sight" is the blade (as on an open sight) the peep hole (as in the disc of a peep sight) or the post or crosswire (as in a tube sight) or any other kind of a rear aperture.

The wording of the rule will be changed slightly to make it more understandable.

In a further action, the combined committees, by majority vote, ruled that the OVERALL length of all sighting apparatus from the front edge of any kind of hoods or covers on the front sight to the extreme rear edge of any kind of hoods, covers, sunshades, tubes or extensions shall not exceed 18 inches.

FUNNY FORENDS 7/81

Once again the Combined Committees have ruled on a new wrinkle in the never ending forend controversy.

In this instance, the forend of an unlimited gun had a melonshaped wedge cut out of the side to fit the contour and shape of the shooter's leg, and said cutout was specially checkered for additional "grip."

As in the past, the Combined Committees voted that this violated the artificial rest rule as well as the spirit of the rules.

Match directors and their juries have the authority to rule on these matters at any match. If, in their opinion, any of these "funny" forends violate either the artificial rest rule, the spirit of the rules, or both, they are directed to not allow the entry of any such gun in any sanctioned match.

CUT DOWN .22 RIFLES NOT ALLOWED IN UNLIMITED 6/83

As a reminder, no rifle may be cut down to a pistol, regardless of the caliber under BATF regulations.

In several instances we have heard of cut down .22 rifles being entered in the .22 Unlimited category. This is specifically NOT ALLOWED either by the BATF or by previous IHMSA rulings.

To be legal such a gun must be created by the manufacturer as a pistol, registered with the BATF and sold as a pistol.

OVERSEAS UNLIMITED GUNS 4/86

As all IHMSA members know, BATF regulations prevent anyone from "cutting down" a rifle into a pistol, and the regulations even prevent rifle actions (that were previously assembled as rifles) from being used to make unlimited pistols.

These laws are NOT in effect in many foreign countries, AND IHMSA unlimited pistols have been made from cut down rifles in France, Norway, Finland and other countries, and are legal there.

NOT ALLOWED ARTIFICIAL RESTS 3/78

NOT ALLOWED: Scopes, artificial rests or supports, slings, padded or unnecessarily heavy clothing, or any kind of wrist or arm supports or bracelets.

USE OF POCKETS 8/78

Likewise, hooking a thumb or fingers in pockets and/or grasping objects in the pockets, inside or out, or otherwise using such means or objects as a

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rest or reference point, also have been ruled as violating the artificial rest rule.

FRICTION MATERIALS 8/78

Friction materials used on the shooter's clothing or on any part of the gun have been ruled as violating the Artificial Rest rule and will not be allowed.

AMMO ARM BANDS 9/81

On page 4 of the rule book, the final phrase of the first paragraph of the NOW ALLOWED rule reads as follows: "....or any kind of wrist or arm supports or bracelets."

There have been a number of complaints and protests from match directors across the country that shooters have been using ammo wrist bands or holders as a shooting aid either by hooking a finger or thumb under the band or strap while in the standing position or by resting the gun against it in various freestyle positions to get that tiny extra bit of rest, support, index or reference point as a shooting aid.

The matter has been put to the Combined Committees for a ruling.

The vote was unanimous that any kind of such straps, ammo holding wristbands, bracelets or whatever were in violation of the rule and could not be used on the shooter's wrists or arms.

The Combined Committees, by majority vote, also ruled that ammo bands COULD be used on other parts of the shooters anatomy such as legs, ankles, etc., so long as they were not used as a shooting aid in any way.

SHOCK WATCH NOT ALLOWED 6/83

The "Shock Watch," a new watch-like device worn on the wrist and filled with liquid metal, has been ruled a shooting aid. Therefore, the Shock Watch is not legal to use in any category of IHMSA competition.

SHOOTING GLOVES NOT APPROVED 1/86

A new shooting glove combination, P.A.S.T., has been voted by the Combined Committees as not being legal for IHMSA competition.

One of the gloves is covered with a friction material that provides a shooting aid in violation of IHMSA rules.

FUNNY FORENDS 7/86

Again, it is time to call attention to the ongoing attempts to circumvent the artificial rest rule as well as the spirit of the rules regarding forends.

There are continual attempts to devise, create and build forends (primarily for unlimited guns) that have knobs, protrusions or other extensions

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(some with special checkering and/or rubberized surfaces) that are designed so that the net result is to provide a shooting aid (artificial rest) to the competitor.

Checkering on the FRONT end of forends is NOT ALLOWED. This was ruled out long ago as a device to utilize said checkering by "twisting" it into the shooter's clothing in an attempt to circumvent the artificial rest rule. Likewise, the technique of "jamming," twisting or forcing the forend (special "short" forends have been created for this specific purpose) into the back of the shooter's leg and/or clothing or any other part of his anatomy or clothing, is NOT ALLOWED under the artificial rest rule.

The intent and spirit of the rule was to allow the shooter to rest the barrel and/or forend (a normal forend) against the SIDE of his leg between the knee and ankle using the Creedmore position, and never did include resting it on boot tops, wrinkles in the sides of boots, nor any of the other techniques of "jamming" the forend into the back of the shooter's leg or twisting the forend into the clothing as a means of circumventing the artificial rest rule.

Likewise, there are continual efforts to create similar "funny forends" with wedges or melon slices cut out of one side (or both sides) of the forend with the idea of providing a contour effect to fit the shooter's leg or some other part of his anatomy as a shooting aid.

There are likewise attempts to add on material to create the same sort of inverted curve or indentation to fit the shooter's leg or anatomy.

ALL OF THESE AND ANY OTHER VARIATIONS HAVE LONG AGO BEEN VOTED BY THE COMBINED COMMITTEES AS VIOLATING THE ARTIFICIAL REST RULE AS WELL AS THE SPIRIT OF THE RULES.

Match directors and their juries have the authority (and are so directed) to rule on any funny forend at any match. If, in their opinion, any of these funny forends violate either the artificial rest rule, the spirit of the rules, or both, they are directed to not allow the entry of any such gun in any sanctioned match.

ALLOWED

SHADING COMPETITORS 9/82

The matter of umbrellas, hats, clip boards, etc., being used to shade the competitor and/or his sights was thoroughly discussed. As no official vote was taken, nor a rule established, either pro or con, the situation remains as it has been to the effect that there is no rule that disallows the use of such items in the manner described.

BLAST SHIELDS LEGAL OR ILLEGAL 4/84

by Ted Krauss, Chairman, Rules Committee

Many new shooters are joining the ranks of IHMSA every day. The question of what and if a blast shield is legal arises very often. With spring on the way and many shooters coming out of their caves, perhaps it is time to review the ins and outs of the blast shield question.

"Friction materials or padding used on the shooter's clothing or on any part of the gun have been ruled as violating the artificial rest rule and will not be allowed" (page 4, 1984 Official Rules). Does this rule make blast shields illegal? The general answer is NO. The blast shield has been allowed if used as a piece of protective equipment (much like an elbow pad). With the advent of single shot pistols in the creedmore position (how many pant legs did you have to explain before the blast shield came out?), the necessity of something to protect the leg and pants from muzzle blast became apparent. Then in 1980 along came a separate revolver category. Blast shields became "state of the art" real quick. Ballistic cloth, carpet, leather, etc., came to be seen as a common piece of equipment on the range. All of these items are "legal" if used correctly. But on the other hand, a blast shield legal in one instance may not be legal in another.

