

ACTION PISTOL DISTINGUISHED BADGE

DRAFT RULES

Proposal: To adopt and implement an Action Pistol Distinguished Badge Program that would award **Distinguished Action Pistol Badges** to the most outstanding competitors in designated CMP Action Pistol competitions. If approved by the CMP Rules Committee, the program would start in January 2026.

Distinguished Program Summary: Gold Distinguished Marksman badges are the highest and most prestigious awards for excellence in marksmanship competition that are authorized by the U. S. Government. The first Distinguished Marksman Badges were issued by the U. S. Army in 1884 for excellence in service rifle competitions. A traditional award formula emerged through which competitors earn 10, 8 or 6 “EIC credit points” (*EIC = Excellence-In-Competition*) by placing in the top ten percent of Non-Distinguished competitors (*competitors who have not won the badge in that discipline*) in designated EIC competitions. When a competitor earns a total of 30 EIC points they become “Distinguished” and are awarded the badge. New badge winners are recognized in award ceremonies of their peers where their badges are “pinned on.” This program was originally administered by the U. S. Defense Department through the Army’s Office of Civilian Marksmanship. When the Civilian Marksmanship Program was privatized by Congress in 1996, responsibility for administering the program was transferred to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, which operates as a federally chartered, not-for-profit corporation. Starting in 1904, the program was expanded to include service pistol. Expansion of the program to recognize additional Shooting Sports disciplines continued so that today Distinguished Badges are awarded in 11 different Shooting Sports disciplines. Action Pistol would become the 12th Distinguished Badge discipline.

Background Resource: <https://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Americas-Distinguished-Badges-Golden-Symbols-of-Marksmanship-Excellence.pdf>. This link opens an article that provides a detailed explanation of America’s Distinguished Badge Program from its origins in 19th century military marksmanship to its present status as prestigious means of recognizing and honoring the best marksmen and markswomen in each of 11 different Shooting Sports disciplines.

Draft Rules. CMP approval of an Action Pistol Distinguished Badge Program would be accomplished when the CMP Rules Committee approves rules and regulations to govern the program. The text that follows is proposed as the rules that would govern the new Action Pistol Distinguished Badge Program (*note that these rules are still designated as “DRAFT;” the numbers before each paragraph in this document designate the projected location of the rule in the 2025 CMP Action Pistol Competition Rules*):

Update: 15May2025

1.7 Excellence-in-Competition Matches (renumber current 1.7-1.12)

Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) Matches are rifle and pistol competitions where competitors can earn EIC credit points that count towards the awarding of Distinguished Badges through the Distinguished Badge Program administered by the CMP (Rule 10.0). Action Pistol EIC Matches include the Bianchi Cup Championship, and EIC Matches conducted or sanctioned by the CMP.

1.11 Match Director's Bulletin

A Match Director's Bulletin may be issued to provide additional information regarding competition conditions that were not known when the Match Program was published. Match Director's Bulletins may not change, set aside, or alter any of these Rules, except that a Match Director's Bulletin may change a date of firing, cancel an event, or change a course of fire when necessary to complete a competition that is affected by severe weather or unforeseen conditions. Details of any changes made and the reasons for such changes must immediately be reported in writing to the CMP. The CMP must approve these changes for the competition to be considered a valid EIC or other sanctioned match.

10.0 Excellence-In-Competition Matches (new)

10.1 Purpose

Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) Matches are Action Pistol, Service Rifle, Service Pistol, .22 Rimfire Pistol, Service Revolver, Smallbore Rifle, Air Rifle or Air Pistol competitions where competitors can earn EIC credit points that count towards the awarding of Distinguished Badges for those disciplines. The awarding of Action Pistol EIC credit points and Distinguished Badges is governed by these regulations (Rules 10.0 and 11.0).

10.2 Action Pistol EIC Matches

Action Pistol EIC Matches are competitions where the highest ranking Non-Distinguished competitors are awarded 10, 8 or 6 points in accordance with Rule 11.3.5. Competitions that may be sanctioned and conducted as Action Pistol EIC Matches are:

- a) The Bianchi Cup Championship (The CMP National Championship);
- b) Regional Action Pistol EIC Matches conducted or sanctioned by the CMP; and
- c) CMP-Sanctioned State Action Pistol Championships that are designated as EIC Matches.

