



VICTORIAN AMATEUR PISTOL ASSOCIATION INC.

MEMBERS HANDBOOK

10th EDITION 2026-27



ROGER WAKELIN

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VAPA Members Handbook



This handbook is for members of the Victorian Amateur Pistol Association Inc (VAPA) - to help you understand our sport, it's rules and requirements, the organisations involved and the competitions you can enter.

As the sport is heavily regulated, the requirements for licences, purchasing and participation are explained. If you are a new member your goal will be to buy your first gun. We have included guidelines on where and how to buy them, clean them, store and transport them and a directory showing where to access shooting needs.

If you wondered what or who 'VAPA' is and what it does for members - this is detailed as well as some background on where the sport started in Victoria.

The matches available to you as a VAPA member are summarised along with details of the guns required. Each club decides which matches they will run.

You will hear about 'participation' in the sport. This is a legal requirement where handgun owners must use their guns for competition, a certain number of times a year, or lose them. We explain how that works and what your requirements will be depending on the classes of guns you own.

If you are just starting out, this handbook is a helpful resource, and if you are returning to the sport it may highlight some of the newer regulations (as there have been several changes in recent years).

This 10th edition revises and updates earlier editions.

Roger Wakelin

July 2026



*A digital copy is available from the website
<https://vapa.org.au/new-member-handbook/>*

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Welcome to the sport of target pistol shooting



Welcome to the family of target pistol shooters. Whether you are new to the sport or returning to it after an absence - we welcome you.

Your club is your first contact for all your needs at a local level.

The first thing to do is get your licence. You can only use a borrowed pistol so many times (on a NORI form) before you must have a licence - its compulsory. So make that your priority. Remember to get some help with coaching so you start out with good habits. Some guidelines are included on page 38.

As this is a state organisation, your membership allows you to visit and participate at other VAPA clubs (within their club guidelines). Each have their own rules and procedures but we have included general range rules as well as all the matches available. Each club chooses which matches to run.

There are many competitions open to you at club, state, inter-state, national and international levels all because of your affiliation with VAPA, Target Pistol Australia and Shooting Australia.

If you are returning to pistol shooting there may have been changes to rules and procedures in your absence. The guidelines here may be helpful to you.

To all of you we extend a big welcome to pistol shooting and to VAPA.

Your Club

While all VAPA clubs are part of the one organisation they are individually run and not the same. As a new member you need to learn who does what at your club so you know who to talk to about your needs. Record their names and contact details.

Your club membership no. _____

Your VAPA no. _____

Secretary: _____

President: _____

_____ : _____

_____ : _____

_____ : _____

Your state and national pistol associations

You and your club are part of the large pistol shooting family. At state level you are part of VAPA which supports you and the clubs in Victoria.

Nationally, Target Pistol Australia looks after the state associations and international events.

Welcome to the sport of target pistol shooting.



Pistol Shooting in Australia - how it began



The first pistol club in Victoria was known as **Victorian Sporting Shooters Association Pistol Club** (VSSA) was formed 23 May 1955 and later became the **Melbourne Pistol Club**. The club had one gun which all 30 members had to share (you weren't allowed to buy your own.) After a match the gun was returned to the police for safe keeping. That club is now the **Melbourne International Shooting Club** (MISC).

Work was needed to create a national union as required by the Australian Olympic Federation - this consisted of SA, NSW, Tas and Vic; **Amateur Pistol Union of Australia**.

Fred Bott of SA was the first president. (It later became **Pistol Australia**, now **Target Pistol Australia**)



February 1956 the original **VSSA Pistol Club** split to form two clubs; **Melbourne** (now MISC) and Dandenong PC (later becoming **Yarra Pistol Club** May 1959) and the third was the **4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse PC** in April 1956.

Along with this growth the **Victorian Amateur Pistol Association Inc.** (VAPA) was formed.



The 1956 Olympics was the main reason we have pistol shooting in Australia as it helped put pressure on governments to allow pistol shooters to compete. Victoria had a difficult time with pistol shooting laws and were only permitted to form the first pistol club after vigorous efforts by a few dedicated enthusiasts including George and Rita Rogers. A temporary Act of Parliament was passed to enable a club to be formed in preparation for the Olympics. (This would expire December 1956.)



In the Olympics Rod Johnson (Free Pistol) and Johnnie Maitland (Rapid Fire - then known as Silhouette) represented Australia.



1956 Olympics; scoring rapid fire targets

George Rogers was Chief Range Officer for the Games.

All this was done knowing that on 31st December 1956 pistol shooting would cease; the Act of Parliament would expire, but with a lot more hard work the present act was proclaimed 9th July 1958.

Interestingly, during the discussion in Parliament a Hammerli Free pistol was taken in and passed around in the chamber - from member to member - and won a favourable impression. This was 1958 after all.

By July 1959 there were seven VAPA clubs with more waiting approval from the police commissioner.

So all that hard work gives us the sport we have today and VAPA continues to provide support to clubs and its members like you.

VAPA's role is explained on page 11.

Target Pistol Australia (TPA)

Target Pistol Australia is the premier target pistol shooting organisation in Australia.

It's mandate is to field teams to the Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games and other international target pistol shooting competitions such as the Oceania Shooting Federation



Championships (OSF), Bianchi Cup and International Metallic Silhouette Shooting Union (IMSSU) World Cup. TPA currently has over 20,000 members in its State and Territory Associations 314 clubs. It is a non-profit organisation and does not receive funding from the Federal Government.

National and International events are organised by TPA while state championships and events are organised by the states; like VAPA.

(see <http://www.pistol.org.au> and select 'about' for full details of TPA)

Through Target Pistol Australia all VAPA members are represented at national and international organisations:

- ◇ Shooting Australia (Australian International Shooting Limited; AISL),
- ◇ International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) was previously named UIT and ISU,
- ◇ National Rifle Association of America (NRA),
- ◇ International Metallic Silhouette Shooting Union (IMSSU),
- ◇ Australian Olympic Federation,
- ◇ Australian Commonwealth Games Federation,
- ◇ Australian Sports Commission,
- ◇ Confederation of Australian Sport,
- ◇ Australian Government.
- ◇ Civilian Marksmanship Program

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Australian National Championships begin

The first Australian Championships were held in Hobart in January 1958 and the matches were Free Pistol, Rapid Fire and Centre Fire. Since then, National Championships have been held annually with the inclusion of new matches as they have been adopted.

Target Pistol Australia is responsible for conducting National Championships and funding teams to international events. In addition to its Elite Sports Program, it maintains Coaching and Referee Councils which ensure a consistent standard for events at all levels of competition.

The national championships are held each year, for ISSF, Service, WA1500 and Black Powder, Metallic Silhouette, and Action Pistol.

National Championships are open to all members on an individual basis, plus each state can enter a team of three shooters in each event (see *State Teams*) P14.

International Competitions

Teams are selected by Target Pistol Australia on merit.



Victorian Andy Miller and Australian WA1500 team members, 2025

Federal and State support for the shooting sports is greatly influenced by our athletes performance when representing Australia, and without this international representation you would not now be enjoying the sport. Part of your fees are used to send our athletes to overseas competitions.



The ISSF Team at Nationals 2026

State Championships

Clubs apply to VAPA to host the State Championships for each discipline.

The Association supplies the trophies, with the host club retaining any profits from entry fees etc.

The Championships are run on the grading system, so that we all have a chance to win.

Open Competitions

Referred to as 'Opens' these competitions are run by many clubs throughout Victoria (and Australia). They are called "open" because any club member affiliated with Target Pistol Australia can enter. The competitions may be run over 1, 2 or 3 days, and all use the grading system. They are social events as well as competition; join in and enjoy your sport to the fullest. A competition calendar is on the website and printed in the Victorian Pistol News. You can usually obtain an entry form from your club notice board, if not, ask your Club Secretary. Remember to take your handgun licence, VAPA membership card with current financial sticker and grading card if you attend.

Club Competitions

Competitions are run on a weekly basis. They usually run on a cycle for each type of competition to fit in with a State-wide Postal Competition (see Postal Competition Controller) P13.

Your club will probably award a trophy for each competition, these may be based on a handicap system or the grading system. Ask your Club Scorer or Secretary about the system at your Club.

Grading System

A system is in operation throughout Australia that makes it possible for all of us to enter competitions with a chance of winning.



A grading card is provided with your ID - replacements on request. When you first shoot in a competition, your score will enable the Club Scorer to place you in a "grade" (usually D grade). As you improve you will "break" into the higher grades. Your skill level should not stop you from entering competitions; if you are "D" grade you will only be competing against other "D" grade shooters. Entering competitions will help you improve your shooting, its a good learning experience and increases your enjoyment of the sport.

It is your responsibility to have your grading card updated; if you break grade, have your card signed by your Club Captain or Secretary. The chart on page 10 shows all the grade breaks for Pistol Australia matches. (available on line at <https://www.pistol.org.au/rules-and-officiating/rules>)

Target Pistol Australia Grading Scores

ISSF						
Discipline	Max Score	Master	A	B	C	D
10m Air Pistol Men	600	575	560	540	500	<500
10m Air Pistol Women	600	575	560	540	500	<500
10m Air Pistol Junior/Youth (Men)	600	565	540	510	450	<450
10 Air Pistol Junior/Youth (Women)	600	565	540	510	450	<450
25m Rapid Fire	600	575	560	525	470	<470
25 Rapid Fire Pistol Junior/Youth	600	565	545	515	460	<460
25m Standard Pistol	600	570	555	530	500	<500
Standard Pistol Junior/Youth	600	560	550	510	465	<465
25m Center Fire Pistol	600	563	565	540	500	<500
25m Pistol Women	600	560	555	520	480	<480
25m Pistol Men	600	563	565	545	510	<510
25m Pistol Junior/Youth	600	560	550	510	465	<465
50m Pistol	600	555	540	510	465	<465
50m Pistol Junior/Youth	600	545	530	500	450	<450

PA Black Powder						
B/Powder 50	400	373	350	320	290	<290
B/Powder 25	400	380	360	340	300	<300

PA Service Pistol						
Service Pistol	900	870	850	800	750	<750
Service Unrestricted	900	885	870	840	800	<800
Service 25 Yard	650	630	605	565	515	<515

Action Pistol						
Discipline	Max Score	Super High Master	High Master	Master	Expert	Sharp Shooter
Action Pistol		1916	1900	1844	1728	1536
						Marksman
						<1536

WA1500 Match						
		High Master	Master	Expert	Sharp Shooter	Marksman
WA1500 Match - Pistol		1476	1440	1380	1290	<1290
WA1500 Match - Revolver		1476	1440	1380	1290	<1290

Metallic Silhouette						
Big Bore Competition						
Discipline	Max Score	International	AAA	AA	A	B
Production & Revolver	40	38-40	33-37	24-32	18-23	11-17
Standing	40	28-40	22-27	16-21	8-15	0-7
Unlimited	40	40	37-39	30-36	25-29	18-24
Unlimited Half-Size	40	38-40	33-37	24-32	18-23	11-17
Unlimited Standing	40	36-40	30-35	22-29	15-21	0-14

Metallic Silhouette						
Field Pistol Competition						
Discipline	Max Score	International	AAA	AA	A	B
Production	40	30-40	23-29	16-22	8-15	0-7
Production Any Sight	40	36-40	30-35	22-29	15-21	0-14

Metallic Silhouette						
Small Bore Competition						
Discipline	Max Score	International	AAA	AA	A	B
Production & Revolver	40	38-40	33-37	24-32	18-23	11-17
Standing	40	28-40	22-27	16-21	8-15	0-7
Unlimited	40	40	37-39	30-36	25-29	18-24
Unlimited Standing	40	36-40	30-35	22-29	15-21	0-14
Unlimited Half-Size	40	38-40	33-37	24-32	18-23	11-17

Metallic Silhouette						
Air Pistol Competition						
Discipline	Max Score	International	AAA	AA	A	B
Standing	40	40	37-39	30-36	25-29	18-24
						C
						<0-17

from Target Pistol Australia website

<https://www.pistol.org.au/rules-and-officiating/rules>

For WA1500 other revolver matches your grade is the same as your 1500 revolver grade. For other 1500 pistol matches your grades are the same as your 1500 pistol grade. Optical is a separate grade.



What is VAPA - how does it help me?



Victorian Amateur Pistol Association Inc. (VAPA) was formed to support the clubs and as you read the 'statement of purpose' you can see why it exists and what it aims to achieve.

Statement of Purpose

- a) To organise encourage and control, in Victoria, the sport of pistol and revolver shooting.
- b) To bring into association persons and clubs interested in the art of shooting in all its branches, and in particular pistol and revolver shooting, and to take steps to promote knowledge and skill of the sport in all its forms.
- c) To undertake and exercise control of competitions, sporting events, displays and other meetings in connection with pistol and revolver shooting in the State of Victoria and to promote and hold, either alone or jointly with any other association, company, club or person, pistol and revolver competitions, matches, exhibitions and trials and to accept and offer, give or contribute towards prizes, medals, awards and certificates of competency and to promote, give or support lectures, entertainment and other sources of instruction or social activity.
- d) To be the central controlling body to which all properly constituted pis-

tol shooting clubs may be affiliated, and when required to do so, to adjudicate on matters affecting either affiliated clubs or their members.

