

**SSAA NSW**

**Colonial Action Australia™**



**Colonial Shooting Sports International™**

**Federation Match**

**RULES**

**Compiled and edited by SSAA Silverdale Pistol Club.**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Federation match is to provide shooters in Australia with a similar match to the popular Wild Bunch, with less restrictions on firearms and calibres. This new match will allow the use of semi-automatic pistols in production until the onset of World War 2. For example, the browning high power 9mm pistol that is still in use by the Australian military and was first produced in 1935 and is an example of an approved pistol for this match.

The Federation Period has been defined as the years between the time of Federation on 1 January 1901 and the onset of World War 2 on September 1st, 1939.

The established rules cover the firearms, shooting classifications, clothing, accoutrements, and general safety rules to be used by competitors and organisations affiliated with Pioneer Shooting Australia.

The Federation match is side match attached to the Pioneer Shooting matches and as such all rules and regulations unless otherwise mentioned in this document are to be adhered to in the most recent copy of the Pioneer Shooting Rules Book.

## 2. SAFETY GUIDELINES

Unless otherwise stated the rules and guidelines published in the most current version of the Pioneer Shooting Rules Book are to be adhered to.

These guidelines are expected to be enforced by the associations, organizations and clubs who are affiliated with Pioneer Shooting Australia and hold sanctioned competitions. It is the responsibility of the hosting group to see that all necessary steps are taken to ensure that a safe shooting environment for spectators and competitors is provided.

### 2.1 PISTOL OPERATION, RANGE

When handling the Pistol the shooter's trigger finger must be OUTSIDE the trigger guard when moving, reloading, or clearing a malfunction after the pistol is first charged. Typically, a shooter is given the verbal warning, "FINGER!" the first time. A repeat violation earns the shooter a penalty or removal from the range. Charging means the act of placing a live round in the chamber of the pistol.

Magazines may be loaded with up to six rounds at any time.

### 2.2 PISTOL OPERATION, LOADING TABLE

The pistol is to be shown clear and the action closed on an empty chamber. A magazine will then be inserted in the Pistol.

## 2.3 PISTOL OPERATION, ON THE FIRING LINE

A live round will be chambered in the pistol on the clock when needed in the firing sequence after drawing the pistol from its holster. Loaded Pistols are not permitted to be holstered at any time.

If loaded at the wrong time or location, the Pistol may be made safe by clearing it of live ammunition, including the loaded magazine, and having its status confirmed by a range officer.

## 2.4 PISTOL OPERATION, UN-LOADING TABLE

The Pistol will be confirmed cleared by a Range officer and then holstered on an empty chamber with no magazine fitted.

# 3. COMPETITOR'S GUIDELINES

A competitor may only nominate and compete in one Class and one Category during a competition.

## 3.1 Classes

To provide an opportunity for all shooters to participate and enjoy the sport the following competitor classes shall be made available at a Pioneer Shooting sanctioned competition. Competitors must select one (1) class in which to participate.

### (a) Minor

This class is open to any minor participant from the age of 12 years to 18 years (the birth date must be taken at the first day of competition).

### (b) Ladies

This class is open to any female competitor and minor female who chooses to compete in this class.

### (c) Senior

This class is open to any male or female competitor over the age of 60 years (the birth date must be taken at the first day of competition).

(d) Open

This class is open to any competitor albeit male, female, senior or minor over the age of 16 years.

Disabled members of the community are to be encouraged to participate and competition organisers may include one (1) optional class to facilitate the participation of these members.

## 3.2 Categories

Organisers shall make available the following compulsory categories to competitors at a Pioneer Shooting sanctioned competition. Each category has a degree of difficulty and specialist requirements which warrant its separate categorisation.

Categories are scored separately to guarantee that no competitor is disadvantaged by their selected equipment or otherwise. This ensures that all competition is fair and equitable.

Competitors must select one (1) category or available optional category for the competition.

(a) Federation Traditional, Permissible Classes: Open.

This category is reserved for the use of traditional Pistol and long arms using nitro powder cartridges only. The Pistol may be cocked, aimed, and fired using both hands. Target sights and modified grips are not permitted. Pistols in the traditional match must be shot in the calibre that pistol was original designed for. For Example, the Colt 1911A1 pistol must be shot in 45Acp or 38Acp. 38 Super and 9mm are permitted in the modern class.

(b) Federation Modern, Permissible Classes: Open.

This category is reserved for the use of modern Pistol and long arms using nitro powder cartridges only. The Pistol may be cocked, aimed, and fired using both hands. Target sights and modified grips are permitted.

(c) Minor Permissible Classes: Minor.

