

2022
IHMSA OFFICIAL
RULES



Issued by:
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U.S.A.
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IHMSA OFFICIAL RULES

Section I: General

1. Name

- a. The official name of the organization is International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association, Inc. For convenience, the accepted acronym is IHMSA (im-sa).

2. Competition

- a. The object of IHMSA competition is to knock down metallic silhouette targets with a handgun. There are five disciplines of IHMSA competition: Big Bore, Small Bore, Field Pistol, Air Pistol and Practical Hunter; with each discipline subdivided into multiple categories.
- b. IHMSA is and shall remain an organization for amateur handgun competition open to all members of the shooting community.
- c. No IHMSA competitor shall solicit or accept subsidy or sponsorship from any firearm or accessory manufacture.
- d. Sanctioned matches will consist of a 40, 60, or 80 round course of fire with an equal number of targets being engaged at four distances.
 - i. Targets consist of metallic silhouette of chicken, pig, turkey, and rams.
 - ii. Targets will be fired upon in timed, two-minute stages, firing at five targets per stage.
 - iii. Shooting positions include Freestyle and Standing positions.

3. Membership

- a. Membership in IHMSA shall be defined and described as one of the following:
 - i. Individual Member: membership is US \$35 per year and is open to any person 18 years or older. This includes the online edition of the IHMSA news.
 - ii. Individual Junior Member: membership is US \$20 per year. Individual Junior membership application must include parent or guardian approval. An individual shall be considered a Junior for membership purpose until his/her 18th birthday and shall be upgraded to an individual Member upon his/her following renewal date. An individual shall be considered a Junior for competition purpose until his/her 18th birthday; however, any match may be completed as a Junior on the first day of the match.

- iii. Family Member: additional members of an Individual Member's immediate family (i.e., spouse, son, daughter) may join for a fee of US \$10 each per year. They will be assigned the same membership number as the Individual Member with an appropriate suffix ("H" for husband, "W" for wife, "S" for son, or "D" for daughter). A full-time student will continue to pay the \$10 annual membership.
- iv. Life Member: members may obtain a Life Membership at a cost of US \$420. Life Members shall receive an IHMSA Life Member pin and a special certificate, and the suffix "L" will be added to the membership number.
- b. All members in good standing 18 years or older shall have voting rights.
- c. Upon payment of the dues each year, members shall be issued a Membership Card that shall be used to record all sanctioned match scores and official classification for each classified category in each discipline.
- d. Upon payment of dues, Individual Members, Individual Junior Members, and Life Members shall receive a copy of the Official Rules and an online issue of the IHMSA News.

4. Sportsmanship

- a. IHMSA members have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with good sportsmanship.
- b. No person shall compete, officiate, or otherwise participate in an IHMSA sanctioned match while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. Any match competitor violating this provision is subject to immediate disqualification and further disciplinary action as determined by the executive Committee.
- c. Any Nation, Region, State, or Match Director shall have authority to bar any competitor from a match for unsportsmanlike conduct or action unbecoming to IHMSA. Should there be any question regarding this procedure, or any decision made there from, the matter may be appealed/referred to the Executive Committee for a final decision.

5. IHMSA Pledge

- a. In accepting membership in the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association, Inc., I hereby acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Official Rules and agree to read, be bound by and compete in strict accordance with all rules.

6. Rules

- a. All IHMSA rules, new or rule changes shall be as officially established and approved by the IHMSA Board of Directors.
- b. During a match, rule clarification and interpretations shall be made by the highest ranking IHMSA official at the match, or such other member that may be designated by that official.
- c. All members and competitors agree to abide by the final decision of the Board of Directors in all matters having to do with the Official Rules.

7. Changes to the Official Rules

- a. Any IHMSA member in good standing is eligible to submit proposals for rule changes according to the following procedure.
- b. In order for a rule change proposal to receive consideration at the annual business meeting, rule change proposal must be submitted in writing to the Rules Committee Chairman a minimum of ninety days prior to the meeting day.
 - i. The Annual business meeting shall be the primary venue for action on rule change proposals; however, where deemed appropriate, the Board may act on rule change proposals at any time during the year.
- c. Format: in order for a rule proposal to receive consideration, it must comply with the following:
 - i. The proposal must be submitted in writing including the author's name, IHMSA membership number and method of contact.
 - ii. Submit the existing, affected rule as written in the Official Rules, using exact wording. Submit the rule as proposed to be revised, added to and/or deleted, using exact wording; including, where applicable, all resultant revisions to other sections of the Official Rules.
 - iii. At the author's option, submit documentation supporting the adoption of the proposed rule change.
- d. Upon receipt, the rules committee shall consider the proposal and forward it to the Board with a recommendation to approve/ not approve.
- e. A quorum of the Board, after due consideration, shall vote on the rule change proposal and said vote will result in one of the following:
 - i. Approve the proposed rule change as submitted.

- ii. Approve the proposed rule change as modified by the Board.
- iii. Not approved the proposed rule change.
- iv. Refer the proposal to the annual business meeting, allowing delegated to second, and then vote to accept/reject.
- v. Refer the final vote to the entire membership via referendum, published in the IHMSA News.
- f. The Board shall make the final determination of the effective date of all adopted rule changes.
- g. Notification of all adopted and currently effective rule changes, including effective date, shall be published in the IHMSA News until such time as they can be formally incorporated into the IHMSA Official Rule Book.

Section II: Safety

1. General

- a. Adherence to generally accepted firearms safety procedures is the absolute top priority at any IHMSA sanctioned event. While the Match Director has the primary responsibility for overseeing the conduct of the match safety is the responsibility of every competitor, spotter, and match official.
- b. It is mandatory that all competitors, spotters, line officers, and any other persons on the designated firing line wear appropriate eye and ear protection. It is recommended that side shields be worn on the eye protection.
 - i. Hearing protection is optional for Air Pistol only when the Air competition is located remotely from other discipline competition.
- c. All handgun actions must be open and empty at all times at a match, except on the firing line during competition course of firing between the "Load" and "Cease Fire" commands or stored in a gun case or vehicle.
- d. Muzzle Control:
 - i. From the moment a handgun is placed on the firing line, until it is removed, the muzzle shall point safely down range.
 - ii. At no time during the loading or firing stages shall competitors allow their handgun to point at any part of their anatomy or any other person.
 - iii. While in the firing position, no part of the competitor's body may be in the "Danger Zone", defined as a 45-degree angle

cone-shaped area extending from the muzzle in line with the bore.

- iv. During firing, competitors shall not allow the muzzle of their handgun to recoil past vertical.
- e. Competitors have the responsibility to assemble/use ammunition that is safe to fire in the handgun for which it is loaded. There is no acceptable reason for subjecting a handgun to dangerous pressures or risking injury to any person as a result of potentially unsafe ammunition.
 - i. Any load that regularly requires extraction of the cartridge by any method other than the internal extractor of the handgun will be considered unsafe and not allowed.
- f. A misfire must be handled as if it is a hang fire and the handgun must be pointed down range for a safe period of time after the trigger is pulled. It is not considered safe to open the action on a firearm immediately after it has misfired.
- g. Triggers set so light as to be prone to accidental discharge are not allowed. Triggers shall be tested by cocking an unloaded handgun and rapping the butt sharply with the palm of the hand. If the sear mechanism disengages, the handgun will not be allowed in completion unless repaired.
- h. For safety reasons, all firearms must have a complete loop trigger guard.

