

West Australian Pistol Association Safety Training Course Criteria

This is the procedure that must be followed to complete the Safety Training Course for new members. The theory sections may be given in any order. The candidate's knowledge prior to starting the course, availability of ranges, equipment etc will dictate the best sequence. As there is a six month qualifying period for new members it is expected that the training be a gradual building of knowledge by the candidate.

The course structure is to introduce a new member to pistol shooting. Initially this will be with a minimum amount of theory. The usual expectation from new members is to get hands on experience of shooting a pistol as soon as possible. In the first one on one session only the basic safety instructions and basic operation of the pistol need to be given to the candidate. More in depth instruction should be given in the subsequent sessions.

REMEMBER AT ALL TIMES SAFETY IS THE PRIME CONSIDERATION.

- 1.0 Prior to first live fire instruction, a candidate must have an understanding of the basic safety rules and basic range commands. (WAPA Rules 13.1 (d) - (k)).
- 1.1 They must also be given instruction on the operation of the pistol to be used for the session. Although not mandatory it is preferable that the initial training be carried out using an air pistol. This gives the advantage of a quieter training session with a pistol that gives almost no recoil.

2.0 THE FIRST LIVE FIRE TRAINING

- ◇ **Must be one on one with the instructor.**
- ◇ The candidate must be given a copy of the basic safety rules. Explain these and ensure that they are understood.
- ◇ Prior to firing allow the candidate to get the feel and to know the basic operation of the pistol to be used. Show how it is held and fired.
- ◇ If the pistol is a self-loading one, show them how the slide operates and the danger of holding it such the slide can strike the hand. Show them a safe two-handed hold.
- ◇ It may be advantageous for a totally inexperienced candidate to be allowed to sit and bench rest shots until they gain the confidence before they stand and shoot.
- ◇ Initially start with one round loaded at a time.
- ◇ At this stage the basic principles of marksmanship should be introduced, along with the ability to load, fire and unload.
- ◇ Remember to build on their knowledge base a bit at a time rather than overloading them with too much information all at once.
- ◇ Only after the candidate has shown proficiency should they be taught to hand misfires and malfunctions.

3.0 THE SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT LIVE FIRING TRAINING (ONE ON ONE)

- ◇ Must be one on one with the instructor.
- ◇ Builds on the marksmanship building confidence and experience. To include stance, grip sighting, trigger control and follow through.
- ◇ Increases familiarity with the operation of pistol
- ◇ Inspection & setting up a range prior to use.
- ◇ If the candidate is interested in Service Pistol matches demonstrate the various shooting positions used - Barricade, Sitting, Kneeling, Crouch (unsighted) and Prone.

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4.0 BEFORE A CANDIDATE IS DEEMED TO HAVE PASSED THE PRACTICAL THEY MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY:-

- ◇ Can safely handling a pistol during loading, firing & unloading
- ◇ Be able to return the pistol to a safe condition.
- ◇ Safely handle a pistol when unpacking and packing up.
- ◇ On a self-loading pistol or revolver be able to safely deal with a misfire.
- ◇ On a self-loading pistol be able to safely deal with a jam or miss feed. This can be simulated, by having the candidate stop mid series eject a round and reload a new round.
- ◇ Know the range safety rules
- ◇ Know the required match commands and basic match sequence.
- ◇ Demonstrate that they know range etiquette and procedure.
- ◇ Have a basic standard of marksmanship such they can keep the majority of the rounds in the target.

NOTE: A SEPARATED PRACTICAL PASS IS REQUIRED FOR

- 4.1 Air Pistol or 50m (Free) Pistol using a single shot pistol
- 4.2 25m Range ISSF Matches using a self-loading pistol or revolver
- 4.3 Service Unrestricted and Service 25yard Pistol Match using a self-loading pistol or Revolver. This includes shooting positions used in the matches.

Once one practical section has been successfully completed it should be a simple process to get endorsement for another pistol classification. The candidate only needs to prove they are familiar with the pistol type and demonstrate that they meet the practical criteria.

Only after a candidate has passed the practical session may they be considered safe to be left under the control of a Range Officer during normal Club competition.

A person wanting to compete in Service Pistol or International 1920 Matches must first complete the practical for Service Unrestricted/Service 25Yards. After they have competed in five of these service matches in club or open competition will they be eligible for holster training. Holster training and assessment may only be carried out by a current NRA Pistol Trainer & Examiner for the class of pistol required.

