



# **Firearm Safety Training Course**

## **Notes and Criteria**

# Firearms Safety Training Course Notes

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document is designed to provide the basic information needed for the Firearms Safety Training Course for WAPA Target Pistol shooting. This course is not the course required by the WA Police which is of a very generic nature. This course gives you more specific knowledge to safely participate in target shooting conducted by WAPA clubs. Members who may teach 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.

## 2. 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 allowed 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 a coaching session under the immediate supervision of a current accredited TPA Club Instructor or Coach. 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.
- ◇ When two persons are shooting one of them must be deemed the Range Officer. When three or more persons are shooting together a Range Officer who is not shooting must supervise them.
- ◇ All safe and lawful instructions from the Range Officer must be obeyed.
- ◇ 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 can be handled while someone is forward of the shooting line.
- ◇ No person can go forward of the shooting line during a match unless directed to do so by the Range Officer.
- ◇ No pistol shall be removed from the firing line until it has been checked and cleared by the Range Officer.

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- ◇ No pistol may be uncased unless:
  - In a safe area or staging area
  - Under the control of a Range Officer or Jury member
  - Under the control of a Coach, Club Instructor or Club Trainer during any coaching session, or
  - 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, point the pistol downwards at 45 degrees in a safe direction with the finger off the trigger, and wait for orders from the Range Officer.

**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 or the ground between the firing line and 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 range forward of the firing line 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. 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.

During preparation time for the 25m & 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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### 3. PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP.

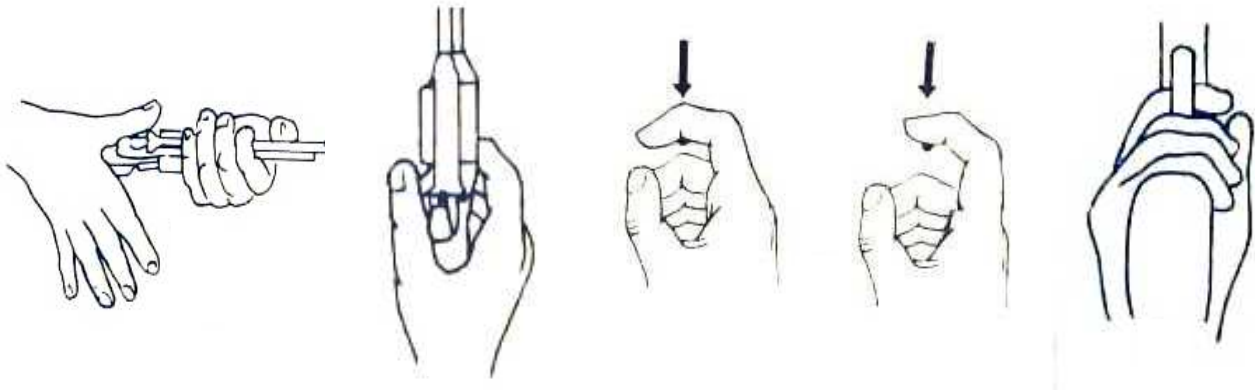
**STANCE** - The position used is to achieve the greatest stability with minimum body strain.