2. Specific Safety Procedures

- a. Upon the “Cease Fire” command or when directed by the match officer, competitors shall immediately empty their handguns and put them in a “safe” condition – action open and placed in a shooting box, on a shooting table or on a shooting mat.
- b. For the safety of all persons, from the “Cease Fire” command until the “Load” command, handgun shall not be handled during this period, except for transporting to the next firing station.
- c. It is strongly recommended, but not mandatory, that all handguns transported on the firing line be contained in a shooting box/carrier so that direct handling of handgun is not required to transport between shooting stations.
 - i. In the absence of a shooting box/carrier. Handguns may be handled only for the purpose of transporting to the next

- shooting position; whereupon the handgun must be immediately placed on a shooting mat or table such that its safe condition is visible and can be readily determined.
- d. If a handgun requires repair between firing stages, the competitor may remove the handgun completely off the firing line. Upon return to the firing line station during a non-loading or non-firing period, the handgun must immediately be placed in a safe position.
 - e. Shooters shall remain in position until the firing line has been cleared and announced to be safe before advancing to the next firing position.
 - f. A Match Director shall have the authority to require any handgun that violated a safety rule or is deemed to be unsafe to be removed from the firing line. The competitor may substitute another handgun; however, the substituted handgun must be certified prior to being brought on the firing line.
 - g. If a safety violation occurs the competitor should not be interrupted during the loading or firing period unless it is a serious safety problem which poses an immediate threat to the safety of the competitor or any other individuals. At the earliest opportunity, the Match Director or Line Officer shall give the competitor a warning of the safety violation. If, after the warning, the same violation recurs during the same course of fire, the competitor shall be disqualified for that course of fire.
 - h. Safety is the only reason a competitor may be interrupted during the course of fire.

Section III: Competition

1. Competitor Qualification

- a. To officially compete in any IHMSA sanctioned match, a competitor must be a member in good standing of IHMSA or, in the case of a resident of an Affiliated Nation, a member in good standing of that country's recognized affiliated handgun silhouette body.
- i. To encourage new members, a non-member may be allowed to shoot the course of fire at the discretion of the Match Director.
- b. When entering any IHMSA-sanctioned match, the competitor's Membership Card must be delivered to the match register. At the conclusion of the match, the registrar will return the card with all

scores shot in the match posted and certified. When appropriate, the competitor's current class shall be upgraded in the Card's classification area.

- c. It shall be the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all scores fired in IHMSA sanctioned matches and category classifications are recorded correctly on his/her Membership Card.
- d. At the discretion of the Match Director, a shooter of known ability who does not present a Membership Card shall be required to compete in International or AAA class.

2. Big Bore Competition

- a. Competition fired on full scale targets consisting of three Production handgun categories and three Unlimited handgun categories:

Production (P)	Unlimited (U)
Revolver (R)	Unlimited Standing (US)
Standing (S)	Unlimited Any Sights (UAS)
- b. Competition fired on half scale targets consisting of two Unlimited handgun categories.

Unlimited Half-Scale (UHS) Unlimited Any Sights Half-Scale (UASHS)

- c. The letters in parentheses are the official abbreviations for each category (typical below)

3. Small Bore Competition

- a. Competition fired on three-eighth scale targets consisting of three Production handgun categories and three Unlimited handgun categories

Production (P)	Unlimited (U)
Revolver (R)	Unlimited Standing (US)
Standing (S)	Unlimited Any Sights (UAS)
- b. Competition fired on fifth scale targets consisting of two Unlimited handgun categories.

Unlimited Fifth Scale (UFS) Unlimited Any Sights Fifth Scale (UASFS)

4. Field Pistol Competition

- a. Competition fired on half scale targets consisting of two Production handgun categories:

Production (P)	Field Pistol Any Sights (FPAS)
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5. Air Pistol Competition

- a. Competition fired on one-tenth scale target consisting of two Production handgun categories and four Unlimited handgun categories

Production (P)	Unlimited (U)
Standing (S)	Unlimited Standing (US)
Unlimited Standing Iron Sights (USIS)	Unlimited Any Sights (UAS)

6. Production Categories

- a. The following categories, regardless of discipline must be shot with a handgun meeting Production handgun criteria/rule:

Standing (S)	Production (P)
Revolver (R)	Field Pistol Any Sights (FPAS)

7. Unlimited Categories

- a. The following categories, regardless of discipline may be shot with a handgun meeting either Production or Unlimited handgun criteria/rules:

Unlimited (U)	Unlimited Standing (US)
Unlimited Half Scale (UHS)	Unlimited Any Sight Half Scale (UASHS)
Unlimited Fifth Scale (UFS)	Unlimited Any Sight Fifth Scale (UAFS)
Unlimited Any Sight (UAS)	Unlimited Standing Iron Sight (USIS)

8. Category and Shooting Positions Rankings

- a. Standing categories within each discipline shall be ranked as follows (from lowest to highest)

Big Bore	Small Bore	Field Pistol	Air Pistol	
S	S	P	S	Lowest
US	US	FPAS	USIS	
			US	Highest

- b. Freestyle categories within each discipline shall be ranked as follows (from lowest to highest)

Big Bore	BB Half Scale	Small Bore	Fifth Scale	Air Pistol	
R	UHS	R	UFS	P	Lowest
P	UASHS	P	UAFS	U	

U		U		UAS	Highest
UAS					

- c. Within each discipline, if a competitor elects to use the same handgun in more than one Freestyle category or Standing category (considered separately) the following rules shall determine the order.
 - i. The handgun must be shot in ascending order (lowest to highest) of category ranking.
 - ii. The Standing categories may be shot at any time relative to Freestyle categories, subject to rule d. below.
- d. Within each discipline, if a competitor elects to use the standing position in a Freestyle category and enter the Standing category using the same handgun, the handgun must be shot in the Standing category(s) first in ascending order (lowest to highest) of category ranking prior to being fired in the Freestyle category(s).

9. Practical Hunter

- a. Class Description
 - i. The purpose of the class is to provide a course of fire that simulates the conditions and distances a handgun hunter would encounter in the field. The intent of the class is to have handguns on the firing line that are representative of what would be commonly used for hunting. All three classes will be shot from any SAFE freestyle shooting position including prone, kneeling, sitting, or standing.
 - ii. Practical Hunter Long Course will be shot on the 200 Big Bore range with the standard full-size targets at their normal ranges.
 - iii. Practical Hunter short Course will be shot on the 100-meter Field Pistol range with the standard full-size targets at their normal ranges.
 - iv. Practical Hunter .22LR Course will be shot on the 100-yard Small Bore targets at their normal ranges.