THEORY SECTION

The candidate must be given tutoring in the following subjects. Only after all the topics have been discussed with the candidate may they sit the written test. The written paper comprises of 30 questions. The first five questions are compulsory and must be answered correctly to obtain a pass. The pass mark for the remaining 25 questions is 80%. The test can be taken as a written or oral test. A person failing the test must wait a week before resitting the paper.

5.0 RANGE SAFETY

- ◇ Safe direction
- ◇ Range Rules
- ◇ Rules for used of Holster

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- ◇ Responsibilities in attending a range
- ◇ Range firing procedure in accordance with range rules
- ◇ Role and authority of the Range Officer
- ◇ Correct procedure for Equipment malfunction

6.0 FIREARM AND SAFETY THEORY

- ◇ Basic parts of firearm
- ◇ Different types of actions and their operation
- ◇ Types of ammunition
- ◇ Inspection for general condition
- ◇ Maintenance & cleaning Procedures
- ◇ Safety rules for handling and use
- ◇ Personal safety

7.0 FIREARM REGULATIONS

- ◇ Types of handguns that can be obtained for club use
- ◇ How to apply for a licences
- ◇ Purchase or acquiring a firearm
- ◇ Selling or disposal of a firearm
- ◇ Purchase of ammunition
- ◇ Dispatch & transport
- ◇ To and from the range
- ◇ Public Transport
- ◇ Licensing conditions
- ◇ Security & storage
- ◇ Condition what constitutes a breach of the law
- ◇ Modifications of a firearm

8.0 MATCH PROCEDURES AND RULES

- ◇ Air Pistol / 50m Pistol
- ◇ 25m Standard Pistol
- ◇ 25m Pistol & 25m Centre Fire
- ◇ Service Pistol, Service Unrestricted & Service 25yard Match.

9.0 THEORY EXAMINATION

For the club to approve a pistol application they must have passed the theory examination and have passed the practical for the type of pistols they are seeking approval.

At the completion of the course a new candidate must be requested to fill out the course review to provide any suggestion to improve the course.

Firearms Safety Training Course Notes

INTRODUCTION

This document is designed to provide the basic information needed for the Firearms Safety Training Course for Target Pistol shooting as conducted by WAPA clubs. This is required as first time firearm applicants are required by law to successfully complete a course of training accredited in accordance with the regulations. Members who may conduct this course must have had at least two years experience and have either Range Officer or Coaching qualifications or otherwise be appointed by the club committee as a club trainer in accordance with the regulations.

RANGE SAFETY

There must be a clear understanding of the basic safety rules before anyone is permitted to use a firearm. The concept of safe direction and the basic commands must be instructed before a person is allow to fire live ammunition.

Clothing should also be suitable. Loose and open shirts or blouses are not suitable. No open footwear is permitted. When cases are ejected there is always a chance that a one will fly back towards the shooter. A hot case can inflict a nasty burn if it's trapped against the body.

SAFETY RULES

- ◇ Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.
- ◇ No pistol shall be pointed at any person.
The only exception shall be at any WAPA sanctioned coaching seminar and under the immediate supervision of a member of the State Coaching Council. The pistol shall be clearly demonstrated to be "safe" to all those in attendance.
- ◇ Any person seeing anything relating to shooting that they consider unsafe shall immediately report same to the Range Officer, Club Captain or some person holding official Club or WAPA. Positions.
- ◇ Eye protection must be worn during shooting on all ranges.
- ◇ Ear protection must be worn during shooting on all ranges except for Air Pistol matches.
- ◇ When at the firing line, the pistol must at all times point down the range towards the butts. At no time shall the pistol point to the rear, to the side or above the butts.
- ◇ No pistol shall be removed from the firing line until it has been checked and cleared by the Range Officer.
- ◇ No pistol may be uncased unless:
 - In a safe area
 - Under the control of a Range Officer or Jury member
 - Under the control of a Coach during an approved coaching session
 - On a range during practice or in competition
- ◇ Any person has the right to call "CEASE FIRE" or "STOP" if in their opinion a dangerous situation is imminent. At the "CEASE FIRE" or "STOP" command all shooters shall immediately cease fire, unload and open the action of the pistol.