This concept of blast shields came up before the delegates at the 1982 Internationals in the annual business meeting. It had been suggested to make blast shields illegal in all categories except Revolver (no one can argue the need for a blast shield there). The delegates overwhelmingly voted to leave things as they were then: BLAST SHIELDS ARE LEGAL SO LONG AS THEY DON'T VIOLATE THE ARTIFICIAL SUPPORT RULE. Who determines if a violation occurs? The match director, state director, regional director, jury (convened to observe the possible violation), etc., all have the authority to call a rules violation.

The big question must then be answered: Is this particular blast shield legal or illegal? First, let me say that every situation is different. But, there are guidelines and rules on which to determine the question of legality.

The material of the shield comes into play. Is it such that an artificial support is being used? For instance, I've allowed blast shields made with a rubber innertube to be used in revolver because of the protection feature of the surface. By the same token, I won't let the same blast shield be used in production. You can talk all you want, but a Pachmayr forearm on a TC against a piece of rubber isn't necessary. It violates the friction material and artificial support rule! Common sense and the particular situation must be taken into account.

Another example would be a shooter with a leather leg guard-blast

shield. You see them everyday on the range. Shooters wear them in production, revolver, unlimited, and often home! They are usually legal. When aren't they legal? The leather material must be sufficiently stiff so as not to wrinkle up when on the leg in the shooting position. Once the blast shield develops a large wrinkle and the shooter "accidentally" lays the barrel of his gun on the wrinkle, he is illegal. The artificial support rule comes into play. Remember, a rules violation is like a speeding ticket: no premeditation is required for disqualification. Every year several shooters are disqualified at a championship for innocent mistakes like this. But the fact remains that an artificial rest was used, no matter how innocent the circumstances.

It should be becoming obvious that your blast shield **MUST** be carefully considered. Not just any old thing will do. Pick your material carefully to make sure it protects and doesn't support. Make it stiff enough so that it doesn't wrinkle excessively and cause an artificial rest.

A little common sense and just giving it a little thought will prevent you from violating the friction or artificial rest rule.

Good luck and protect those pant legs!!!

GUN CERTIFICATION

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS ON GUN WEIGHTS 4/82

With the Internationals coming up in a few months, all members are advised that IHMSA has purchased a precision balance beam scale with certified weights. This will be the official IHMSA scale for weighing guns at the INTERNATIONALS. The weights measured thereon will be official and final.

At every International championship guns have been checked—both production and unlimited guns—that were overweight, causing embarrassment to shooters who felt their guns met the weight rule.

The point is simple: Don't crowd the weight limit to the last one-hundredth-of-an-ounce. Scales vary from range to range and from one make to another, and that includes certified scales. It is also a known fact that accurate and calibrated scales can be thrown off by moving them after certification.

There is absolutely no advantage in trying to build, or have built, say an unlimited gun that weighs 4.99999 pounds on a postal scale or any other scale. It may weigh 4.501 on the next scale and 4.623 on still another, the latter two being over the legal weight of 4.5000.

Once again, don't try to crowd the weight limit. A championship tournament is not the time or place to find that your gun is overweight, even by a fraction, then trying to whittle something off to make legal weight. Such an incident isn't going to add to your peace of mind or your shooting skill.

A wise shooter is one whose gun is an ounce or so under the limit on certified scales. He can concentrate on shooting a good score which is where his mind ought to be.

Remember, the IHMSA scales at the INTERNATIONALS will be official and final. Our advice is simple and straightforward. Don't take any chances. For the third and last time, don't try to crowd the weight limit to the point where you think your gun is one-hundredth of an ounce **UNDER** the legal weight as weighed on Garfinkle's potato scales. It may be over the official IHMSA scales.

GUN CERTIFICATION 7/84

By Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

"Guns must be weighed and checked before firing for score. No one may win an award with an uncertified gun" (Page 5, 1984 Official Rules). Everyone knows about this rule, but this one rule causes more competitors trouble than any other at a championship. Why? Because their gun fails to pass gun inspection.

Everyone assumes their gun is legal, but this isn't always the case. You will be facing the toughest gun inspection of your life at the 1984 Internationals. This type of inspection can often find things about your gun that have been overlooked in the past. One of the false assumptions that most shooters have is that because their gun passed inspection at a state or regional championship that it will automatically pass at an International. This assumption would be valid if the gun inspectors knew all the rules and had the proper equipment to check your gun, but unfortunately, this is not always the case. More than one competitor has been seen heading for a saw to shorten his unlimited barrel or try to reduce weight so he can pass inspection.

What can you do so that you are not one of the people that must be told that your gun is illegal? First, read the Rule Book! Most guns are not certified for obvious things that should be caught even at a regular monthly match. For instance, barrel length of your unlimited gun being over 15 inches. This is easy to check if done properly (with the bolt closed, insert a rod down the barrel and make sure that it measures less than 15 inches

when a straight edge is placed horizontally across the muzzle of the "highest" part of the crown). Note that this measurement is the highest part of the crown. Just because the mark may show outside the barrel doesn't count if the crown extends beyond the 15 inch limit. Also, check your sight radius (15 inches maximum). The sight radius is measured from the rear edge of the front sight to the rear surface of the rear sight as seen by the eye in sighting position. Also, remember that no tubes, sunshades, covers, etc. on your sights can be over 18 inches in length. There are more rules that pertain to unlimited guns, so check the Rule Book. These are the ones that seem to catch most shooters, along with the 4½ pounds weight rule. If you are in doubt about your actual weight, go get on a certified digital scale. If it shows that you are at the 4½ pounds maximum, trim off a few hundredths of a pound so that you can sleep better at night. We have a certified balance beam scale with certified weights. If that scale shows you overweight, you can enjoy the match from the spectators' area because we won't certify your gun.

Up to this point the unlimited guns have been emphasized, since most guns that won't pass inspection are unlimited guns. If you have left your production gun alone like you are required to by IHMSA rules, you shouldn't have too much trouble passing gun inspection. Remember, the only things you can do to your production gun is to do a trigger job and replace the stocks with a standard catalog stock. You can paint your sights, but no paint is allowed on the gun other than the sights (remove that paint you have on your revolver to mark the bad cylinder).

A trigger job by IHMSA definition is the engaging surfaces of the sears being polished or stoned and any factory springs bent or clipped. You can't polish the entire inside of the frame and call it a trigger job. Also, you can't put punch marks on your cylinders, sights, etc., to mark your gun. Common sense and playing fair should keep you out of trouble in most instances. The one area that catches a shooter is the weight of his production gun. The gun can't weigh more than 4 pounds. The Pachmayr grip will put a Dan Wesson 44 size frame overweight every time. If you own a Dan Wesson, Merrill, or other type of heavy production gun, I would recommend having it checked before the Internationals. It doesn't matter that you bought it heavy and assumed it was correct, you must weigh in at 4 pounds or less.

Read the Rule Book concerning your gun. Check to make sure you are legal. While you are at it, keep on reading and review all the rules. A little refresher course can't hurt anybody and it may prevent you from making a mistake at the Internationals that could be so costly.

POSITIONS: STANDING AND FREESTYLE

GRIP VISIBILITY 3/78

Shooters have been observed wrapping both hands around the grip in such a manner so as to totally cover and conceal the lower portion of the grip which, in itself, is a violation of the rule. Further, certain of these shooters have used this technique of grip concealment in such a manner so as to achieve solid contact of the gun butt with the ground before firing, also a violation of the rules.

Complete concealment of the lower part of the grip will not be allowed unless the shooter plainly and obviously has some portion of one or both of his hands and/or fingers under the butt and visibly between the gun butt and the ground or ground cover when in firing position.