10. Ultra 500 Rules

- a. IHMSA rules for Ultra 500-meter shooting shall be identical to those for Big Bore 200 meter shooting except as follows.
 - i. Two categories will be added:

Ultra 500 Unlimited	Ultra 500 Unlimited Any Sight
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 - ii. The preferred distances are as follows

Chickens	200 meters
Pigs	300 meters
Turkeys	385 meters
Rams	500 meters
 - iii. The 500-meter preferred firing period shall be a 30 second load period followed by a 2 minute and 30 second firing period.
 - iv. A revolver shooter will be allowed time to switch the front sight between animals if he/she chooses to do so.
 - v. In 500-meter shooting there will be no limit to the number of sighter shots allowed, but once the record shots have begun, the course of fire must be shot without additional sighters.
 - vi. The rams shall be set so that it takes between 28 and 32 ounces to pull them over with a trigger pull scale or other scale. Any cartridge and bullet may be used to shoot the course of fire, but in the event of properly set rams not falling when hit, these targets will be scored as misses.
 - vii. If and when rams are hard set due to wind conditions, the bullet being shot on the rams must produce a momentum factor of 0.78 or greater at 500 meters for hits to be counted. Shooters will be on the honor system to know the momentum factor of the load they use on rams and to state that they know this to be over 0.78 when targets are hard set and hits counted. The momentum factor is computed by multiplying the bullet weight in grains times the remaining velocity at 500 meters and dividing the product by 225,200.

Section IV: Competitor Classification

1. General

- a. All competitors at IHMSA matches shall compete against other competitors who are generally equal in proficiency as established

- by a classification system for each IHMSA category. Classification for each discipline of competition shall be considered separately.
- b. Classification for each discipline and category in which the competitor is officially classified shall be recorded on the competitor's Membership Card.
 - c. Initial Classification: The first score fired in a sanctioned match by a competitor in a category of competition shall establish the competitor's classification in that particular category.
 - d. Leg-Up: During any twelve-month period, the next score fired, including reentry scores, which exceeds the break point of the current class in that category into the next higher class, shall constitute a "leg up" towards the next higher class and shall be indicated on the Membership Card by a plus sign (+) after the competitor current class (i.e., AA+)
 - e. Movement to the Next Higher Class: During any twelve-month period, any two scores, including re-entry scores, which exceeds the break point of the current class in that category into the next higher class will move the competitor to that class, effective at the next match competed in.
 - f. Jumping Class: When a competitor fires a single score that exceeds the break point of the current class that is two or more classes above the competitor's current class, he/she shall be advanced to the class immediately below the class of the score fired, effective at that match. Such score will also be the first "leg" into the class in which it was fired.
 - g. For classification purposes, a 60 or 80 round match fired straight through shall be converted to a 40 round match equivalent and treated as a single score.
 - i. Conversion to a 40 round equivalent shall be calculated by multiplying a 60-round score by $\frac{2}{3}$ and an 80 round score by $\frac{1}{2}$. All fractions shall be dropped.
 - ii. For the purpose of converting 60 and 80 round aggregate score, each category score will be added together and then calculated by multiplying a 60 round aggregate score $\frac{2}{3}$ and an 80 round aggregate score by $\frac{1}{2}$. Any remaining fraction will then be dropped.

- h. Eligibility for reclassification to a lower class in a category shall be based on eight consecutive sanctioned match scores below the break point of the competitor’s current class. Reclassification requires the approval of both the competitor’s resident State and Regional Directors in the USA, or National Director in other nations, and such approval is at the sole discretion of the Director(s).
- i. Based on any factual, sufficient evidence, any National/regional/State/Match Director, or member of the executive Committee shall have the authority to reclassify any competitor into any IHMSA class according to “known ability” at any time before, during, or after a match.
 - i. To determine “known ability” any available facts and information may be taken into consideration.
 - ii. Should there be any question regarding this procedure, or any decisions rendered there from, the competitor may refer the matter to the Executive Committee for a final decision.
- j. Any IHMSA member who omits scores in order to continue competing in a lower class is subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors, up to suspension from IHMSA for a maximum of one year.

2. Category Classification

- a. Each category of each discipline shall be divided into classes according to the following scores.

Class	C	B	A	AA	AAA	INT
Freestyle Categories						
P,R,UFS, AND UHS	0-10	11-17	18-23	24-32	33-37	38-40
Unlimited	0-17	18-24	25-29	30-36	37-39	40
ULTRA 500 UAS	N/A	N/A	N/A	0-29	30-36	37-40
ULTRA 500 Unlimited	N/A	N/A	N/A	0-24	25-33	34-40
UAS and UASHS and UASFS	N/A	N/A	N/A	0-36	37-39	40
All Practical Hunter	N/A	N/A	0-15	16-25	26-38	39-40
Class	C	B	A	AA	AAA	INT
Standing Categories						

P (Field Pistol)	N/A	0-7	8-15	16-22	23-29	30-40
S	N/A	0-7	8-15	16-21	22-27	28-40
US, USIS, and FPAS	N/A	0-14	15-21	22-29	30-35	36-40

Section V: Shooting Positions

1. Freestyle

- a. The Freestyle categories are Production, Revolver, Unlimited, Unlimited Any Sight, Unlimited Half Scale, Unlimited Any Sight Half Scale, Unlimited Fifth Scale, and Unlimited Any Sight Fifth-Scale
- b. The Freestyle shooting position shall be any safe shooting position without artificial support. The handgun may only come in contact with the competitor's body, clothing, and/or blast shield.
- c. The following conditions constitute an artificial support and are not allowed:
 - i. Nesting the barrel or fore end in/on the top part of a shoe or boot.
 - ii. Supporting the handgun across the sole or notch of the heel.
 - iii. Nesting the barrel or fore end in/on a crease or wrinkle of a blast shield, boot, pant leg, sock, or other article of clothing.
 - iv. Supporting any part of the handgun directly on the firing line, shooting mat or ground.

2. Standing

- a. The standing categories are Standing, Unlimited Standing, Field Pistol Production, Field Pistol Any Sight, and Air Pistol Unlimited Standing Iron Sights.
- b. The standing shooting position shall be any safe standing position with the handgun supported only by one or both hands.
- c. No part of one or both hands supporting the handgun may come in contact with any other part of the competitor's clothing, hat, or anatomy (except the other hand).
- d. No part of either arm, from the shoulder to the wrist, is allowed to come into contact with any other part of the competitor's anatomy or be artificially supported in any way.
- e. If prevented from doing so, by the nature of their condition physically challenged competitors need not assume a full standing position. They may fire from braced crutches, or with support

from a chair or stool, however, the support of their handgun must confirm to rules 3 and 4 above.

Section VI: Handguns

1. Production

- a. A pistol or revolver that is or was a manufacture's catalog product and is or was readily available to the general public.
- b. The Evaluation Committee shall have the responsibility for determining the category in which any new model handgun will compete. Handguns and/or accessories will be allowed to compete in Production categories if so determined by the Evaluation Committee to meet Production categories if so determined by the Evaluation Committee to meet Production categories if so determined by the Evaluation Committee to meet Production handgun rules and requirements, otherwise, such equipment shall be eligible to compete in Unlimited categories only.
 - i. All design changes and/or modifications to a Production handgun must be submitted to the Evaluation Committee for approval prior to being used in Production category competition.
 - ii. All new equipment, design changes, and modifications must be approved at least 90 days prior to the annual International Championships to be allowed for use in the competition.
- c. Barrel length shall not exceed 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
- d. Weight shall not exceed the following:
 - i. Open-sight categories 4 pound, unloaded, including magazine, or for Air Pistol, including any CO2 or other propellant containers
 - ii. Field Pistol Any Sights category: 5 pounds including optical equipment.
- e. Overall length shall not exceed 18 inches
- f. The handgun must be complete at all times in form, finish, and mechanical function as manufactured. Except otherwise allowed by these rules, only internal and external parts that are the original handgun manufacturer's standard catalog items for the particular model of handgun may be used for repair or replacement.