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SAFE DIRECTION this will vary depending on location and what action is being carried out. It usually is defined as the direction to point the muzzle that if the firearm was to discharge, there would be no loss of life, no injury and minimum damage to property. At the firing line this should always be down range towards the targets. . Remember a bullet can go through a wall and injure a person on the other side

Prior to any live firing on a range, it must be inspected to see that it is safe to use.

- ◇ The range flags must be raised.
- ◇ Any doors or barriers that allow access to the ranges must be locked.
- ◇ Visual inspection of the butts.
- ◇ For indoor air ranges the red warning light should be turned on.
- ◇ Any specific club or range rules are to be followed.

PREPARATION TIME

Prior to preparation time it is usually permitted to

- ◇ Set up your telescope
- ◇ Set up your bench with timer, screwdriver, ammunition. And other items needed for the match.
- ◇ Stand in your shooting position to get the feel of your target alignments and lighting.

Only after preparation time has been called by the Range Officer may pistols & magazines be unpacked.

Once preparation time has been called you may place your pistol and magazine on the bench. Where possible the bag or case must be brought to the shooting line. Ensure the muzzle of the pistol in the bag is pointing down range. This will ensure that when the pistol is removed from the bag or case the muzzle will be pointing down range and not at other people. The first action should be to open the slide and remove the magazine. Double check that the pistol is clear and the magazine is empty.

If it is not possible to bring the case to the shooting line the case should be aligned so the muzzle of the pistol to be removed points down range.

- ◇ The pistol should then be held by the grip, fingers clear of the trigger
- ◇ Raise the pistol so the muzzle is pointing downwards
- ◇ Confirmed that it is safe, by opening the breech or slide and removing the magazine.
- ◇ Then move to bench with the muzzle pointing downwards.
- ◇ Once at the bench the muzzle can be raised to point down range.

During preparation time for the 25& 50m matches it is permitted to dry fire. In 10m Air Pistol it is only permitted to dry fire if it can be achieved without the release of propellant.

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PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP.

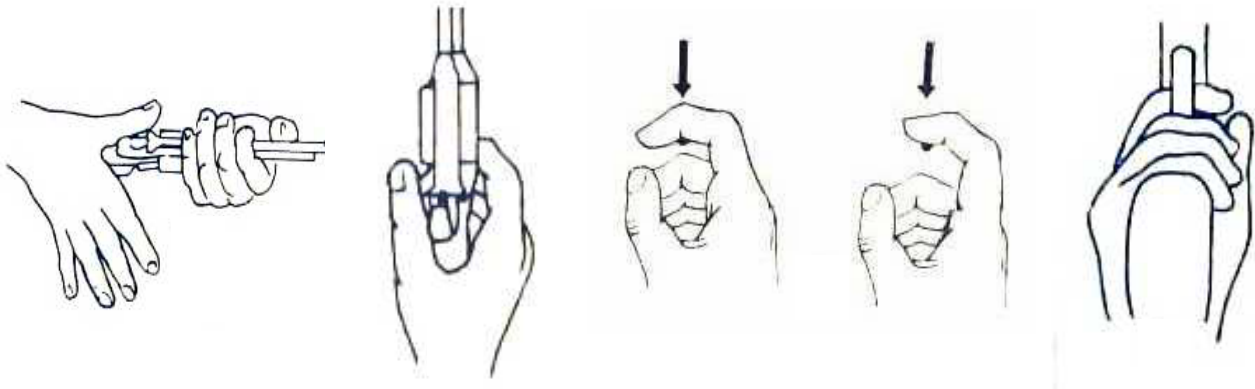
STANCE - The position used is to achieve the greatest stability with minimum body strain.

The object is to align the pistol, arm, head and eyes for optimum position for aiming. When the pistol is raised it should end up naturally pointing at the target.

- ◇ Head Upright
- ◇ Eyes in line with the sights
- ◇ Arms straight with wrist and elbow locked
- ◇ Upper body leaning back to compensate for weight of the arm and pistol
- ◇ Feet shoulder width apart
- ◇ Angle between line of shoulder and arm approximately 12° - 20°
- ◇ The non shooting arm relaxed in pocket or belt
- ◇ Less dominant eye closed or a patch over the safety glasses

GRIP - should be such that it allows the pistol to be held and give a good position for the trigger finger. The pistol should be properly gripped before the pistol is made ready to fire.