To achieve these objectives VAPA:

1. Provides approved competition matches.
It liaises with police to have a selection of approved matches for clubs and their members to participate in. This results in the large number of approved matches available to members. (see page 43)
2. Provides a framework, an association, where clubs can enjoy and learn the sport. Provides support for the top competitors representing the state at National events.
3. Organises competitions - club Opens, State Championships and Postal Competitions.
4. Keeps members informed of news, future events and results through newsletter and website. <http://www.vapa.org.au/>



Continued on page 12

VAPA Organisation roles

VAPA is working for the members through people in different roles (as at July 2026)

- ◇ **President - Bob Maddocks.** Responsible for the running of the Association. Chairs the meetings. Email: president@vapa.org.au
- ◇ **Secretary - Roger Wakelin.** The initial contact point for club's, members, and the general public. Liaises with Vic Police Licensing & Regulation Division (LRD). Writes and distributes minutes of meetings. Provides name badges. Maintains a database of membership. Provides membership details to LRD and Pistol Australia. Email: secretary@vapa.org.au
- ◇ **Treasurer - Annie Knibbs.** Looks after the financial affairs of VAPA, provides monthly and annual reports, and makes budget recommendations to the clubs at the Committee Of Management meetings. Email: treasurer@vapa.org.au
- ◇ **Executive Officer - Paul Jenner.** The "go between" with Target Pistol Australia, they attend the PA Annual General and Mid-Year meetings, and reports to the Committee of Management meetings. Email: executive.officer@vapa.org.au
- ◇ **Team Manager - Cherie Blake.** Responsible for the "State Team Training Squad", in which members aspiring to the State Team are coached throughout the year. She submit proposals on team selection methods and elimination shoots, and looks after the team at the Nationals. The State Team Selection Sub-Committee decide the successful members who will represent Victoria at National Championships. Email: teammanager@vapa.org.au
- ◇ **VAPA Merchandise Officer - Ian Lindsay.** Manages a mail order service from Beaconsfield Pistol Club to raise money to support the State Team. Details of items available can be found in the *Victorian Pistol News (VPN)*. (Order form on website soon)
- ◇ **Target Secretary - Paul Jenner.** Arranges for the printing and sales of targets and patches. This service based at Beaconsfield PC is provided in an effort to keep costs as low as possible for the clubs. Order form on website <https://vapa.org.au/target-order-form/> Email: targets@vapa.org.au
- ◇ **Newsletter Editor - Cathy Jensen.** Responsible for the production and distribution of the *Victorian Pistol News*. This is a magazine

for all members, produced 4 times a year; March, June, Sept., December. Copies are sent via email or can be viewed or downloaded from the VAPA website. Previous editions are available on the website.

Email: Vicpistolnews@vapa.org.au

◇ **Integrity Officer - Aaron Hanks.**

Laises between VAPA and Target Pistol Australia on integrity matters, for the benefit of members.

Email: integrity@vapa.org.au

◇ **Delegates.** These representatives look after your interests by attending related user-groups, raising and talking about issues that affect you, and report back to the C.O.M. on issues that need discussion

◇ Firearms Consultative Committee (VFCC)

◇ Vicsport

◇ Shooting Sports Council (SSCV)

◇ Firearms Appeals Committee (FAC)

◇ **Coaching Council Director - Rick McGowan.**

Runs the state coaching council (SCC) - organising and training coaches throughout Victoria. It's main job is to provide coaching for all our members. If you want coaching talk to your club secretary who can organise a coaching session to suit your needs.

Email: sccdirector@vapa.org.au

◇ **Juniors** are catered for in a special program and a "Junior Training Camp" is run



each year towards the end of January. A definition of "Junior" for Tri-State competition purposes is *"members will remain as Juniors until the 31st Dec of the year in which they become 21 years of age"*, i.e. if you turn 21 in 2026 you cannot compete as a junior in 2027. Juniors are also able to compete in annual Tri-State matches.

◇ **Competition Controller - Neil Stewart.** Responsible for applications for "open competitions" to the Committee of Management so that clubs do not compete with each other for entries. The Controller also maintains a competition calendar and *Victorian Top Ten* which is published in *Victoria Pistol News* and the website. email: competitioncontroller@vapa.org.au



◇ **Postal Competition Controller - John Butcher.** Runs the "Postal Competition" which lets you shoot



(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

in a state wide competition without leaving your own club.

Ask your club secretary to get information from the Postal Competition Controller if you are not already involved. The winning club in each match wins the coveted state shield and pennant.

◇ **State Referee Council - Director Aaron Hanks, Secretary Graeme Calway, Holster Coordinator Geoff Hoton.**

Apart from training Range Officers, holster accreditation and Judges, it is the go-between to our *National Referee Council*, and thence to the international bodies controlling various disciplines ensuring competitions are running correctly. Without this we couldn't send teams interstate and overseas or host international events in Australia. Judges are rostered for "Open Competitions". Secretary email: Srcsecretary@vapa.org.au

◇ **State Teams.** Each year VAPA sends a team of shooters to the various National Championships. All VAPA members are eligible for selection to the State Teams if they are of the required standard.



*Postal Finals winners 2025
50m Pistol - MISC, Outtrim,
Beaconsfield*

Team members are given the opportunity to represent their State at the highest level in Australia.

The Association subsidises the team members with travel, accommodation, uniforms etc.

How does VAPA operate?

The Association is controlled by an Executive and a Committee of Management.

◇ **The Executive.** Members of the Executive are elected by the general membership (you) on an annual basis. This includes President, Vice Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Officer. This group meets monthly.

◇ **The Committee of Management (COM)** is comprised of two delegates from each of the affiliated clubs (this includes your club) and meets every two months. In order to obtain a fair representation, each club is entitled to one vote for

each twenty five of their members.

It is not practical to expect a member of say Mildura Pistol Club, to travel to Melbourne to attend meetings. Regional clubs can nominate a member of a “city” club to represent them at meetings. By using this (proxy) system the Association is directly controlled by the clubs. Alternatively, delegates can ‘attend’ via the internet using ‘Zoom’. All meetings are “open” and you are welcome to attend as a visitor. Currently meetings rotate between the Melbourne metropolitan clubs; Melbourne International, Oakleigh and Yarra clubs.

Capitation and Affiliation Fees

Each year your fees are paid to VAPA and this is used for:



- ◇ **Target Pistol Australia.** See details at <http://pistol.org.au/> about/ member-benefits

Fees are used to run PA which provides such things as;

- ◇ Access to all kinds of competitions (Nationals, Commonwealth Games, World Games, Olympics and other international events)
- ◇ Provides delegates to interna-

tional bodies,

- ◇ Provides input to the Federal Government,
- ◇ National Coaching Council
- ◇ National Referee Council
- ◇ Junior Camp training and development for young athletes
- ◇ National Championships
- ◇ National web material <https://www.pistol.org.au/news/>

- ◇ **VAPA.** Part of your fees go to VAPA to provide the services listed from page 11.

One special part of your capitation fee provides for a Public Liability and Personal Accident



insurance policy which covers our members and their guns. Without this insurance it would not be possible to have clubs at all, let alone move freely throughout Australia to compete at different venues. When negotiating things like insurance, numbers are the overriding factors in the determination of final cost.



In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can. *Nikos Kazantzakis*



As pistol shooters we are sensitive of the public's image of us so we try to do everything to give assurance that licensed pistol shooters are decent law-abiding citizens.

To participate in the sport you need to have a licence - first a provisional licence, then a full licence after 6 months. And to get one you need to be a member of a pistol club. So the process is...

1. Join a recognised pistol club

You've done that part so next ...

2. Complete a handgun safety course

This is normally organised by your club, takes about 4 hours and a certificate is issued.



3. Obtain a national police certificate

You are required to have your fingerprints taken by the police, then a background security check is done. Allow about 10 days then, if all is ok, a certificate is issued.



(Some clubs may require this to be done prior to joining the club.)

4. Obtain a provisional handgun licence

Send in your application along with photo ID, certified copies of the above documents to Vic Police Licensing Regulations Div. (LRD) see page 61; club membership proof, safety course and police certificate. (The application is now done online on LRD website see page 61). Allow about 3 weeks. An interim paper licence will be sent to you, then later a plastic one.

This provisional licence allows you to participate and use handguns and purchase ammunition, but not purchase handguns. It is valid for a maximum of 12 months. It does not allow you to borrow a handgun.

5. Attend and participate in club shooting events

A requirement to retain your club membership and to proceed to a full licence is you must participate. There is a specific number of participations (official club matches) required before you can apply for a full licence — minimum of five.

6. Obtain a general category handgun licence

After six months on your provisional licence you can apply for the full licence called 'General Category Handgun Licence'.

Send in your application to LRD (application on at LRD website see page 61 for details) along with certified copies of club membership, firearms safety course and police certificate. It must be signed by a club representative.



Allow about one month and your photo licence will be posted to you, valid for 3 years.

Your licence allows you to participate in any matches in the state (and beyond), purchase handguns and ammunition as well as borrowing a handgun within the conditions of the licence.





HAWKESBURY RIVER BULLET COMPANY

Hawkesbury River Bullet Company (HRBC) is one of the oldest and most respected Hard cast projectile manufacturers in Australia.

We pride ourselves on our reputation as being the highest quality projectiles available.

phone 0437 657 823
email sales@hrbc.com.au

For a full product list
please visit our website www.hrbc.com.au



new website





The law requires licensed pistol shooters to participate in the sport; 'use it or lose it' is very appropriate. There are minimum numbers of attendances depending on the classes of guns you own. You need to record matches and shoots for your classes of handguns owned and these are sent to LRD annually. (The club does this for the members.)

Approved Matches

There is a police list of approved matches for Victoria. (see list on page 43). From this list each club decides those they will conduct at your ranges. When you compete in an approved match you record this as a 'match'.

Club Shoots

These are basically official practices. The law says a 'shoot' is "for preparation for participating in an approved match", organised by your club, at an approved range. So you can't just muck around and call it a shoot—practice for a match is 'a shoot'. On your participation form you record this as a 'shoot'.

Handgun Classes

Class 1 includes Air handguns

Class 2 includes Rimfire handguns

Class 3 includes Centrefire handguns not larger than .38 calibre, and all black powder handguns

Class 4 includes Centrefire handguns larger than .38 calibre to .45

Your Participation Requirements

It's not how many guns you have as much as what classes they are.

- ♦ You could have three .38 revolvers but they only include Class 3; one class.
- ♦ If you have a .22 (Class 2), and air pistol (Class 1) and a .38 (Class 3) that's three classes.

You need to understand it is your responsibility to record your participations. The club will assist by providing forms to fill out or on a computer.

The example shows how many times a year you must participate at events (i.e. either matches or shoots). Also the minimum number of days you must attend the range. If you are a keen shooter there will be no problem meeting these requirements. If you get sick or have some legitimate reason for not meeting these requirements you can apply for leniency with the Chief Commissioner. (contact your secretary about this)

Participation Examples:

You own one class of handgun

- ◇ You must participate in 10 events:
 - ◇ 6 of these must be matches as a competitor *
 - ◇ Plus 4 events (matches or shoots) for each class
 - ◇ On a total of 10 separate days.

You own two classes of handgun

- ◇ You must participate in 10 events:
 - ◇ 6 of these must be matches as a competitor *
 - ◇ Plus 4 events (matches or shoots) for each class
 - ◇ On a total of 10 separate days.

You own three classes of handgun

- ◇ You must participate in 12 events:
 - ◇ 6 of these must be matches as a competitor *
 - ◇ Plus 4 events (matches or shoots) for each class
 - ◇ On a total of 10 separate days.

You own four classes of handgun

- ◇ You must participate in 16 events:
 - ◇ 6 of these must be matches as a competitor *
 - ◇ Plus 4 events (matches or shoots) for each class
 - ◇ On a total of 10 separate days.

** if you are the range officer for a match you can claim that as a participation, also if you are a safety course instructor or Judge etc.*

Example from LRD website:

Kate owns 3 Centrefire handguns, 1 Air pistol and 3 Rimfire handguns—that's 3 classes.

Therefore she is required to participate in a total of 12 events overall on no less than 10 separate days. These 12 events must comprise of at least 6 matches (of any class). As part of these 12 events, Kate must also ensure that she participates in a minimum of 4 events for each

class of handgun that she owns (comprising of either matches, shoots, or a combination of both).



See police

website: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/sport-target-shooters-clubs-collectors-and-hunters#sport-target-shooters-and-clubs>

Types of Handguns



Handguns that you encounter will generally fall into three broad categories.

1. Single Shot

Single-shot handguns can be divided into four categories.



1. Air Pistol: A handgun firing a projectile commonly propelled by compressed air or CO2. (Most air pistols are single shot but some are able to load multiple shots like a Semi-automatic.)

2. Free Pistol: A handgun firing a .22LR calibre rimfire cartridge and designed for 50 metre precision shooting.



3. Single Shot Silhouette Pistol: A handgun designed for silhouette competitions and chambered for very powerful cartridges, including some rifle calibres.



4. Single shot Black Powder (BP): these can be factory made, or custom made, using a cap and ball or a BP cartridge in various calibres.



2. Semi-Automatic

With magazines holding up to 10 rounds, semi-autos range in calibre



from .22LR rimfire to .45 centrefire. (some air pistols can also be classed as semi-auto). Semi autos can be single action or double action.

3. Revolvers

The name says it all - the rounds of ammo go in the cylinder which 'revolves' to align each round with the barrel. They range in calibre from the .22LR rimfire to .45 and bigger.