- i. Where original replacement parts are no longer available for the handgun in question, a broken or unserviceable part may be replaced by a newly made one provided that the newly made part is identical in material, form, finish, dimension, and configuration to the original part.
- ii. The only main part, i.e., frame, cylinder, action, or barrel that may be replaced is the barrel so long as it conforms to 1. Above.
- g. In the case of barrels fitted to Thompson Center Arms "Contender", "G2", and "Encore" frames, the following shall be allowed:
 - i. A barrel that does not exceed 10 ¾" in overall length.
 - ii. A sight radius that does not exceed 10 5/8" in length.
 - iii. A barrel outside diameter that does not exceed that found at the breech end of a standard Thompson Center Arms barrel as fitted to the model in question.
 - iv. Barrels that are blue, stainless, or plated may be used so long as the maker of the barrel offers the finish being utilized.
 - v. A cartridge that conforms to Section VII of these rules.
 - vi. Barrels that are fluted, stepped, or have a reverse-taper are not allowed.
- h. A revolver or semi-automatic pistol used in any Production gun category must be loaded with five rounds and fired as such.
- i. The original sights (front and/or rear) may be replaced with sights that are a manufacture's catalog item(s), which fit and attach to the handgun without any alteration to the sights or handgun.
 - i. Replacement sights may not extend the original sight radius by more than 1 inch.
 - ii. In Air Pistol only, the front or rear sights may be filed to raise or lower the point of impact, and the rear sights may be filed to raise or lower the point of impact, and the rear sight opening may be widened.
 - iii. Sights may be smoked or painted any color, including painting/markings sight setting positions.
 - iv. The following are allowed or not allowed
 - 1. Covered front sights are allowed
 - 2. Scope rib type sight bases are allowed.
 - 3. Tube sights are not allowed
 - 4. Covered rear sights are not allowed.

- a. Exception: 22 caliber Browning Buckmark Model with covered rear sight is allowed.
- j. The original stock, grip, or fore end may be replaced with a stock, grip, and/or fore end that is a manufacturer's catalog item(s), which fit and attach to the handgun without any alteration to the stock, grip, or fore end or handgun.
 - i. Removal of factory checkering from a stock, grip, or fore ends, is not allowed.
- k. Adjustable grips are allowed on Production handguns: however, no adjustment of such grips is allowed after the competitor had begun a course of fire.
- l. A trigger job may be performed on a Production handgun only as follows:
 - i. Sear engagement surface of the hammer and trigger may be smoothed and then re-hardened.
 - ii. Within the trigger/hammer assembly, springs from any manufacturer may be used to replace original spring, provided they are a catalogue item and made specifically for the make of handgun to which they are fitted.
 - iii. Polishing the sides of the hammer, trigger, or insides of the frame is not allowed.
- m. Hammer extensions that are a manufacture's standard catalog product, and that fit and attach to the handgun without any alteration to the extension or handgun are allowed.
- n. Optical equipment may be used in the Field Pistol Any Sights category only.
 - i. Optical equipment may be used in the Field Pistol Any Sights category only. Manufacturer's catalogued parts designed for the subject optical equipment are allowed for aftermarket modifications
 - ii. There is no limitation on optical magnification power.
 - iii. Mounts shall be a manufacture's catalog product(s) which fit and attach to the handgun without any alternation to the mount or handgun.
- o. Scopes and optical devices must be removed from handguns that are used in open sights categories; however, it is permissible to

- leave scope mounts attached, provided they are not used as a shooting aid.
- p. Production handguns may be drilled and tapped for scopes and still be used in the Production gun categories.
 - q. Engraving of metal parts of a handgun by the manufacturer or other party is allowed, provided it is strictly commemorative or decorative and does not constitute nor is used as a shooting aid.
 - r. Bolt action handguns are allowed for Air Pistol Production handguns only.
 - s. No Production Air Pistol shall have a manufacturer's suggested retail price greater than \$375.00 U.S. based on MSRP. This cap shall be reviewed and amended for inflation as needed to ensure the integrity of the production class. No Air Pistol will be re-categorized solely on the basis of movement in the MSPR or the price cap. The re-categorization of an Air Pistol will require a vote from the board after a recommendation from the evaluation committee. The list of approved Production Air Pistols is available on the IHMSA web site or from the evaluation committee.
 - t. Except as specifically allowed in the above rules, no other external or internal changes may be made to a handgun that is used in a Production gun category.

2. Unlimited

- a. Any handgun meeting the provisions of this section shall be allowed for Unlimited categories.
- b. Barrel length and sight radius shall not exceed 15 inches.
- c. Maximum length of a sighting apparatus including hoods, tubes, sunshades, extensions, or other devices shall not exceed the following:
 - i. Open-sight categories: 6 lb. unloaded, with magazine
 - ii. Unlimited Standing, Unlimited Any Sight, Unlimited Any Sight Half Scale categories: 7 lb. including optical equipment, unloaded, with magazine.
- d. Overall length shall not exceed 25 inches.
- e. Scopes and optical devices must be removed from handgun that are used in open sight categories; however, it is permissible to leave scope mounts attached, provided they are not used as a shooting aid.

- f. All .22 caliber Ult Free pistols are classed as Unlimited handguns, provided they comply with other IHMSA handgun rules.
- g. By definition, any Production Gun is qualified to be used in Unlimited categories.
- h. Revolvers and handguns with magazines may be loaded and fired single shot.
- i. Stocks and fore ends shall be generally traditional in design and shall meet all criteria of the US Tobacco and firearms regulations for a handgun fore end. Custom stocks and fore ends are allowed provided they are not configured in such a way to act as a shooting aid.
 - i. Custom stocks and fore ends are allowed provided they are not configured in such a way to act as a shooting aid (i.e. Specifically contoured to fit body anatomy).
 - ii. Designs that allow grasping the fore end at an angle greater than 60 degrees from the bore line are not allowed
 - iii. Adjustable stocks are allowed, provided the adjusted configuration meets all other IHMSA rules.

3. Practical Hunter

- i. Any hunting style handgun with a maximum length of 21 inches
- ii. Optics are allowed up to a maximum of 6x power. The use of higher variable power scopes will be allowed, but they must not be used over 6x during the course of fire. The use of fixed power scopes over 6x is not allowed.
- iii. Guns must be as manufactured with only cosmetic modifications.
- iv. Ported barrels are allowed as long as they are shot from a SAFE position.
- v. A rest such as a bipod or a sandbag supporting the barrel in the prone position may be used by an unclassified shooter and by shooters in classes A and AA. Allow Artificial support in practical hunter for shooters up to 12th birthday at non-championship matches.

4. Handgun Measurements

- a. Barrel length for single shot or bolt-action handguns shall be measured from the breach/bolt face in the firing position to the highest point of the muzzle crown. Muzzle brakes, suppressors, etc. shall be included in the barrel length.
- b. Barrel length for revolvers shall be measured from back of the forcing cone to the highest point of the muzzle crown. Sight radius shall be measured from the back of the front sight blade, post or aperture insert to the rear sight leaf, blade.
- c. Overall length shall be measured from the extremities of the handgun, square and parallel to the barrel.