- ◇ Hold the pistol by the barrel with the non shooting hand.
- ◇ Spread the finger on the shooting hand and push the V as high as possible into the back of the Grip



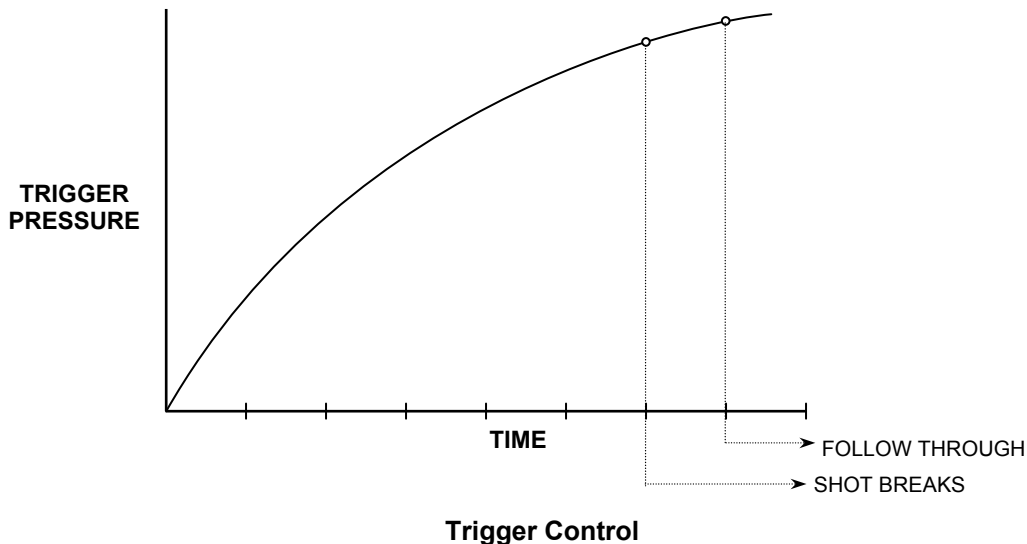
- ◇ Trigger finger should be free of the grip
- ◇ Whatever the position of the finger on the trigger, it is to be pressed straight back to the rear.
- ◇ Fingers between first and second joint should be along the front of the grip
- ◇ Little pressure from fingertips
- ◇ Thumb should be relaxed and not applying any pressure to the grip
- ◇ The grip should be firm enough to hold the pistol so it does not move its position in the hand.

TRIGGER CONTROL- The act of applying pressure on the trigger to fire a controlled accurate shot.

- ◇ Start the trigger pressure as soon as the sights are in the white area. (sub six hold)

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- ◇ Continue applying pressure - concentrate on lining up the sights



- ◇ Shot breaks - if it does not break in 8-10 seconds – cancel the shot and rest the pistol on the bench and try again
- ◇ After the shot breaks, continue applying pressure and watching the sights. This is the follow through.

BREATHING- Systematic breathing pattern suitable for the match being shot that will allow the minimum amount of body movement during the release of the shot.

- ◇ Prior to raising the pistol take one or two slightly deeper than normal breaths to relax and settle.
- ◇ When raising the pistol, breathe in letting the pistol pass through the centre of the target.
- ◇ As the pistol is lowered to settle into the aiming area, exhale out about half the breath. Focus on the front sight and gently start the trigger pull
- ◇ Hold the breath while retaining the focus on the front sight. - Continue applying pressure to the trigger until the shot breaks. If it does not break in 8 - 10 seconds cancel the shot.
- ◇ After the shot breaks continue with the follow through for a short time.
- ◇ Lower the pistol and continue with normal breathing

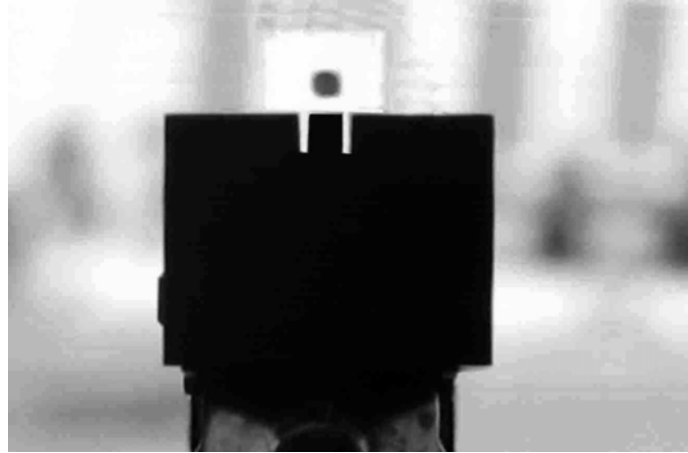
Variations will be needed for timed shooting such as the 20 & 10 second series of Standard and the Rapid Fire stage of 25m Pistol and Centrefire