This category is reserved for participants between 12 and 18 years of age holding a minors permit or similar and using a pistol. The pistol may be cocked, aimed, and fired using both hands. Target Sights are permitted although modified grips are prohibited.

(d) Ladies Permissible Classes: Ladies.

This category is reserved for the use of a pistol which may be cocked, aimed, and fired using both hands. Target sights are permitted although modified grips are prohibited.

### 3.3 Optional Categories

Organisers may elect to offer additional categories for a competition. For these positions to be valid each additional category must contain a minimum of five (5) competitors. Should there be insufficient competitors to warrant an optional category then each affected competitor must be notified prior to the start of the competition by the organisers for placement in an alternative category.

### 3.4 Side Matches

These are optional events designed to provide variation at a competition. Side Matches are only limited by the imagination of the host organisation whose organisers will set out courses of fire that are safe and suited to the range facility. Side matches can involve team stages and provide an opportunity for the use of a variety of firearms including traditional cartridges such as .45ACP, 38ACP, 9mm and 38 Super. The list and guidelines provided below represent an example of the types of competitions that are possible as side matches.

(a) Speed Events

Speed events may involve rifle, pistol, or shotgun. The competitor shall start with the firearm held in the safe ready position; muzzle pointed in a safe direction; pistol held at 45°.

(b) Pistol Permissible Classes: Open.

Speed events involving pistols should be conducted in two (2) distinct categories: traditional and modern. The event can be run as an elimination event using one pistol, the competitor engaging targets in sequence. Time, including penalties, is used to determine a winner. Sights are optional.

(c) Pistol Events

(i) Long Range Pistol – Centre Fire

(d) Billy Singh Military Bolt Action Rifle Match

The rifle must be an original calibre bolt-action rifle issued by any country to its military forces at the onset of WWII. It must be as issued with original iron battle sights and NO external modifications. Internal modifications are allowed. Faithful reproductions are allowed.

## 4. FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

Firearms and ammunition are fundamental to Pioneer Shooting. In order to retain the early “Federation era” theme and historical integrity of the sport the following rule set is applied.

Firearms used in all matches must be originals or reproductions of models in use between 1 January 1901 and before 1 September 1939. Any firearm that is visually similar to an original may be used by a competitor. All firearms must have the same features and function in a similar manner to the original.

All firearms must be in safe shooting condition and must be legally held by the user on a licence or permit that provides the option of target shooting.

External modifications to firearms are prohibited except alterations that conform to military modifications to improve safety.

Magnaport® and other barrel venting or recoil compensators are prohibited. Ventilated sight ribs or other fixtures not in keeping with the period are prohibited.

Sights and hammers may be changed, but the alterations must resemble originals.

Grips may be changed, but modern soft rubber types or orthopaedic finger grooves and trigger shoes are prohibited.

All stage ammunition must use lead alloy bullets only.

Pistol ammunition must have a minimum velocity of 250 metres per second (650 feet per second) and a maximum velocity of 400 metres per second (1,000 feet per second) for (1,400 feet per second) for rifles.

Rifle ammunition being used for long range events are exempt from the maximum velocity and lead alloy bullet rule's.

Duplex black powder loads are prohibited.

If competition organisers believe that a competitor's ammunition fails to meet the required specification, then they may select a maximum of ten (10) rounds at random from that competitor to check and chronograph.

Note: Consult your individual range approval for ammunition type rules.

## 4.1 Pistols

Competitors may use any semi-automatic/self loading pistol, replica, or look-alike thereof that was in production from 1901 and prior to 1939. This includes modern reproductions of approved Pistols.

Pistols must have minimum calibre of .32 unless otherwise authorised by an event or host club. For example, .22 Calibre Pistol may be used where required by a stage design or were offered as an Optional Category.

Trigger shoes are not permitted.

Barrel porting is prohibited.

A list of Approved pistols can be found attached to Appendix A.

## 4.2 Shotguns



Permitted for competition is any lever action, slide action, double barrelled (side by side only) or single barrelled shotgun that was in production prior to 1939, or any replica thereof. Shotguns must be non-ejecting and must have a calibre of not less than 36-gauge and not greater than 10-gauge. All shotguns must be loaded by hand "on the clock" with the exception of slide and lever shotguns, which may be loaded at the loading table and on the line with a maximum of two (2) rounds at any one time. The use of any modern aid to assist in loading is prohibited.

Unless otherwise stipulated in a stage design, there is no limit to the number of shells that can be used during a stage.