Section VII: Cartridges

1. Big Bore Cartridge

- a. Bottleneck and straight-wall center fire cartridges.

2. Small Bore Cartridges

- a. Only .22 LR Rimfire ammunition fired as manufactured.

3. Field Pistol Cartridges and Practical Hunter Short Course

- a. Straight-wall, center fire pistol cartridges of standard manufacture with a maximum case length of 1.29 inches, as specified for that cartridge.
- b. The .32 – 20 with a length of 1.32 inches, .270 REN, .22 Hornet, 25-20.
- c. .22 LR and .22 WMR Rimfire fired as manufactured

4. Air Pistol

- a. Pellets shall be .22 caliber or smaller, made from lead or similar soft metal B.B.'s or other round balls are not allowed.

Section VIII: Targets

1. Big Bore Targets

- a. Targets shall be “full scale” steel silhouettes of Chickens, Pigs, Turkeys, and Rams per official IHMSA templates except Unlimited Half – Scale.

- b. Targets shall be made from steel plate and shall be 1/2 inch thick for Chickens and Pigs, and 3/8 inch thick for Turkeys and Rams, or the nearest metric equivalent.

- c. The “feet” upon which the targets rest should be made from the same type and thickness of steel as the targets. The feet shall be welded to the targets per the official templates. The dimensions of the feet shall be:

	Chickens	Pigs	Turkeys	Rams
Feet (depth x length)	3 x 4	2 x 4	3 x 6-8	4 x 5

- i. All dimensions are in inches. The nearest metric equivalent may be used.

2. Small Bore Targets

- a. Targets shall be 3/8 scale of “full scale” targets, per official IHMSA small bore scale templates.
- b. Targets shall be made from steel plate and shall be 3/16 inch or 1/4 inch thick for all targets, or the nearest metric equivalent.
- c. The “feet” upon which the targets rest should be made from the same type and thickness of steel as the targets. The feet shall be welded to the targets per the official templates.

3. Field Pistol/ Big Bore Unlimited Half Scale targets

- a. Targets shall be half scale of “full scale” targets per official IHMSA half scale templates.
- b. Targets shall be made from tempered steel plate and shall be 3/8 inch or 1/2 inch thick for all targets, or the nearest metric equivalents. It is strongly recommended that 1/2-inch-thick targets for used for Big Bore Unlimited Half Scale categories.

- c. The “feet” upon which the targets rest should be made from the same type and thickness of steel as the targets are made from. The feet shall be welded to the target per the official templates.

4. Fifth Scale targets

- a. Targets shall be 1/5 scale of “full scale” targets.
- b. Targets shall be made from steel plate and shall be 3/16 inch or ¼ inch thick for all targets, or the nearest metric equivalent.
- c. The “feet” upon which the targets rest should be made from the same type and thickness of steel as the targets. The feet shall be welded to the targets per the official templates.

5. Air Pistol Targets

- a. Targets shall be 1/10th scale of “full scale” targets per official IHMSA scale templates.
- b. Targets shall be made from steel plate and shall be minimum 1/8 inch thick for all targets, or the nearest metric equivalent. Commercially available targets of die cast metal construction are allowed.
- c. The feet upon which the targets rest shall be made from the same type and thickness of steel as the targets and shall be welded to the targets. The feet shall be proportional to the target.

6. Automated Reset Target System

- a. Automated reset target systems are permitted. Due to variations in system designs, exact toppling forces are not mandated. The following values, derived from test data on freestanding and auto-reset targets, are furnished as a guide. Using a trigger pull gage applied to the top of the back of each target, centered over the leg of chickens/turkeys and centered between the legs of pigs/rams, the measurements should be:

Weight in Ounces	Big Bore	Small Bore	Field Pistol, Half Scale	Air Pistol
Chickens	12-24	< 8	8-16	< 4
Pigs	18-36	< 8	10-20	< 4
Turkeys	18-36	< 8	10-20	< 4
Rams	22-40	< 8	16-24	< 4

All dimensions are in inches. The nearest metric equivalent may be used.

- b. When automated rest systems are used, rules pertaining to target feet, setting, topple, turning, and knockdown of freestanding targets shall be waived.

7. Excessive Target Damage

- a. Any club sponsoring an IHMSA-sanctioned match shall have the right to bar or disqualified any handgun, cartridge load, and/or competitor at any time before or during a match when it comes to the attention of the club that the silhouette targets are being damaged by bullets being fired by said competitor. Maximum allowable bullet penetration shall be 1/8" on mild steel targets and 1/16" on tempered steel targets r nearest metric equivalent(s).

8. Range Layout/Target Set-Up

- a. A silhouette range consists of a firing line and four different target lines, one for each of the four animals (chicken, pig, turkey, ram). Distance from the firing point to each bank of targets shall be:

	Big Bore Practical H. Long	Small Bore, Field Pistol, Practical H. Short	Air Pistol	Ultra 500
Chickens	50 M/YD	25 M/YD	10 YD	200 M
Pigs	100 M/YD	50 M/YD	12.5 YD	300 M
Turkeys	150 M/YD	75 M/YD	15 YD	385 M
Rams	200 M/YD	100 M/YD	18 YD	500 M
Tolerance	+/- 5 M/YD	+/- 2 M/YD	+/- 6 inches	+/- 5 M

- b. Preferred targets distance for all IHMSA disciplines shall be meters, except Air Pistol (yards). Ranges should be constructed, and targets set accordingly whenever possible.
- c. For each discipline, all targets should be set by the same unit of measure (meters or yards)

- d. IHMSA will sanction matches where range topography, configuration or construction required one or more target lines to deviate from the official target distance (meters or yards +/- stated tolerances) provided all of the following conditions are met.
 - i. All banks of targets at a non-conforming target line are set at the same nominal distance from the firing line: and
 - ii. The distance to all target lines is posted at the match and stated in all championship match announcements: and
 - iii. The Match Director, after showing acceptable cause, has obtained approval from the resident State and Regional Directors for the non-conforming range and such approval is in writing and on file at IHMSA headquarters.
- e. All silhouette range configurations and construction shall provide safe shooting conditions, both at the firing line, as well as down range to the targets and beyond the targets.
- f. Targets shall be set in banks of five animals each (five chickens, five pigs, etc.) The recommended distance between each animal is the width of that animal.
- g. Targets shall be set on rails or individual target stands, which shall be flat and level. It is recommended that wood or some other absorbent material be placed in front of steel rails or stands that may be subject to causing ricochet.
- h. Targets for all types of IHMSA competition shall be set with the rear edge of the target's foot/feet flush with the rear edge of its target stand, except Big Bore rams.
 - i. Each Big Bore ram target shall be set so that its center of gravity is no more than one inch forward from its topple point.
 - i. To accomplish this, the ram should be carefully moved backward on its stand, with the feet overhanging the backside of the stand until the topple point is achieved. It may then be moved forward a maximum of 1 inch to achieve stability. It is recommended that the final resting place be marked by spraying paint around the feet so the target may be placed in the same position each time it is reset.
 - ii. Optional ram topple rule. A Big Bore ram target will be legally set if $\frac{3}{4}$ inch is removed from the rear of both feet of a regulation ram

- target and the target is set full foot with the rear of the feet flush with the rear edge of a level steel rail or stand.
- iii. If the target is not stable in a legally set position, because of wind conditions, it should be clamped or fastened in position.
 - iv. At no time may a regulation ram target be set “full footed”, shimmed, etc. in an unfastened position to prevent it from falling.
 - j. The recommended color for all targets is flat black; however, targets may be painted any color necessary to provide adequate contrast with the background and good target visibility. Once a match is started, target color shall not be changed.

