



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

RULE INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2013 ISSF RULES

The 2013 ISSF Rules were approved and published in late 2012. The following rule interpretations were approved by the ISSF Technical Committee during its meeting in Munich in January 2013. These interpretations are provided to give further guidance regarding how ISSF Rules must be interpreted and applied during 2013 ISSF Championships.

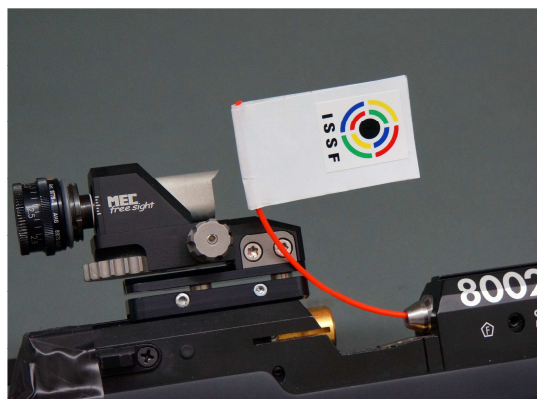
RULE NUMBERING IN 2013 ISSF RULES (see page 180)

A modified rule numbering system is used in the 2013 ISSF Rules in order to eliminate the extremely long rule numbers that appeared in previous editions of the rules. This numbering protocol limits rule numbers to a maximum of four levels (example: 8.9.4.5). Where it was necessary to have additional sub-levels, bullets (small dots) are used. In order to make specific reference to a bulleted rule, letters are used to refer to a specific bullet (example: 8.9.4.5, d). This rule numbering protocol should be used when referring to any bulleted rule in the 2013 ISSF Rules.

SAFETY FLAGS, RULE 6.2.2.2

The 2013 ISSF Rules require the use of “safety flags” in all rifles and pistols. The use of safety flags demonstrates the high priority that the ISSF places on practicing the highest standards of gun safety. The following guidelines regarding the use of safety flags apply:

1. **Safety Flags.** In 2013, athletes may use any type of safety flag that complies with these standards (color, full barrel length for air guns).
2. **Color.** Safety flags must be of a bright color that Range Officers can easily see at a distance. Fluorescent orange or a similar bright color is recommended.
3. **Air Guns.** Safety flags used in air rifles or air pistols must be full-length lines that extend out of both ends of the barrel. The easiest way to prepare air gun safety flags/lines is to cut lengths of plastic trimmer line 2.0 mm – 2.3 mm (.080” - .090”) in diameter that are long enough to extend about 10 cm – 15 cm out of each end of air rifle or air pistol barrels.



Safety line with ISSF Gun Safety Flag attached

4. **ISSF Gun Safety Emblems.** The ISSF is obtaining a large supply of two-sided safety emblems that can be folded and attached to the breech (action) end of safety lines to make them readily visible to Range Officers. These flags will be available for sale in the ISSF Shop and at 2013 ISSF Championships.
5. **Safety Flags for .22 Caliber Guns.** Safety flags used in .22 cal. rifles or pistols can be either commercial safety flags or safety flags constructed by attaching an ISSF Gun Safety Flag to a 15 cm – 20 cm length of heavier plastic trimmer line.

SKEET RANGES, RULE 6.4.21.3

The 2013 ISSF Rules rotate Skeet stations 1 and 7 slightly so that they face the range crossing point instead of the opposite trap house. This change is shown in the new Skeet range drawing on page 228 of the 2013 ISSF Rules. All new Skeet ranges must comply with these 2013 specifications. However, Skeet ranges that use the previous configuration where Stations 1 and 7 face the opposite target house will continue to be accepted for ISSF Championships.

SIGHTING SHOTS AFTER JURY-DIRECTED MOVES, RULE 6.11.1.2, h.

This rule allows an athlete to request to return to sighters if he is directed by a Jury Member to move his position within his own firing point. However, Juries should not apply this rule and permit additional time plus a return to sighters unless the athlete is directed to move his position at least 30 cm in a horizontal direction. Additional sighting shots and time must not be given to an athlete who is directed to step back slightly from touching the firing line or bench, for example.

TOP TEN SCORE CHECKS, RULE 6.14.10.4

This rule requires Classification Juries to examine or audit the top ten (10) individual and top three (3) team scores before producing a final results list. This rule was inadvertently placed in a rules section labeled “*Paper Target Scoring Procedures.*” ISSF intent is that this requirement applies to all scoring procedures, whether electronic or paper targets are used. The top ten score checks that involve comparing EST printer strips and score change documentation (Forms IR, RFPM and STDP) with scores recorded in the main computer must continue to be completed in all ISSF Championships where electronic targets are used.