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



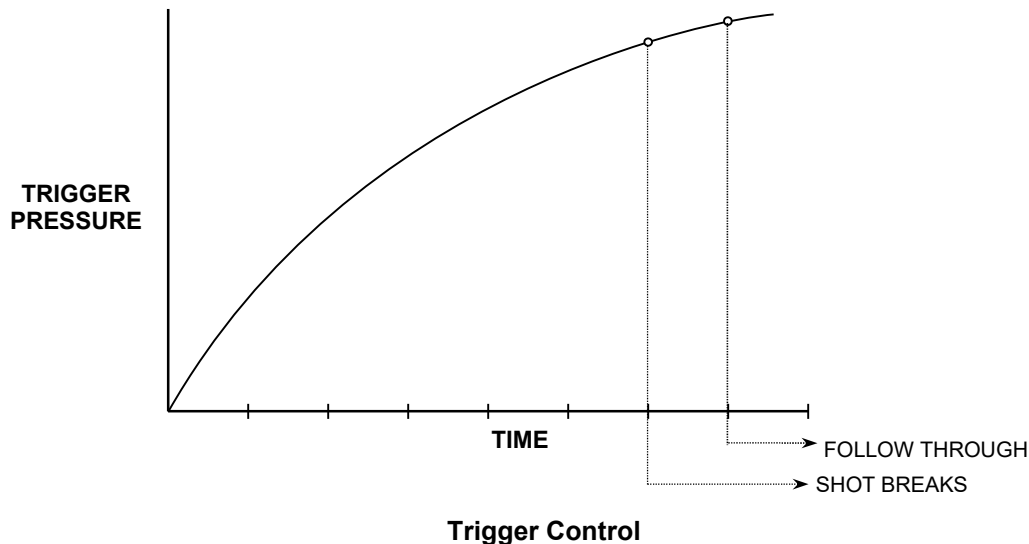
- ◇ Trigger finger should be free of the grip
- ◇ What ever the position of the finger on the trigger, it is to be pressed straight back to the rear.
- ◇ Fingers between first and second joint should be along the front of the grip
- ◇ Little pressure from fingertips
- ◇ Thumb should be relaxed and not 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. cContinue 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

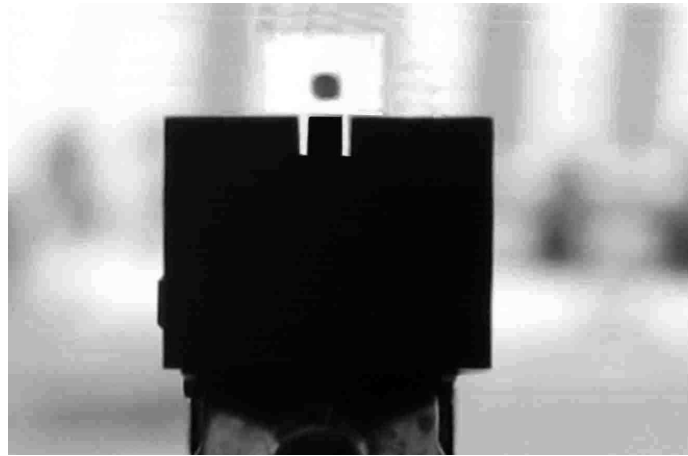
Variations will be needed for timed shooting such as the 20 & 10 second series of Standard and the Rapid Fire stage of 25m Pistol and Centrefire

**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

#### 4. 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. There is a removable air cylinder that is refilled when empty. 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 25m pistol, Centrefire, service matches, WA1500 matches and Metallic Silhouette. 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 all live fire matches.

Some firearms are fitted with a safety catch that will prevent the firearm from firing even when it is loaded. Only in Action Pistol is the safety catch required to be used. In all other matches 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.

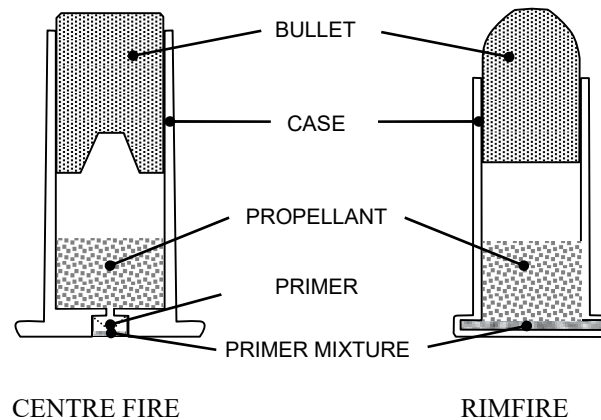
## AMMUNITION

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

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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.