Section IX: Match Procedures

1. Requirements for match Sanction

- a. To qualify for a sanctioned match, the hosting organization must first apply to the State Director, National Director, or any Executive Director of IHMSA. Upon being awarded the match, a match package consisting of the required materials shall be sent to the host organization.
- b. Every sanctioned match shall be administered and supervised by a Match Director.
 - i. The Match Director shall be responsible for conducting the match in accordance with IHMSA rules.
 - ii. All matters shall be directed to and resolved by the Match Director or his/her designee.
- c. Upon completion of the match, a sanction fee of US \$2.00 for each registered entry, including reentries, together with a copy of the Match recap sheet, shall be sent to IHMSA Headquarters within 30 days. Said report and sanction fees shall be mailed to:
 - i. For Affiliated Nations, such reports and sanction fees are to be sent to the National Director within 30 days.
 - ii. If a club discounts its entry fees for Junior competitors by an amount of 50% or more, the US \$2.00 sanction fee is waived for Junior entries.
- d. Delinquency in remitting sanction fees may affect the designation of good standing of a match. The following policy applies to delinquent remittance of sanction fees.

- i. Matches more than 30 days delinquent (60 days after the date of the match) shall not be eligible to send delegates to the annual business meeting.
- ii. After 90 days delinquency (120 days after the date of the match), the matter will be brought up for review of sanction revocation by the Executive Committee.
- e. Any organization hosting sanctioned matches that fails to adhere to IHMSA rules may have their sanction withdrawal by the Executive Committee. In the event of sanction being withdrawn, the affected organization shall, upon written request of the Secretary, be able to have the decision reviewed by the Board of Directors.

2. Handgun Certification

- a. Handguns must be certified to comply with all rules before shooting for score. The Match Director shall appoint one or more persons to certify handguns in accordance with the rules. In the interest of safety, said person(s) shall be an experienced handgun silhouette competitor, or person(s) with the required knowledge.
- b. Only one handgun per category entry may be certified. The same handgun, as certified, shall be used throughout a particular course of fire, except as allowed to be replaced in the event of damage or a malfunction.
- c. Should a handgun become damaged or mechanically fail to function during a match, another handgun that complies with the rules for the applicable discipline and category of competition may be substituted to complete the match.
 - i. The Match Director or Line Officer must examine, approve, and authorize the use of the substitute handgun. Under no circumstances shall the malfunction of a competitor's handgun or ammunition be allowed to delay the progress of a match.
- d. Certification does not require internal inspection of Production handguns unless there is reason to believe it does not comply with Production handgun rules. In such cases, the competitor or his/her designee may be requested to disassemble the handgun to the extent necessary to permit visual inspection by a jury of qualified persons appointed by the Match Director.

- i. Upon inspection, the jury shall retire and discuss the matter. The jury may also request information from other knowledgeable persons to assist in making their decision. A majority vote by the jury shall be final. If the handgun does not comply with IHMSA rules, the competitor's entry with that handgun will not be accepted.
 - ii. If a competitor refuses to comply with this rule, the handgun in question will not be permitted for use in any Production category.
- e. At State, Regional, National, or International championships, the match sponsor, upon request of the State, Regional, or National Director, may require first, second, and third place competitors to submit their handguns for inspection by a jury as previously described. This should be accomplished as soon after the conclusion of competition as is practical.

3. Match Commands

- a. At an IHMSA match there are four commands to be given by the Range Officer - the individual responsible for calling the line, or by recorded commands. To ensure uniformity and avoid confusion on the part of the competitors, the following commands should be used consistently:
 - i. "Shooters to the line" - Given when the range is safe, to alert competitors to ready themselves on the firing line. Handguns shall not be handled at this time.
 - ii. "Load" - Given at the start of a 30 second period in which the competitor prepares to shoot; including, but not limited to adjusting/blackening sights, dry firing, and loading. Competitors shall not handle their handguns until the "Load" command has been given.
 - iii. "Fire" - Given at the conclusion of the 30 second loading period, it signifies the start of the two-minute period to fire five shots.
 - iv. "Cease fire..., make your gun safe" - Given at the end of the two-minute firing period. When given, competitors must immediately cease firing, unload their handguns, and put them in a safe and

stable condition. If a competitor encounters any difficulty or delay in doing so, he must notify the Range Officer immediately.

- b. Electronic tones or horns may be used for the “Fire” and “Cease fire” commands. Verbal direction shall still be given for all other commands.
- c. The two-minute firing period shall officially commence at the beginning of the audible tone or beginning of the word “Fire”; and shall end at the beginning of the audible tone or beginning of the first word of “Cease Fire”.

4. Sighter Targets/Sighter Shots

- a. Sighter targets, or sighter shots, are allowed at the Match Director’s option at non-championship matches. See rules for Ultra 500.
- b. It is mandatory that sighter targets be available for use by participants at all IHMSA championship matches. There shall be a minimum of one target at each distance for each type of match target to be shot in competition.
- c. When used, sighter targets shall be the official size and shape for the type of competition, set at the same distances, the same color and have approximately the same background as the equivalent match targets.
- d. Competitors will be allowed up to five sighter shots for each match entry to be fired. Sighter shots must be taken during a standard, two- minute match firing period. Competitors will have the option of shooting at the sighter targets of their choice or foregoing any sighter shots. See Ultra 500 rules.
- e. Once a range has been officially closed for preparation of a match, no practice will be allowed before or during any IHMSA sanctioned match other than the five-sighter shots as described above.

5. Scoring

- a. For each five-shot string, targets shall be shot in sequence, left to right, one shot fired at each target. Each five-target grouping is referred to as a “bank” of targets.
- b. Scorecards for each entry shall be marked as follows:
 - i. Hit: an “X” shall be marked in the box corresponding to the correct target to be shot at.
 - ii. Miss: a “O” shall be marked in the box corresponding to the correct target to be shot at.

