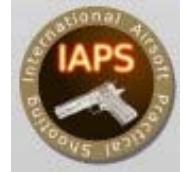




**Website** <http://www.aaps-federation.org>  
**E-mail** [contact@aaps-federation.org](mailto:contact@aaps-federation.org)

**American Airsoft Practical Shooting (AAPS)** was formed to promote IPSC-style airsoft pistol shooting competitions in the U.S. If you like shooting pistols, but you are interested in something other than Olympic-style target shooting or military simulations, then you might find that the **timed-action target shooting** promoted by AAPS is just for you. AAPS is the official US representative to the International Airsoft Practical Shooting (IAPS) organization. The sport of airsoft practical shooting is very popular in Asia and has a growing base in the U.S. and Europe. Airsoft practical shooting is a fun, safe, and convenient sport (competitions can be held in your basement or garage) that can be enjoyed by men and women of all ages.



## What is Airsoft Practical Shooting?

**Airsoft:** Let's start with a description of airsoft, which had its origins in post-war Japan. After World War II, Japanese citizens were not allowed to own firearms. To satisfy demand from collectors, manufacturers began producing non-firing replicas of firearms made from soft metals and plastics. In the 1970s, these replicas were modified to shoot small, lightweight, plastic balls (BBs) propelled by compressed gases such as propane, chlorodifluoromethane, and carbon dioxide. These guns, referred to as airsoft guns, were able to reproduce the loading, cycling, and firing action of firearms to a high degree, but with muzzle energies only around 1 J. Regulations required that the designs and materials used in the manufacturing of airsoft guns prevent them from being modified for use with live ammunition. Today, there are numerous manufacturers in Asia producing a wide variety of high quality airsoft guns that are suitable for airsoft practical shooting. No airsoft guns are currently being manufactured in the USA.



<http://www.airsoft-fire.com/>

**Practical Shooting:** The sport of practical shooting grew out of work that began in the 1950s to improve the training and techniques used for defensive pistol shooting. New techniques were developed for improving gun control, target acquisition, the use of protective cover, and other methods that were of critical importance to the military and law enforcement communities. Participants in this training found that the challenge and excitement of practical shooting were hard to resist and a new competitive sport emerged. In 1976, the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) was founded to establish an internationally recognized set of policies and rules for practical shooting with high-powered handguns. Over the years, practical shooting has evolved into a sport focusing on **timed action target shooting** that challenges the competitor to shoot accurately at various kinds of targets from different positions while trying to complete the course (called a "stage") in the least amount of time. The



<http://www.brazoslandpistoleros.com/>

United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) is the US affiliate of IPSC

**Airsoft Practical Shooting:** Competitions involving practical shooting with airsoft pistols instead of firearms began in Asia in the late 1990s. The popularity of the sport grew rapidly and migrated to Europe and then the United States. Airsoft practical shooting has adapted the rules and techniques of firearm practical shooting to the unique characteristics of airsoft guns to create a challenging, fun, and safe sport that is enjoyed by thousands around the world. In 2007, International Airsoft Practical Shooting (IAPS) was founded to establish internationally recognized rules for conducting airsoft practical shooting events. **American Airsoft Practical Shooting (AAPS)** is the official United States representative to IAPS.



<http://www.fotop.net/shooting/>

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### **Are there age limits and gender categories for AAPS membership and competition?**

The minimum age for becoming a member of AAPS and for competing in AAPS events is 18 (this is the minimum age for purchasing an airsoft gun in the USA). Local AAPS leagues may establish lower age limits for locally sponsored events (see the section on leagues). There is no upper age limit for AAPS membership or competition. There are no gender categories for AAPS competition. The nature of airsoft practical shooting creates a reasonably level playing field for competitors of all ages, men and women. There are not many sports that can make this claim, but it is one of the many things that make airsoft practical shooting so appealing.

