

CHANGES IN 16TH EDITION NATIONAL STANDARD THREE-POSITIONN AIR RIFLE RULES

Update: 02Oct26

- **2.9 & 7.16.5.** This rule lists current Council members. Crosman and Daisy are owned by the same organization so Crosman is added as an active Council member.
- **2.9 & 7.16.5. Clearing a Loaded Rifle after STOP or a Double Load.** The use of a dowel or cleaning rod has pretty much replaced the PDC.
- **3.2. Continued Prohibition of All-Star Teams.** The Council continues its commitment to preventing the formation of All-Star Teams comprised of the best shooters from two or more clubs or teams and its even stronger commitment to promoting team competitions between legitimate school and local club teams.
- **4.2.1 c). Maximum Sporter Air Rifle Cost.** The current limit of \$700 was adopted two years ago. There was a recommendation to allow more expensive air rifles, but the National Council decided that the present limit continues to work well. Air rifles currently available within this price ceiling were deemed to satisfactorily fulfill Council objectives for Sporter Class competition of affordability and accessibility.
- **4.2.4 g). Fore-end Riser.** Rule additions clarify the use of fore-end risers.
- **4.4.12. Electronic Triggers.** A new electronic trigger rule was added for precision class rifles. It clarifies that rifles with electronic triggers are legal.
- **4.6. Precision Clothing.** A Council statement regarding the precision air rifle clothing situation is inserted at the beginning of this rule. The ISSF made a serious effort in 2026 to introduce stricter rifle clothing stiffness testing. The ISSF concern was that new rifle clothing developments had gone too far in providing stiffer and more supportive jackets and trousers. However, worldwide experiences with the ISSF's stricter stiffness testing rules indicated that they did not have any impact on athlete scores. The Council has subsequently determined that since there is no measurable difference between scores fired with clothing that complied with the new ISSF/USAS rules and clothing fired with pre-2026 rules, there was no reason to adopt the new ISSF rules. Except for the increase in Jacket Closure (see Rule 4.6.1 d) the rifle clothing rules were not changed.
- **4.6.1 d) Jacket Closure.** The one ISSF change that was adopted increased the jacket overlap from 70mm to 80mm. This change will provide for a slightly looser fit around the body.
- **4.6.2 Shooting Trousers.** New language in the ISSF Rule was adopted.
- **4.6.6 a) Shooting Glove Thickness.** The ISSF increased the allowable thickness for the combined front and back layers of the glove from 12 to 16mm. This change was adopted.

- **4,7,12 Other Accessories.** The use of other accessories not described in the rules is generally prohibited. Special exceptions for personal fans on ranges with high temperatures are provided.
- **5.1.2 Prone Position & 5.1.3 Standing Position.** Changes in these rules were made to bring them into alignment with 2026 ISSF rule changes.
- **5.1.4 Athletes with Physical Impairments.** A note describes the recent merger of the WSPS with the ISSF and how WSPS rules for athletes with disabilities will ultimately become ISSF Rules.
- **5.2.4 Coaching During Finals.** The prohibition of non-verbal coaching in finals was eliminated.
- **7.1 Types of Competition.** A new rule was added that describes three different types of competition and any limitations that apply to them. The types of competition used in Three-Position Air Rifle are: a) Standard Competition (shoulder-to-shoulder), b) Virtual Competition (teams compete on their home ranges and exchange scores via the Internet) and c) League Competition (two or more teams compete on a recurring basis).
- **7.16.11. Double Loading.** In cases where the highest value shot cannot be scored, the competitor must be directed to fire an extra provisional shot. They will be scored the value of that shot minus a penalty of five points.
- **7.18.3. Improper Loading.** Current RO procedure for clearing a possible double load is to use a dowel or cleaning rod to clear the bore, not to shoot into a PDC.
- **10.3. Three-Position Start-From-Zero Final.** The ISSF reduced its 3-position final from 45 shots to 35 shots in 2026. Initial preparation time is reduced from two minutes to 30 second, in coordination with current ISSF final rules. The Council has adopted the 35-shot Three-Position Final with an innovative adaptation that may actually improve on the ISSF Final. The ISSF version has a 22-minute stage that combines 10-shots kneeling, changeover and 10 shots prone and changeover and sighting shots standing. The Council version separates those stages into separately timed stages that reflect how its three-position events are conducted (separate sighting and match stages) without adding any significant time to the final.
- **Appendix C; Junior EIC Award Program Regulations.** The current regulations for the awarding of EIC credit points that count towards the awarding of the Junior Distinguished Badge were evaluated but no changes were made. Current EIC Award Program regulations will continue for the next two years.
- **Match vs. Record Shots.** The term “Record” was used in previous Three-Position rulebooks to identify shots that counted in competition rankings. Since the international standard for identifying shots that count in an athlete’s ranking is “Match,” that term is now used in this rulebook.