- iii. The total number of “X’s” for each five-shot bank shall be entered on the scorecard. The sum of all five shot banks shall be entered at the bottom of the scorecard to determine the competitor’s total match score.
- c. A shot shall be scored as a hit if the correct target is knocked down or off its stand as a result of the shot. The following shot conditions on the correct target shall be scored as a hit:
 - i. A ricochet that knocks down the target.
 - ii. A shot striking a legally fastened target (refer to # 5 below). Competitors may request inspection of the target(s) in order to have hits verified.
 - iii. When either foot of a struck pig or ram is completely off its stand but resting on the ground or any other obstruction so as to prevent the target from falling, even if the target is still standing with the other foot on the stand.
 - iv. When the foot of a struck chicken or turkey is partially off its stand but resting on the ground or any other obstruction so as to prevent the target from falling.
 - v. An auto-reset target that is struck falls and rebounds back to the standing position.
- d. A shot shall be scored as a miss if the correct target remains standing on its stand after the shot, whether struck or not. See Ultra 500 rules. The following shot conditions shall be scored as a miss:
 - i. Targets that are not fired upon for any reason.
 - ii. A target that is knocked down by a shot that occurs before the “Fire” command or after the “Cease Fire” command. At the end of the firing period, the Match Director shall announce such shots appropriately as “early shot” or “late shot”.
 - iii. An incorrect target knocked down out of sequence. If the incorrect target is to the right of the correct target, the correct target is scored as a miss, as is the target knocked down. The maximum penalty shall be two targets for each single occurrence.
 - iv. Except as described in # 5 below, in no case shall a struck target be scored as a hit unless it is knocked down or off its stand as a result of the shot fired by the competitor at that target.
- e. When wind conditions prevent one or more targets in a bank from being set and remaining in position without artificial support in

- accordance with section VIII-H, the target(s) shall be fastened - clamped/fixed - to the stand(s), and all shots striking such target(s) anywhere shall be scored as hits.
- i. In championship matches, if one target in a bank is fastened, all targets at that distance must be fastened.
 - ii. Standard target setting and scoring procedures shall be resumed immediately when wind conditions allow.
- f. If a target yet to be engaged is inadvertently knocked down or blown down by wind, the remaining targets in the bank shall be fired at in order, left to right.
- i. After firing at each of the available targets, the competitor shall return to the left end of the bank of targets and fire the remaining shots at any targets still standing. If no targets are available in the bank and shots remain, the competitor may fire at available targets on an adjacent bank or request an "alibi".
 - ii. Whenever it becomes necessary for a competitor to shoot a five-shot string in other than standard fashion (i.e., targets being engaged in sequence, left to right), the competitor should alert the scorer to ensure that the shots will be scored correctly. All scoring discrepancies must be resolved before the targets are reset.
- g. Each competitor's score shall be certified by the competitor's spotter or another adjacent shooter/spotter who shall sign or initial the scorecard in the appropriate "judges" box at the completion of each five-shot string. The competitor shall sign or initial the scorecard in the same manner.
- h. If a competitor is found to have signed an incorrect scorecard, that score will be disqualified. The entry will not be counted for any purpose, nor will the competitor be allowed to shoot a re-entry score in the type and category to be counted for match record.

6. Alibis

- a. An alibi is permitted in an IHMSA sanctioned match only when no targets are available in the competitor's bank and the competitor has not fired all five allowed shots.
 - i. If one or more targets are still standing in the competitor's bank, it/they must be used for the alibi shot(s) within the same five-shot firing period.

- ii. At the competitor's sole option, available target(s) on an adjacent bank may be used for the alibi shot(s) within the same firing period, or in a separate alibi firing period.
- b. If no targets are available to complete the five-shot string on the competitor's bank and the option is not taken to fire at targets on an adjacent bank, target(s) shall be reset in the competitor's bank and the alibi targets will be shot in the standard left-to-right sequence, regardless of which target(s) caused the alibi.
- c. When alibi shots are taken in a separate firing period, it will be for alibi shot(s) only and, using standard commands, the competitor shall be given a 30 second loading period and a firing period of 24 seconds per alibi shot to complete the five-shot string.

7. Tiebreakers and Shoot-Offs

- a. In the case of the same total score fired by more than one competitor in the same category and class of competition, the Match Director has the option to decide how to break all tie scores: either by Reverse Animal Count or by Shoot-Off. The tie break option must be listed in a match program or posted at the range prior to the match. If not listed or posted, reverse animal count shall be used.
 - i. At non-championship matches, the Match Director may use any visible shoot-off targets capable of being knocked off the target stand. Shoot-off targets may be of a different color than that used in the match.
- b. At all State, Regional, National, and International Championship matches, first place in all categories and classes, including championship titles, must be decided by shoot-offs in the event of tie scores. Other places may be decided by reverse animal count or shoot-offs at the Match Director's option.
 - i. Shoot-off targets for all championship matches must be visible, metallic, standard IHMSA silhouette shaped targets of chickens, pigs, turkeys, or rams. Targets may be of any size and may be set in any combination of types and sizes. Target color must be the same as the targets used in the match.
- c. Reverse animal count consists of comparing the total ram target hits; with the competitor having the highest ram count declared the winner. If the ram count is equal, the same procedure will be used sequentially for turkeys, pigs, and chickens in order to

- determine the winner. Competitors who have exact animal count tie scores shall compete in a shoot-off to determine the winner.
- d. Shoot-offs shall be fired in five-shot strings on banks of five targets for each competitor, using standard loading, firing, and scoring procedures.
 - i. The Match Director shall determine the number of the minimum five-shot banks to be used to break ties (5 or 10 shot shoot-offs are typical).
 - ii. Shooting strings shall continue using the above determined format until all ties have been broken.
 - iii. A “sudden death” shoot-off format is not allowed.
 - e. Shoot-off targets may be set at any distance, out to a maximum of the actual distance used to set the match ram targets.
 - f. Competitors must use the same handgun set up in the same configuration that was used in the original course of fire.
 - g. If a competitor is using the same handgun in multiple shoot-offs, the affected shoot-offs shall be shot in accordance with the order of fire/ ranking as follows:

<u>Discipline /Category</u>	<u>Standing</u>	<u>Freestyle</u>	<u>Half Scale</u>
Big Bore	S - US	R – P – U – UAS	UHS - UASHS
Small Bore	S - US	R – P – U – UAS	UHS - UASHS
Field Pistol	P - FPAS		
Air Pistol	S – USIS	P – U - UAS	

8. Match Re-Entry

- a. In a particular match, the first time a competitor completes the course of fire for a given discipline and category of competition, that score shall be for match record and award.
- b. At the Match Director’s option, the competitor may shoot a re-entry - repeat the course of fire in the same discipline and category of competition; however, the re-entry score shall only count toward classification and qualification for championship matches and must be entered on the competitor’s Membership Card.

- c. A competitor may only shoot a re-entry after shooting all other entries for record and award. With respect to this requirement, each discipline shall be considered separately.

9. Awards, Trophies, and Prizes

- a. The match sponsor shall schedule all classes for the discipline and category of competition being held and give at least one award in each class if a properly classified competitor completes the course of fire.
 - i. Big Bore Half Scale, Small Bore Fifth Scale, Practical Hunter, and Ultra 500 categories shall be included at the option of the Match Director.
 - ii. Small Bore Fifth Scale categories shall be included at the option of the Match Director.
- b. No match will be sanctioned by IHMSA where the value of any prize, merchandise, or cash award to be competed for exceeds twice the value of the entry fee paid by the competitor. Trophy value is not included; although, this rule does apply to any merchandise, prize, or cash which is awarded in lieu of a trophy.
- c. All donated or bonus prizes, without exception, are to be awarded in a manner whereby all competitors in the match are eligible on an equal basis. Raffles are allowed provided all competitors are given an equal chance to purchase raffle tickets.