The rule is quite plain, and all range officers and line referees are directed to enforce it: ...the gun must be held in such a manner that the line referee and/or the range officer can see that the gun is visibly clear of the ground at all times when in firing position.

ARTIFICIAL SUPPORT 3/78

Nesting the barrel in the top of a shoe or boot or across the sole or notch of the heel constitutes artificial support and is not allowed.

This rule has been interpreted to mean that the barrel may not rest across the bottom or flat part of the sole anywhere along the full length of the bottom from toe to heel.

CHANGE IN STANDING POSITION RULE 10/81

The Combined Committees voted 19 to 1 to clarify the wording of the standing position rule, effective immediately.

At the Internationals, several shooters were disqualified for using a standing position wherein there was control, contact and/or use of some portion of either hand (or fingers) or other part of the arm BEHIND the wrist of the other hand.

This was done innocently simply because certain shooters did not understand the wording of the rule.

The intent of the rule ALWAYS has been that you may hold the gun in one or both hands any way you choose, but with no part of the one or other hand, or gun, making contact behind the wrists.

The current portion of the rule affected, Page 6, first paragraph under

POSITIONS: STANDING AND FREESTYLE, to be changed as follows with the added words in capitals, and underlined.

"Any standing position will be allowed with the gun being supported by one or both hands. No part of the one or both arms or hands BEHIND THE WRISTS shall contact any other part of the body from the shoulder out."

CLARIFICATION 10/81

CLARIFICATION-POSITIONS: STANDING & FREESTYLE

Page Six 1981 Rule Book
Handicapped Competitors

"Handicapped competitors may fire from wheelchair with one or both elbows supported...." This portion of the rule applies to handicapped shooters shooting FREESTYLE, where, for example, a board may be placed across the arms of the wheelchair so as to allow the person confined to their wheelchair a surface on which to rest their arms, elbows, etc. The "board", as used in this example, or any device constructed on which to allow the person to rest their arms, is considered the GROUND, but the gun may not be rested on this board or device.

As a further clarification regarding wheelchair competitors, they are considered shooting STANDING when the gun is being held by one or both hands, and no part of the one or both arms or hands holding the gun are touching one another from the wrist of either hand back to the shoulders, even though the shooter is sitting down in their wheelchair. Both arms, of course, are out in front of the shooter and not touching anything.

The second sentence of this rule paragraph deals with persons with a single leg or a person who is using crutches as part of their permanent handicap. To allow these shooters to shoot STANDING and to maintain their balance while doing so, they may support themselves while standing with a chair or stool replacing leg. If the competitor is using crutches, he may use them to maintain his balance while in the STANDING POSITION.

THE HANDICAPPED SHOOTER 1/85

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

"Handicapped competitors may fire from wheelchair with one or both elbows supported, or with braced crutches or with support from chair or stool replacing leg" (page 7 - Official Rules). This rule has been questioned by many shooters. Usually not by the handicapped competitor, but by the

"other" competitor who thinks the handicapped shooter is getting an advantage with his shooting position.

Many handicapped shooters have built quite elaborate platforms on their wheelchairs to shoot in the freestyle position. These devices are allowed so long as they are not being "artificially" held in place on the platform (you can't strap down an arm or slip it into a support brace, etc.). The handicapped shooter must not use artificial support on the platform, but the platform itself in freestyle position is allowed. The handicapped competitor must not "ground" the gun on the platform. The gun cannot touch the platform without human flesh being between it and the platform (just as if you or I was shooting prone). No wrist braces, etc., are allowed on the shooting hands and/or arms (unless it is part of a handicapped device regularly worn and used by the competitor).

In the standing position for a handicapped shooter, the arms must be extended out just as if he were standing. Nothing may touch from the arm pit out to wrists. Other than that, the handicapped shooter can use his wheelchair, crutches, etc., to support himself in an upright manner.

Many competitors getting "beat" by the handicapped shooter are screaming foul because of the "equipment" allowed. In reality, nothing is as steady as the good old creedmore (or other variations) used in the freestyle position. Try and support a gun as steady with your hands in front of you laying in the prone position. This is what the handicapped shooter is having to deal with when he competes. If it were an advantage, we would probably all be shooting in a variation of the prone position.

Next time a handicapped shooter beats you fair and square, congratulate him on some excellent shooting. I'm sure he would be glad to trade you places any day.

CLASSIFICATION

UPGRADING AND DEMOTION 6/81

The demotion rule, as spelled out in the final paragraph of the classification rule on Page 7 of the rule book is quite clear.

What is not clear - simple because there is no mandatory rule on the subject - is the matter of self-upgrading to a higher class.

From time to time, some member-competitor, for one reason or another, wishes to compete in a higher class than he earned classification. For example, he is a A class shooter and wants to be upgraded to AA.

He may do so by presenting his membership and classification card to the Match Director and state his reasons. If approved, the Match Director then changes the shooter's card to the desired higher class, initials it and returns it to the member.

However, once this is done, the member remains permanently in the new upgraded higher class the same as if he had earned it. He cannot go back to his old class or a lesser class anytime thereafter until and unless he applies officially as per the demotion rule.

As a final item, NO ONE may be upgraded to INTERNATIONAL class in any category. Out of respect for those competitors who have earned this classification, no one may achieve INTERNATIONAL classification in any class or category unless they shoot their way into it.

IHMSA-NRA CLASSIFICATIONS NOT INTERCHANGEABLE 3/83

Until about two years ago IHMSA and NRA Big Bore rules were quite similar. Back in 1977 NRA had requested permission to adopt IHMSA rules, which request was granted. Thereafter, we had a mutual understanding that IHMSA would accept NRA classifications and Vice Versa.

While IHMSA had stayed with its basic rules for the past five years, the NRA Silhouette committee has made some radical changes to the point where interchangeable classifications are no longer possible.

Therefore, anyone competing in an IHMSA sanctioned match must present an IHMSA classification card.

WHAT'S MY CLASS 6/84

DID I BREAK OUT OR STEP UP?

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

The classification system that IHMSA uses is very simple. And yet it is misunderstood by many members and is one of the main questions asked by members calling headquarters. The classification system is covered on page 7 of the 1984 Official Rules Book. A competitor is classified in each category separately.

The first time a competitor fires a score in a sanctioned IHMSA match, he is put into the class that the score he fired fits. He carries his official IHMSA classification card with him to all the different matches he attends, and by turning it over to the match director at that match, he is always

shooting in his class established by "known ability" of his previous scores. All his scores are listed on his card and he is always kept current so that his classification is always correct. Sounds simple doesn't it? Well it is in concept and application, if the rules of classification are understood.

There are several concepts that must be explained. First, the initial scores fired by a competitor classifies him in a category. He keeps that class until he gets better (everyone's goal!). Now is where people get confused. A shooter "STEPS UP" into the next higher class when he fires two scores that exceed the break point of his existing class. He is promoted into the higher class on his card and the promotion is effective at the NEXT MATCH. Now hold this idea for a minute!

A shooter that shoots a score that exceeds the break point of his present class by two or more classes is automatically "BROKE OUT" into a higher class. His new class is the class that is one under the actual score shot. The promotion is EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY and does count at that match. This is what we call the "Break Out Rule." By actual demonstrated ability (the higher score), the shooter has shown that his ability is higher than his classification and he is moved up to a class more appropriate to his ability.

If you stop and examine the "Step Up Rule" and the "Break Out Rule," one conclusion is obvious. The only time you can "step up" into a higher class is when you progress by firing two scores in the next higher class. If you get a lot better and fire a score that is two or more classes above your present class, you should automatically "break out" into a class one under the actual score fired.

