

CANNING CLUB



AIR PISTOL RULE BOOK



December 10, 2025

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Document History

Curriculum Owner (Manager)	Work area/team responsible	Date created	Date endorsement
President Canning Club	Air pistol captain	V1 6/12/2025	

Modification Table

Date modified <small>(XX/XX/XX)</small>	Modified by <small>(Name)</small>	Authorised by <small>(Club President)</small>	Modification details <small>(Must be concise and include all relevant modification details – e.g. Originator of the change, rationale behind the change and the details of the change including what was removed/replaced)</small>

The Rules and Regulations shown here will allow Indoor Air Pistol Matches to be run in an orderly, efficient and most importantly SAFE manner.

As a Canning Club Member or Official we all have a responsibility to read and know the Rules to ensure that we are familiar with the Courses of Fire, Equipment and Safety aspects of the Air Pistol discipline within the Canning Club.

Always abide by the 4 International Firearm Safety Rules

1. Treat every Air Pistol as if it is loaded.
2. Keep the Barrel pointed downrange at all times.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until on target, on target on trigger, off target off trigger. At the Canning Club off trigger means that your trigger finger is outside the trigger guard.
4. Identify your own target.

SECTION 1: THE MATCH

The match consists of 6 targets with 10 pellets on each target, all at a distance of 10 metres. This competition is 'In your own time' during the specified competition timeframe for this discipline and is suitable for participation by novice shooters.

SECTION 2:

FIREARM SPECIFICATIONS PRINCIPLES: There shall be one class, "Open Class". Open class firearms shall allow modifications to grips: orthopaedic, custom-fitted or single-handed grips.

AIR PISTOLS: GENERAL: Grips Standard left or right-hand grips, or orthopaedic type grips that provide support to the hand or wrist that will not prevent the handgun from falling freely to the ground when the hand is opened. Only open/iron sights are allowed. Only .177 pellets are to be used in matches.

There shall be no restriction on sights or sight radius or the barrel length. There shall be no restrictions on the weight of the trigger pull, provided it functions safely and as originally intended. Trigger shoes or extensions of any kind will not protrude beyond the dimensions of the trigger guard. Air Pistols used in the match shall be serviceable and safe. Competitors Air Pistol may be inspected at any time throughout the conduct of the competition, to ensure that it complies with the competition rules. One Air Pistol only will be used by a competitor in all stages of a match. If during a match the original Air Pistol

becomes unserviceable, the competitor may continue to compete using another Air Pistol, of the same calibre provided the competitor doesn't gain an advantage over their prior Air Pistol.

AMMUNITION: Only .177 lead pellets must be used.

In the event of ammunition failure or malfunction you may rectify and continue to fire provided you can do so in the allocated time left, but you can only fire the designated number of pellets for each target.

SECTION 3: EQUIPMENT & MODE OF DRESS.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Eye protection and enclosed footwear will be worn at all times by competitors on the range and by any persons who are in the vicinity of the firing line whilst shooting is underway.

Eye protection standard glasses will be accepted but impact resistant is recommended.

Footwear enclosed shoes or boots must be worn at all times whilst engaged in the competition or in the vicinity of the firing line.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: A competitor may wear or use medical equipment which may be seen as giving support, if a medical certificate confirming the competitor's need to wear or use such a device for health reasons is submitted before a match to the Committee.

CLOTHING: Camouflage, pattern disruptive or high visibility clothing is not permitted. Competitor using such clothing will be asked to leave the range.

RANGE OFFICERS: Shall wear a Yellow Vest on the line for ease of identification

SAFETY OFFICERS: Shall wear an Orange Vest on the line for ease of identification

SECTION 4:

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS & DUTIES

The Range Officer is responsible for the overall conduct of the course of fire, briefing competitors & answering questions about the course of fire. They are responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the match directing the Safety officers and shooters in matters of safety and procedure.

Safety Officers will assist the Range Officer.

It is preferential to have one Safety Officer for each 5 competitors.

SECTION 5:

SCORING

Where the outside diameter of the shot touches the line, it will be given the highest value.