Revolvers come in two general types:

1. Single Action
Revolvers (SA): With SA revolvers the hammer must be manually cocked for each shot before the trigger can be squeezed. Single Action match revolvers fall into this category.



2. Double Action Revolvers (DA): With DA revolvers squeezing the trigger both cocks the hammer (first action) and fires the cartridge (second action). For precision matches the hammer may be cocked manually which allows a lighter trigger pull when firing.



To start on the right path a good second hand gun would be a better investment than a 'cheapie' new one.



Purchasing and Storing Handguns



Prior to applying to purchasing a handgun you need to decide where you will keep it. If it will be at home you need to have an appropriate safe for storage. Handguns are designated Category H firearms (Category A, B, C&D are long arms). Ensure your safe is Category H approved. The Firearms Act stipulates that storage must not be easily penetrable, made of steel; **this has been interpreted by VAPA as a minimum of 4.75mm thick steel.** Most rifle safes are only 3mm so are not suitable for handguns.



If the safe weighs less than 150kg, it must be bolted to the floor or walls. It is the police's job to inspect safes but clubs usually require they also inspect it using the VAPA "Form 3" to confirm it has complied with the legal requirements. (available from club secretaries).



Application to Acquire a Handgun

You need a General Category Handgun Licence prior to applying for a permit to acquire a handgun. As some clubs may have different attendance requirements prior to endorsing a member's application for a permit, check before making any commitment to purchase. Your first pistol purchase is different than subsequent ones so be aware of the conditions. The process of acquiring a handgun is:

- ◇ Find the gun you want to purchase and pay a deposit. You will need to know at least the type of pistol and some details for your application.
- ◇ Complete your application for a Permit to Acquire (PTA) and submit it to your club for approval. (PTA forms can be downloaded from LRD—see page 61 on done online at your dealer.)
- ◇ You or your pistol club will send the application to Licensing & Regulation Division (LRD) of the police via post or email.
- ◇ Your permit will be posted to you. By law, there is a 28-day delay for first-time buyers. Make sure the

(Continued on page 22)

details are correct - if not, LRD will send it back.

You won't be able to complete the deal if the PTA is incorrect. PTA is Valid for 30 days



- ◇ Pay the permit fee at the bank or online.
- ◇ Register the gun at a licensed gun dealer and collect your gun.

Registering your handgun

For a local private purchase the buyer and seller visit a licensed firearms dealer to finalise the transaction. You need to take your paid valid and current Permit to Acquire (PTA). The seller brings the firearm that is being transferred and the seller signs as the current owner. You pay the transfer fee and collect your new gun.

If your purchase is from interstate the gun needs to be sent to your licensed firearms dealer where you provide the PTA and the transfer is completed as above.

The dealer records all the details and

forwards the completed permit to LRD who issue you a 'Certificate of Firearms Registration' for your new purchase. This is a valuable document showing your proof of ownership of the particular handgun. If you sell the gun you use this certificate to complete the transfer to the new owner.

Limits on your first handgun purchases

In the first 6 months of your General Category Handgun Licence you are limited to certain firearms. You can have:

1. an air pistol,
2. or a rimfire pistol
3. or a centrefire pistol
4. a black powder handgun

So you can have an air pistol or a choice of rimfire or centrefire (not both) or a black powder handgun. You can't have a .22 and a .32 or .38. (FA Act 104, on page 180).

Storage

As mentioned, you need to have a place organised for storing your pistols. At some stage you will be visited by the police to inspect that your storage is legal.

When you wish to take your pistol to the range follow the guideline on Transporting Handguns.





Handguns in vehicles

In Victoria, we need to be aware that the police have their own interpretation of the Firearms Act. While the Act states that firearms must be secure when transported, the police are interpreting that to mean more. Naturally ammunition needs to be separate from the pistols.

VAPA recommends all members take extra steps to secure their handguns while in transport. We recommend a lockable container be attached to your vehicle and you store your handguns in this while in transit. If it's a car it can be in the boot. In a wagon, in the rear area. In a ute or truck with space behind the driver's seat - put it there. If there is no space inside the cab then a lockable container needs to be attached to the tray. This could be like a large tool box. Boxes can be bolted to the vehicle or chained with a padlock.

The intention is that your firearms must not be easily accessible. For instance in an accident you may be hurt, and unconscious, but your guns will still be secure.



Transporting Handguns by Plane

If you need to take your handguns via air there are different regulations;



Firearms are considered a "security" item and must be declared at check in. There, yellow tape will be placed on your gun box, and at the destination, you will have to collect it from the Secure Baggage area. Have your Licence available for ID purposes at both points.

Ammunition is the "touchy" item, which must be declared at check in, and must be carried in appropriate containers, commercial packaging or MTM type plastic boxes. You are limited to a total of 5 kilos of ammunition. It may be in your checked in baggage or your gun box. If in the gun box, it must be in a locked container.

An authority for the carriage of ammunition must be held, which can be obtained from the Dangerous Goods section of Qantas. (Full details on air travel with handguns can be found in the September 2015 edition of *Victorian Pistol News* on the VAPA website).



Victorian State Record Holders



Victorian Amateur
Pistol Association Inc.

Victorian State Record

	Competitor	Record	Date	Venue
50metre Pistol	Daniel Repacholi	559 7x	2016	MISC
Rapid Fire (post 2003 .22LR)	Sergei Evglevski	586 25x	2021	Yarra
Rapid Fire Final	Sergei Evglevski	30	2018	Yarra
25m Centrefire	Bruce Quick	585	1996	Melton
Standard Pistol	Bruce Quick	580	1999	Shepparton
10m Air Pistol Men	David Moore	583	2003	Shepparton
10m Air Pistol Men Final	Daniel Repacholi	238.3	2024	Geelong
10m Air Pistol Women (60-shot)	Elena Galiabovitch	575 17x	2025	Mid Murray
10m Air Pistol Women Final	Elena Galiabovitch	235.3	2025	Mid Murray
10m Air Pistol Junior Men (60-shot)	Daniel Repacholi	571	2000	Mid Murray
10m Air Pistol Junior Women (60-shot)	Talia Woodroffe	566 12x	2025	Mid Murray
25metre Pistol Women	Elena Galiabovitch	585 18x	2023	Yackandandah
25metre Pistol Women Final	Elena Galiabovitch	38	2024	Geelong
25metre Pistol Junior	Andrew Gonczol	578	1990	Oakleigh
25metre Pistol (Men)	Ravi Kumar	573 17x	2026	MISC
Service Pistol	Peter Muscat	887	1991	Ballarat
Service Unrestricted	Peter Muscat	886	1989	Melton
Service 25yards	Paul Jensen	636	2016	Mtn District
WA1500 Revolver	Jamie Longbottom	1488 99x	2023	Mtn District
WA1500 Pistol	Donnal Pollard	1489 89x	2010	Outtrim
WA1500 Optical #	Jamie Longbottom	1487 86x	2023	Mtn District
WA1500 Optical Revolver	Andy Miller	1496 103x	2025	Mtn District
WA1500 Optical Pistol	Chris Banfield	1489 104x	2024	Mildura
WA60 Open Match	Chris Banfield	598 46x	2023	Mtn District
WA60 Distinguished Revolver	Paul Jensen	589 32x	2023	Mtn District
WA60 Distinguished Pistol	Chris Banfield	590 30x	2024	Mildura
WA48 Standard Revolver 4"	Craig Parke	478 28x	2023	Mtn District
WA48 Standard Semi Auto	Craig Parke	476 37x	2024	Mildura
Black Powder 25 metre	Noel Ryan	378	1980	Melton
Black Powder 50 metre	Dennis Martin	374	1998	Yarra
Black Powder Inter. (Adj. Sight Rev.)	John Sammartino	94	2022	Ballarat
Black Powder Inter. (Fixed Sight Rev.)	Brian Subkey	91	2019	Mtn District
Black Powder Inter. (Modern Single Shot)	David Hastie	95	2019	Mtn District
Black Powder Inter. (Replica Single Shot)	John Sammartino	92	2019	Mtn District
Action Pistol (Open)	Mark Blake	1920 171x	2019	Yarra
Action Pistol (Metallic)	Mark Blake	1900 132x	2021	Yarra
Action Pistol (Ladies)	Anita Mackiewicz	1918 162x	2015	Mildura
Action Pistol (Optical)	Craig Ginger	1884 125x	2022	Geelong
Action Pistol (Juniors)	Corben Quick	1761 93x	2014	Echuca

State Record can only be set at State Championships~

2024 WA1500 Optical changed to Optical Pistol and Optical Revolver

State records can only be set at State Championships

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Adam: 0400 079 020
Peter 0490 338 570

Range and Firearm Safety



While each club will have their own rules on safety depending on their circumstances there are some basic rules we all must follow when we are around firearms. Fortunately shooting ranges are usually very safe because the rules for safety are so strict. Follow them and everyone has a good time. Neglect them and it could be disastrous. Here are some important ones;

Firearms Safety Rules

If you can learn these few rules it will help you (and others) to be around firearms with safety.

1. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded (many people have been hurt by supposedly 'empty' guns).
2. The barrel must always point in a safe direction, usually down range. (This ensures nobody would be hurt if it did go off.)
3. Do not put your finger on the trigger until the gun is pointing at the target, or on preparing to shoot.
4. When the range is announced as 'clear' and people go onto the range all firearms must be unloaded and **NOBODY MUST TOUCH A FIREARM!**
5. Never touch or handle any gun without the owners permission.

Its common sense really when you think about it—firearms are potentially very dangerous and must be handled

4 Universal Laws of Gun Safety

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with the utmost care and respect. If you don't follow these safety rules you will be asked to leave the range.

You would be a danger to yourself and others.

If you have a visitor it is your responsibility as a member that they follow the rules. They may not know the rules so help by telling them.

Who is in charge of safety?

Other than at an organised competition VAPA have defined the following range safety rules:

"When two or more people are shooting on the same range, one individual must assume the role of 'Range Supervisor' to control any movement forward of the firing line. When one person is shooting on the range that person is responsible for range safety".

These are the minimum standards for VAPA clubs - some clubs may have even stricter rules; these are the minimum.

Range Safety Rules

If you enter a range during an organised match make yourself known to the Range Officer who may be wearing a coloured vest. You should be wearing your identification card and wait for a "CEASE FIRE" before interrupting him/her.



'Cease Fire'

In due course the Range Officer will call a "CEASE FIRE" in the following manner. "CEASE FIRE" (STOP in some competitions) - "UNLOAD"

At this command all shooters must clear their firearms and show they are empty. There must not be any further handling of firearms during a cease fire.

The Range Officer will inspect all firearms to ensure they are unloaded and pointing down range:

- ◆ Semi-automatic pistols must have the slide open, the magazine removed with its open end facing the range officer.
- ◆ Revolvers must be left with the cylinder open (on double action revolvers) or the loading gate open (on single action revolvers) facing the range officer.
- ◆ Longarms must be left in a condition that it is obvious that the firearm is unloaded.

When satisfied that all firearms are safe the Range Officer will announce: "THE RANGE IS CLEAR". This means the Range Officer is satisfied that it is safe to go onto the range.

(Continued on page 28)

Breach Flags

These are compulsory in ISSF matches and while optional in others it is good safety practice.

These are pieces of plastic with a visible indicator, inserted into the breech to show it is empty. Air

Pistol breech flags need to extend right through the barrel.

An economical flag is a piece of whipper snipper line with some insulation tape attached to act as a flag.



the range, you must ask the Range Officer to check and “CLEAR” your firearm. When the Range Officer is satisfied that your firearm is unloaded and in a safe condition, and any magazines empty. He will say “CLEAR” and you may put the firearm away and leave the range.

Ensure you follow the correct procedure when putting guns away - take your gun box/bag to the shooting bench and ensure it is positioned so the gun can be put away while the barrel remains facing down range or in a safe direction. Rule 1: treat all guns as loaded and Rule 2: barrel pointed in a safe direction.

Range is Clear

When you hear this you may proceed onto the range, not before, to put up your target, remove your target or inspect and patch/replace your target. When all shooters have returned from the range the Range Officer, when satisfied that everyone has returned, will announce:

“LOAD”, “FIRE”, or “START” (these commands will vary if you are shooting in a competition) “YOU MAY NOW COMMENCE FIRING”. The Range Officer is the only one who decides when it is safe to load and fire.

Clearing your guns

When you are ready to leave



Use Of Holsters

Some matches require the use of holsters. For a member to use a holster they must have completed the “holster qualification course”. For more information contact the Referee Council secretary. See Page 14

Personal Protection

Always wear ear muffs or plugs (or both). Eye protection is important and compulsory for many events. With ISSF shooting glasses ensure the occluder is down over the non-shooting eye. Spectacles or safety glasses are a minimum safety standard.





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Basic Handgun Cleaning



Guns cost money and the better they are the more they cost. To protect your investment there are some things you need to do and the main one is cleaning. Guns are usually made of steel and steel rusts so there are some ways to prevent that happening. Here are some questions you may have which will be answered further on:

- ◆ How often should I clean my gun?
- ◆ Do all guns need cleaning the same?
- ◆ Which parts do I have to take off?
- ◆ Which direction do I push the cleaning rod through the barrel?
- ◆ When do I use brushes and mops?
- ◆ Should I use oil & what sort should I use?