SIGHTING - The front sight is positioned in the middle of the rear sight gap with an equal amount of gap either side. The top of the front sight lines up the top of the rear sights

- ◇ The point of focus is the front sight – must appear sharp
- ◇ In precision shooting a sub six hold is preferable

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- ◇ For an all black target the centre hold is preferred. The sights must be adjusted accordingly.



SUB SIX SIGHTING PICTURE

Precision Target

FIREARMS AND SAFETY THEORY

BASIC OPERATION OF A HANDGUN

The basic operation of a firearm is:-

- | | |
|----------|--|
| FEEDS | Insert a loaded cartridge into the chamber. This can be manually as in a single shot pistol, or automatically using the energy from the fired round. |
| LOCKS | The action of locking the bolt against the breech and the cartridge in the chamber. In the case of a revolver there is no separate bolt. The cylinder is closed and the frame acts as the bolt. |
| COCKS | The compression of the main spring usually with the hammer moving back to be ready to strike the firing pin. In air pistols a selective charge of compressed air. |
| FIRES | The trigger is released allowing the hammer to hit the firing pin which strikes the primer. This ignites the powder charge. In air pistols the compressed air charge valve opens allowing it to move forward into the chamber. |
| UNLOCKS | Unlocks the bolt from the breech face. In a revolver this is achieved by opening the cylinder. |
| EXTRACTS | Act of removing the case from the chamber. A self-loading pistol will remove the case from the chamber |
| EJECTS | Throws the case clear of the firearm. |

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TYPES OF ACTIONS

AIR PISTOLS are usually single shot. The pellet is manually placed in the chamber and the breech closed. When fired the pellet is discharged with compressed air or CO₂ gas. In the older style, the gas pressure is achieved by cocking a lever that sets a spring that when fired forces a piston to provide the charge of air. These types of pistols are used in the 10m Air Pistol Match.

SINGLE SHOT PISTOLS - Manually operated bolt or falling block. Only one round can be loaded at a time. The action of opening and closing the bolt is used to cock the pistol. These pistols are used in the 50m Pistol Match.

REVOLVER - These pistols have a cylinder into which the rounds are loaded. The action of cocking the hammer causes the cylinder to rotate and bring the next cartridge into alignment with the barrel, ready to be fired. They are two basic types of actions - single and double action. A single action revolver must be manually cocked before each shot. In double action revolvers the action of pulling the trigger will rotate the cylinder and at the same time cock the hammer and then releases the hammer firing the revolver. Usually a double action revolver will also fire as a single action. However it is common to modify revolvers for Service Pistol so that they only operate in double action mode. This is done so the pistol passes match rules with regards to trigger weight.

Revolvers are suitable for the 25m pistol, centre fire match and service matches. They are not suitable for the standard pistol or rapid fire matches.

SELF-LOADING or SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS - These pistols have a magazine into which the rounds are loaded. The magazine is then placed in the pistol. The action of closing the slide/bolt will feed a round into the chamber. Pulling the trigger will fire a shot. The recoil action is used to force the slide back to extract the fired case and then reload then next round from the magazine. The pistol is then ready to fire again. Self-loading pistols can be used for the 25m Pistol, 25m Standard Pistol Matches. They can also be used for the 50m match but under match rules are only allowed to be loaded with one round at a time.

Some firearms are fitted with a safety catch that will prevent the firearm from firing even when it is loaded. In ISSF and the Service Unrestricted & 25yard Service matches the safety catch is not normally used. In this type of target shooting only two states of readiness are used - LOADED and UNLOADED. In ISSF a pistol may never be placed on a bench in a loaded state. In the service matches the first series starting position has the loaded pistol on the ground, at all other times it must unloaded if put down.