AIMING EXERCISES, DRY FIRING AND SAFETY DURING 10M AND 50M FINALS, RULE 6.17.2 & 6.17.3

The following summary of Finals procedures was prepared to guide athletes and coaches regarding when must insert or may remove safety flags during Finals and when they can do aiming exercises or dry fire.

1. **Equipment Set Up.** After the command **ATHLETES TO THE LINE**, finalists have two (2) minutes to set up their equipment and get ready for the **Preparation and Sighting Time**. Rifle finalists must walk from the Finals assembly area to the Finals FOP fully dressed, with trouser zippers closed and jackets buttoned. After finalists arrive at their firing points, they may “*handle their rifles, get into position and do holding or aiming exercises, but they may not remove safety flags or dry fire*” until the **Preparation and Sighting Time** starts.
2. **Preparation and Sighting Time.** After the command **PREPARATION AND SIGHTING TIME...START**, 10m and 50m finalists may “*remove safety flags,*

dry fire and fire unlimited sighting shots.” There are no restrictions on dry firing during the Preparation and Sighting Time.

3. **Presentation.** When the command **STOP...UNLOAD** is given at the end of the Preparation and Sighting Time, 10m, 50m rifle prone and 50m pistol finalists must unload their guns, insert safety flags and place them on a bench or shooting mat before turning to face spectators for the presentation. 50m rifle 3 positions finalists may remain in position for the presentation, but they must lower their rifles from their shoulders, insert safety flags in their rifles and turn their heads to the side so that the ISSF TV camera can obtain a good view of their faces as they are introduced. No dry firing is permitted in 10m and 50m Finals after the command **STOP...UNLOAD** at the end of the Preparation and Sighting Time, except that during the two **CHANGEVER AND SIGHTING TIMES** in 50m Rifle 3 Positions Finals, dry firing is permitted.
4. **Final Sighting or Match Firing Times.** After the command **TAKE YOUR POSITIONS**, finalists may handle their guns, get into position and do holding or aiming exercises, but they may not remove safety flags or load until the command **START** or **LOAD** (for final sighting shots or the first competition shot) is given.
5. **Finals Eliminations.** When an athlete is eliminated from a Finals, he/she must immediately open his/her rifle/pistol action, insert a safety flag, lay the rifle/pistol down and step back from the firing line to a designated seat. A Range Officer must ensure that the safety flag is inserted.
6. **Finals Completion.** After the last Finals shot, the command **STOP...UNLOAD** is given. The two gold and silver medal-winning athletes’ rifles or pistols must immediately be placed on the bench or table with actions open. The two athletes may begin their celebrations immediately, however, the two athletes’ rifles or pistols may not be removed from the firing point until safety flags are inserted. A Range Officer must observe the two guns until safety flags are inserted. Then the athlete or coach may take them from the firing point.

TIME WARNINGS IN 10M AND 50M FINALS, RULE 6.17.2 & 6.17.3

The 2013 ISSF Rules provide for the Range Officer to give warnings at “TEN” and “FIVE” seconds before the end of 3 or 5 shot Finals series. In 2013, the same time warnings will also be applied during the single shots. The rules provide that a countdown clock must be visible, but these are not always provided. A countdown timer will be provided in the scoreboard monitor that SIUS provides, but these monitors are sometimes not readily visible. The ISSF is seeking athlete and coach recommendations regarding whether Chief Range Officers should continue to give time warnings (ten seconds or five seconds or a 3-2-1 STOP countdown) at the end of single shot time limits.

CHEST SUPPORT WEIGHTS ON AIR RIFLES, RULES 7.4.2.6, b & 7.6.1.2

The 2013 ISSF Rules clearly state that chest support weights (sometimes advertised as “Brustanlagen”) that project forward from the lower part of butt-plates on 50m rifles are illegal and cannot be used (Rule 7.4.5.1, d.). Questions have been raised regarding whether these chest support weights can, nevertheless, be used on air rifles. The answer is NO, chest support weights cannot be used on air rifles. The intent of the ISSF Rifle Committee is that these weights cannot be used on any rifles. 7.4.2.6, b. states that any weights on air rifles other than barrel weights “*must be within the dimensions of the stock.*” Chest support weights do not comply with this rule. Rule 7.6.1.2 that defines the standing position makes it clear that “*the rifle must*

not touch the jacket or chest beyond the area of the right shoulder.” Chest support weights that project forward from the lower butt-plate potentially violate this rule as well. Chest support weights that are attached to 50m rifle or 10m air rifle butt-plates are illegal.