You have gone through the process of getting a licence then being able to buy your first handgun. It may have cost you a lot so it is important you keep it in good condition so that a) it will keep working well and b) so it will hold its value by not going rusty or worse.

The idea is to remove dirt and lead residue ready for the next time you use it.

You could buy a cleaning kit or buy the items individually. Its your choice. Ideally you should have an owner's manual



for the gun you want to clean. If you didn't get one then check with the manufacturer or online. Check out - <http://stevespages.com/page7b.htm> where you will find hundreds of owners manual in PDF format; download and print a copy.



Cleaning items you need:

1. Cleaning rod
2. Rod tips—brushes, mops, jags, slotted tips
3. Patches for rod tips
4. Solvent
5. Breech and crevice brushes
6. General rags and cotton buds
7. Oil and silicone cloths

Cotton Patches. Patches in sizes to suite different bores, when fitted to jag. Also available in rolls which can be cut to size.

They can also be made from old tee shirts



Bore Solvent. Soaks into any residue—then cleaned with bore brushes.



Breech Brushes. Double-ended nylon brushes for tight places. Even tooth brushes. Dont use steel bristles.

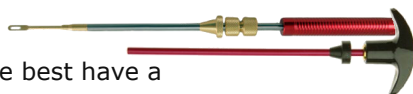


Oil. Light liquid gun oil (not spray), used sparingly.



Cleaning rod for handguns

(better than one for a long rifle).



The best have a muzzle guard to protect guns where you must clean from the muzzle end. Some have male threads, some female. It important that all attachments fit the thread.

Bore brushes. Nylon is ok but bronze is better.

They must be for the correct calibre. Best not to use steel brushes - they can scratch!

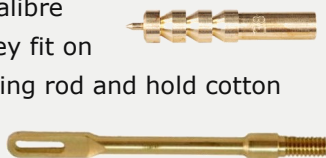


Bore Mops. For bore and general cleaning in tight places! They must be for the correct calibre.



Cleaning jag and slotted tips.

For the calibre used. They fit on the cleaning rod and hold cotton patches



Cotton Buds

and rags. For general cleaning.



Oily Cloth. Wiping cloth for all guns—keeps away rust.



Cleaning steps:

Step 1. **Preparation.** Ensure the gun is unloaded - check the breech, cylinders and magazines! Wear safety glasses. Have a clean clear work space - so parts don't get lost. Lay down a towel or large oven tray to help keep everything in one confined area.



Step 2. **Access to the barrel.** Review the owners manual to see how to access the barrel for cleaning. Revolvers only need to open the cylinder. Pistols will usually have a way to remove the barrel - its always best to insert cleaning rods from the breech if possible.



Step 3. **Protect the trigger area.** If the trigger mechanism is exposed apply a protective cloth to prevent solvent entering.



Step 3. **Apply cleaner to the barrel.** Pour some bore solvent into a dish or jar. (Its best not to dip the brush or mop into the bottle as you could deposit dirt). Attach a piece of cloth to the slotted tip on your cleaning rod and dip it in the dish of solvent. Push the patch through the barrel towards the muzzle, from the breech end on pistols. (On revolvers you need to use the muzzle end. Take care to not scratch or damage the end of the barrel—the muzzle.) Leave the solvent in the barrel to soften any deposits for a few minutes.



Step 4. **Apply cleaner to the breech area and cylinders.** Apply some solvent to a mop or brush and wipe out the breech, cylinders and any area of powder residue.

Step 5. **Removing dirt and powder residue from barrel.**

Now that you've applied solvent to soak into dirty areas its time to scrub with the bronze brushes. Push the bronze brush right through the barrel 5 or 6 times.



Next apply a patch to the jag and push it through the barrel. Let the patch drop off. Repeat with a second patch and let it drop off. Check inside by holding to a light. If not perfectly clean then repeat.



Step 6. Removing dirt and carbon from other areas. Now its time to scrub the other areas; breech face, forcing cone, slide, magazine and mag well, cylinder and crane with a bronze or nylon brush then wipe with clean patches and rags. Don't use steel brushes ever! Steel will scratch and do more harm than good - bronze is far safer.



What you have done is softened any deposits by applying a solvent, scrubbed it clean and wiped it dry.

Note. You can clean the solvent from your brushes with Shellite or Mineral Turpentine. Discard the dirty solvent - don't return it to the bottle!

Step 7. Reassembly. Its time to re assemble everything. Resist the temptation to apply oil all over the place. Never oil inside a magazine. Oil attracts dirt more than anything so it should be used sparingly only as per the manufacturer's manual. Be careful of any woodwork; most will be sealed but you don't want oil getting into the wood. If its an issue, remove woodwork prior to cleaning.



Step 8. Ready for storage and use. Now your gun is complete and clean. One last thing wipe it over with a lightly oiled rag or silicone cloth. This will resist any chance of rust. While silicone and oil will help resist rust, remember, if you touch the gun at all you must reapply the coating - your skin will apply a salty substance and cause rust. So, every time you use your guns, clean them and enjoy your shooting.



Note: the rust prevention information above is primarily for blued guns, stainless steel guns don't rust but still need cleaning.



Types of Ammunition for Handguns



Those new to shooting will notice there are two main types of live ammunition; rimfire and centrefire. As the picture shows the rimfire is fired when the firing pin hits the rim of the brass case. With the centrefire the primer in the centre is hit to fire the round.

Centre fire



Rim fire

The most common type of rimfire ammunition we use is .22 Long Rifle. Don't let the name 'long rifle' fool you - there are others we no longer use like .22 Short, .22 Magnum, even .22 Long etc. Just remember .22LR (short for Long Rifle).



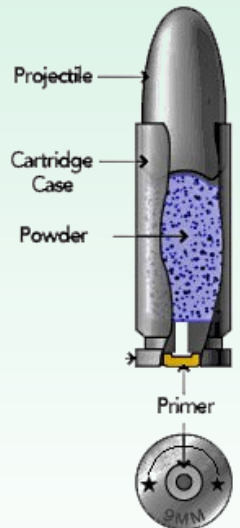
Rimfire ammunition is purchased as complete, assembled, rounds. They can't be reloaded so each shooter will try various brands and types to help them get the best results.

If you are purchasing for ISSF events like Standard Pistol or Rapid Fire etc don't buy the fast, high powered ammo made for rifle shooting game. You are better to buy ammunition specifically made for pistols and target shooting. Solid rather than hollow point projectiles and not high velocity.

Some pistols operate better with one brand than another. An idea is to obtain one box of each of the types you think best and narrow down the options until you find the one that works best (feeding and extracting) and good results.

Centrefire ammunition is another story. This is used in many matches and is usually reloaded to the shooter's experience and the matches' specifications. When starting out you may like to find a reputable reloader to make ammunition for you. Later you will likely make your own.

One of the most common calibres is .38 Special but there are lots of others used including .32SWL, 9mm, .38 Super up to .44 Mag, and 45ACP. Metallic Silhouette have special guns with rifle rounds.





Flat Point



Conical



Round Nose



Round Nose Flat Point



Semi Wadcutter



Wadcutter



Button Nose Wadcutter



Round Nose Wadcutter

One difference between rimfire and centrefire ammunition is, with centrefire you can choose all the components to suit yourself.

The components are the case, the projectile (also known as the bullet), gun powder and the primer.

- ◆ Cartridge cases are usually made of brass or nickel plated with small or large primer pockets.
- ◆ The projectile is available in various shapes and weights with the wadcutter or semi wadcutter or button nosed wadcutter the most popular for paper targets as they make a clean hole. For metal targets round nosed can be used. (Most ranges do not allow jacketed bullets, so check before considering these).
- ◆ Primers come in two sizes with 'small pistol' and 'large pistol' available. Small pistol is the most common for .38 with some larger calibres offering a choice of either.
- ◆ Powder is what gives the ammunition power so is chosen carefully. Too much produces lots of recoil and not enough causes the bullet to be unstable in flight (wobbles) with poor results. So the powder load is chosen

carefully. Some matches have 'power factors' (like Service Pistol, Action Pistol and ICORE etc) so there is a minimum load needed - that way everyone has to contend with some recoil.

This 'power factor' is tested by using a device called a chronograph. (See page 67 for power factor details). The 'chrono' measures the speed of the bullet. The device is setup up in front of the shooter who fires shots through the openings in the chronograph. Each time a reading shows the speed of the bullet. Power Factor is a calculation of bullet weight and speed. At Open competitions and higher each competitor supplies some ammunition for testing. If this isn't found to be fast enough the competitor is disqualified.



Obviously to enable centre fire ammunition to be made some special equipment is involved; a reloading press to join all the components together. If you want to get into reloading talk to the best shooters in your club who do reloading. It can be rewarding if you are careful. See the directory on page 61 for a list of suppliers.



Pistol Shooters' Checklist



Anyone new to a sport realises how easy it is to forget things you shouldn't. You want to remember all the things to take to the range or match but often forget something you shouldn't.

Depending on the match you plan to shoot, the following list will need to be changed to suit your particular needs.

1. **Handguns** suited for the planned matches including magazines.

2. **Ammunition** suited to the guns and matches in sufficient quantities - safely stored

3. **Range bag or case** for all your shooting needs; this may or may not always include your pistols which could be carried separately. Some range bags have wheels which can save your back. A recent idea is to have a set of folding wheels to assist.

4. **Licences and paperwork.** This is the stuff so easy to forget:

- ♦ Handgun licence (this is best carried in your wallet)
- ♦ VAPA photo ID and current year sticker
- ♦ VAPA grading card
- ♦ Holster accreditation card
- ♦ Match rules or course of fire cards



5. Safety gear.

- ◆ Ear muffs or plugs
- ◆ Eye protection / shooting glasses

6. Match gear.

- ◆ Spotting scope
- ◆ Match timer / stop watch
- ◆ Sight black / smoker, and fuel
- ◆ Tools for sight adjustment etc
- ◆ Holster and belt
- ◆ Speedloaders, magazines, moon clips
- ◆ Tote case for carrying gear down-range (Service type matches)



7. Personal gear.

- ◆ Clothing suitable for the climate and the rules
- ◆ Footwear—some shooter's use special shoes
- ◆ Water (and food)
- ◆ Sunscreen
- ◆ Insect repellent



Single Action



Action, Service, ICORE, WA1500



ISSF



There are many factors involved in producing a good shot. The following tips are very basic, and provided to get you on the right track.

Which is your best eye for shooting - Which is your dominant eye?

Close your eyes and point at something, anything. Open your eyes and see what you are pointing at. Keep pointing and close one eye and then the other. One eye will be your dominant eye and still pointing at the object. The other will be off a bit. Not all right handed people are right-eye dominant, many are left-eye dominant. The thing is, with this information you can setup for using the correct eye - including shooting glasses.

Grip (for one-hand shooting)

1. Pick up the gun by the barrel with your non-shooting hand and fit it into the shooting hand.
2. Spread the hand and push the "V", between thumb and forefinger, as high as possible into the back of the grip.
3. The fingers between the first and second joints should be along the front of the grip. Thumb and finger

tips relaxed.

4. Trigger finger should be clear of the grip as much as possible.
5. The trigger should be pulled straight back, with the pressure on the first half of the pad of the finger.
6. Ideally the gun should be gripped the same way every time; this may require modification to the shape of the grip to get consistency.

Stance

1. The feet should be shoulder width apart and parallel to each other.
2. Your weight, with the pistol, should be evenly distributed on both feet.
3. Stand erect, but relaxed, to avoid any body strain.
4. Stance should be straight with the head held upright.
5. The elbow and wrist of the shooting arm should be straight. (ISSF and one-handed matches.) The non-shooting hand should be anchored either in a pocket or belt at the front to stop any possible movement.
6. Eyes in line with the sights.

(Continued on page 40)

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7. To adjust alignment with the target move the entire body from the feet up. Don't twist the body or move your arm only.

Sights

1. The front sight must be clearly visible.
2. There should be sufficient light visible either side of the front sight - the idea is to keep the light on either side the same width.
3. The top of the front sight should align with the top of the rear sight (see picture)

4. Focus on the front sight only!

You won't be able to see the target in clear focus if you concentrate on the front sight but

that is what you must do - concentrate on the front sight.



Breathing

As the firearm is lifted take in a slightly more than average breath.

As the sights come into the aiming area release a little of the breath and hold until the shot breaks.

Trigger Control

Start to apply trigger pressure as soon as the sights come into the aiming area of the target.

The trigger finger continues to apply steady pressure while the shooter concentrates on the sight picture. Wait for the shot to break.

Follow Through

'Follow through' is keeping the sights aligned until after the shot has left the barrel. As the shot breaks, continue to focus on the sight picture for a couple of seconds. *(This cant be done in rapid fire matches—but the idea is to ensure the barrel remains still until the bullet has gone.)*

After recoil the sights will return to the position held before the release of the shot, hold this sight picture one or two seconds before lowering the handgun.

If you were watching the sights when the shot broke, you should be able to say where the shot went before looking at the target. That's "calling the shot".