CARTRIDGE TYPES

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 only 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.

### FAILURE TO FIRE.

This can be due to a mechanical problem with the firearm or a fault with the ammunition. It is common for some of the cheaper brands of .22 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

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ammunition. Excess residue around the breech face of a .22 can sometimes cause firing problems. In a revolver the hammer spring tension is adjustable. Hard primers and a weak hammer spring will cause misfires.

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. It is sometimes called a squib. If a fired shot goes pop or 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.

### **OPERATOR ERRORS**

Common operator errors include forgetting to close the slide, not pushing the magazine all the way into the well, not placing the rounds in the magazine straight, and forgetting to release the trigger all the way between shots.

## **5. FIREARMS LAW**

The Firearms Act 2024 and Firearms Regulations 2024 control all aspects of firearms ownership and use in WA.

### **BASIC FIREARMS LAW**

Nobody can possess a firearm or ammunition in WA without a licence. You can only possess the firearms that are listed on your licence.

To own a handgun you must have a competition licence. This allows you to use your own handguns on an approved range for competition or training purposes. Being an active member of a target shooting club is your genuine reason for having a firearm licence. It does not permit you to use the handgun for any other purpose such as hunting or security.

Your licence allows you buy or reload ammunition for your guns. A gun shop will ask to see your licence before selling ammunition or components of ammunition to you.

The Commissioner of Police has the power to take away your licence if it is decided for whatever reason that you are no longer a fit and proper person or you no longer have a genuine reason. Even the

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people you associate with is enough reason to lose your licence. The police have no obligation to renew your licence when it comes up for renewal.

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 in the past 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

A person subject to a violence restraining order usually is deemed a Disqualified Person or Interim Disqualified Person and unable to possess or use a firearm.

You cannot use or handle a firearm when affected by alcohol or drugs, or hand it to anyone else affected by alcohol or drugs.

While in possession or control of your firearm you must carry your Firearms Licence. 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 the security of your firearms.

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

You cannot repair a firearm (beyond making adjustments or cleaning) without a repairers licence.

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 through the WAPOL firearms portal. You cannot buy, sell, possess or use a firearm that is not licensed.

### **PURCHASE OF AMMUNITION**

You may only purchase ammunition of a calibre for which you have a firearms licence. You will need to produce your firearms licence at the shop as proof.

### **CARRIAGE OF FIREARMS**

There are detailed legal requirements in the Firearms Regulations for firearms in transit. These include deactivating the firearm such as with a trigger lock, a cable lock placed through part of the pistol's mechanism, or removing a part of the firearm. Ammunition must be carried separate from the gun box and in some cases fixed to the car interior.

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.

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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 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.

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

### **STORAGE SECURITY**

Under the firearms regulations, when not in use or transit your firearms must be stored in a gun cabinet or safe which meets the requirements of the Firearms Regulations. These cabinets can be purchased from firearms dealers and should be marked that they comply with the WA Police Firearms Regulations 2024. Cabinets made for the previous 1973 Act usually don't comply.

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. Storage containers must comply with the requirements published by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

### **PURCHASE & LICENSING OF HANDGUN**

It is recommended that before buying or placing a deposit on a pistol, you should discuss your choice with someone on the club committee. The club will not approve a pistol that doesn't conform with the rules of the match you are buying it for. Also there are many pistols on the market poorly suited to target shooting and you may regret your choice later.

The process for licensing a first handgun is prescribed by the WA Police and can be found on their website. A member applying for a handgun licence supplies the details to the club committee for approval. If approved, the club secretary will supply a club support letter in the form of a WAPA Pistol Application Form 101 or equivalent WA Police form. 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 before being issued a club support letter.

The WA Police will require a health assessment, completion of their own training course, a serviceability certificate for the firearm from a dealer and details of your proposed storage. The application is made through the Firearms Portal. It may take some weeks to process.