SHOOTING SHOES FOR RIFLE AND PISTOL, RULES 7.5 & 8.5.6

The requirement introduced two years ago to use a testing device to check the flexibility of the soles of shooting shoes worn by rifle athletes (Rule 7.5.2.3) and pistol athletes (Rule 8.5.6) continues to apply. The rule requirement that “athletes must walk normally at all times while on the field of play” also continues to apply (Rules 7.5.3.3 and 8.5.6, d.). Juries will give warnings and penalties for violations. The 2013 ISSF Rules have a new requirement that the soles of shooting boots worn by rifle athletes (Rule 7.5.3.6) may not extend more than 5 mm “beyond the external dimensions of the shoe” and that the entire sole, including the toe and heel “must follow the external curvature of the shoe.” This means that the square toes and heels on older shooting shoes must be modified so they follow the curvature of the shoe. This modification can, however, easily be done by an athlete or coaches who uses a belt sander or grinder to remove the excess sole material. ISSF Equipment Control Officers will require shoe toes and heels to have a continuous curve around the toe and heel. Toes and heels with flat or square surfaces will not be approved.



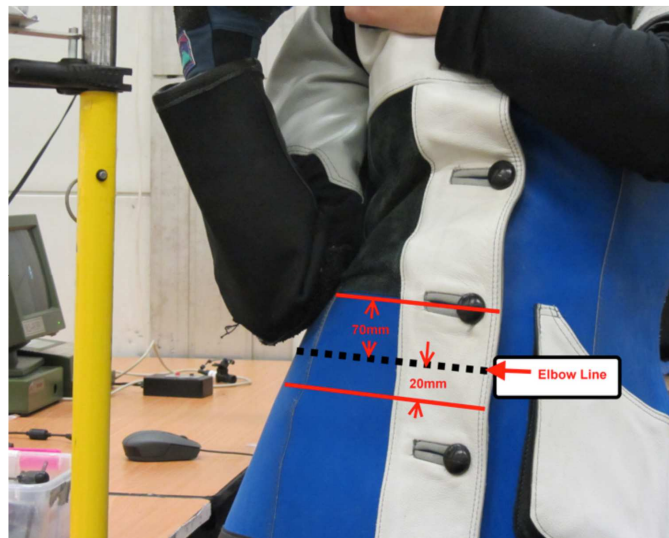
Shooting boots with heels and toes modified to comply with 2013 Rule 7.5

RIFLE JACKETS WITH SEAMS ON LEFT SIDE PANEL, RULE 7.5.4.5

The 2013 ISSF Rules contain a new restriction that “the construction of the (left) side panel may not place any horizontal or seams under the elbow of the support arm in



Checking rifle jacket seams: This test must be done while the athlete is wearing the jacket and holding the rifle in the standing position.



Rifle jacket side panel seams may not lie in the seam free zone that is 70mm above the elbow line and 20mm below the elbow line.

the standing position.” Extensive testing during the International Air Gun Competition in Munich in January 2013 was done to develop guidelines for testing jackets and interpreting this rule. This test must be done while the athlete wears his jacket fully clothed and is holding the rifle in the standing position. If the shooting jacket has a seam (horizontal seam or other seams) that lies under the support arm in standing, the location of the seam must be measured from the tip of the elbow (a horizontal line must be projected back to the jacket). Any permitted seam must be at least (more than) 20 mm below or 70 mm above that point. Seams within this area must be removed. Seams that are higher than 70 mm above or more than 20 mm below the tip of the elbow are legal and do not have to be changed.

TRANSITION PERIOD FOR NEW CLOTHING RULES, RULE 7.5

In order to give athletes sufficient time to comply with the new clothing rules for shoes and left side panel seams, the ISSF will conduct advisory testing during its first 2013 Championships, including the European Championship 10m in Odense and the ISSF World Cups in Changwon and Fort Benning. Shoes and jackets that are not in compliance with these new rules during this period will receive warnings. Compliance with all other clothing rules will continue to be required. Regular inspection procedures for the new clothing rules will begin with the ISSF World Cup in Munich Cup in May.