10.3 Regulations for CMP-Sanctioned Action Pistol EIC Matches

10.3.1 CMP-Sanctioned Action Pistol EIC Matches

CMP-affiliated state associations, clubs and other organizations may apply to CMP Competitions to conduct Regional or State Championship Action Pistol EIC Matches. The CMP must approve and sanction all EIC Matches conducted by CMP-affiliated organizations prior to their being conducted. EIC Matches may be conducted in the United States or U. S. territories or at U. S. military installations in other countries. All phases of an EIC Match must be fired on the same range complex. Any deviation from this Rule that is not approved by CMP Competitions in accordance with Rule 1.11 will be cause for disallowing the scores fired in that match.

10.3.2 EIC Match Programs

To qualify as an Action Pistol EIC match, the competition must be an aggregate consisting of these four events:

- a) Practical Event (Rule 6.2.1)
- b) Barricade Event (Rule 6.2.2)
- c) Moving Target Event (Rule 6.2.4)
- d) Falling Plate Event (Rule 6.2.3)

All competitors in Action Pistol EIC Matches must fire the Action Pistol courses of fire as defined in these rules. The distribution of EIC credit points will be based on competitors' rankings in pistol category aggregates of their scores in these four events.

10.3.3 Arms Allowed

Competitors in Action Pistol EIC Matches must fire a pistol as defined in Rule 4.2. In each Action Pistol EIC Match, competitors may fire in one or more of four pistol categories:

- a) Open Pistol (Rule 4.2.1)
- b) Production Pistol (Rule 4.2.3)
- c) Production Optic Pistol (Rule 4.2.7)
- d) Metallic Sight Pistol (Rule 4.2.3)

Competitors' scores in each pistol category will be ranked separately for purposes of awarding EIC credit points. If a competitor fires in more than one pistol category in an Action Pistol EIC Match, their ranked aggregate scores in each category will be considered separately for purposes of awarding EIC credit points (It is possible for a competitor to earn EIC credit points in more than one pistol category in one Action Pistol EIC Match. *Note: The CMP intends to evaluate the inclusion of separate Rimfire Pistol event categories after the program is implemented.*

10.3.4 Entry Fees

Each competitor in an EIC Match, regardless of Non-Distinguished or Distinguished status, must pay a fee of \$15.00 to be collected by the match sponsor and remitted to the CMP after the match. If a competitor enters in more than one pistol category, a separate entry fee shall be paid for each pistol category entered. The match sponsor may charge an additional fee to cover expenses necessary to conduct the EIC Match.

10.3.5 EIC Match Reporting

EIC match sponsors must forward a Match Report after each EIC Match, with the scores and CMP entry fees for all competitors who fire in that competition, regardless of whether they completed all four events. Match Reports must be submitted to the CMP within five (5) days following the completion of the match. Reports and fees not received within 30 days will invalidate the EIC Match. The CMP, not the match sponsor, will determine EIC credit point winners in accordance with Rule 11.3. The CMP will post scores and EIC credit point awards for each EIC Match on the CMP Competition Tracker web site as soon as possible after Match Reports are received from EIC Match Sponsors. The official final EIC Match results are the results determined by the CMP after Match Reports are returned to the CMP. *Note: The CMP will determine whether to use EIC Match Scorecards.*

10.3.6 CMP-Sanctioned EIC Match Awards

The three highest-ranking competitors in each pistol category with six or more entries regardless of Distinguished status, will be awarded gold, silver, and bronze CMP place medals. CMP gold, silver and bronze Achievement Pins may be awarded to all competitors who exceed CMP Achievement Award scores in accordance with Rule 9.2 regardless of Distinguished status.