Confused? Let's use an example. Joe Shooter comes out to a match and fires an Unlimited score of 19 with his new TC. He is classified as a "B" shooter based on this score. He fires a few more matches with the scores remaining in the "B" class limits. Then he gets better and fires a 26 ("A" class score) and a 29 (another "A" class score). He is promoted into "A" class Unlimited at the match and it becomes effective at the next match for trophy purposes. So let's assume our shooter wins the "B" class Unlimited with his 29 score. He attends another match as a shining new "A" shooter. He has caught the silhouette fever bad by now and is sporting a new XP to help slay the steel dragon. Low and behold, our hero shoots a 37 with his new gun (a "AAA" score). At this point the score is two classes above his present "A" class, so he is promoted into "AA" effective immediately and

at that match (one class under the actual class shot) with one leg into "AAA" class. Our shooter is now really getting serious and begins to practice. He then shoots a 38, his second "AAA" score. Again, he is "stepped up" into "AAA" class with the promotion effective at the next match. His first leg up was the 37 he "broke out" with at the previous match. We'll leave our example before he makes the move into "International," which he obviously must "step up" to in order to obtain the classification. There is no way for a shooter to "break out" into "International" class since he will always be put one class under the actual score shot!

Hopefully, this clears up the classification questions. The system in its present state has evolved over the last several years and is the best system in the silhouette game. It keeps everyone competing with fellow shooters of similar ability and promotes the shooter as he gets better. By making these promotions at the actual match instead of Headquarters, red tape is eliminated and shooters are properly kept in their legitimate classes!

NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM 10/86

THE NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM:

IT APPLIES TO EVERYTHING

Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

Several questions have come up concerning the new classification system that takes effect January 1, 1986. If you missed the announcement, please read the Bulletin Board in last month's *Silhouette*.

Please note that the announced changes apply to *all* categories and classes. This means that although the break points are not being changed in Standing, the Standing category is eligible for the one time option of reclassifying at the shooter's option. Also, all changes in break points and the option to reclassify in all categories applies to .22 silhouette.

Please reread last month's announcement as to the optional reclassification. You must decide after January 1st and *before* you fire in your first sanctioned match in 1987. Once you fire in one match regardless of how many classes you actually compete in that day, you will not be able to reclassify in any category. This is a one time option to reclassify and *will not* be an annual option.

You must reclassify in both .22 and big bore before your first 1987 sanctioned match in either .22 or big bore. Once you fire a single shot in a sanctioned match your classes in all categories, .22 and big bore, are locked in and only through break out, step ups, etc., will you be able to change classes. So please consider carefully your options and decide what is in your best interests.

COMPETITOR QUALIFICATION

VALIDITY OF MEMBERSHIP CARD 1/80

By a ruling of the Board of Directors, your current membership card with its scores and classifications is valid until its expiration date, at which time a new card will be issued when your renewal is sent to headquarters.

For example, if you joined IHMSA on August 10, 1979, your card has an expiration date of 8-80 typed just under your membership number. Therefore, your 1979 card, with its scores and classifications will be perfectly valid at any IHMSA sanctioned match through the month of August, 1980. When you renew at that time, your new 1980 card will be valid through August 1981, and so on.

CLARIFICATION OF NEW RULE 10/85

The new rule regarding competitor qualification was printed on the Bulletin Page of the September issue and goes into effect as of Jan. 1, 1986.

Also stated was that matches fired in the calendar year of 1985 will be accepted.

The new rule reads as follows:

"A COMPETITOR MUST SHOOT IN THREE SEPARATE NON-CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES WITHIN 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO ENTERING ANY CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH. A MINIMUM OF ONE ENTRY PER MATCH IS REQUIRED. BIG BORE AND .22 WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY."

The clarification is this: Only three COMPLETED 40-round matches will be recognized. Anyone who simply ENTERS a 40-round match and fires, say, a few rounds and withdraws, will NOT be recognized as a qualifying match. He/she must COMPLETE said 40-round match for it to count.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH REQUIREMENTS 4/86

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

On page 10 of the 1986 Rule Book is a new rule.

"A competitor must shoot in, and complete, three separate non-championship matches within 12 months prior to entering any championship. A minimum of one entry per match is required. Big Bore and .22 will be considered separate."

This rule is different than the one that we had several years ago. Please note that a competitor must only shoot one category in three separate

matches to qualify under this new rule. The shooter need not shoot three times in each separate category as before. Only attend three non-championship matches within the prior 12 months.

The purpose of this rule is to attempt to insure that a competitor is "current" in his skills and safety. This is learned through practice and attending local matches where any safety problems can be corrected. It is the responsibility of the local match director to insure proper gun handling, safety, etc. The championship itself is no place to be "instructing" on these items. In fact, a disqualification should result and this is always a problem for all those involved.

So support your local clubs and hone your skills and safety prior to attending this year's championships!

MATCH SPONSORS AGGREGATE TROPHIES 9/82

The matter of one shooter winning both the three gun and four gun aggregates (if such trophies or awards are offered) was discussed at length from the floor. The final vote was that this should be a match director's option.

WOMEN AND JUNIOR TROPHIES 9/82

Women and Junior trophies: After considerable discussion, the matter was left as an option by the match director and/or the sponsoring club.

SHOOTING FOR PRIZES 1/83

On page 9 of the new 1983 rule book, paragraph two under MATCH SPONSORS, read as follows:

NO MATCH WILL BE SANCTIONED BY IHMSA WHERE THE VALUE OF ANY PRIZE, MERCHANDISE OR CASH AWARD EXCEEDS DOUBLE THE ENTRY FEE. TROPHY VALUE IS NOT INCLUDED.

So there is no possible misunderstanding of this rule, Match Directors and sponsors are encouraged to provide all the prizes, merchandise or whatever that they can round up, either by purchase or donation, and to make said prizes available by drawing to all registered shooters on an equal basis.

The intent and meaning of the rule is that said prizes may not be shot for on a competitive basis (other than the stated double entry fee value) because of the inevitable result that a handful of competitors usually end

up winning most of the prizes at every match.

The concept of "shooting for loot" was turned down by over 90 percent of IHMSA's members in a referendum poll in 1982.

SANCTION AND FEES

SANCTION WITHDRAWN 7/78

By an Executive Committee ruling several months ago, any club being two matches in arrears is subject to having their sanction withdrawn and their listing deleted from THE SILHOUETTE. Don't let this happen. All of you know how well THE SILHOUETTE draws competitors to your matches.

JUNIORS, FUTURE OF IHMSA 1/86

Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

Where will this sport be in the future? Where will all shooting sports be in the future? The answer is unknown, but all of us must do our upmost to insure the future of all shooting sports. Certain groups are trying to take away our handguns. Others would like to see all "weapons" out of the hands of civilians. Our sport of silhouette shooting has taken great strides to combat the argument that the only thing a handgun is good for is "self defense." Through legitimate shooting sports such as ours, the future of handguns and shooting sports may well rest. The future also belongs to the youth of our land. Only by involving our young people in the shooting sports can be continue to see the next generation fight for their freedom to bear arms. If the next generation has no "use" for handguns, no appreciation of ours and similar shooting sports, they will have no desire or interest to keep up the fight to keep our handguns.