TROUSERS FOR 50M RIFLE PRONE EVENTS, RULE 7.5.5.4

The new 2013 ISSF Rules do not permit athletes to wear shooting trousers in 50m Prone Rifle events; shooting trousers may be worn during the prone stages of the 50m Rifle 3 Position events. Rule 7.5.5.1 states “*If special shooting trousers are not worn, ordinary trousers may be worn...*” Rule 6.7.6 states “*Clothing worn by athletes...must comply with the ISSF Dress Code.*” This means that athletes in 50m and 300m Rifle Prone events may wear training or other sport trousers, but they may not wear blue jeans or similar trousers that are not permitted by the ISSF Dress Code.

RIFLE RESTS OR STANDS, RULE 7.5.8.3

The 2013 ISSF Rules state that no part of the stand, including the support column, may be “higher than the athlete’s shoulders when in the standing position.” This is interpreted to mean the TOP of the shoulder and that stands must be checked when the athlete is holding the rifle in the standing position. Athletes and coaches should note that shoulders are normally lower in the standing position than while standing erect and must adjust shooting stand heights accordingly.

RAPID FIRE PISTOL AMMUNITION VELOCITY TESTS, RULE 8.4.4.2

The new 2013 ISSF Rules provide for some changes in 25m Rapid Fire Pistol ammunition velocity testing procedures. Small changes in testing procedures are explained in Annex B to the ***Pistol Equipment Control Guide*** that can be downloaded from the ISSF website. The biggest change requires that athletes in this event must begin each stage of the competition by placing one full box of 50 cartridges on the bench or table (5 sighting shots, 30 match shots, 10 cartridges for possible ammunition testing, 5 cartridges for a possible malfunction re-fire series). No additional ammunition or boxes of ammunition may be placed on the bench or table during a 30-shot stage without obtaining permission from a Range Officer or Jury Member.

PISTOL TRANSPORT BOXES, RULE 8.6.3

Questions were asked regarding whether this rule permits large pistol transport boxes to be used as “*pistol support stands*” during qualification competitions (pistol transport boxes may not remain on the FOP during Finals). The answer is YES if the total height of the bench or table plus the pistol transport box does not exceed 1.00m. If the height of the bench or table plus the box is higher than 1.00 m, the pistol transport box cannot be used and a smaller pistol support stand must be used.

PISTOL ALLOWABLE MALFUNCTION SCORING, RULE 8.9.4.5

The forms for scoring ALLOWABLE MALFUNCTION re-fire (repetition) series for the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men and 25m Standard Pistol Men events have been renamed as Form RFPM and Form STDP. Both forms are available in the new rules or can be downloaded from the ISSF website. Rule 8.9.4.5 that governs the scoring of 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men and 25m Standard Pistol Men ALLOWABLE MALFUNCTION re-fires in should be interpreted as follows:

1. If an ALLOWABLE MALFUNCTION occurs during a 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men or 25m Standard Pistol Men series, record the scores of the shots that were fired on the first line of the Malfunction Form (8.9.4.5, a).
2. After the re-fire series, record the scores of all shots fired or attempted on the second line of the Malfunction Form; any shots not hitting the target or late shots (fired or unfired) must be scored as zero(s) (8.9.4.5, b).
3. If a second malfunction occurs in the re-fire series, first record the scores of the shots fired in the re-fire series on the second line of the Malfunction Form (8.9.4.5, c), next determine which series (original series or re-fire series) has the “highest number of shots,” then record zero(s) for any unfired shots only in the series with highest number of shots (8.9.4.5, f).
4. Determine the scores of the five shots to be counted for the series.
 - a. RFPM: The five lowest value scores for each of the five targets (8.9.4.5, d).
 - b. STDP: The five lowest value scores from all scored shots (8.9.4.5, e).

PISTOL ALLOWABLE MALFUNCTION SERIES COMPLETIONS, RULE 8.9.4.6

Pistol Range Officers and Jury Members should note that there no longer are special malfunction forms for series completions when ALLOWABLE MALFUNCTIONS occur during 25m Pistol Women or 25m Center Fire Pistol Men events. Range Officers and Jury Members must use Form IR (Range Incident Report) to report series completions.