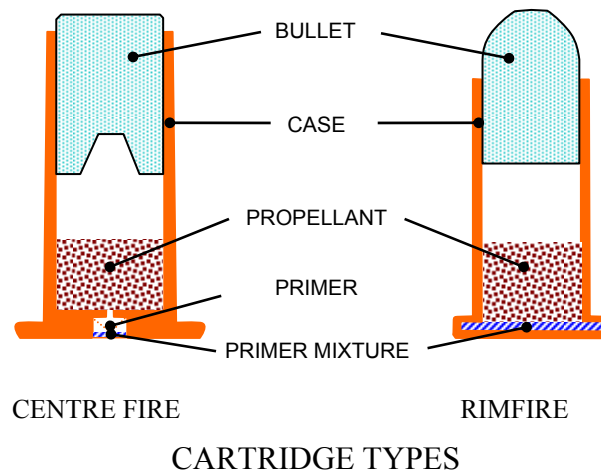
Some target pistols are fitted with a dry fire catch. This is used to practice the principles of marksmanship without ammunition. In rimfire pistols it will allow the pistol to be dry fired with out damage to the breech face. In air pistol it will allow the release of the trigger mechanism without the release of a charge of air

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AMMUNITION

Ammunition basically consists of two types, Centre Fire and Rimfire. These are classified by where the primer is struck. Types within these classifications are usually by calibre and the original manufacturer or descriptive title. Example are .38 Special, 357 Magnum, 9mm Luger, 32 S&W Long.. Only use the correct type of ammunition for the firearm in use.

The centre fire cartridge has a separate primer in the centre of the case. This ammunition is usually reloaded in a special press to save cost and provide a degree of tailoring to suit the shooter, the firearm and the match. When using reloaded ammunition ensure that the load is safe for the pistol being used.



Rim fire ammunition is commercially manufactured. The primer mixture is around the rim in the cartridge. In our type of pistol shooting this is always .22 calibre (5.6 mm). The main type used is 22LR (long rifle).

MALFUNCTIONS

A malfunction occurs when a firearm fails complete one of its operation. These usually falls into one of the following categories

- ◇ Failure to Feed
- ◇ Failure to Fire
- ◇ Failure to Extract and/or Eject

FEED FAILURES

These can either be caused by the firearm or the ammunition. With reloaded ammunition raised primers or cases that have not been sized correctly are the most common cause. Some Rimfire pistols have tight chambers and can be affected by the brand of ammunition used.

In the case of the firearm being at fault this can be due to build up of residue in the chamber through lack of cleaning. Another common problem is the feed lips on the magazine being worn or bent

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FAILURE TO FIRE.

This can be due to a mechanical problem with the firearm or a fault with the ammunition. Another cause is that the pistol was not loaded. It is common for some of the cheaper brands of ammunition to have a low percentage that will not fire. Incorrect seating of primers or allowing oil on the primer will cause misfires with reloaded centre fire ammunition.

One problem that can occur particularly with reloaded ammunition is a misfire that does not provide enough energy for the bullet to leave the barrel. If a fired shot goes puff instead of bang or a shot has greatly reduced recoil do not fire another shot. Stop shooting, unload the pistol and check that a bullet is not stuck in the barrel. The best way to check this is to use a cleaning rod to ensure the barrel is free from any obstruction.

A similar problem can occur with air pistol if a shot is fired with a cylinder that has very low air pressure.

EXTRACTION OR EJECTION PROBLEMS

The usual cause of these problems is due to the build up of burnt powder residue. This can be in the chamber making the cartridges tough to remove. Another area that causes problems is a build up of dirt under the extractor. Regular maintenance is required for all pistols. Details should be obtained from the manufacturer's manual.

FIREARMS REGULATIONS

PURCHASE OF AMMUNITION

You may only purchase ammunition of a calibre for which you have a firearms or ammunition collectors licence. You will need to produce your firearms licence and your extract of licence.

CARRIAGE OF FIREARMS

When travelling it is preferable to have firearms stored separate from the ammunition and both in locked cases.

As you must take all reasonable precautions when transporting firearms and ammunition it is not acceptable to leave them in your vehicle while you go shopping. The usual condition on granting handgun licences is that they are only transported from home to the range or to a firearms dealer.

During summer the temperature in the boot of cars can be very high. It is not safe to leave fully charged air cylinders where elevated temperatures occur.