IHMSA recognizes the importance of the young junior shooters. Unfortunately, the economy has not been helpful to letting the IHMSA shooting family get their juniors started into active competition. I know many families that would like to get their sons and daughters started, but let's face it, economics dictate that Dad and Mom are all that they can afford to shoot silhouettes. The kids are either left at home or brought to the range to idle away time and/or work. This may allow Dad and Mom to shoot, but is it also doing the wrong thing for the potential junior shooter? For some juniors, this may be an enjoyable time, but for others their time spent on the range is less than enjoyable. They may grow to dislike silhouette shooting and what it has represented in their life.

IHMSA recognizes the need to make it easier for juniors to get started and participate in this family sport. Easing the financial burden of the added shooter on the family is the first place to start. Therefore, IHMSA has come up with several ways to help.

On the local level where most of the juniors will shoot, IHMSA WILL WAIVE SANCTION FEES ON JUNIOR SHOOTERS FOR ANY CLUB THAT ALLOWS THE JUNIOR SHOOTER TO SHOOT AT A DISCOUNT. The discount must be at least 50% off the normal entry fee for that club to qualify for this sanction fee waiver. We hope this will encourage the local club to let the junior shooter participate on a cost basis.

ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, IHMSA will allow any junior shooter to participate in the Internationals with the parent's entry. In other words, FOR EVERY TIME MOM OR DAD SHOOT, A JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE FAMILY MAY SHOOT FREE!!!

We would like to encourage state and regional championships to consider adopting similar programs. Only through encouragement at all levels can we truly live up to our claim that IHMSA is a family sport.

JUNIORS - LET'S SHOOT SILHOUETTES!!!

CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS 3/81

Any competitor entering any IHMSA State, Region or International championships will be required to sign a form acknowledging that he has read and will be bound by all official rules of IHMSA, and in particular for championship matches, the new 1981 Classification Rule and the Known Ability rule.

This is the result of legal advice from IHMSA member attorneys. See Message from the President for more details.

CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION 5/86

The official interpretation of the championship rules regarding competitor qualifications are as follows:

1. Page 10, paragraph 5 under CHAMPIONSHIPS:

To participate in any state, regional or the International championships, a contestant must be a classified member of IHMSA IN ALL CATEGORIES IN WHICH HE INTENDS TO COMPETE.

2. Page 10, CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH-COMPETITOR QUALIFICATION:

"A competitor must shoot in, and complete, three separate, non-championship matches within 12 months prior to entering any championship. A minimum of one entry per match is required. Big Bore and .22 will be considered separate."

The rule means exactly what it says, THREE SEPARATE NON-CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES. This rule does NOT mean, for example, that a competitor can attend ONE match at a single club, fire once in each category he wishes to qualify in, then re-enter twice more in each category on the same day (or the second day of a two-day match) and thus consider himself qualified for championship events in all classes and categories.

MATCH PROCEDURES

PROGRAM 5/78

If you print a program, take care to cover all bases regarding classes, trophies, match conditions, etc., as you are duty bound to follow the provisions of your program.

SAME GUN - BARREL 8/78

Different handguns, barrels and calibers may be used during the championships, but the same gun, barrel and caliber must be used for all stages of any individual event or match.

CHANGING AMMO 8/77

Question: Can I change ammo during a match using a production gun?

Answer: Yes. Some finicky reloaders use different loads for each bank of targets on the theory that there is a "perfect" powder charge and bullet for each distance.

SHOTGUN STARTS 9/82

Shotgun starts: No shotgun starts will be allowed at Championship matches. Otherwise, at regular sanctioned matches, shotgun starts will be allowed at the option of the match director so long as all competitors shoot in the same order.

ABUSE OF TARGET SETTERS 6/83

It has come to our attention that target setters have been verbally

abused by shooters.

This situation will not be tolerated under any circumstances, and match directors are given authority to disqualify any shooter who engages in this practice.

If there are any questions or complaints regarding target setting they are to be taken up with the match director or his designated assistants.

DUTIES OF STATE AND REGION DIRECTORS 10/83

The official duties of all IHMSA State and Region Directors are as follows:

1. To uphold, enforce and carry out all IHMSA rules, policies and procedures at all times, specifically at any match sanctioned by IHMSA, and in cooperation and coordination with Headquarters and the Executive Committee.

2. State Directors are to coordinate and approve all match dates within their state in coordination with their Region Director.

3. Region Directors, in turn, are to coordinate all dates within their region on a master calendar, in particular all championship matches.

4. It is the specific responsibility of all State and Region Directors to verify that all championship matches within their respective states and regions are carried out in conformance with official IHMSA rules.

5. No deviation from IHMSA's official rules, policies or procedures will be allowed other than minor safety regulations as may be in force or established by local clubs to fit their particular range. Any other exceptions or variances with official IHMSA rules must be cleared and/or approved by the IHMSA Executive Committee through Headquarters.

6. Any deviation from official rules, policies and procedures will be brought to the immediate attention of the Executive Committee for action which may include suspension or expulsion from IHMSA.

7. The original and continuing goal of IHMSA, Inc., is to hold sanctioned matches for its members as a means of their enjoying the sport of IHMSA handgun metallic silhouette shooting.

ALIBIS

ALIBI RULE 1/80

NO ALIBI IS ALLOWED FOR FAULTY AMMO OR A PISTOL MALFUNCTION WHETHER CAUSED BY FAULTY AMMO (most of them are) OR BY BROKEN PARTS (mostly caused from faulty ammo, usually overloads.)

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Finally, and members are urged to read this carefully: The new alibi rule provides that if a shooter's pistol is ACTUALLY BROKEN DURING THE MATCH AND WILL NOT FIRE A PROPERLY CHAMBERED ROUND BECAUSE OF A BROKEN PART HE MAY, AFTER A RANGE OFFICER HAS VERIFIED THE BREAKAGE, EXCHANGE WITH ANOTHER PISTOL OF THE SAME CATEGORY AND CONTINUE THE MATCH. In other words, if he is shooting in the production category, his replacement pistol must be any other legal production pistol.

Now, let's quote the final paragraph of the new ALIBI RULE: UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL A COMPETITOR'S MALFUNCTION DELAY THE PROGRESS OF THE COMPETITION.

Therefore, if a pistol actually malfunctions from a BROKEN PART (not a malfunction because of faulty ammo as previously described) after firing, say, the third shot of a five-shot string, the final two shots are LOST, and the shooter then has the responsibility of having a range officer confirm the broken pistol which can then be exchanged for another pistol and the shooter may finish the course of fire with the exchanged pistol.

SCORING

CORRECT SCORES 5/78

Any IHMSA member who does not enter his correct scores on his card as provided for in the rules, or who omits scores in order to continue competing in a lower class, is subject to suspension from IHMSA for one year. For non members engaging in this practice, it is recommended that Match Directors bar them from any sanctioned match.

SCORING RULE 4/81

No rule in the book gets punished, abused, questioned or challenged more than the final three paragraphs of the SCORING rule on page 12, commonly known as the KNOCK-DOWN RULE.

Hardly a week goes by without a call to Headquarters from some harried match director or irate competitor seeking a "clarification" of the rule.

Actually, this is a very simple rule to read and understand, but for the sake of the entire membership, and especially for the benefit of the ever-growing number of new members, let's go over those three paragraphs one at a time:

"When there are wind conditions requiring the targets to be fastened

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down, one or more in each bank, then all hits shall be scored as point."

ADDED NOTES: First, the match director and/or his jury have the option to decide when the wind conditions are such that the match is being delayed by targets being blown down by the wind, and he/she can declare that they be fastened down.

Secondly, as the rule states, they may fasten one or more in each bank, although the standard — and easiest — procedure is to clamp, wire or otherwise fasten down one target in each bank. Usually it will be only the rams, but sometimes other targets. The procedure is to paint out the bullet splashes and direct the competitor to fire his five shot string at that same target. The bullet splashes are counted and scored, then those bullet splashes are painted out so the next shooter has a clear surface to shoot against, and so on.