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### 6. MATCH PROCEDURES AND RULES

These subjects are covered using the Range Officer Guide Sheets and Rule books. These can be downloaded from the Target Pistol Australia website. Printed guide sheets may be available on your range.

Typically the Range Officer will have a reasonable knowledge of the rules and course of fire and be able to guide shooters who are unsure.

Clubs often apply their own variations to the rules to simplify the match. Clubs often apply additional safety rules specific to their range. These must be obeyed. The club has the right to suspend or withdraw pistol support from a member who disobeys safety rules.

### 7. ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

WAPA Regulations which include WAPA safety rules

TPA Range Officer Guide Sheets

ISSF Rules for Pistol Shooting (TPA edition)

Pistol Australia - Service Rules, Black Powder Rules

WA1500 Rules

WAPA Red File

### 8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & ADDITIONAL READING

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

WA Police Licensing Services [Licensing Services \(Firearms\)](#)

Western Australian Firearms Regulations - 2024

Western Australian Firearms Act - 2024

### 9. 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.                                                                                                                                     |
| Baffle     | A wood and steel wall mounted above or below the path of the projectiles to stop wide shots from leaving the range.                                                                             |

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|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Course of Fire | The sequence of shots prescribed by the rules for each stage of a match, such as the , number of shots, the time permitted and the target to shoot at (if each shooter has more than one target).                                                 |
| Down range     | In the direction from the firing line to the butts. Remember that bullets should go <b>down</b> the range and are pulled <b>down</b> to the ground by gravity.                                                                                    |
| 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 or Revolver                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Jacket         | Hard outer covering over some projectile types. Jacketed ammunition is only permitted for Action 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. In some rule books it is treated as a handgun which is not a revolver.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Primer         | The ignition component of a cartridge.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Projectile     | The bullet or pellet which travels towards the target.                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|                |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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.                              |
| Range Officer  | The person controlling shooting on a range, giving the appropriate commands, operating the timer and monitoring the shooters.                                             |
| 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 grooves in the barrel that spins the projectile for accuracy.                                                                                                      |
| Rimfire        | Type of cartridge that has the primer around the rim of the case. The 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 for which each round is manually loaded into the breech. It does not have a magazine or hold multiple rounds. Most air pistols and 50m pistols are single shot. |
| Trigger Weight | The pressure on the trigger required to fire a shot. Some match rules have minimum trigger weight specifications.                                                         |
| Up Range       | In the direction from butts to the firing line.                                                                                                                           |

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## 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 WAPA 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.**

Prior to first live fire instruction, a candidate must have an understanding of the basic safety rules and basic range commands. (WAPA Regulation 14). 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 is safer and gives the advantage of a quieter training session with a pistol that gives almost no recoil.

### **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.
- ◇ 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.

### **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.

## West Australian Pistol Association Safety Training Course Criteria

### **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**

- ◆ Air Pistol or 50m Pistol using a single shot pistol
- ◆ 25m Range ISSF Matches using a self-loading pistol or revolver
- ◆ Service Unrestricted and Service 25yard Pistol Match using a self-loading pistol or revolver

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, WA1500 or Action 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 TPA Holster 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.

### **RANGE SAFETY**

- ◇ Safe direction
- ◇ Range Rules
- ◇ Rules for used of Holster
- ◇ Responsibilities in attending a range
- ◇ Range firing procedure in accordance with range rules
- ◇ Role and authority of the Range Officer

# West Australian Pistol Association Safety Training Course Criteria

- ◇ Correct procedure for Equipment malfunction

## **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

## **FIREARM REGULATIONS**

- ◇ Types of handguns that can be obtained for club use
- ◇ How to apply for a competition licence
- ◇ Purchase or acquiring a firearm
- ◇ Selling or disposal of a firearm
- ◇ Purchase of ammunition
- ◇ Transport to and from the range
- ◇ Licensing conditions
- ◇ Storage
- ◇ Condition what constitutes a breach of the law
- ◇ Modifications of a firearm

## **MATCH PROCEDURES AND RULES**

- ◇ Air Pistol / 50m Pistol
- ◇ 25m Standard Pistol
- ◇ 25m Pistol & 25m Centre Fire
- ◇ Service Unrestricted & Service 25yard Match.
- ◇ WA1500 match

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.