11.0 Distinguished Badge Program (new)

11.1 Distinguished Badges

Gold Distinguished Badges are the highest individual awards authorized by the U.S. Government for excellence in marksmanship competition. Distinguished Badges are awarded by the CMP and the respective military commands in accordance with 36 USC §40722 [3]. The CMP only issues Distinguished

Badges to competitors who earn them according to CMP Competition Rules. The name of the recipient, the year the badge was earned, and the badge serial number are engraved on each badge. The first Distinguished Badges were awarded by the U.S. Army in 1884. The current Distinguished Badge Program offers opportunities for competitors to earn these prestigious badges in 12 different Distinguished Badge programs. The chart (TABLE 12 below) describes the Distinguished Badge programs administered by the CMP under authority granted to it by Federal law. The regulations that follow govern the awarding of Distinguished Action Pistol Badges.

TABLE 12 CMP DISTINGUISHED BADGE PROGRAMS	
Badge Title	Awarded for Excellence in:
U. S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge	ISSF Championships, while competing as a member of the USA Shooting National Team; or WSPS Championships while competing as a member of the USA Shooting National Team.
Distinguished Rifleman	Highpower Service Rifle NT and EIC competitions.
Distinguished Pistol Shot	Service Pistol NT and EIC competitions.
Distinguished 22 Rimfire Pistol	22 Rimfire Pistol EIC competitions.
Distinguished Service Revolver	Service Revolver EIC competitions.
Distinguished Marksman	NT and EIC Service Rifle or Pistol competitions by competitors with disabilities.
Junior Distinguished	Three-position air rifle competition in either precision or sporter categories for school-age juniors.
Distinguished Smallbore Rifle Position	Smallbore Rifle three-position EIC competitions.
Distinguished Smallbore Rifle Prone	Smallbore Rifle prone EIC competitions.
Distinguished Air Rifle	Air Rifle EIC competitions.
Distinguished Air Pistol	Air Pistol EIC competitions.
Distinguished Action Pistol*	Action Pistol EIC competitions.

**Regulations for this badge are found in this rulebook. Regulations for other Distinguished Badges are found in their respective rulebooks.*

11.2 Distinguished Badge Program Administration

11.2.1 Civilian Badge Program Administration

The CMP administers Distinguished Rifleman and Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge programs for civilians in accordance with Title 36 USC §40722 (3) and these Rules. The CMP administers the U. S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge and Distinguished Marksman Badge programs and the Distinguished Badge programs for 22 Rimfire Pistol, Smallbore Rifle Position, Smallbore Rifle Prone, Service Revolver, Air Rifle, Air Pistol and Action Pistol for all competitors in accordance with Title 36 USC §40722 (3) and these Rules.

11.2.2 Master Files for Distinguished and EIC Records

The CMP maintains master files of all Distinguished Badge winners. This file records the badge number, name of the recipient and date of the award. The CMP also maintains, for the Badge programs that it

administers, master files of all competitors who earn EIC credit points that count towards Distinguished designation. These files are posted on the CMP web site at <http://ct.thecmp.org>.

11.3 Action Pistol Distinguished Badges

The CMP awards the Action Pistol Distinguished Badge for excellence in Action Pistol EIC competitions. In addition to general CMP eligibility requirements (see Rule 3.0), the following eligibility requirements apply for participants in Action Pistol EIC Matches:

11.3.1 Eligibility for Action Pistol EIC Matches

All non-distinguished competitors are eligible to compete in Action Pistol EIC Matches in accordance with these Rules, regardless of their Distinguished or Non-Distinguished status in any other Distinguished Badge program, and regardless of their status as a Civilian or Service competitor.

11.3.2 EIC Match Limitations for Non-Distinguished Competitors

The number of Action Pistol EIC matches in which Non-Distinguished competitors may compete for EIC points in any calendar year is limited to the following six (6) Pistol EIC Matches:

- a) The Annual Bianchi Cup Championship (The CMP National Championship), and
- b) A maximum of five (5) CMP-sanctioned Action Pistol EIC matches (Regional and State Championships). The scores of any competitor who fires in more than five (5) EIC matches in one calendar year will not be counted in determining EIC credit points. If a Non-Distinguished competitor fires in six or more EIC Matches during one calendar year, their scores in the first five EIC Matches will be used to determine the distribution of EIC Credit points (Rule 11.3.4). The competitor will be ineligible to earn EIC credit points in the sixth and any subsequent EIC Match.