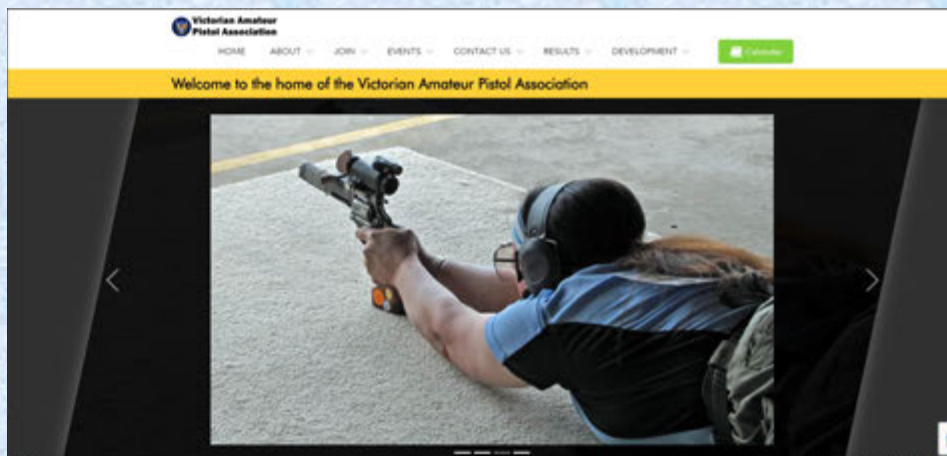
If possible, seek help from a coach. We recommend new shooters get the best information so you learn good habits from the beginning. The Coaching Council is the best place to start looking. (p.13)





www.vapa.org.au

The VAPA website is available to the public and members with lots of information like the calendar with entry forms to competitions.



The website contains the following:

- ◆ Member Benefits - Newsletters and Handbook
- ◆ All about VAPA, its history and its affiliations
- ◆ The VAPA Constitution
- ◆ HR Policies, Insurance for members and clubs
- ◆ Target orders. Information for Juniors
- ◆ All the competitions we are allowed to shoot
- ◆ Information on guns
- ◆ Grades, Coaching, Refereeing
- ◆ Calendar of upcoming events and the entry forms
- ◆ Results of competitions, list of State Champions
- ◆ State Teams

Shooting Matches Available to Members



The government legislates which matches we can shoot (see list of Approved Handgun Matches). Not all are shot at VAPA clubs.



ISSF <http://www.pistol.org.au/issf>

- ◆ 50m Pistol (Free Pistol) p44
- ◆ 10m Air Pistol p45
- ◆ 25m Standard Pistol p46
- ◆ 25m Rapidfire Pistol p47
- ◆ 25m Centrefire Pistol p48
- ◆ 25m Pistol (Sports Pistol) p47



WA1500 <http://www.pistol.org.au/wa1500match>

- p52-53
- ◆ WA1500 Revolver
- ◆ WA1500 Pistol
- ◆ WA1500 Optical Revolver
- ◆ WA1500 Optical Pistol
- ◆ WA60 Open Match
- ◆ WA60 Distinguished Revolver
- ◆ WA60 Distinguished Pistol
- ◆ WA48 Std Revolver 4"
- ◆ WA48 Std Semi Auto Pistol



Black Powder <http://www.pistol.org.au/pa-matches>

- ◆ 25m & 50m p49



Service Pistol

- ◆ Service p50
- ◆ Service Unrestricted p50
- ◆ Service 25yds p51



Classic Pistol

- ◆ 25m p56
- ◆ 50m



Metallic Silhouette p55

<https://pistol.org.au/metallic-silhouette/>

- ◆ Big Bore, Field Pistol
- ◆ Small Bore



Single Action (AKA Western Action) p58

<http://sasa.ssaqld.org.au/>



ICORE p57

<https://www.icoreaustralia.org.au/>

- ◆ Open,
- ◆ Limited, Limited 6 & Classic



Action Pistol <http://www.pistol.org.au/actionpistol>

- ◆ Open p54
- ◆ Metallic Sights



IPSC p59

<https://www.ipsc.org.au/>

- ◆ Standard
- ◆ Open
- ◆ Classic and Revolver

Most matches are from international origins and retained using the original rules of the organisation responsible. Some have been Australianised to our local gun laws and conditions.

Some matches are contested with competitors using different handguns. This applies when the course of fire is the same but there maybe differences in competitor's gender, pistol type or ammunition used. E.g. ISSF Centrefire and 25m Pistol are often shot together.



VICTORIA POLICE

Approved Handgun Shooting Matches

Calibre of .38 inch or less

1. Air Pistol
2. Standard Pistol
3. Centrefire Pistol
4. Rapid Fire Pistol
5. 50 Metre Pistol
6. 25 Metre Pistol
7. Open Division
8. Standard Division
9. Classic Division
10. Production Division
11. Revolver Division
12. Open Division
13. Limited Division
14. Unlimited Centrefire Division
15. Unlimited Rimfire Division
16. Stock Firearm Division
17. Production Firearm Division
18. Production Rimfire Division
19. Big Bore
20. Small Bore
21. Air Pistol
22. Field Pistol
23. One Match
24. Service Pistol
25. Service Pistol Unrestricted
26. Service Pistol 25 Yards
27. Police and Service Pistol
28. 1500 Match
29. 25 Metre
30. 50 Metre
31. International Black Powder including Mariette, Colt, Kuchenreuter, Cominazzo and Tanzutsu
32. Combined Services Pistol
33. Classic Pistol 25 Metre
34. Classic Pistol 50 Metre
35. International Mayleigh Match
36. National Match Course
37. 900 Match Course

International Shooting Sport Federation
 International Shooting Sport Federation
 International Shooting Sport Federation
 International Shooting Sport Federation
 International Shooting Sport Federation
 International Practical Shooting Confederation
 International Practical Shooting Confederation
 International Practical Shooting Confederation
 International Practical Shooting Confederation
 International Practical Shooting Confederation
 International Confederation of Revolver Enthusiasts
 International Confederation of Revolver Enthusiasts
 International 1920 Match or NRA Action Match
 International 1920 Match or NRA Action Match
 International 1920 Match or NRA Action Match
 International 1920 Match or NRA Action Match
 Metallic Silhouette
 Metallic Silhouette
 Metallic Silhouette
 Metallic Silhouette
 Single Action
 Service Pistol
 Service Pistol
 Service Pistol
 Service Pistol
 Service Pistol
 Service Pistol
 Black Powder
 Black Powder

Black Powder
 Combined Services Pistol Discipline
 Pre 1955 Services Handguns
 Pre 1955 Services Handguns
 NRA Pistol
 NRA Pistol
 NRA Pistol

Calibre of .38 - .45 inch

50. Big Bore
51. Field Pistol
52. One Match
53. 25 Metre
54. 50 Metre
55. International Black Powder including Mariette, Colt, Kuchenreuter, Cominazzo and Tanzutsu
56. Classic Pistol 25 Metre
57. Classic Pistol 50 Metre
58. National Match Course
59. 900 Match Course
60. Combined Services Pistol
61. Police and Service Pistol
62. Classic Division

Metallic Silhouette
 Metallic Silhouette
 Single Action
 Black Powder
 Black Powder

Black Powder
 Pre 1955 Services Handguns
 Pre 1955 Services Handguns
 NRA Pistol
 NRA Pistol
 Combined Services Pistol Discipline
 Service Pistol
 International Practical Shooting Confederation

Calibre of over .45 inch

70. 25 Metre
71. 50 Metre
72. International Black Powder including Mariette, Colt, Kuchenreuter, Cominazzo and Tanzutsu

Black Powder
 Black Powder
 Black Powder



50 Metre Pistol (previously called Free Pistol)

Regarded by many as the purest form of precision pistol shooting. Previously known as Free Pistol, 50m Pistol is a precision event shooting 60 shots, one-handed, over 50 metres in two hours.



The target used is the ISSF Precision Target with the 10 ring 50 mm in diameter. Each shooter has one target which is replaced and scored at intervals during the match. The match includes 60 scoring shots for a possible score of 600. Modern ranges use electronic targets and a monitor next to the shooter, but the principles are the same.



25x50m Precision Target

Any .22LR handgun is allowed but those normally used are long-barrelled firing single shots. There is no trigger weight minimum as long as its safe. Customised grips to suit the shooter's own hand are allowed as long as they don't encroach on the wrist. There are very few rules on the gun; it must be fired with one hand and only 1 round of ammunition loaded at a time.



Carl Walther FP60



Morini CM84E



Pardini FPM



Hammerli M150



Toz 3501



Match Gun MG5e



Air Pistol

Air Pistol is regarded as ideal training for all levels of target shooting, as well as being a serious Olympic event in its own right; introduced at the 1970 world championships.



As there is almost no recoil the shooter can concentrate on aligning the sights and holding them on the target while squeezing the trigger.



Air Pistol Target

Competed by men and women Air Pistol is a precision shooting match of 60 shots over 10 metres in 105 minutes. Most air ranges are indoors.

Targets: The target card is 170mm x 170mm the 10-ring is 11.5mm. Most ranges have a target winding system where each competitor can wind their target back for scoring and replace it while the match proceeds.

There are different types of Air Pistol operating systems used; spring and piston, pneumatic and gas powered. While there are still some using spring and piston pistols the most popular are compressed air types. All good quality target Air Pistols have adjustable grips, sights and triggers, and are highly refined shooting machines that leave the shooter in no doubt who is at fault if scores are down.



Morini 162EI



Feinwerkbau 65



Steyr LP50



Steyr LP10



Walther LP400



Match Gun



Hammerli AP20



Feinwerkbau FWB-P44



Standard Pistol

Standard Pistol is competed equally by men and women. The match combines precision and rapid fire techniques in its course of fire, and the mixture of both guarantees an interesting match.

The match is shot at 25 metres with a .22LR semi-auto on a ISSF precision target with a 50mm 10-ring, in timed series of five shots on turning targets. Each shooter has one target which is scored and patched progressively through the match. There are four series each of 150 seconds, 20 seconds and 10 seconds for a total of 60 shots and possible score of 600. Recoil handling characteristics are important in a pistol, especially in the 10 seconds series.



25&50m Precision Target

The handgun used in this event must have a barrel no longer than 150mm and a trigger no lighter than 1000gm. Very few limitations on a .22LR handgun with some allowance for special grips. A handgun suitable for Standard Pistol also qualifies for Rapid Fire and 25m Pistol.



Walther SSPe



Pardini SP2



Morini CM22M



Walther GSP Expert



Beretta 87 Target



Unique DES 96U



Benelli MP90



Match Gun MG2



Feinwerkbau AW93



Walther GSP500



Rapid Fire Pistol

The rapid fire match is also one of the older matches, but is still very popular. The match is shot with each shooter having five turning targets, spaced 75cm apart at 25 metres. One major change over the years has been the size of the targets. (see picture page 6). Originally very large they are now the standard "Rapid Fire" target with a 100mm 10-ring. There are four series of five shots each in 8 seconds, 6 seconds and 4 seconds shot in two stages of 30 shots. The shooter must wait with the shooting arm at 45 degrees to horizontal until the targets start to turn then raise the arm and fire one shot on each target in the allotted time.



Set of five ISSF Rapid Fire Targets per shooter

Rapid fire handguns must comply with the same specifications as the Standard Pistol; a barrel no longer than 150mm and a trigger no lighter than 1000gm. Very few limitations on a .22LR handgun with some allowance for special grips. A few manufacturers make guns especially for Rapid Fire with some inbuilt compensation for recoil. Many shooters use their Standard Pistol also for Rapid Fire.



Pardini SP22 Rapid Fire



Morini CM22RF



Match Gun MG2 Rapid Fire



25 Metre Pistol

(previously called Sport Pistol, and Junior Sport Pistol):

This match is identical to the Centrefire match except that the handguns are .22LR that comply with the Standard Pistol specifications. Previously for women and juniors but now also for men to compete.



Walther GSP500



Centre Fire Pistol

Centrefire Pistol uses centrefire calibres between .30 and .38 (25Metre Pistol was a women's and juniors match—now being trialled for both men and women.) Both use the same targets at 25 metres.



Centre Fire remains one of the most popular events even though it has been around for a long time. The match consists of two separate 30 shot stages of fire. The first stage is "Precision" which is shot on a precision target (50 mm 10 ring), with five minutes allowed for each 5 shot series. Each shooter has one target.



Precision Target



Rapid Fire Target

The second stage is "rapid fire" on rapid fire targets (100 mm 10 ring). One shot is fired within each 3 seconds exposure of the target, away for 7 seconds then facing again, with the shooter lowering his arm to 45 degrees between each exposure of the target.

Any centrefire calibre from 7.62mm—9.65mm (.30 to .38) can be used in a revolver or semi-auto, with a barrel no longer than 150mm and a trigger pull no lighter than 1000 grms.

Many target grade handguns are available for this match, mainly in .32 SWL and .38 Special.



Pardini HP .32



S&W Mod 10
revolver .38



Walther GSP Expert .32



Benelli MP95e .32



STI Range Master
or Spartan 9mm



Manurhin
revolver .32



Match Gun MG4 .32



S&W Mod 686
revolver .38



Black Powder

There are two Black Powder matches, the 25metre Aggregate Match and the 50 Metre Match.



- ◆ The 25m Aggregate match is identical to the Centrefire match except that it consists of 20 precision shots at 25 metres on a standard precision target and 20 shots rapid fire on the Pistol Australia Service Pistol target.



25&50m Precision Target



Service Pistol Target

- ◆ The 50 Metre match consists of four series of 10 shots, fired in 2 hours on an NRA 50 yard target which has a larger ten-ring than the standard 50 metre target.
- ◆ Recently introduced International Matches; adjustable and fixed sight, modern and replica.