The match director and/or his jury also have the option — should the wind die down — to leave the targets fastened down for the rest of the competitors for that day, or he may elect to remove the fastenings, in which case the knock-down rule goes into effect again.

The next paragraph reads as follows:

"IF ONE FOOT OR THE OTHER OF ANY HIT JAVELINA OR RAM BE COMPLETELY OFF THE STAND, BUT RESTING ON THE GROUND OR ANY OTHER OBSTRUCTION SO AS TO PREVENT THE TARGET FROM FALLING, THEN THE HIT WILL BE SCORED EVEN IF THE TARGET IS STILL STANDING WITH THE OTHER FOOT STILL ON THE STAND."

ADDED NOTES: This paragraph was modified into its present form at the 1980 annual delegates meeting for a more precise clarification, and should be perfectly clear to all hands. If a javelina or ram is hit, and one foot is knocked completely off the stand to rest on the ground or on any other object or obstruction OTHER than the stand, and in such a manner as to keep the other foot of the target still on the stand and thus keep the target from falling over, then such a hit will be scored as a point exactly as the rule specifies.

The final paragraph of the rule brings on the vast majority of inquiries, protests and arguments, yet it, too, is crystal clear:

"Otherwise, in no case shall a hit target be awarded as a score point unless it is knocked down and/or off its stand."

ADDED NOTES: The "OTHERWISE" is specified in the paragraph above, so let's deal only with the rest of the sentence.

If every target touched by a bullet is to be scored, even though the target remains standing, then the very essence of the game will be lost, and we might as well substitute paper targets with rings and X's and go back to paper punching.

The very heart of the sport, the purpose, the enjoyment, the thrill, the fun and the very embodiment of the handgun silhouette game is to hit the target and KNOCK IT DOWN. Out in the hunting fields you're not going to get any easy trophies with poor hits or grazing shots.

We have made the rams as easy as possible to knock down via the overhang rule and the new 1981 option rule of cutting three-fourths of an inch off the back side of both feet. One of the primary reasons this was done was to promote safety in the sense of encouraging competitors to back off of their "dynamite" loads that were hard on gun and shooter alike, and concentrate on accurate and safe loads.

Basically, this has been accomplished, but then came the 100 and one reasons being advanced as to why a hit target should be scored when it is NOT knocked down or off its stand.

"The hit ram was hard set — the stand was loose — the ram was warped — the stand wasn't level — there was mud on the feet — it was raining and the water caused suction under the feet — it was leaning forward — the wind was pushing from behind — the target setters were tired and not setting them right — and so on and on for another hundred reasons."

A ruling was made two years ago that any competitor so desiring could accompany the match director downrange before the match started and inspect the targets and stands. Most match directors make an announcement of that final inspection and will allow any bonafide competitor to make the trip downrange in his presence. If there are any suggestions to be made about faulty stands and/or targets, this is the time and place to make them.

Most match directors are reasonable men, and at a reasonable suggestion will correct anything that is wrong with an individual stand or target.

BUT ONCE THE MATCH BEGINS, AND REGARDLESS OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND ONE REASONS THAT CAN BE ARGUED AS TO WHY A HIT TARGET DID NOT GO DOWN, THE RULE IS IN EFFECT:

"Otherwise, in no case (regardless of the circumstances) shall a hit target be awarded as a score point unless it is knocked down and/or off its stand."

Final Note: To administer this rule by any other means would unleash a monster that would destroy the game. Within a week we would have 173 "reasons" why a hit target SHOULD be awarded as a score point even though it was not knocked down, and 493 reasons why a hit target should NOT be awarded as a score point when it was not knocked down.

The rule is there, plain and clear. It must be adhered to.

SCORECARDS FOR 60-ROUND MATCHES 6/84

There seems to be a bit of misunderstanding regarding the use of score cards for 60-round matches.

Simply use the first three spaces of the four-space 80-round score card for both big bore and .22 60-round matches.

It's as simple as that.

CLAMPING TARGETS IN THE WIND AT CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES 9/85

During championship matches, if one target in a bank must be secured (clamped), all targets in that bank must be clamped and hits will be counted.

SHOOTOFFS

SHOOTOFF TARGETS 5/84

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

"Shoot off targets for all sanctioned matches will be visible steel silhouette shaped targets, chicken, javelina, turkey and ram of any size and any distance of 200 meters or less" (page 13, 1984 Official Rules). This is the new rule established by the delegates at the 1983 Internationals. Its purpose was to provide some degree of uniformity within IHMSA and still allow match directors the freedom and creativity to vary the shootoff. Many shooters would travel great distances to a match and find themselves at a disadvantage in the shoot off facing a "pet" shoot off target that all the local shooters used regularly. This occurred at regular monthly matches and championships. Since we shoot at a silhouette shape (i.e., chicken, pig, turkey, ram) during the regular course of fire, it was agreed that the same shapes be used in the shoot off. No shape other than the chicken, pig, turkey or ram is legal to be used in a shoot off.

You can vary the size of the silhouette (It doesn't have to be a regulation

size.) But, there is one very important criteria you must consider when using smaller-sized silhouettes. IT MUST BE VISIBLE.

Webster's Dictionary defines visible as "capable of being seen." What is meant by the word "visible" as we use it in shoot offs, is that every shooter in the shoot off be able to see the silhouette when looking at their front sight. Often a shoot off target is visible when standing on the firing line looking downrange with your eyes focused on the target. But, we don't shoot at the target in this position. When you look at your front sight in the Creedmore position, the shoot off target literally disappears! You can either see the target or your front sight, but not both. This target size is NOT visible. A shooter who is farsighted can see a much smaller target than a shooter who is nearsighted. If the target gets too small, all you really prove is who had the better eyes, not necessarily who was the better shot that day. This the reason that the delegates included this concept in the new rule.

The shoot off target can be at ANY distance of 200 meters or less. It doesn't have to be at a "regular" distance (i.e., 50, 100, 150, 200). You can be creative and put a stand at whatever distance you desire at 200 meters or less. You can also vary the distances between targets (one at 100, one at 150, one at 187, one at 195, etc.). You must fire a five-shot string, but not necessarily with every shot at the same distance. All competitors must fire the same course of fire in the same order if you vary distances.

One practice I've heard of that is not legal is the shortened firing period. The Rule Book states that "regular loading, firing, and time procedures will be used." This precludes a shortened firing period. Also, safety becomes a factor when you are rushing the shooter.

"High score shall determine the winner." What does this mean? Obviously, the shooter with the most targets? Generally the answer is yes. But, if a reverse count is assigned the targets, if there is a mixed bank of silhouettes (such as the 1981 Internationals), the winner may have the same number of targets but win on count. This method can shorten your shoot offs if time is a problem.

The new shoot off rule is as simple as one, two, three, four. Just remember the four key ideas:

1. Visible
2. Steel Silhouettes
3. Any Size
4. 200 Meters or Less

SHOOTOFF TARGETS 7/85

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

Championship season is in full swing along with a full match schedule. It seems that shootoffs are a commonplace thing these days. Almost every monthly match ends with a shootoff, and hardly a championship ends without a little extra shooting. There seems to still be some confusion about shootoff targets. Every month I see articles that refer to a shootoff target that is not allowed under IHMSA rules.