10. Protests

- a. All official protests shall be decided by a jury appointed by the Match Director. The jury should be composed of knowledgeable IHMSA shooters and/or officials present at the match.
- b. All official protests must be submitted to the Match Director in writing, accompanied by a fee of \$10.00 local currency, within 24 hours of any alleged violation and/or one hour after the completion of the competition, including shoot offs whichever occurs first. The \$10.00 fee shall be awarded to the party found in favor of by the jury.
- c. A handgun that was not previously inspected by a jury may be protested by another competitor; however, no competitor shall be interrupted during the course of fire. After completion of firing, the protested competitor will be requested to make his handgun available for inspection by a jury.
- d. International Championship Protest Rules:

- i. A member of the IHMSA Board of Directors will be appointed Protest Committee Chairperson. That person shall select a 5- or 7- person Jury, The Chairperson will also accept protests and submit them to the Jury within a reasonable time period.
 - ii. A protest must provide the specific information upon which it is based. Official IHMSA Protest/Outcome Forms shall be used to document all pertinent information relative to the protest.
 - iii. Protests regarding equipment, illegal positions, and non-score issues must be submitted within one hour of the alleged violation.
 - iv. Protests of scores must be submitted within twenty-four hours of the alleged violation.
 - v. Both the protester and the alleged violator may appear before the Jury to present their case, proof, and/or witness testimony.
 - vi. When the Jury has reached its decision, the protester and the alleged violator will be advised of the decision by an IHMSA elected officer.
 - vii. All protests will be brought to a conclusion prior to the awards ceremony. No protests or complaints will be accepted after the awards ceremony has begun.
- e. The decisions of the jury, in all protested instances, shall be final and binding.

11. Championship Matches

- a. Bids for State, Regional, and National Championships must be submitted to the respective State, Regional, or National Director.
 - i. To host a State, Regional, or National Championship, a club must have successfully held three prior IHMSA sanctioned matches in the twelve months immediately preceding the match date.
- b. With the approval of the State, Regional, or National Director, any club or organization sponsoring a championship match has the option of conducting one of three types of matches:
 - i. Open: All otherwise eligible entrants, regardless of residency, shall compete equally for category and aggregate titles.
 - ii. Restricted: Open to all otherwise eligible entrants, regardless of residency; however, only residents of the home State, Region or Nation (as applicable) shall be eligible to compete for category and aggregate titles.

- iii. Closed: open only to bona fide residents of the home State, Region, or Nation (as applicable).
- iv. The Championship Match type must be listed in the printed program, all match announcements, and the Championship Match Schedule in the IHMSA News for USA matches.
- c. A competitor's place of legal residence shall establish his/her eligibility to compete in a Restricted or Closed championship match, subject to the following qualifications:
 - i. When competitors move into a new State, Region or Nation, they will be considered a resident in the new location after a period of thirty days.
 - ii. With the approval of the relevant State and Regional Directors, a competitor may declare resident status in an adjoining State and Region. Such competitors must reapply to the State and Regional Directors to return resident status to the State or Region of legal residency.
 - iii. For championship matches, a competitor may only claim resident status in one State, Region, or Nation in a calendar year.
- d. To participate in a championship match, a competitor must complete a minimum of two entries or re-entries in any category in non-championship matches within the previous 12-month period prior to the championship match. With respect to this requirement, each discipline shall be considered separately. The following entries may also be counted for championship qualification:
 - i. Handgun silhouette entries completed in NRA sanctioned matches.
 - ii. Handgun silhouette entries completed in non-affiliated Nations by IHMSA members who reside in those non-affiliated Nations.
- e. To participate in a championship match, a competitor must be classified in all disciplines and categories in which he/she intends to compete.
- f. Experienced Line Officers must be furnished by the host club at all championship matches. Duties of Line Officers shall include monitoring the firing line for safety conditions, monitoring competitors for compliance with the rules, certifying serial numbers at the beginning and end of the course of fire, and addressing any disputes or issues raised by the competitors.

- g. It is recommended that the host club at all championship matches furnish scorekeepers. If competitors are allowed to keep their own score, each five-shot string score must be verified and attested by a minimum of two other persons in addition to the competitor.
- h. The International Championship match shall be under the jurisdiction of the IHMSA Board of Directors. The IHMSA Board of Directors shall administer match entries and fees and select trophies and prizes. The hosting club, as selected by the Board of Directors, shall furnish the range, targets, and coordinating activities.
- i. At the International Championships, only one trophy per person per category will be awarded. No trophy will be awarded for first place in the class of a category champion.

12. Optional Competition

- a. At the match sponsor's option, special awards may be made for competition including, but not limited to the following: High Lady, High Junior, High Senior, Cast Bullet, Aggregate Score and Team events. Optional competitions shall be included in all championship match announcements.

Section X: Miscellaneous Rules for Competition

1. Equipment and Accessories

- a. Allowed: The following equipment/accessories are allowed:
 - i. A flat shooting mat or ground cover.
 - ii. Athletic elbow pad or other such material used to protect a competitor's elbow. Such protection shall not be excessively padded or stiff, so as to be used as a shooting aid.
 - iii. Shooting glove(s) - provided it/they are not excessively padded or stiff, so as to be used as a shooting aid.
 - iv. Blast shields used in the freestyle shooting position if used for protection only, provided it is not excessively padded, constructed, or contoured so as to be used as a shooting aid.
 - v. Auxiliary lenses and/or loupes, provided they are attached to the competitor's eyeglass lens or frame. Such lens or loupe may not extend more than one inch beyond the eyeglass frame.

- b. Not Allowed: The following equipment, accessories, actions are not allowed:
 - i. Artificial rests or supports (see Practical Hunter), slings, padded or unnecessarily heavy clothing, or any kind of wrist or arm supports or bracelets.
 - ii. Applied friction materials or rubberizing on any part of the handgun.
 - iii. Muzzle brakes, compensators, or ported barrels on handguns with barrel lengths less than 12 inches in overall length, including the muzzle brake, compensator, or porting.

2. Coach/Spotter

- a. Each competitor may have one coach/spotter on the firing line who may advise the shooter where shots are going, keep time, and otherwise provide advice.
- b. The coach/spotter may not handle the competitor's handgun or assist in the shooting process in any physical manner once the "Load" command has been given.
 - i. Exception: In the interest of promoting junior shooters, the coach/spotter may assist a junior shooter only in procedures which the shooter is not physically capable of performing (i.e., breaking open an action).

Section XI: Physical Challenges

1. General

- a. Competitors who are unable to comply with all rules pertaining to shooting positions and allowable equipment, due to physical challenge, may apply for a waiver or special equipment permit allowing use of a specific position or shooting aid.
- b. Application may be made to the Physically Challenged Committee for a Physically Challenged (PC) Shooter's Card. The PC Shooter's Card specifies the nature of the competitor's condition and specific waiver or shooting aid approved.
- c. Application for a PC Shooter's Card must include all pertinent information describing the condition, photos or sketches of the shooting position or shooting aid for which approval is requested. Approval will be based upon the medical necessity and need of each applicant.

- d. A PC Shooter's Card is not mandatory, however it is recommended, since the document will facilitate approval by Match Officials who are not familiar with the competitor.
- e. Approval of a shooting position or shooting aid will not be granted if such a position or aid creates an unsafe condition for the competitor or any other person on the firing range.
- f. A competitor who has been issued a special authorization certificate by the National Rifle Association of America (NRA) permitting the use of a specific shooting position or shooting aid may use the certificate in lieu of an IHMSA Physically Challenged Shooter's Card. A copy of the NRA certificate should be forwarded to the Chairman of the IHMSA Physically Challenged Committee.