



AMERICAN AIRSOFT PRACTICAL SHOOTING

Version: 2009-1.0b

5. Competitor Equipment

5.1 Handguns

5.1.1 All handguns must be gas operated, semi-automatic, blow-back pistols with removable magazines and open ejection ports. The gas reservoir must be wholly contained within the removable magazine. External gas tanks are not allowed. Handguns must resemble existing production or custom commercial firearms. The sights may be iron sights or electronic sights depending on the competition Division (see Rule 2.6.9).

5.1.2 For each Division in which a shooter competes, the same handgun must be used for all stages in the match. A substitute handgun may be used, with the permission of the Range Officer, in the event a competitor's original handgun becomes unserviceable or unsafe during a match. The Range Officer will verify that the following two conditions are met for the substitute handgun.

5.1.2.1 The substitute handgun must satisfy the requirements for the Division in which the original handgun was approved.

5.1.2.2 The substitute handgun must not provide the shooter with a competitive advantage.

5.1.3 A competitor must never use or wear on his or her person more than one handgun while shooting a stage.

5.1.4 Muzzle Energy Limits - For AAPS sanctioned matches, all competitors must have the muzzle energy of their pistol (or pistols if competing in multiple Divisions) measured using the BBs that will be used in the match. The average of three shots will be used in determining if the muzzle energy meets AAPS requirements. If the pistol does not meet the energy requirements, the competitor has the option to make modifications and then have the pistol retested.

5.1.4.1 Upper Muzzle Energy Limit – The upper limit for muzzle energy is 1.50 J. This corresponds to a muzzle velocity of 359 ft/s (109.5 m/s) for 0.25 g BBs.

5.1.4.2 Lower Muzzle Energy Limit – The lower limit for muzzle energy is 0.50 J. This corresponds to a muzzle velocity of 207 ft/s (63.2 m/s) for 0.25 g BBs.

5.2 Holsters, Belts, and Other Competitive Equipment

5.2.1 Carry and Storage – Except when within the boundaries of a Safe Zone, or under the supervision and direct command of a Range Officer, a competitor must carry his or her handgun unloaded in a holster, gun case, or gun bag.

5.2.2 A competitor carrying his or her handgun in a holster must have an empty magazine well and the hammer or striker must be de-cocked.

5.2.3 Belt - The belt carrying the holster and all associated equipment must be worn at or above the hips and at or below the waist. The belt, or the inner belt for a two belt system, must be secured with a minimum of three belt loops. The belt must be of sufficient strength and stiffness to hold the holster in the same position at all times.

5.2.4 Holster – Holsters should be designed for practical shooting competition. Clip-on holsters, paddle holsters, and other types of “concealed carry” holsters are not allowed. The holster must attach securely to the belt with a closed clamp mechanism. The holster and belt combination must also satisfy the following conditions.

5.2.4.1 The holster must cover the trigger and should allow the second finger to be placed on pistol's slide/frame when the shooter grasps the pistol as part of the draw.

5.2.4.2 The holster should be placed on the belt so that once the hand is dropped onto the pistol a firm firing grip is obtained that does not have to be changed after the pistol has started to move.

5.2.4.3 The pistol should fit snugly in the holster and not move around as the competitor moves.

5.2.4.4 When holstered, an imaginary line drawn through the barrel of the handgun to the ground must not touch the ground further than three feet from the competitor's feet while standing relaxed and with the feet together.

5.2.4.5 The holster attached to the belt must carry the pistol so that the back of the slide is at or above the top of the belt.

5.2.4.6 The holster must be positioned on the belt so that it is on the strong hand side of the line that vertically bisects the shooter's body.

5.2.4.7 The holster and associated equipment should not slide on the belt as the shooter draws the gun, pulls out magazines, or moves around.

5.2.5 Magazine Pouches - Magazine pouches should expose approximately half of the magazine for easy grip and should have adequate retention yet release the magazine on demand.

5.2.6 Position of Holster and Magazine Pouches – The positions of the holster and magazine pouch(es) on the belt are at the shooter's discretion as long as no other requirements under Rule 5.2 are violated.

5.2.7 In the event that a competitor's handgun malfunctions after the start signal, the competitor may safely attempt to correct the problem and continue shooting the stage. The timer continues to run. During such corrective action, the competitor must keep the muzzle of the handgun pointing safely downrange. The competitor may use rods or other tools to correct the malfunction.

5.2.8 In the event that a handgun malfunction cannot be corrected by the competitor within one minute, he or she must point the handgun safely downrange and advise the Range Officer, who will terminate the stage in the normal manner. The stage will be scored as shot including all applicable misses and penalties. The time for the stage will be the maximum time specified for the stage.

5.3 BBs and Related Equipment

5.3.1 BBs used in AAPS competitions must have a nominal diameter of 6 mm (± 0.15 mm) and weigh between 0.19 g and 0.31 g. They must be made of plastic with a smooth plastic surface.

5.3.2 No metal or metal-coated BBs are allowed.

5.3.3 If a match takes place outdoors, the BBs must be biodegradable.

5.3.4 The mass and diameter of each competitor's BBs will be measured during muzzle energy tests at the match.

5.3.5 Spare magazines, speed loading devices, or BBs dropped or discarded by a competitor after the start signal may be retrieved. However, their retrieval is subject to all safety rules.

5.4 Eye Protection

5.4.1 Eye protection (safety or shooting glasses) for all competitors is required. Eye protection must meet or exceed the ANSI Z87.1-2003 (3 J impact resistance) standard. Spectators must wear safety glasses if the event arena does not have an impenetrable barrier between the shooting area and spectator area. Individuals observed without safety glasses must immediately put on safety glasses or they will be required to leave the event arena.

5.4.2 If a Range Officer notices that a competitor has lost or displaced his or her eye protection while shooting a stage, or has commenced a stage without eye protection, the competitor will be stopped immediately and will be required to reshoot the stage after the eye protection has been restored. A procedural penalty will be assessed for failure to wear eye protection on the first offense and match disqualification will occur for the second offense at the match.