"SHOOTOFF TARGETS FOR ALL SANCTIONED MATCHES WILL BE VISIBLE STEEL SILHOUETTE SHAPED TARGET, CHICKEN, JAVELINA, TURKEY AND RAM OF ANY SIZE AND ANY DISTANCE OF 200 METERS OR LESS. FIRING WILL BE IN FIVE SHOT STRINGS AT FIVE TARGETS FOR EACH SHOOTER AT THE DISTANCE AGREED UPON" (Official Rules, page 13). This seems clear enough but is still being misinterpreted by many match directors. ALL sanctioned matches must follow this rule. This means everything from the Internationals to your local monthly match. No exceptions are allowed.

The targets must be steel silhouettes of the chicken, javelina, turkey or ram. Any size and/or combination of targets is allowed so long as there are five targets in a bank and they are VISIBLE. The targets need not all be at the same distance so long as the maximum distance is 200 meters. Firing must be in five shot strings so the concept of sudden death is limited to a five shot string and not first miss out concept.

This should be clear, except maybe the concept of "visible." Visible to one person is often invisible to another. To get a good idea of the original intent of the word visible, one can refer to the delegates meeting at the 1983 Internationals. It was the intent of the delegates to get away from the tiny target concept and put the emphasis of the shootoff back to skill, not who had the best eyes. Visible is defined as capable of being seen. As applied to silhouette shaped shootoff targets, this means that a silhouette shaped target must be seen when the shooter is focusing on his sights. If the target gets too small, it is no longer visible.

One recommendation for shootoffs is to appoint a committee of several knowledgeable shooters, match directors, etc., to review and decide on the shootoff just prior to the shootoff. Light conditions, backgrounds, etc., can all have a big impact on the visibility of your shootoff targets. Another big factor is color. One color for a given size target is highly visible where another color on the same size target is all but invisible under the existing conditions. So remember to remain flexible and assess the shootoff target selection correctly.

SAFETY

SAFETY 6/81

IHMSA is proud of its safety record, and justly so. During 1980, for example, over THREE MILLION sanctioned shots were fired on the nation's silhouette ranges.

Not a single gunshot wound that we can recall, or a serious firearms related accident was reported to Headquarters during the year. So far, 1981 also has been free of accidents, in spite of the tremendous number of new shooters taking up the IHMSA handgun silhouette game.

It is the absolute responsibility of every experienced IHMSA member to be a safety officer at all times. In any emergency situation, all IHMSA members are deputized to take action to prevent any firearms accident. Any non-emergency safety infractions seen by any member are to be reported at once to any match director.

One of the best things we have going for our handgun silhouette game is our excellent safety record. Let's keep it that way.

RAILROAD IRON DANGER 3/82

Reports have come in that clubs using railroad iron for chicken and javelina stands have a potential danger problem on their hands.

Almost always, the railroad iron is used with the flat bottom side up. The danger comes from bullets striking the rounded radius of the rail web just under the edge and ricocheting back toward the firing line.

Most clubs try to eliminate this by piling dirt up to the edge of the lip to cover the web.

Nevertheless, sometimes wind or rain cuts away this covering of dirt before anyone is really aware of it.

Let this notice serve as a warning: On several occasions, shooters or bystanders have been struck by bullet jackets coming back from these rails. Fortunately, no serious injuries have been reported.

However, if this matter is not corrected safely, the Executive Committee will discuss the problem with the view of possibly not allowing sanctioned matches to be fired using railroad iron at 50 and 100 meters in the manner described above. At 150 and 200 meters splashback has not been a problem.

MORE ON USING RAILROAD IRON STANDS 4/82

In the March issue we explained a potential danger problem regarding the use of railroad iron for stands, and ricochets coming back toward the firing line from bullets striking the curved web.

We explained that many clubs pile up dirt in front of the railroad iron stands which works fine so long as it stays there, but when wind or rain exposes the web of the rails - usually without anyone being aware of it - then the danger is ever present.

The easiest way to make railroad iron stands as safe as possible is to put old crossties or other heavy lumber right up against the rails, and flush with the top. This way, low bullets will go into - or through - the crossties or lumber and probably strike the rail. The important thing is that the fragmented bullets and/or jacket material cannot come back through the wood to ricochet back to the firing line.

Eventually, when the wood is badly shot up, simply replace it. Old crossties are cheap, usually free for hauling them away.

UNSAFE TRIGGERS 9/82

The rule reads as follows: Any safe trigger not subject to accidental discharge will be allowed.

There have been instances of unsafe triggers to the point where closing the bolt on unlimited guns, or closing break-open production guns such as the TC Conterider and Merrills has caused the sear to release the hammer.

In some instances shots have been fired (fortunately downrange) during the 30-second loading period. In still other instances, shooters have been observed holding the trigger forward while closing the gun - to keep the sear from releasing.

All of these come under the heading of unsafe triggers, and such guns are **NOT TO BE ALLOWED IN COMPETITION**.

All Match Directors and gun inspectors are herewith advised to pay particular attention to triggers during pre-registration and inspection. Any match director and/or inspector has the specific authority to **NOT ALLOW** any gun in competition if, in their judgment, the trigger is light enough to be unsafe.

In any instance, should the sear release the hammer when the bolt or breach is closed firmly on any empty chamber, said gun obviously has an unsafe trigger and is **NOT TO BE ALLOWED IN COMPETITION**.

In the event of any protests from either side, the matter will go to the jury whose decision will be final.

EYE PROTECTION 9/83

So there can be no misunderstanding about this matter, binoculars and scopes used by spotters do **NOT** constitute proper eye protection. Looking through binoculars and/or spotting scopes might be of some protection during the course of fire by the shooter you are spotting for. However, possible loss-of-eye danger is ever present from lead shaving and/or splashback from adjoining shooters on the firing line.

Protect your eyes. They are the only pair you will ever have.

SAFETY PROCEDURES 11/83

IHMSA SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS: As all safety rules were adopted as official several years ago, the word **RECOMMENDATIONS** was inadvertently overlooked. This heading will now read: **SAFETY PROCEDURES**.

Also discussed was the mandatory eye protection rule, top of page 14. Since the rule does not specify that eye glasses must be used, the Executive Committee ruled that curved shields mounted on spotting scopes to protect the spotter's eyes were allowable as an option to eye glasses if said shields were approved by the match director or safety officer.

MUZZLE CONTROL 7/84

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

Muzzle control is covered in the 1984 Official Rules on page 14. It states that "At no time during the loading or firing stages shall a competitor allow the gun to point at any part of his or her anatomy, or at any other person. From the moment a gun is placed on the firing line, until it is removed, the muzzle shall point downrange." The issue of muzzle control was brought before the delegates at the 1983 Internationals. It was discussed and decided that the present rule was clear and that everyone must obey this rule to the letter.

Most of the violations of this rule occur during the handling and loading of the gun. Through sloppy habits a competitor allows the gun to point at himself during the loading process. This can't be tolerated for the safety of the shooter and the safety of our sport.

The other area of muzzle control that comes into question is after the gun is actually fired and recoils. The competitor must control the muzzle so that at no time during the firing of his gun is it allowed to recoil past an imaginary 90 degree angle. By definition, the gun must never pass this 90 degree angle during the firing and recoil or it won't be pointed

"downrange" as required. The delegates overwhelmingly confirmed the intent of the muzzle control rule at Phoenix and its strict mandatory enforcement at all IHMSA matches.

Review your gun handling practices and have someone observe you during the firing process. Check that your gun doesn't recoil past 90 degrees. Safety violations will be sufficient cause for immediate removal from the line at the 1984 Internationals.

Let's keep our sport safe and protect everyone on the firing line!