When travelling by air, approval should be obtained from the airline company prior to your departure. It is a requirement to have ammunition and firearms in separate cases. These are usually declared during baggage check in. There is limit on the weight of ammunition that one person can carry. Currently this

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is 5kg per person and packed in approved containers. Another safety requirement is that air cylinders must be emptied. Check with your airline company if flying with your firearms.

Only the firearm or accessories may be posted. Ammunition, primers and propellant is considered as dangerous goods and may not be posted. In WA a person may send a firearm by post to a place outside WA, only if it addressed to a business premises of a licensed firearms dealer. A person may receive a firearm by post if that person has a licence or temporary permit to hold a firearm.

Similar restrictions apply to transport by commercial freight companies. Ammunition may be sent provided it is declared as dangerous goods.

BASIC FIREARMS LAW

While in possession or control of your firearm you must carry your Firearms Extract of Licence Photo Card. It must be produced immediately to a Police Officer if requested.

Any change of address must be notified to the police and your club in writing within 21 days of the change.

If a firearm or ammunition is lost or stolen, or if a firearm is destroyed then the details must be reported to the police as soon as practical.

During their use and transport you must take all reasonable precautions to ensure their security

You must not handle or use firearms while under the influence of drugs or alcohol

The firearm must not have its identification marks or serial numbers altered or defaced.

You must not sell your firearm unless you are doing so via a licensed firearms dealer or if selling direct to another person, the sale must be approved and noted by a police officer. You cannot buy, sell, possess or use a firearm that is not licensed. It is a requirement of the act when advertising a firearm for sale to include the type, make, serial number and calibre of the firearm.

Pistols obtained through a club may only be used on approved pistol ranges.

A firearms licence may not be issued if the Commissioner has sufficient ground for forming an opinion that the person is not fit and proper. Reasons for this can be, that if at any time within the last five years a person:-

- ◇ was convicted of an offence involving assault with a weapon
- ◇ was convicted of an offence involving violence
- ◇ was convicted of any offence against the firearms act
- ◇ had a violence restraining order made against them
- ◇ fails to meet standards of physical or mental fitness

Unless specifically excepted every violence restraining order includes a restraint prohibiting the person from being in possession of a firearm or a firearm licence. The person who is bound by the violence restraining order must give up possession of all firearms and firearms licences.

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STORAGE SECURITY

Under the firearms regulations your firearms when not in use or transit must be stored in a secure cabinet or container. The cabinet must be securely anchored at two points to two immovable structural surfaces. These cabinets can be purchase from firearms dealers and should be marked that they comply with the WA Police Firearms Regulations. Specification for storage cabinets is in Schedule 4 of the Firearms Regulations.

The firearms and ammunition must not be stored together unless the ammunition is within another locked compartment.

Magazines must not be stored loaded.

Tins of propellant and gunpowder are not to be stored with ammunition or firearms

PURCHASE & LICENSING OF HANDGUN

WAPA Rules for pistol applications are in the regulations. A member applying for a handgun licence supplies the details to the club committee for approval. When approved, the club secretary will enter details on the WAPA Pistol Application Form 101. A member applying for their first handgun must have successfully completed the WAPA firearm safety course and have been a financial member for 6 months.

The application is made at the police station closest to where you reside (*ref S 7,(1) Firearms Regulations - "Application for a licence shall be made to the Officer in Charge of the police station nearest to the place where the applicant resides"*)

You are required to fill out the police "application for a Firearm Licence". The additional statement to support your application may also be completed. There is no legal obligation requiring this statement.

The club support letter WAPA Form 101 is a necessity with every application for "club purposes". Club or Association by-laws govern the number of firearms a shooter may have within their organisation, therefore the club must show they support the application.

Fill out the Statutory Declaration as to storage facilities for your firearms. You only have to complete this form once and it can be signature witnessed as nominated on the form. Should you have alternative storage, other than as specified you will be required to comply with Firearm Regulations 11A(2) *Firearms and ammunition are to be stored in a locked cabinet or container that at least meets the specifications described in Schedule 4 or in such other way as is approved.* This "or in such other way as in approved" would require your district police superintendent's approval, therefore you would be require to make a request (recommend in writing when you are submitting your application giving details as to your alternative security) to the superintendent for approval.

Some identification, eg: photo driver's licence, passport, birth certificate will be required, as well as your yellow WAPA membership card

If you are a first time applicant you will be required to answer a questionnaire on firearm safety

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MATCH PROCEDURES AND RULES

These subjects are covered using the WAPA Range Officer Guide Sheets, ISSF & PA Rule books.