Crossfire: If more than the required number of shots appears on the target, any shot which can be identified as not being fired by the competitor assigned that target, or having been fired in the previous string, will be discarded and not scored. If more than the required number of shots then remain on the target, the competitor will receive the highest scoring shots.

Visible shots and close groups: as a general rule only those shots which are visible will be scored. An exception will be made in a case where a group of 3 or more shots is so close that it was possible that the required number of shots could have gone through the enlarged hole and there is no evidence that shots have gone through elsewhere on the assigned target. In this case the competitor will be given the benefit of doubt and scored hits for non-visible hits

SECTION 6:

SAFETY VIOLATIONS

A Safety violation will disqualify the competitor from further participation in the competition. Safety Violations will include but not limited to the following:

- a) Dropping an unloaded Air Pistol
- b) Leaving the firing line with a loaded Air Pistol
- c) Casing a Air Pistol that has not been cleared.
- d) Engaging the trigger while at the ready position

- e) Playing or fiddling with the Air Pistol while cased before the order is given handle the Air Pistol, other than in the safety area
- f) Accidental discharge while at the ready
- g) Allowing the Air Pistol to swing from the down range position excessively (more than 15 degrees) while loading, clearing or correcting a malfunction.

BREACHES OF SAFETY

There is a breach of safety where the possibility of injury is high. A breach of safety requires automatic disqualification from the match. They are not limited to the following.

- a) Pointing a loaded Air Pistol up range.
- b) Pointing the loaded Air Pistol above the horizontal.
- c) Dropping a loaded Air Pistol.
- d) Picking up a dropped loaded Air Pistol.
- e) Any shot into the ground less than 2 metres down range from the firing line
- f) Consumption of alcohol or non-prescription drugs before or during competing in a match

SECTION 7: RANGE PROCEDURES

All persons must wear eye protection before entering the range.

The Range officer will brief the competitors on the course of fire, after which the competitors are allowed to commence fire.

One target may be shot before starting to compete, to 'sight in' the firearm, however the competitor must advise the Air Pistol Captain that it is a sighter target **prior to** commencing fire.

The Air Pistol Competition timeframe will be advised by the Air Pistol Captain, and competitors are allowed to compete only during this timeframe.

Air Pistols are to be cleared by the Range Officer or a Safety Officer before casing the Air Pistol and leaving the range.

SECTION 8: COMPETITORS

It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that their equipment meets the rules and is serviceable. In the event of a malfunction of the Air Pistol and the malfunction can be rectified before the end of the time limit for that detail, the competitor may continue until the time limit expires for that detail. All competitors and their guest will behave in a sportsman like manner. In the event of boisterous or disruptive behaviour the range officer shall caution the offender once and should there be a repetition of such conduct the offender if a competitor they shall be disqualified and asked to leave the firing line. If a guest or spectator they shall be asked to leave the range. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they understood the course of fire.

A junior competitor shall be any member aged between 12 to 17 years; they are to have a one on one supervisor on the line at all times in accordance with Section 31 Firearms Act 2024.

STUCK ROUND: A rod may be inserted down the end of the barrel to remove a stuck air pellet by the Range Officer or Safety Officer.

SECTION 9: GRADING

AIR PISTOL	550 and above AA grade
	500 and above A grade
	450 and above B grade
	400 and above C grade
	Below 400 D grade

To qualify for the next grade these scores must be shot three times.

To go to a lower grade, application must be made to the Committee

SECTION 10: COURSE OF FIRE

There shall be **no** restriction on the number of pellets that may be taken to the firing line. **A competitor may only shoot the number of pellets in each detail as instructed by the Range Officer.**

If any additional pellets are discharged then the highest score shall be discounted and a matching or next highest amount removed from the competitors score as a penalty.

The course of fire is based on the following conditions and can be adjusted by the Range Officer in line with the practice selected.

Distance: 10 metres

6 Targets - 10 pellets for each target in your own time, or as directed by the Range Officer.

SECTION 11: CHANGES TO THE RULES

Amendments, alterations, additions and changes to the Rules can only be made by a majority vote of elected committee members and do not take effect until they are published in the Canning Club Inc, newsletter. The cover sheet shall show the date of the amendment, the amended section and the Newsletter publication date. The amendments shall be recorded in the Committee Meeting minutes.