### 4.3 Rifles

Permitted for stage events is any lever action or slide action rifle using a pistol calibre cartridge that was in production prior to 1939, or any replica thereof? The rifle must have a minimum calibre of .355 and may have period styled tang and receiver sights.

Bolt action rifles using a centrefire cartridge that was in production prior to 1939, or any replica thereof? The rifle must have a minimum calibre of .30 and may have period styled tang and receiver sights.

Rifles must not be loaded with more than six (6) rounds at the loading table, with any additional ammunition, if required by the stage, to be loaded on the **firing line**. This is to ensure that competitors using half magazine lever rifles are not disadvantaged. In the event that no competitor is disadvantaged by the loading of additional rounds then stage designs can be varied accordingly.

All loading during a course of fire must be done by hand and the use of any modern aid to assist in loading is prohibited.

The cleaning of any rifle is not permitted during a stage.

The use of .22 Rimfire rifles is restricted to contestants shooting under the designated .22 Calibre optional category.

### 4.4 Long Range and Side Event Rifles

Long range and side event rifles must be chambered for a pre-1939 calibre such as 45-70, 38-55, 30-30, 303 British and 577-450. Any single shot, lever action, slide action or bolt action rifle that was in production prior to 1939, or any replica thereof, is permitted. Period styled tang sights and receiver sights are likewise permitted. Telescopic sights or optical insets are prohibited.

Only lead alloy bullets are to be used (steel or iron core bullets are prohibited). Gas checks are permitted to prevent the accumulation of lead in the barrel and to aid in accuracy. The use of copper jacketed bullets is permissible only where a special category is provided, and the host organisation has targets that have been safely constructed and positioned for the rounds. It is recommended that clubs permitting the use of jacketed bullets adopt the standard international metallic silhouette rules regarding the proper construction and maintenance of targets.

The maximum number of shots for an event must not exceed ten (10) and the duration of the course of fire must not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The rifle must be loaded from the person and a competitor may have one charge loaded before time commences. The use of combustible paper cartridges is permitted.

.22 Rimfire rifles may be used in specifically designated side events where they are of the type manufactured before 1939, or any replica thereof. Optical or telescopic sights are prohibited.

## 5. CLOTHING & ACCOUTREMENTS.

### 5.1 Clothing

The range of period clothing available to the participant is vast, varying between genders, occupations, classes, nationalities, and fashions. Federation competitors are encouraged to choose any period clothing ranging from the 1900s to the slouch hat worn by troops leaving for the second world war. The style of clothing and accoutrements is encouraged to be compatible with an occupation and the historicity of the firearms used by a competitor, although any clothing typical to the era is permissible. Uniforms such as the military uniform worn by Troops serving in the world wars is encouraged.

All participants should wear a hat for decorative embellishment and protection from exposure. Shorts or shorts in the form of traditional military uniform worn in the

middle east may be worn by participants on the proviso that the chosen footwear, gators, and socks are compatible with the period.

It is recognised that the acquisition of period clothing may take a competitor time in research and attainment. To ensure that new participants are not detracted from the sport in the interim, a degree of flexibility in a participant's clothing and accoutrements is permissible at the discretion of the club. Nevertheless, baseball caps, joggers, designer jeans, track suits, modern shorts, t-shirts, and military design disruptive pattern clothes are fundamentally discouraged as are plastic and nylon accoutrements and Velcro fittings.

## 5.2 Holsters

All Pistol must be carried holstered where available. If holsters are unavailable, the competitor is not holster proficient, or a stage design specifies otherwise, then the Pistol(s) may be staged at the discretion of the competition officials.

Federation competition is based around one holstered Pistol as was traditionally carried during the period.

Holsters and belts must be constructed of the type of material used during the period and should be in keeping with the chosen dress style. They must be worn in traditional locations as was usual and customary prior to 1939.

Holsters must safely retain the handgun during all movement. Should a holster ride up more than 50 millimetres (2 inches) when the Pistol is being drawn then it is deemed unsafe and must be restrained. Whilst standing erect, the muzzle of a holstered pistol must point at the ground within a one (1) meter (3foot) radius of the competitor. Holsters must be designed to cover the trigger. Belt loop, military and police style flap top, cross draw, and shoulder holsters are acceptable if worn and used in a safe manner. Sam Browne leather belts are permitted to support holsters or sword scabbards.

## 5.3 Ammunition Belts and Pouches

All ammunition to be used during a stage must be carried in belt loops, pockets, approved ammunition pouches, shotgun shell holders or pouches that are “period” in design and construction, except for ammunition for the muzzle loading long arms which may be carried in a cartridge box or a similar reproduction of the era. No ammunition may be carried on a firearm.