11.3.3 EIC Match Eligibility for Distinguished and Ineligible Non-Distinguished Competitors

Distinguished and ineligible Non-Distinguished (see Rule 11.3.2 b) competitors may compete for CMP Place Medals (Rule 10.3.9) and CMP Achievement Pins (Rule 9.2) in as many EIC matches as they wish. If range capacity is limited, preference for entries in CMP-sanctioned EIC matches other than the Bianchi Cup Matches must be given to Non-Distinguished competitors. To be eligible to earn EIC credit points for the Distinguished Action Pistol Badge, competitors must shoot in regular, legal positions (Rule 6.0) and complete all four events in the Action Pistol EIC Match Aggregate.

11.3.4 Recognition of EIC Match Results

For EIC credit points earned in a CMP-sanctioned EIC match to be recognized, the EIC match must:

- a) Comply with **CMP Competition Rules**.
- b) Use the event courses of fire specified in Rule 10.3.2.
- c) Be one of the eligible EIC matches permitted for that competitor (Rule 11.3.2).
- d) Be completed at all stages of all required events. If any stage is not completed due to circumstances beyond the match sponsor's control, the match sponsor must petition the CMP for a waiver in accordance with Rule 1.11.
- e) Have at least six (6) eligible Non-Distinguished competitors who fire recorded shots in at least two of the four events in the Action Pistol EIC aggregate in a pistol category where EIC credit points are awarded. *Note: 10% of six competitors equals 0.6 legs. 0.6 rounds up to 1.0 in accordance with rounding Rule 10.3.6 d).*

11.3.5 Determining EIC Credit Points

The highest scoring 10 percent of all Non-Distinguished competitors who fired recorded shots in at least two events of a competition aggregate (Rule 11.3.4 e) in EIC Matches are awarded EIC credit points in

accordance with this formula (Table 13, EIC Credit Point Table), provided that the score fired by the competitor equals or exceeds the EIC Minimum Credit Score (MCS, Rule 11.3.6):

- a) Highest one-sixth of the top 10 percent: Gold medal or 10 points.
- b) Next highest two-sixths of top 10 percent: Silver medal or eight points.
- c) Remaining three-sixths of top 10 percent: Bronze medal or six points.
- d) In computing the awarding of EIC points, fractions of 0.6 or higher are rounded to the next higher number (For example, for 76 Non-Distinguished competitors there would be 8 medals awarded. $10\% = 7.6$ which rounds up to 8.).
- e) All competitors who earn EIC credit points in the Bianchi Cup Championship receive ten points.

TABLE 13 -- EIC CREDIT POINT TABLE

Eligible Non-Distinguished Competitors	Legs	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1 to 5	0	0	0	0
6 to 15	1	0	0	1
16 to 25	2	0	1	1
26 to 35	3	0	1	2
36 to 45	4	1	1	2
46 to 55	5	1	1	3
56 to 65	6	1	2	3
66 to 75	7	1	2	4
76 to 85	8	1	3	4
86 to 95	9	1	3	5
96 to 105	10	2	3	5
Etc.				

11.3.6 EIC Minimum Credit Scores

- a) To receive EIC credit points, the score fired by the competitor must fulfill the requirements of Rule 11.3 (*top 10%, etc.*) and equal or exceed the EIC Minimum Credit Score (MCS) for that discipline. Minimum Credit Scores are: OPEN category 1900 x 1920, PRODUCTION OPTIC category 1900 x 1920, METALLIC category 1850 x 1920, and PRODUCTION category 1850 x 1920.
- b) Minimum Credit Scores will not be adjusted for weather or other conditions. If an EIC match course of fire is shortened in accordance with Rule 1.11 and approved by the CMP, the MCS requirement will not apply for that match.

11.3.7 Awarding of Distinguished Badges

The CMP awards the Distinguished Action Pistol Badge when a competitor earns 30 or more points in one or more ranking categories and has earned at least one eight or ten-point award.

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