Guns: Cap and ball revolvers must be used in the Aggregate match, while single shot handguns are permitted in the 50 metre match.

In the 25m match the calibre is restricted to maximum .46 calibre and projectiles must be round balls or conical pointed bullets.

The 50 metre match can be shot with revolvers of any calibre up to .46, cap and ball, but some interesting hybrid single shots have been put together by black powder enthusiasts out of single shot cartridge handguns like the Thompson-Centre Contender. (Because most competitive BP shooters use custom guns contact John Sammartino of Black Widow Projectiles for details see P62)



Black Powder 50m target



Examples of Thompson-Centre guns modified for Black Powder



Service Pistol

The Service Pistol match was the first of the matches to break away from the conventional one-handed, offhand shooting techniques used in the matches described previously. The course of fire is shot at distances from 50 yards to 7 yards and consists of 90 scoring shots for a maximum score of 900. Shooting is done on turning targets and shooters are required to shoot from various positions - prone, sitting, standing from a barricade position, one hand only, and from the "unsighted" position where the handgun must be held below shoulder level. As all series are in 6 round sequences, revolvers are equally well suited to the match as semi-auto's.



Set of 4 Service Pistol Target per shooter

The Service Pistol match is split into Service Pistol, and Service Pistol Unrestricted categories. The course of fire is identical with the main differences being that the Service Pistol course requires that the match be shot from the holster rather than from the 45 degree "ready" position, and that the ammunition used is of a minimum "Power Factor" no less than 120,000. Each shooter has a set of 4 Service targets.

Service Pistol shooting combines precision, control, speed and timing and can also be shot with a handgun that meets Centrefire Pistol specifications once the trigger is increased to 1360gm.

Handguns: Both Service and Service Unrestricted (U/R) allow revolvers or semi autos. Service allows calibres from 9mm - .38/357 and Service U/R allows .32 - .38/357. Both must use open sights and a minimum trigger pull of 1360gm. There is also a 120,000 power factor on the ammunition for Service only (need heavier ammunition).



Examples of what you would see at a Service match - customised revolvers and autos



Service Pistol 25 Yards

previously called Short Barrel Match or Snubby

Is similar to the Service Pistol Unrestricted match, but is only shot at 25, 10 and 7 yards. The match was started in Victoria in 1992 and is growing in popularity throughout Australia. Only 5 shots are loaded at a time, not 6 as in Service, and loading is done individually from the pocket (not pre loaded magazines or speed loaders). 65 rounds are fired for a maximum score of 650. Each shooter has a set of 5 'Rapid Fire' targets. Holsters not used - start from 45 degree ready position.



Handguns: revolver or semi auto .32 - .38/357 open sights and 1360gm trigger. Maximum weight is 1250gm. Barrel lengths are restricted to 105mm maximum for a revolver and 125mm maximum for a semi-auto.



Set of five ISSF Rapid Fire Targets per shooter



Examples of customised revolvers - slab sided and bull barrels, customs sights and lots of internal trigger work



Factory standard 4" revolver ready for custom barrel, sights and trigger



WA1500 Match

World Association 1500 (WA1500) is an international match contested in many counties and similar to the Pistol Australia Service Match. Some events require 150 shots for a possible 1500 points - hence the name 'WA1500'. Others are 60 or 48 shots. The target is a large WA1500 target, 578x1120mm. There are eight events each involving variations of the same course of fire. There is a variation for the 48-shot matches. Each event usually requires a specific handgun.



All shooting is from the holster and done on timed, or turning targets and throughout the course of fire shooters are required to shoot from specific positions; lying prone, sitting, kneeling, standing from a barricade position with both right and left hand as well as standing unsupported.

WA1500 Revolver

150-shot event at a WA1500 target, over distances of 7, 15, 25 and 50yards, using a revolver of maximum 153mm (6") barrel, .32 to .38 calibre, trigger weight 1135g min. with adj. open sights.



WA1500 Pistol

Same match as Revolver using a semi auto pistol of maximum 153mm (6") barrel, minimum .35 calibre, trigger weight 1360g min. with adj. open sights.



WA1500 Optical Revolver & Pistol

Same as WA1500 Revolver & Pistol using a standard 1500 Revolver or Pistol with added optical sight. (The standard iron sights must not be removed.) Previously one match, Optical is now two separate matches; Revolver and Pistol



WA60 Open Match

This is a 60-shot event, over distances of 7, 15, 25 and 50yards, using any revolver (min .32) or pistol (min .35) up to .38 calibre with restrictions on min. trigger weight (1135g for revolver, 1360g for pistol) with any types of sights are allowed. This allows of guns from matches like Action or IPSC provided they meet the rules of trigger weight, and all functioning safeties etc.



WA60 Distinguished Revolver

60-shot event over distances of 7, 15, 25 and 50yards, using a revolver with a maximum 153mm (6") barrel. It must be a stock standard revolver of .38 calibre capable of firing 158g bullet, with power factor. Trigger weight 1135g min., factory std open adjustable sights.



WA60 Distinguished Semi Auto

60-shot event over distances of 7, 15, 25 and 50yards, using a stock standard semi auto with a maximum 127mm (5") barrel, minimum .35 calibre using factored ammunition. Trigger weight 1360g min., with adjustable open sights.



WA48 Standard Revolver 4"

48-shot event over distances of 3, 7, 15 and 25yards, using a 102mm (4") stock standard revolver up to .38 calibre using only factored ammunition, trigger weight 1135g min., adjustable open sights.



WA48 Stock Semi Auto Pistol.

48-shot event at distances of 3, 7, 15 and 25yards, using a 140mm (5½") stock standard pistol with a minimum .35 calibre using factored ammunition, trigger weight 1360g min., fixed open sights. Yes, fixed sights!





Action Pistol (previously called International 1920 Match)

This match has been adapted from the Bianchi Cup type matches that are very popular in the USA. Competitors must hold a Pistol Australia proficiency card as all matches are shot from the holster.



The match consists of 4 matches totalling 192 shots. These consist of the falling plate match, moving target match, and 2 matches similar to the Service matches. Double action revolvers are the most popular because of their reliability and the ease with which they can be fitted with a scope. Ammunition must comply with the 120,000 Power Factor minimum limit.



Handgun divisions include Open and Metallic; all allow calibres over 9mm x 19mm with a pistol or revolver. Open allows any barrel length, any sights, wings and a 2lb trigger. Metallic restricts barrel lengths to 6 1/4" (pistol) and 8 5/8" (revolver) with metallic sights only, no wings and 2lb trigger.



Examples of some custom guns as used at Bianchi Cup





Metallic Silhouette

The introduction of Metallic Silhouette competition to Australia has allowed local shooters to compete with the most powerful magnum handguns available, not for the fun of it but because that is what is needed to effectively shoot the match.



The main course is shot at ranges of 50, 100, 150 and 200 metres on steel targets: chickens at 50 metres, pigs at 100 metres, turkeys at 150 metres and rams at 200 metres. The cartridges must have enough power to knock these targets over, and at 200 metres, the heavy ram targets require full magnum loads to knock them over. Competitions recently introduced are, .22 Rimfire and Field Pistol where targets are down-sized.



There are four divisions in this event: Standing, Revolver, Production and Unlimited. Specialised hardware has been developed for the match, along with a number of special cartridges that are essentially rifle cartridges adapted to heavy duty handgun use. The .357 Magnum is the absolute minimum powered pistol cartridge that will work, .357, .41 or .44 Magnums are preferred by most revolver shooters. In the single shots there are several 7mm wildcat cartridges as well as the likes of the 30-30 that provide maximum knockdown power. Many unlimited pistols use straight .308 rifle cartridges.

Big Bore pistols: The pistol may weigh no more than 2014 grams (4.5 pounds), complete with all sighting equipment and empty magazine. Barrel length maximum 381mm. Overall length not to exceed 635mm (25"). Any self-contained centre fire cartridge. Muzzle brakes or similar devices not allowed. Sight radius 457mm.

Small Bore pistols: The pistol may weigh no more than 1814 grams (4 pounds), complete with all sighting equipment and empty magazine. Barrel length not to exceed 273mm (10.75"). Any manufactured 22 Short, 22 Long or 22 Long Rifle self contained rimfire cartridge. Muzzle brakes or similar devices not allowed. Adjustable grips not allowed.



Classic Pistol

A match shot with a revolver or semi-automatic handgun of a calibre of .38 or less (event 33) or a calibre of more than .38 and not more than .45 (event 56) at a distance of up to 25metres at a target that is stationary when exposed.

The match is based on Centre Fire with only 40 shots fired instead of 60; 20 shots precision, 20 shots rapid fire. Shooters must stand free, without support and handgun may be held in one hand or two

The guns need to conform to a production design prior to 1955 so those like the Colt 1911 (the John Browning classic) and Luger are to name a couple.

Firearms: all must have 1360gm (3lb) trigger pull and ...

A) Classification by age. This relates to the age of the guns and the year of manufacture.

- i. early (black powder) prior to 1890*
- ii. Late in production between 1890 and 1918*
- iii. Post between 1918 and 1955*

B) Classification by type.

- i. **Greatcoat revolver** - any breechloading revolver up to 114.3mm (4 1/2") barrel.*
- ii. **Service revolver** - any breechloading revolver similar to a regulation pattern issued by any government to its regular or volunteer armed forces*
- iii. **Service self loading pistol** - any semi auto similar to a regulation pattern issued by any government to its regular or volunteer armed forces*
- iv. **Private purchase** - any service issue or private purchase of revolver or auto for which cartridges were available from the stores of an army in the field.*

Note: It is generally accepted at clubs that the popular Colt M1911 and its variants, with adjustable sights, would fit 'Service Self-Loading' or 'Private Purchase' classification; generally unaltered since John Browning designed it.



25&50m Precision Target



Rapid Fire Target





ICORE.

Named for the "International Confederation of Revolver



Enthusiasts" it was envisioned as a revolver-only competition allowing even the most basic equipment to be used and still provide enjoyment and satisfaction.

ICORE is competed using unique range setups each time so scoring is done by timing the speed each shooter takes with penalties for misses and outside the A Zone. All shooting is from the holster.

There are four different divisions you can shoot in ICORE competition, Open, Limited, Limited 6 and Classic. If you shoot Service Pistol or Service 25 currently with a revolver, you can use that same revolver to shoot ICORE competition. You can use a metallic sight firearm in Open if you wish but you will be disadvantaged when competing.

*Pistol requirements by division: All divisions allow any calibre between .32 and .38Spl, any barrel length and any trigger pull weight. Ammunition must have a power factor of 120,000. **Open Division** allows barrel and grip weights, ribbed and extended sights, any sights including red dot and telescopic. **Limited Division***

*These are 6, 7 or 8 shot revolvers with metallic sights (fibre optic inserts are permitted). It can't have any optics or compensating ports. You can use moon clips in limited division. **Limited 6 Division** – Only 6 shot revolvers with the features of a*

*Limited Division revolver can be used with moonclips. . **Classic Division** is as per Limited but only 6*



S&W Spider



S&W .357 mod 627



S&W 686 .38 for Classic Div.



S&W .357 686 Competitor



S&W mod 686 7 shot



Single Action Shooting (previously Western Action)



This competition has been growing in popularity throughout Australia as much for it's social activities as it's competitive nature. Single Action Shooting (SAS) is sometimes referred to as concept shooting. This means that competitors shoot at targets setup in different arrangements over the competition; all shooters participate and scoring is calculated for accuracy and speed.



The competitors are encouraged to dress in costume of the period, but usually is not compulsory. The rules are those of "The Single Action Shooting Society of America". Revolver shooting is done from the holster.

Handgun, rifle and shotgun are required. Calibres for revolvers are .32 to .45 single action using lead projectiles only. They should have fixed sights to be as authentic as possible. Rifles are of the lever action type in .32 to .45 calibre with exposed hammer and tubular magazine. Shotgun are 12 to 20gauge using lead 4-shot or smaller and with single or side-by-side barrels. Hammers can be exposed or not with double or single triggers.



Colt Single Action Army .45LC



Ruger Vaquero Single Action .44



Uberti Cattleman Single Action .44



IPSC

IPSC stands for International Practical Shooting Confederation.

IPSC is an international match with IPSC Australia Inc the body recognised by the Australian Government for the management and regulation of the sport of Practical Shooting in Australia.

Target types are both paper and steel, stationary and moving, scoring targets and penalty targets.

Similar to ICORE, there is no set way these targets are arranged in a single match.

All participants (male, female, junior) compete together over exactly the same stages, with the same rules and the same scoring procedures. Only one competitor at a time shoots a stage. At all times this competitor is under the direct observation and control of a trained Range Officer whose primary task is to enforce the match safety rules.

Scoring is different to other matches—the final score is calculated by adding up the values of the scoring zones hit by the competitor and the time taken is also part of the final score. The sum of the scoring zones is worked out, and this then divided by the total time the competitor took to engage the targets. Thus the quicker the competitor completes the stage, the better the final score will be.

In Australia, Practical competitions are most often for centre-fire pistols and revolvers of calibres from 9mm to .38. Stages are normally started with pistols holstered on the belt, and most often will require the competitor to perform reloads of the pistol during the stage.

More details on www.ipsc.org.au (details taken from their website)





These are the known manufacturers or agents for products. Local contacts are included if known. Some clubs purchase items in quantity to enable members the best deals; check with your secretary if your club does this.