### **What is the difference between a Probationary member and a Full member?**

Any US citizen or permanent resident who is 18 years of age or older may join AAPS by completing the online application and paying the annual membership fee. Membership categories are also available for non-U.S. citizens. To be eligible to compete in AAPS sanctioned events, members must successfully complete a written testing covering AAPS rules and safety guidelines. Once the qualification test has been passed, Probationary member status is changed to Full status.

### **What are leagues?**

Leagues are local or regional affiliates of AAPS that host practical shooting events. A league hosting an AAPS sanctioned event agrees to submit stage designs to AAPS for approval and to conduct the event according to AAPS rules and regulations. Leagues may also host non-sanctioned events, which may differ somewhat from sanctioned AAPS events (e.g. different categories, age requirements, etc.). A league may charge its members dues as well as entry fees for events. Most AAPS sanctioned events are conducted by local leagues.

### **How do I start a league in my area?**

If you are interested in starting an AAPS league in your area, contact AAPS through the link shown under the Regional Leagues section of the AAPS Web site. AAPS maintains a Web site for each league where we advertise league programs, post pictures of league activities, and post the results of sanctioned practical shooting events.

### **How much does the equipment cost to become an AAPS competitor?**

The minimum equipment needed for airsoft practical shooting competitions consists of: a) safety glasses, b) gas blow-back airsoft pistol, c) holster, d) belt, e) two magazine pouches, f) one spare magazine, g) gas, h) BBs, and i) gun case or bag. As with most sports, the cost of the equipment can vary over a wide range. It is possible to put together a complete shooting kit for as little as \$300 while some competitors will spend over \$1,500 just for a gun. Most competitors will spend between \$500 and \$800 for their shooting kit.

### **What equipment is commonly used in competitions?**

The most commonly used competition guns are from Tokyo Marui (Hi-Capa 5.1, Glock 17), Western Arms (Infinity Series), and KSC/KWA (Glock 17 and 34). Commonly used competition holsters include the Ghost holster and the CR Speed holster.

### **Is there a dress code for AAPS events?**

Competitors must wear shoes, pants, and shirts that are appropriate for light exercise that allow for a wide range of movement and sure footing. Since stages may involve shooting from kneeling or prone positions or crawling under barriers, most competitors prefer to wear long pants rather than shorts. Knee pads are allowed. Competitors are prohibited from wearing camouflage and other military/tactical style clothing, including "combat" boots, and must not wear clothing that displays offensive words, phrases, or slogans.

## AAPS Safety Rules

1. Treat all guns as if they are loaded and ready to fire.
2. Never rely on a gun's safety to protect you from unsafe handling.
3. At an AAPS event, the transfer of a gun from one person to another can only be done in the safe zone.
4. Never point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.
5. Never point a gun at another person.
6. When on the firing line or completing a course of fire, always keep your gun pointed down range ("watch your 180").
7. Keep your finger(s) away from the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to fire. Your finger(s) must be outside the trigger guard when loading and unloading and when moving between targets.
8. Always be sure of your target and what is behind it.
9. Eye protection that meets or exceeds ANSI Z87.1-2003 (resists 3 J impact) must be worn at all times when shooting, within 100 feet of other people who are shooting, and in the safe zone.
10. Magazines may only be gassed and filled with BBs in the safe zone.
11. You may handle your unloaded gun only in a safe zone or on the firing line.
12. You may only load your gun when you are on the firing line and the Range Officer gives the command to "load and make ready". You must unload your gun, put it in a safe condition and holster or bag it before leaving the firing line.
13. The use of alcohol or drugs, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, is prohibited at all AAPS events.
14. All Range Officer commands must be immediately and strictly obeyed.
15. Safety is the responsibility of all competitors and match officials at AAPS events. Report unsafe practices to a match official.
16. When arriving at or leaving an AAPS event, all guns must be stored in a case or bag. Guns may not be openly worn, carried, or displayed while going into or out of the event area, including the parking lot.
17. Only competitors and match officials may bring guns into the event area. Spectators are prohibited from having guns of any type in the event area.
18. Firearms are strictly prohibited at all AAPS events.