MUZZLE CONTROL 7/86

by Ted Krauss, Chairman Rules Committee

"At no time during the loading or firing stages shall a competitor allow the gun to point at any part of his or her anatomy, or at any other person. NOR SHALL THE COMPETITOR ALLOW THE GUN TO RECOIL PAST THE VERTICAL (page 14, 1986 Official Rules).

The safety aspects of this rule are obvious. No one can argue with the need to keep the gun pointed away from their body when loaded. Some people like to argue the "need" to observe the same precautions when the gun is "empty." Since we are all taught from the beginning that guns are always loaded, the delegates at various International meetings have wisely chosen to keep this concept in force. Therefore, at no time can a gun point at any part of yourself or any other person. It is especially important to be careful to observe your gun during the loading process. This is where most violations occur.

The other aspect of the rule that is causing great misunderstanding is the rule that the competitor may not allow the gun to recoil past the vertical. What is vertical and how to you determine this point? A simple solution has been developed which we apply at the International championships. Vertical is difficult to determine and we do want to give the competitor the benefit of the doubt within reason. This has been accomplished with the following guideline: Stand behind the shooter a reasonable distance and observe the muzzle of the gun. If during recoil you can clearly see the bore hole in the muzzle, then the competitor is clearly "past vertical." If you can't see the bore hole, then leave the competitor alone. This simple test is easy to apply and does not require exceptional judgement. It is fair to all.

SPORTSMANSHIP

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT 5/81

Reports have come in of several incidents where shooters have thrown their guns down on the firing line. In two instances, "threw their guns downrange."

So there is absolutely no misunderstanding, such an offense calls for immediate, on-the-spot disqualification of said shooter plus a report, including eye witness accounts, sent to Headquarters for review by the Executive Committee for possible expulsion action. There are no exceptions.

Likewise, there have been other reports of unsportsmanlike conduct in the form of "screaming fits," "shouting contests with range officers," and other such acts on the firing line.

All Match, State and Regional Directors are hereby advised that any such conduct on ANY firing line will not be tolerated, and that immediate action is to be taken when such offenses are committed.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

ELECTION PROCEDURE 3/81

The election procedure for State Directors as established by the Executive Committee two years ago is as follows:

Only clubs holding IHMSA sanctioned matches may act as a nominating committee either through the club's Board of Directors or by a resolution passed at a regular membership meeting.

RANGE FACILITIES

TARGET DAMAGE 8/78

As a final note, the target damage issue has been settled. The vote for limiting bullet penetration (target damage) to 25 percent was overwhelming. To the few who did not understand that the vote was for damage on mild steel, I would not want to be a hundred yards behind any shooter using loads in a handgun that would penetrate 25 percent in T-1 steel. (See editorial on page two).

TARGET PENETRATION 6/81

We have been advised that certain shooters have developed loads for Unlimited guns that are damaging hardened steel targets. The current rule regarding this is very plain:

"Any club sponsoring an IHMSA sanctioned match shall have the right to bar or disqualify any gun, 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 used by said competitors."

Under this rule the club and/or the sponsor has the option of barring or removing from the line any shooter who is shooting loads not enough to pock tempered steel - if not bar him from using dangerous loads as a matter of safety.

TARGETS

TARGET COLORS 5/81

There has been a question about changing target colors during the course of a match due to changing light conditions because a range faces east or west, or whatever.

While there is no mandatory rule on this, standard procedure has been that whatever color is selected by a club, it should remain the same for all shooters throughout the match.

If a club or match director insists on changing colors during the course of a match, he must put notice of this in the program and/or post it at the range so that every competitor knows before the match begins.

.22 HANDGUNS

.22 GRIPS 11/79

A motion was passed that the big bore rule as regards replacement grips shall also apply to the .22 rules.

RESULTS OF THE .22 REFERENDUM VOTE 10/83

By a vote of 94.6 percent, members voted in .22 Unlimited as a permanent category of IHMSA competition.

By a vote of 73.8 percent members voted that the .22 Unlimited rules be exactly the same as for Big Bore Unlimited including a 15-inch barrel length limit and a 4½ pound weight limit.

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AMT .22 LIGHTNING APPROVED

By majority vote of the Combined Committees, the AMT .22 Lightning pistol was approved for IHMSA .22 production gun competition.

However, models with a barrel length over 10-inches will be legal only for the Unlimited category.

Approval was given on the condition that the pistol must conform with all IHMSA rules, specifically the rules regarding .22 pistols.

.22 COMPETITION

.22 OPTION 6/85

There seems to be ongoing confusion about the rule that allows .22 semi-autos and .22 single shot pistols to be combined.

The rule is very clear on this (page 18) and reads as follows:

At the match sponsor's option, .22 semi-autos and .22 single-shots may be combined into a single category which will be called "closed breech."

CORRECTION 6/84

The following paragraph printed on the Bulletin Board page of the May issue seems to have confused a few members:

"Effective as of June 1, 1984, the barrel length of ALL production .22 pistols will be limited to 10-inches to conform with the big bore production gun rule...."

Since both Single-shot .22 pistols and revolvers always have been limited to 10-inch barrels, the above paragraph is perfectly correct in that the rule on .22 Auto pistols now increases barrel length from the previous 7½-inches to 10-inches to conform with the 10-inch length of .22 single-shot pistols and revolvers, NOT THE 10½-INCH LENGTH OF BIG BORE PRODUCTION GUNS.

In the beginning, big bore production gun barrel length was set at 10½-inches to accommodate the Remington XP 100 .221 Fireball caliber.

STATUS OF DRULOV .22 PISTOLS 1/87

So there is no misunderstanding, the various models of the Drulov pistol are legal only in the .22 Unlimited category.

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U.I.T. PISTOL RULES 1/87

NOTE: As reported in the September issue, for the benefit of our overseas IHMSA members – and in the U.S. as well – the Executive Committee voted to accept all foreign-made .22 pistols in the respective IHMSA production categories that are legal by U.I.T. rules for Sport Pistol and Standard Pistol.

For the benefit of all IHMSA members world-wide, here are the U.I.T. rules that have been accepted:

SPORT PISTOL AND STANDARD PISTOL:

- 4.5 Any 5.6 mm (.22 cal.) rim fire pistol or revolver, chambered for long rifle cartridges except single shot pistols, which complies with the following standards may be used:
- 4.5.a The weight of the pistol with accessories, including balancing weight and unloaded magazine, must not exceed 1400 grams – 3.87 lbs.
- 4.5.b The length of the barrel must not exceed 153 mm (6 inches).
- 4.5.c The distance between front and rear sights must not exceed 220 mm – 8.6 inches. This distance must be measured from the rear surface of the rear sight blade to the highest point of the front sight.
- 4.5.d Muzzle brakes or any device(s) functioning in a similar manner are not allowed.
- 4.5.e The trigger pull must be at least 1000 grams – 2.2 lbs.
- 4.5.f No part of the grip or accessories may encircle the hand. The heel rest must extend at an angle of not less than 90 degrees to the grip. Any upward curvature of the heel and/or thumb rest and/or a downward curvature of the side opposite the thumb is prohibited. The rear part of the frame or grip which rests on the top of the hand between the thumb and forefinger must not be longer than 30mm. This distance is measured at a right angle to the extended center line of the barrel. Curved surfaces in the longitudinal axis of the firearm and grip are permitted. No adjustable grips are allowed per IHMSA rules.
- 4.5.g Ammunition: Any 5.6 mm (.22 cal.) rimfire, long rifle cartridge may be used.

All other IHMSA rules apply.

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