Handguns - new

manufacturers, distributors, retailers:

- ◆ Anschutz: Nioa Trading nioa.com.au and Potter Firearms potfire.com.au
- ◆ Benelli: Beretta Australia
- ◆ Beretta: Beretta Australia berettaaustralia.com.au
- ◆ Browning: Winchester Australia winchesteraustralia.com.au
- ◆ Bul: Practical Shooting Supplies pssaus.com.au/bul-armory-firearms/
- ◆ Colt: Frontier Arms Co. frontierarms.com.au
- ◆ CZ: Winchester Australia winchesteraustralia.com.au and PBA Imports pbaimports.com.au/
- ◆ Feinwerkbau: Forbes Wholesale www.forbesws.com.au/
- ◆ Glock: Nioa Trading nioa.com.au
- ◆ GSG: Alpha Precision www.alphaprecision.com.au/
- ◆ Hammerli Arms: Frontier Arms Co. frontierarms.com.au, SJS Trading Co. sjstradingco.com.au
- ◆ Kimber: Nioa Trading nioa.com.au
- ◆ Korth: The Barn thebarn.net.au
- ◆ Magnum Research (Desert Eagle): Gold Coast Shooters Supplies
- ◆ Manurhin: Chapuis Armes France , Euroarms SA Australia, Ph (08)8272 5011 (John Moore)
- ◆ Marlin: Raytrade raytrade.com.au and Cleaver Firearms, QLD. cleaverfirearms.com
- ◆ Match Gun: Euroarms SA Australia, Ph (08)8272 5011 (John Moore)
- ◆ Morini: Potter Firearms potfire.com.au
- ◆ M&P: Grycol Int. grycol.com.au
- ◆ Pardini: Grycol Inter. grycol.com.au
- ◆ Pedersoli: Forbes Wholesale www.forbesws.com.au/
- ◆ Ruger: Sturm Ruger & Co, USA ruger.com Nioa Trading nioa.com.au & Cleavers Qld. cleaverfirearms.com
- ◆ Savage: Nioa Trading nioa.com.au
- ◆ Smith & Wesson: Grycol Int. grycol.com.au
- ◆ SIG Sauer: Sig Sauer, USA Sigsauer.com
- ◆ Steyr: Potter Firearms potfire.com.au
- ◆ STI: Edge Firearms Imports edgefirearmimports.com.au
- ◆ Tanfoglio: Tanfoglio Australia tanfoglio.com.au, NVT nvt.com.au/
- ◆ Thompson-Centre: Frontier Arms frontierarms.com.au
- ◆ Uberti: A. Uberti Firearms uberti.com, Nioa Trading nioa.com.au
- ◆ Walther: Frontier Arms Co. frontierarms.com.au, SJS Trading Co. sjstradingco.com.au
- ◆ Weatherby: Nioa Trading nioa.com.au
- ◆ Winchester: Winchester Australia winchesteraustralia.com.au

Handguns - used

some suppliers are physical shops, some online shops; they may also have new guns

- ◆ Acme Firearms, Frankston
Acme Firearms.com.au
- ◆ Clayton Firearms, Clayton Victoria
claytonfirearms.com.au
- ◆ Cleaver Firearms, QLD
cleaverfirearms.com
- ◆ The Gun Depot, Geelong
gundepot.com.au/
- ◆ Hermann's Sporting Guns, Mirboo Nth,
Vic hermannsguns.com
- ◆ Mialls Gun Shop, Frankston, Vic
Ph 03 9783 1576
- ◆ Oz Gunsales ozgunsales.com
- ◆ Potter Firearms potfire.com.au
- ◆ Queensland Gun Exchange
qldgunexchange.com
- ◆ RPG Firearms rpgfirearms.com.au
- ◆ The Gunsmiths thegunsmiths.com.au
- ◆ Used Gun Sales usedgunsales.com.au
- ◆ Used Guns usedguns.com.au

Also see 'general gun retailers'.

Gunsmith services

- ◆ Norm Edwards Handgun repairs,
Ringwood Ph 0409 139 169
- ◆ Mialls Gun Shop, Gunsmith, Frankston
Ph 03 9783 1576
- ◆ Kudu Services, Gunsmith, Montrose,
Vic. Ph (03) 9728 5430 (mostly rifles)
- ◆ DB Custom Handguns (David Bartlett)
Ph 0402 245 954 email
dbcustom@optusnet.com.au
- ◆ Muscrat Custom: muscratcustom.com
for custom made guns
- ◆ Rolf Bachnick - Safari Arms 32
Alexander Rd, Lilydale. (03)9739 5744

Licences & Permits

Vic Police Licensing & Regulation Div.
(LRD) <http://www.police.vic.gov.au/>

On the police website go to 'our services' on the menu then scroll down for 'Firearms Licensing'.

The Licensing & Regulation Division no longer provides a drop in counter service.

Front counter attendance is strictly by appointment only. Applications and other documentation will no longer be accepted over the front counter.

Phone calls are sometimes not available - check the website first

Licensing & Regulation Division
Victoria Police Centre
637 Flinders Street Docklands, VIC, 3008
GPO Box 2807 Melbourne, VIC, 3001

Phone: 1300 651 645,

Email: lrd@police.vic.gov.au

Reloading & Ammunition

Presses and dies etc

- ◆ Dillon Presses: Dillon Precision Aust.
dillonprecision.com.au also
NVT <http://www.nvt.com.au/>
- ◆ Lee presses: Lee Precision, USA
leeprecision.com, Grycol International
grycol.com.au
- ◆ RCBS: RCBS, USA rcbs.com,
Nioa Trading nioa.com.au, Qld. Gun
Exchange qldgunexchange.com
- ◆ Lyman: Lyman Products, USA
lymanproducts.com, NIOA nioa.com.au
- ◆ Hornady: Outdoor Sporting Agencies
www.osaaustralia.com.au Cleaver
Firearms, Qld.
www.cleaverfirearms.com/
Impact Trading <http://www.impacttrading.com.au/>

Brass cases

- ♦ Winchester: Winchester Australia
winchesteraustralia.com.au and many retailers
- ♦ Starline: Ammunition Galore, Frankston Vic.
ammunitiongalore.com.au Acme Firearms, Frankston, Vic
AcmeFirearms.com.au Cleaver Firearms, QLD
cleaverfirearms.com

Powder (buy wherever available, most gun shops carry some but phone to enquire first. Take your licence.)

- ♦ Winchester Australia handle Winchester, ADI and Hodgdon
winchesteraustralia.com.au
adi-powders.com.au
- ♦ Vihtavuori Powder (previously Nioa.)
- ♦ Alliant Powder distributed by Nioa

Primers (Most gun shops will stock some types, enquire first. Take your licence.)

- ♦ Winchester Australia handles Winchester and FIOCCHI primers
winchesteraustralia.com.au
- ♦ Nioa Trading handles Federal and CCI primers www.nioa.net.au/
- ♦ Target ammo specialists like Acme and Ammunition Galore usually stock primers

Projectiles (AKA bullets)

- ♦ Black Widow Projectiles: John Sammartino mobile 0403 069 089
blackwidowprojectiles.com.au manufactured at Unit 1, 25 Southfork Drive Kilsyth (see page 2)
- ♦ HRBC projectiles Hawkesbury River Bullet Co. hrbc.com.au Manufactured in Mildura - Les Moncrieff mobile 0437 657 823 (see advert page 17)
- ♦ Spartan Projectiles:
spartanprojectiles.boxhost.me/index.html manufactured in SA.

- ♦ Winchester Australia have Winchester, Norma, Ranier
- ♦ Nioa Trading handles Nosler and Speer

Reloaded Ammo Boxes:

- ♦ MTM Case Guard: PBA Imports
pbaimports.com.au/, Acme Firearms, Frankston, Vic
AcmeFirearms.com.au and others

Ammunition & Pellets (take your licence)

- ♦ Usual gun shops see p64
- ♦ Nioa Trading handles SK
- ♦ Winchester Australia handles Winchester and FIOCCHI
winchesteraustralia.com.au
- ♦ Ammunition Galore, Frankston Vic. Live target ammo and pellets
www.ammunitiongalore.com.au/
- ♦ Acme Firearms, Frankston, Vic for live target ammo and pellets
AcmeFirearms.com.au

Equipment - Grips, Glasses, Holsters, Earmuffs etc

Accessories

- ♦ Kinetic hammer/ bullet puller: most gun shops
- ♦ Clothing: Impact Trading for 5.11 brand
<http://www.impacttrading.com.au/>

Earmuffs:

- ♦ Howard Leight brand: Impact Trading (see above)
- ♦ Most gun shops stock ear muffs

General items:

- ♦ Gunsmith supplies Brownells, USA
brownells.com and Midway now both in Australia
midway-australia.com.au/

Shooting Glasses:

Below are listed those supplying frames for glasses, or sometimes with std lenses. For

prescription lenses to fit, contact your optician.

- ♦ Champion: Potter Firearms potfire.com.au
- ♦ Varga: Hermann's Sporting Guns, Vic hermannsguns.com
- ♦ Knobloch: Frontier Arms Co. frontierarms.com.au

Custom Grips:

- ♦ KN Nill: Hermann's Sporting Guns hermannsguns.com
- ♦ Rink: Potter Firearms potfire.com.au
- ♦ Hogue: Gold Coast Shooters Supplies gcshooters.com.au
- ♦ Pachmayr: Brownells, USA brownells.com

Holsters:

- ♦ H&S holsters: Hermann's Sporting Guns hermannsguns.com
- ♦ DAA Double Alpha: David Bailey, 2Alpha and PBA Imports
- ♦ Safariland: Tasco Sales tasco.com.au also PBA Imports
- ♦ Hellweg: Hellweg, Vic hellweg.com.au
- ♦ CR: NVT nvt.com.au/
- ♦ JR: Muscrat Custom muscratcustom.com

Range bags and cases:

- ♦ 5.11: 511tactical.com.au, PBA Imports pbaimports.com.au/
- ♦ CED: NVT nvt.com.au/
- ♦ Uncle Mikes: NVT nvt.com.au/
- ♦ Pelican: Carry It Cases carryitcases.com.au/shop/pelican-cases/33 and equipmentgear.com.au

Safes:

- ♦ Spika safes: Spika spika.com.au
- ♦ Lockaway safes: Lockaway lockaway.net
- ♦ Bushranger: H and C Vanetten, Vic bullzi.com.au (Frankston)
- ♦ CMI: allsafes.com.au and safesgalore.com.au
- ♦ Precision Safe Removals. Michael Smith Mob 0409 860 011 Bayswater based. (also second hand safes)

Smokers and fuel:

- ♦ Ray Vin Super Smoker: PBA Imports pbaimports.com.au
- ♦ Sight Black spray: PBA Imports pbaimports.com.au/
- ♦ Camphor block: chemists
- ♦ Calcium Carbide: The Light Co. TW Sands 508 Swanston St. Carlton, Vic twsands.com.au (pick up item only - cant be posted)

Speed loaders & Moon Clips:

- ♦ Safariland: PBA Imports pbaimports.com.au/, Potter Firearms potfire.com.au,
- ♦ HKS: Brownells, USA brownells.com

Spotting Scopes

- ♦ Tasco: NVT nvt.com.au/
- ♦ NG Spotting Scopes: Potter Firearms potfire.com.au
- ♦ Zeiss & Nikon: Outdoor Sporting Agencies, Tarneit, Vic www.osaaustralia.com.au

General Retailers - Firearms and Accessories

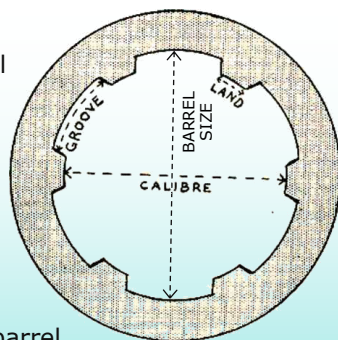
Some stores are online only

- ◆ Abela's Gun Shop, Campbelltown NSW
abelasgunshop.com.au
- ◆ Acme Firearms, Frankston, Vic
Acme Firearms.com.au
- ◆ Adelaide Gun Shop, SA
adelaidegunshop.com.au
- ◆ Ammunition Galore, Frankston Vic.
www.ammunitiongalore.com.au/
- ◆ Boronia Firearms 'Great Southern Outdoors', 77a Boronia Rd, Boronia Ph 9762 2677
- ◆ Clayton Firearms, 360 Clayton Rd, Clayton, Vic. claytonfirearms.com.au Ph 9544 1093
- ◆ Cleaver Firearms, QLD
cleaverfirearms.com
- ◆ Centreway Firearms, 65 Wyong St. Keilor East, Vic Ph 9336 4647
centrewayfirearms.com.au
- ◆ Forbes Wholesale, Montmorency, Vic. (will sell direct to the public)
www.forbesws.com.au/
- ◆ Gun Emporium, unit 1/47 Assembly Dr Tullamarine, Vic 3043 Ph 03 9338 9975
gunemporium.com.au
- ◆ Hermann's Sporting Guns, 55 Grandridge Rd, Mirboo North Vic. Ph 5668 1940 hermannsguns.com for Sig Sauer, Feinwerkbau, Steyr, Walther, Hammerli, Morini, KN Nill Grips, Varga glasses
- ◆ Gunco, St Albans is CLOSED
- ◆ Melbourne Firearms, Ringwood, Vic is CLOSED
- ◆ Mialls Gun Shop, Frankston, Vic Ph 03 9783 1576
- ◆ O'Reilly's Firearms, 869 High St Thornbury Vic. oreillysfirearms.com.au (part of Abela group)
- ◆ Outdoor Sporting Agencies, Tarneit, Vic Not a retailer but worth a look at
www.osaaustralia.com.au
- ◆ Queensland Gun Exchange
qldgunexchange.com
- ◆ Wild Outdoors, Geelong. 24 Foch St. North Shore 3214. ph 5278 1929
- ◆ Western Firearms, NSW
westernfirearms.com.au
- ◆ Yarra Valley Hunting and Recreation 4/9 Clarke St. Lilydale. (03)9735 0936
yarravalleyhunting.com

Calibres vs. Projectile Measurement

The calibre of firearms is measured inside the barrel between the lands (usually). The projectile, or bullet, diameter is measured between the grooves as it is forced into the rifling grooves to cause it to spin. To measure the barrel use a piece of soft lead and hammer it through the barrel - measure the largest measurement; this is the barrel size.