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ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

WAPA Regulations which include WAPA safety rules

WAPA Range Officer Guide Sheets

ISSF Special Technical Rules for Pistol Shooting

Pistol Australia - Service Rules, Black Powder Rules

WAPA Red File - Appendix 6 Sample Visitor Declaration Form

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & ADDITIONAL READING

A Shooter's Guide to Pistol Marksmanship Elite Coaching Systems Allan Lozan

Police Service Web Site

<http://www.police.wa.gov.au/Services/FirearmsandWeapons.asp?FrequentlyAskedQuestions>

Western Australian Firearms Regulations - 1974

Western Australian Firearms Act - 1973

GLOSSARY

Action	The working mechanism of the firearm. The method by which a pistol is loaded. Various types exist the main type in handguns are single shot, revolvers, self-loading or semi automatic pistols.
Air Pistol	A pistol that uses compressed air or CO2 to propel the projectile.
Ammunition	The cartridge or round that contains the primer, propellant, case and projectile. In the case of air pistols only the projectile is used.
Automatic	Shortened name for a self loading or semi-automatic pistol.
Brass	Another name for the cartridge casing. In centre fire these are reused.
Bolt	The part in a breech loading firearm that holds the cartridge in the chamber.
Bore	The interior of the barrel of a firearm
Breech	The rear end of the chamber into which the cartridge is inserted.
Calibre	The nominal diameter of the bore of a firearm or nominal diameter of the bullet.
Cartridge	see ammunition
Case	The metallic, paper or plastic container for the primer, powder & projectile.
Centre Fire	A pistol that fires centre fire cartridges. A cartridge that has the primer in the centre of the case. These cases can usually be reloaded.
Chamber	The enlarged portion of the bore into which the cartridge is held and fired.
Down range	In the direction from the firing line to the butts. Remember that bullets should go down the range and are pulled down to the ground by gravity.

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Dry Fire	To work the trigger mechanism on a firearm that is unloaded.
Extractor	The part of the firearm that grips and extracts the case from the chamber.
Firing Pin	The part of a firearm that on the release of the trigger strikes the primer causing the firing of the cartridge.
Flyer	A shot wide of the target. (a miss)
Grip	The part of a handgun which is enveloped by the hand.
Group	The term applied to the pattern of a series of shots on the target.
Hammer	The part of firearm that strikes the firing pin. In self-loading it is sometimes internal where as on revolvers it is visible and exposed.
Handgun	Pistol
Jacket	Hard outer covering over some projectile types. Jacketed ammunition is only permitted for International 1920 Match.
Magazine	A spring loaded receptacle for ammunition used in self loading pistols.
Magnum	Term used to indicated that the cartridge is designed for greater or more heavily loading. For example a 357magium is a slightly lengthened .38S&W round that can be loaded to a greater level. The firearm used must be safe to fire magnum load
Muzzle	The end of the barrel from which the projectile leaves
Muzzle Brake	Porting or holes at the end of the muzzle to direct some of the gasses upwards to reduce recoil. Also known as porting.
Pellet	Another name for air pistol or air rifle projectile (also shotgun projectiles)
Pistol	handgun
Primer	The ignition component of a cartridge.
Projectile	The bullet or pellet which travels towards the target.
Propellant	The powder that is fired to provide the gas to propel the projectile. In the case of an air pistol, the compressed gas stored in the pistol.
Revolver	The type of pistol that has a cylinder into which the cartridges are placed. This revolves round enabling the next one to be fired as it lines up with the barrel.
Rifling	Spiral groves in the barrel that spins the projectile for great accuracy
Rimfire	Type of cartridge that has the primer around the rim of the case. He firing pin strikes the edge (rim) to fire the cartridge.
Round	Another name for cartridge
Semi Automatic	A self loading pistol that when fired will eject the case and load another round from the magazine
Single Shot	A firearm that the round is manually loaded into the breech. It does not have a magazine. Most air pistols and free pistols are single shot.
Trigger Weight	The pressure on the trigger required the fire a shot. Some match rules have different trigger weight specifications.
Up Range	In the direction from butts to the firing line.

West Australian Pistol Association
Firearms Safety Training Course Notes

Notes