Pre-1939 Military style magazine pouches are examples of permissible pouches.

Ammunition belts must not tilt away from the body and should be worn in traditional locations as was usual and customary prior to 1901. Belts should be made from traditional material and must not use metal or plastic inserts in shotgun or cartridge loops.

## 6. COMPETITION

### 6.1 Stages

Stages represent a course of fire that each participant must engage. All stage designs are unique, and each stage provides a different set of circumstances for the competitor. A competition is based on a number of stages being undertaken by all competitors and can run over a number of days.

The design of a competition stage will vary between shooting facilities. This is due to the availability of props, targets and constraints imposed by the individual range. For example, some ranges will only provide the opportunity for sideways movement during a stage due to open plan design, while other ranges may permit forward movement where there is a single competitor, and the range has earthen banks or wings designed to act as bullet traps.

Stages should be designed on the principle that each competitor has one (1) Pistol, one (1) rifle and one (1) shotgun only.

An ideal competition stage should not exceed three (3) minutes at the firing line for any competitor. This will ensure a rapid turnover of participants at the firing line and will help to maintain enthusiasm.

### 6.2 Targets

Targets must be designed of steel or card and should be of a size that will permit competitors to engage them with rapidity. Targets that are small in size will reduce the pace of the competition and will tend to take the action out of Colonial Action Shooting. See Appendix C: Targets for target design guidelines in the most recent colonial action rule book.

Scoring procedures should be clearly defined in a stage description, especially were using balloons, clay targets and card targets as additional support. By necessity shotgun targets must be designed to clearly define a competitor's hit. Due to their scoring clarity, knock-down targets are commonly used in a stage design for shotgun engagements.

The setting of targets shall be as follows:

- (a) Card or other penetrable targets such as balloons must be positioned a minimum distance of 3 meters (10 feet) from the competitor's firing point.
- (b) Steel Pistol targets must be positioned a minimum of 10 meters (33 feet) from the competitor's firing point.
- (f) Targets must be set parallel to the firing line.
- (g) Targets must be set within a safe radius of the designated firing point so that the placement will restrict a projectile from ricocheting or fragmenting 10° past 90° of the target line central axis. This permits a target spread of 3.5 meters at 10 meters distance and a target spread of 7 meters at 20 meters distance.

Note. The minimum targets distances may be dependent on your range approvals however no steal targets are to be closer that 10 meters. Always remember maximum velocity rules (Clause 5(i) of the Rules) and ensure that all lead projectiles are HARD CAST as opposed to the soft variety most commonly produced by the home caster.

## 6.3 Scoring

Each competitor completes a stage against the clock. The failure of a competitor to meet the requirements of a stage will incur penalties that must be added to that competitor's raw time. These penalties shall be awarded as follows:

A five (5) second penalty is to be awarded for each missed target or target that is not engaged.

A ten (10) second penalty is to be awarded for a non-safety related procedural violation (this penalty may only be incurred by a competitor once during a stage).

A ten (10) second penalty is to be awarded for a safety related violation. More than one (1) safety related violation in a stage will result in the competitor's disqualification for that stage. A third safety related violation will see the competitor disqualified from the competition.

A stage disqualification will result in the competitor receiving a two hundred (200) second penalty for that stage. The winner of each Category will be the competitor in that Category with the lowest aggregate time for the match.

"Top Gun" will be awarded to the competitor with the lowest aggregate time overall, regardless of Category.

It is recognised that some competitors in Colonial Action are highly skilled shooters and these individuals may consistently dominate the competition in their particular Category. Organisers may consider the introduction of a "handicap" system to "even-the-field" and allow more shooters to be competitive.

## 6.4 Re-shoot

A re-shoot may be awarded by the Competition Captain on the following grounds:

- (a) As the outcome of a successful appeal by a competitor; or
- (b) Where conditions prevail that were outside the competitor's control (such as the failure of a timer during a stage). A competitor who has equipment failure is not entitled to a re-shoot.

## 6.5 Appeals and posting scores

All appeals are managed in the most recent colonial action rule book.

# APPENDIX A

# Approved Pistols

Colt 1911A1

Colt 1900

Colt 1902

Colt 1903

Browning High Power or PA35

FN1900

FN1902

FN1903

FN1922

Luger P08

Lahti L-35

Walther P38

Webley Self Loading 1910

Mauser C96

CZ38

FEG 37

Nambu Type 14

Nambu type 94

Wz35

SACM

Tokarev TT33

Campo Giro

Roth styre m1907

Steyr M1901

Steyr M1912

Any other pistol manufactured prior to 1935 on application to the discipline chair or delegate