For instance a Centre Fire pistol of .38 calibre, the barrel could measure .355 or .356 inches, so by measuring the diameter you can select the correct size of projectile to use for that barrel. Eg If your barrel size is .356" you would normally use one size larger - .357"



Terminology of Pistol Shooting



Most sports has some 'jargon' or unique words and phrases to describe things. The new shooter can be confused until they understand the meanings of these sayings. This list may help.

<i>Action:</i>	<i>Mechanism by which the breech of a breech-loading firearm is closed.</i>
<i>A.I.S.:</i>	<i>Australian Institute of Sport, based in Canberra</i>
<i>Aristocrat Rib:</i>	<i>Custom replacement for the front and rear sights - fits along the top of the revolver or pistol. Has 3-position rear sight; good for Service and WA1500</i>
<i>Baffles:</i>	<i>Overhead panels (usually wooden) fixed across some ranges to prevent bullets leaving the range</i>
<i>Barricade:</i>	<i>A vertical post used in Service and WA1500 . Shooters lean against it while firing left hand or right hand.</i>
<i>Black Powder:</i>	<i>i) Gunpowder containing potassium nitrate, sulphur and charcoal. ii) PA matches for pistols using this powder</i>
<i>Bobbed hammer:</i>	<i>When the hammer spur (the part for your thumb) is removed so the revolver can only be used double action - it is said to have had the hammer 'bobbed'</i>
<i>Bore:</i>	<i>The internal diameter of the barrel measured between the top of the lands.</i>
<i>Breech:</i>	<i>The rear end of the barrel attached to the action - the back end, as apposed to the front (muzzle)</i>
<i>Breech Flag:</i>	<i>Device, usually plastic, installed in the empty breech to indicate it is unloaded</i>
<i>Bullet:</i>	<i>Same as for projectile. The word often wrongly used to describe a 'cartridge' or 'round of ammunition'</i>
<i>Calibre:</i>	<i>The nominal diameter of the bore of a firearm, or the nominal diameter of the projectile. In some older calibres the origin can be quite vague. (see p 63)</i>
<i>Cartridge:</i>	<i>The combination of components when assembled ie. case, primer, powder and projectile.</i>
<i>Case:</i>	<i>The metallic container for the primer, powder and projectile, usually brass or nickel plated. Usually called a cartridge case.</i>
<i>Centre Fire Cartridge: A cartridge having a primer in the centre of the base.</i>	
<i>Chamber:</i>	<i>The portion of the action in which the cartridge rests to be fired.</i>
<i>Chief Range Officer:</i>	<i>The person with overall responsibility for the safe operation of the ranges at a pistol club or competition where there may be several RO's</i>
<i>Cock:</i>	<i>To pull back the hammer ready for firing.</i>
<i>Creedmoor position:</i>	<i>Used in Metallic Silhouette where the shooter lies on his/her back with knees and head raised. Gun is placed and fired while alongside the leg for stability</i>

Chronograph: *An instrument used to measure the velocity of a projectile fired by a gun.*

Crimp: *Inward turn to the edge of a cartridge case; two types Roll and Taper. This is applied during the reloading process with the appropriate, selected, die.*

Crown: *Countersink machining of the muzzle of a firearm gives protection from damage.*

Cylinder: *Revolving part of a revolver that contains chambers.*

Double action *If the first action (cocking) and the second (firing) are accomplished by one pull of the trigger it is said to 'double action'. If the hammer is cocked first then the trigger pulled its said to be firing single action. (see also 'Single Action')*

Dry Fire: *To operate the firing mechanism of an unloaded firearm.*

Ejector: *A device which ejects the empty case after it has been extracted from the chamber.*

Equipment Control: *The place where equipment is checked prior to a competition; aka Gun Check*

Extractor: *The device which pulls the cartridge case out of the chamber.*

Falling Block action *A single-shot firearm action where a solid metal breech block slides vertically to retain the cartridge in the breech. An alternative to a bolt action .*

Firing Pin: *The device which strikes the primer causing the firing of the cartridge.*

Flash Hole: *The small hole (or holes) from the base of the primer pocket into the case interior, through which the primer flash ignites the powder.*

Follow Through: *Retaining aim after the shot has gone.*

Grade Break *When a shooter makes the score for the next grade they are said to 'break grade' i.e. broken into the next grade.*

Grains: *A unit of weight used for projectiles and powder charges.*

Grip: *That part of the handgun which is held in the hand.*

Grooves: *Spiral cuts in the bore of a firearm which cause a projectile to spin as it moves through the barrel known as rifling.*

Group: *Applies to a series of shots on a target. Used to assess the accuracy of a firearm or the skill of the shooter.*

Hammer: *Device to drive the firing pin to strike the primer.*

Hang Fire: *Delayed discharge of a cartridge.*

Headspace *The distance from the head of the cartridge to the face of the bolt. Rimmed cartridges headspace on the rim. Straight walled rimless cartridges headspace on the mouth. In the chamber of most modern pistol rounds, you will see a "step". This gives the case mouth somewhere to sit. Without it, since the case is rimless, the entire cartridge could fall through the chamber.*

ISSF:	<i>International Shooting Sport Federation (was ISU then UIT). Internationally responsible for all shooting sports at Olympics etc</i>
IPC:	<i>International Paralympic Committee</i>
Keyhole:	<i>The hole made by a projectile which hits the target sideways, is said to "keyhole". Usually caused by insufficient powder.</i>
Kinetic hammer:	<i>Used to take ammunition apart. Also called a bullet puller.</i>
Lands:	<i>The raised parts between the grooves of rifling. (see page 59)</i>
LRD:	<i>The Victorian Police Licensing and Regulation Division. The department controlling all firearms licensing - http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=114 (see page 60)</i>
Malfunction	<i>Where firearms ceases to function; some are allowable when the problem is with the gun, but are not when the shooter is at fault. (ISSF mostly)</i>
Magazine:	<i>The box or tube which contains cartridges in a repeating firearm.</i>
Magnum:	<i>Firearm or ammunition that has been derived from a similar (smaller) cartridge. E.g. .44 magnum, .357 magnum etc</i>
Moon Clips:	<i>A star shaped metal clip which holds a set of cartridges for inserting in a revolvers cylinder. An alternative to Speed Loaders.</i>
Misfire:	<i>Complete failure of cartridge to fire.</i>
Muzzle:	<i>The opening at the front end of the barrel.</i>
Muzzle Break (Compensator):	<i>Device attached to the muzzle to reduce jump or recoil.</i>
NRA:	<i>National Rifle Association of America. Many of our matches were invented by the NRA and adapted for Australian use.</i>
Off-hand:	<i>This means the shooter must not be supported at all ; its usually referred to</i>
Open Sights:	<i>Iron sights consisting of blade foresight and open-notched rearsight.</i>
Orthopaedic Grip:	<i>Customised grip to more exactly fit the owner's hand. Usually with adjusta-</i>
Overlay:	<i>Clear plastic sheet with reference lines used in scoring targets.</i>
Power Factor:	<i>Power Factor = bullet weight in grains multiplied by the muzzle velocity (the bullet speed) in feet per second.</i>
Pistol Australia	<i>The national organisation of the state associations like VAPA. See details on page 7</i>
Primer:	<i>A small metallic cup containing a detonating mixture which, when struck,</i>
Projectile:	<i>The bullet fired from a firearm. Correct name is 'bullet'</i>

<i>Prone:</i>	<i>The position where shooters lie on their stomachs to shoot</i>
<i>Range Officer</i>	<i>Often called an R.O. for short; the person in charge of a match</i>
<i>Ransom Rest:</i>	<i>A metal device to hold handguns securely while fired; usually to test loads</i>
<i>Recoil:</i>	<i>The backward thrust of a firearm caused by the reaction of the powder gases pushing the bullet forward.</i>
<i>Revolver:</i>	<i>Repeating pistol having a revolving cylinder which contains chambers.</i>
<i>Ricochet:</i>	<i>Deflection of a projectile on striking a hard object or water.</i>
<i>Rifling:</i>	<i>Grooves cut in the bore of a firearm. (see page 63)</i>
<i>Rimfire Cartridge:</i>	<i>A cartridge which has the priming composition in a projecting rim at the base.</i>
<i>Round:</i>	<i>Complete cartridge consisting of case, powder, primer and projectile.</i>
<i>Safe Area:</i>	<i>A special area for handling firearms. Ammunition is not allowed in this area.</i>
<i>Single action</i>	<i>Mostly refers to revolvers which need the hammer to be cocked first.</i>
<i>Self-Loader:</i>	<i>See semi-automatic.</i>
<i>Slugging the bore</i>	<i>To determine the actual bore size a soft lead slug is forced through the bore then measured.</i>
<i>Semi-Automatic:</i>	<i>Firearm which fires and reloads on the trigger being pressed, but does not fire again until the trigger has been released and pressed again.</i>
<i>Scorer:</i>	<i>At club level, the person that writes down the scores during a competition.</i>
<i>Scoring Gauges:</i>	<i>A device used to assist in scoring - made of various calibres they fit into the bullet hole to better establish if a scoring line is cut or not.</i>
<i>Slide:</i>	<i>That part of most semi-automatic pistol which moves (slides) during the operating cycle</i>
<i>Shooting Australia</i>	<i>Shooting Australia is recognised as the peak body for target shooting sports in Australia. Where PA is the national body for pistol shooting, Shooting Australia is the national body for all shooting sports</i>
<i>Smoker:</i>	<i>A small device which can be ignited like a lighter, for blackening sights. Some use camphor, some use carbide.</i>
<i>Snap Caps:</i>	<i>A dummy cartridge designed to fit into the breech or cylinder allowing dry firing with the firing pin or hammer striking a plastic or rubber alternative to a primer.</i>
<i>Speed Loaders:</i>	<i>Plastic holders into which a set of cartridges are fitted ready for loading into a revolver's cylinder. Moon clips are an alternative .</i>
<i>Trigger:</i>	<i>That part of the firearm moved by the finger to fire the pistol.</i>
<i>Wad Cutter:</i>	<i>Flat nosed lead projectile (see page 29). Variations include semi-wadcutter and button nosed.</i>





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Its now 10 years since I wrote the first Members Handbook in 2016. It is posted to every new member with their introduction pack along with their VAPA ID card. Copies are available to purchase or can be download for free from the VAPA website. Each year the handbook is updated and reprinted. Please advise the author if you notice any errors or omissions - so they can be rectified for following editions. I hope you have found it helpful. RW

For further information you can contact the author on email
RWakelin686@gmail.com



VAPA Pistol Clubs in Victoria



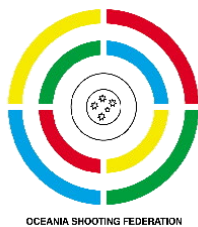
Melbourne Metro area:

	ANZ PC		Melb. Airport PC, Kilmore		Mountain District PC, Dixons Creek
	Beaconsfield PC		Oakleigh PC		Peninsula PC, Mt Martha
	Calibre Sports		Melbourne Int., Port Melb.		Springvale PC
	Diamond Valley PC, Yarrambat		Melton PC		Yarra PC, Lysterfield

Regional Victoria:

	Alpine PC, Omeo		Kerang PC		Robinvale PC
	Ararat PC		Kurraan PC		Sale PC
	Ballarat PC		Lang Lang PC, Koo Wee Rup		Sea Lake PC
	Bendigo PC		Latrobe PC		Shepparton PC
	Benalla PC		Mansfield PC		South Gippsland PC, Tarwin Lower
	Castlemaine PC		Maryborough PC		Tatura PC
	Central PC, Whittlesea		Mid Murray PC, Swan Hill		Traralgon PC
	Cobram PC, Strathmerton		Mildura PC		Victoria Prisons, Shelbourne
	Cohuna PC		North Eastern PS		Wangaratta PC, Killawarra
	Corangamite PC, Colac		Orbost PC		Warragul-Drouin PC
	Echuca PC		Outtrim PC, Outtrim		Warrnambool OPC
	Euroa PC		Pine Grove PC		Werribee International, Werribee
	Geelong PC		Portland PC		Yackandandah PC
	Horsham PC				

When you become a member of VAPA you have access to all the clubs in the state. Each will have conditions on visitors and may limit the number of visits. For club contact details contact the VAPA secretary, email: - secretary@vapa.org.au



VAPA members enjoy an association with all these organisations