TIME LIMITS FOR 10M AIR RIFLE AND 10M AIR PISTOL EVENTS WITH PAPER TARGETS, RULES 7.9 & 8.11

The 2013 ISSF Rules allow 15 additional minutes for the 60 shot 10m Air Pistol event and 10 additional minutes for the 40 shot 10m Air Pistol event when those events are fired on paper targets. Air rifle rules allow no additional time. These time differences reflect conditions that the ISSF Rifle and Pistol Committees wished to establish if ISSF Championship 10m events were to ever again be fired on paper targets. However, the ISSF recognizes that National Federations and shooting clubs use many different types of target changing systems that may necessitate additional time allowances for their 10m events. In these cases, National Federations and clubs may establish time limits that are coordinated with ISSF Rules, but that make allowances for their range conditions.

NUMBER OF SHOTS ON 25M PISTOL PAPER TARGETS, RULE 8.11

The "Pistol Event Table," Rule 8.11 on page 365, states that when 25m Pistol events are shot on paper targets, targets should be changed after every 15 shots in 25m Pistol Women and 25m Standard Pistol Men events and after every 10 shots in 25m Center Fire Pistol Men events. Changing paper competition targets after 15 shots is incorrect. The ISSF Pistol Committee intent is that in 25m Pistol events with paper targets, targets must be changed after every 10 shots. This correction will be included in the next rulebook revision.

TARGET SHOOTING SEQUENCE FOR SKEET, RULE 9.9.3.3

This rule defines the target shooting sequence for Skeet Qualification rounds. With the adoption of the new Finals format by the ISSF Administrative Council, this rule and shooting sequence no longer applies to Finals. The words "*and Finals*" will be deleted in the next rulebook revision. Athletes and coaches should note also that the Skeet Qualification sequence is changed and that station 4 doubles will now be shot after station 7 and just before station 8.

SHOOTING ORDER IN SKEET SHOOT-OFFS BEFORE FINALS, RULE 9.15.5.4

For Shoot-offs before Finals in Trap and Double Trap, Rules 9.15.5.2 & 9.15.5.3 state that all tied athletes must shoot "*in the order decided by their qualification ranking*." Rule 9.15.5.4 for Skeet Shoot-offs before Finals now states that the shooting order "*will be decided by the Jury by drawing of lots*." The intent of the ISSF Shotgun Committee is that all Shoot-offs, including Skeet Shoot-offs, must have tied athletes shoot in the order decided by their qualification ranking. This principle should be applied in all Skeet Shoot-offs during 2013. This correction will be included in the next rulebook revision.

SCOREBOARD PAUSES IN SHOTGUN FINALS, RULE 9.17.3

Scoreboard pauses in Shotgun Finals will occur after all athletes have fired at 3 targets in Trap, 3 doubles in Double Trap and after all Skeet finalists have completed one station. Scoreboard pauses will allow ISSF TV to display a ranking scoreboard in its productions. During these scoreboard pauses, the Announcer will make comments about the athletes and their scores and rankings. These intermediate announcements are new in 2013.

PROTESTS DURING SHOTGUN FINALS, RULE 9.17.5, d.

This rule provides for a two-point penalty if a protest made during a Shotgun Finals is denied. Paragraph a. of this rule gives the athlete the right to "PROTEST" Referee decisions regarding HIT, LOST, NO TARGET or IRREGULAR targets. Paragraphs c. and d. state that an athlete or coach may protest "*any other matter*" to the Finals Protest Jury. There were some questions regarding whether a "PROTEST" regarding HIT, LOST, NO TARGET or IRREGULAR targets is subject to the two-point penalty. The answer is NO, the two-point penalty applies only for protests "for any matter other than Referee decisions on HIT, LOST, NO TARGET or IRREGULAR targets."

WORLD RECORDS

The following criteria regarding the recognition of World Records will apply in 2013:

1. World Records will continue to be maintained for record scores fired in Qualification rounds.
2. Previous Skeet and Double Trap Qualification World Records will be retired and new Qualification World Records will be recognized.
3. Provisional World Records, (individual and team) will be kept for 10m Air Rifle Men and Men Junior, 10m Air Rifle Women and Women Junior and 50m Rifle Prone Men and Men Junior. If the ISSF decides after the 2013 Championships to keep decimal scoring for these events on a permanent basis, these provisional records will be officially recognized.
4. Finals World Records will not be officially recognized, but a provisional list of Finals World Records will be established. After considering athlete, coach and national federation recommendations, the ISSF will decide whether to officially recognize Finals World Records. At the end of 2013, the ISSF must decide whether to recognize all, some or no Finals World Records.