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WEST AUSTRALIAN PISTOL ASSOCIATION (INC)  
**FIREARMS SAFETY TRAINING COURSE**

The candidate is requested to fill out the following course review questions. These are intended to feed back improvements and deficiencies in the course to both for the club and for WAPA

Club .....

Date ...../...../.....

Previous Firearms Experience  
prior to joining this club

NONE

LITTLE

EXPERIENCED

☐☐☐☐☐

DISAGREE

UNSURE

AGREE

☐☐☐☐☐

Covered your needs to participate  
at Club level competition

NOT RELEVANT

SUFFICIENT

TOO MUCH

☐☐☐☐☐

Firearms Types & Regulations  
contents was

MORE NEED

UNSURE

CONFIDENT

☐☐☐☐☐

At the end of the training you were  
confident in handling a pistol safely

DISAGREE

UNSURE

AGREE

☐☐☐☐☐

The notes and handouts were  
sufficient for your needs

Please add any comments or suggestions to improve the course material, contents and/or presentation.

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**Thank You**



WEST AUSTRALIAN PISTOL ASSOCIATION (INC)  
**SAFETY TRAINING REGISTER FOR FIRST PISTOL**  
( FORM WAPA 103 )

NAME  CLUB  Date accepted as club member

| DATE                                                                                                                                                            | TRAINING ACTIVITY                                   | ACTION / RESULTS |  | TRAINER | INITIALS | COMMENT                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|--|---------|----------|----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                 | WAPA SAFETY RULES & TRAINING NOTES                  | ISSUED           |  |         |          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | BASIC SAFETY INSTRUCTION PRIOR TO LIVE FIRING       | GIVEN (Y/N)      |  |         |          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> LIVE FIRING TRAINING ( One on One ) | GIVEN (Y/N)      |  |         |          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> LIVE FIRING TRAINING ( One on One ) | GIVEN (Y/N)      |  |         |          |                                              |
| PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT:- A pass in the practical is required before a new member may participate in club competitions only under the control of the range officer |                                                     |                  |  |         |          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | 10m Air Pistol and/or 50m Pistol                    | Pass Y/N         |  |         |          | Required for Air or 50m Pistol               |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | 25m Range ISSF ( Self-loading or Revolver )         | Pass Y/N         |  |         |          | Required for Revolver or Self Loading Pistol |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | Service or WA1500 Matches (excludes holster use )   | Pass Y/N         |  |         |          | Required for Revolver or Self Loading Pistol |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Participation in Club Competition   | Match            |  | RO      |          | Option Requirement                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Participation in Club Competition   | Match            |  | RO      |          | Option Requirement                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Participation in Club Competition   | Match            |  | RO      |          | Option Requirement                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | 4 <sup>th</sup> Participation in Club Competition   | Match            |  | RO      |          | Option Requirement                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | INSTRUCTION                                         |                  |  |         |          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | RANGE SAFETY                                        | GIVEN            |  |         |          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | FIREARM & SAFETY THEORY                             | GIVEN            |  |         |          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | FIREARM REGULATIONS                                 | GIVEN            |  |         |          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | MATCH PROCEDURES & RULES                            | GIVEN            |  |         |          |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                 | WRITTEN TEST                                        | PASS Y/N         |  |         |          |                                              |

Declaration by the Club Trainer or Captain that the Training has been completed  
Trainer or Club

Captain's Signature ..... Date: ..... / ..... / .....

Candidate .....

Club Secretary's Signature .....

Pistol Approval Date ( Committee Meeting ) Date: ..... / ..... / .....