

New Mexico Senior Olympics

Air Gun Rules

Revised 10-2023

Playing Format

1. Air Gun competition will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the National Rifle Association (NRA) (Precision Air Rifle Rules and International Style Pistol Rules) and the New Mexico Senior Olympics Board of Directors except as noted below.

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2. The shooting program shall consist of the following events: Rifle Standing, Rifle Supported, Pistol Standing, and Pistol Supported. Shooters will compete in five-year age divisions (50-54, 55-59, etc.). Males and females will compete separately. Shooters may compete in any or all events with confirmed advance registration.

3. Schedule

The shooting schedule is as published in the NMSO *Registration Information Booklet* and will be posted at the Air Gun Sports Desk and at the shooting venue. NMSO Office has directed that competitors shoot for record only during their scheduled periods. There is no provision for early or late shooting for record. Contestants will be assigned a shooting lane for each event. Contestants shall mark the face of each target with their name, relay, lane assignment, event (gender, standing/supported) and age division.

4. Course of Fire

The course of fire in each event will be forty (40) record shots fired in two stages of 40 minutes each. Each stage will consist of unlimited sighting shots and 20 shots for record. The Chief Range Official may end a stage early if all competitors have finished firing their record shots. A 10-minute preparation period will be allowed before the first stage. Air guns may be handled during the Preparation Period. Dry firing is permitted. **Do not load or charge the air gun during the preparation period. Firing the correct number of shots at each bull's-eye is the sole responsibility of the competitor.**

5. The Orion system will be used for scoring using Orion rifle and pistol targets.

6. Equipment

- a. **COMPETITORS MUST FURNISH REGULATION AIR GUNS AND ALL PERSONAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT (EXCLUDING TARGETS).** NMSO will no longer furnish rifles and pistols for competition.
- b. Caliber of air guns will be .177" (4.5 mm). Only soft lead pellets will be used. Only one pellet will be loaded at a time.
- c. Participants will wear only normal street or athletic clothing. Specialized shooting garments are prohibited; no braces, jackets, shooting coats, corsets, etc.
- d. Ear Plugs and eye protection are strongly encouraged.
- e. Competitors shall use the shooting table provided by New Mexico Senior Olympics.
- f. **Air Guns must be cased at all times when not being used in competition. Personal air guns must be in the control of the competitor at all times in the event area.**

Air Gun Rules (cont.)

7. Safety

It is the athlete's responsibility to have training and experience playing this Sport and be knowledgeable about the rules.

- a. All air guns and equipment (including rests) will be inspected for safety and compliance with the rules prior to the beginning of the relay. Air guns (and rests) will be marked to indicate they have passed inspection. Inspection stickers will remain on the equipment throughout the competition. Competitors should allow a minimum of 30 minutes for inspection of personal equipment.
- b. Safety is the most important consideration in all shooting activities. It is imperative that all competitors know all the rules for safe gun handling and observe them at all times. Any shooter deemed a safety hazard to themselves, or others may be denied the opportunity to shoot.
 1. **M - Muzzle**. Whenever touching a gun, the first thing the shooter must do is control the muzzle, by keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. The only two safe directions in which to point the muzzle are downrange (in the direction of the targets) or up (muzzle pointed toward the ceiling). When casing or uncasing a gun on the firing line, ensure that the muzzle is pointed downrange (even while in the case).
 2. **A - Action**. The second thing a shooter must do when handling a gun is to make sure that the action is open and that a **Clear Bore Indicator** (CBI) is inserted into the receiver, through the barrel. Shooters can make their own CBI using plastic line such as that used in line trimmers (weed whackers). Any color is acceptable; however, orange is the color of choice as it is the most visible. CBIs will also be available at the air gun competition site at no cost to shooters.
 3. **T - Trigger**. Shooters must keep their fingers off the trigger until they are ready to shoot. Once a shot is away, immediately remove your finger from the trigger. Gun cases are required. All guns moved to or from the firing line must be safe and cased. Once placed on the firing line no gun may be removed from the case or returned to the case until told to do so by the Range Safety Officer.
 4. **Procedures**: Place cased air gun on floor at firing point; remove on command; insert CBI and take to firing line; place on table and do not handle air gun until the Preparation Period.
 5. Air guns may be loaded only on the firing line and only with the muzzle pointed down range. Air guns may not be loaded until after the command, "**Commence Firing**" or "**Start**." No more than one pellet will be loaded at any time.
 6. Sighting shots (unlimited in number) may be fired after the command "**Commence Firing**" or "**Start**" within the time limit for that stage. Once the first record shot has been fired in a stage, no further sighting shots are allowed unless permitted by the Range Official. If the first sighting shot falls outside the scoring area for the sighting target or outside the "racetrack" on the rifle target, the contestant will halt firing, call a Range Official, and have the Range Official verify the shot is not in the sighting bullseye. The Range Official will observe the sighting shots until the competitor's shots hit the sighting bullseye.

The Range Official will verify all previous shots (they will not be scored as misses), and the competitor will continue firing the relay under the rules of the match. For standing events, sighting shots may be shot with the aid of a rest.
 7. At the command, "**Cease Fire**" each shooter must stop firing immediately, open the action, insert the CBI in the barrel and place the air gun on the table with the CBI visible at the breach end. If the last pellet loaded has not been fired, it will still be in the barrel. The shooter shall inform the Range Official immediately by saying "**Pellet Still in the Bore**." The Range Official will command, "**Unload, Clear Through The Bore**." Any unfired pellets will be fired into the backstop at this time and may not be fired at the target.

Air Gun Rules (cont.)

8. Shooters claiming a misfire, malfunction, or disabled air gun shall notify the Range Official immediately. The Range Official shall determine the validity of any such claim.
9. Targets for standing shall be hung so that the centers are 55 inches above the floor within the capabilities of the target stands 47" to 63". Target height for supported events within the capabilities of the target stands will be 22" to 38."

8. Coaching

Coaching is not allowed on the firing line. While on the firing line, competitors may speak only with Range Officials. Competitors wishing to talk to others must leave their air guns on the firing line in an unloaded and safe condition and leave the firing line after notifying a Range Official. Hearing protection to reduce distractions is recommended. The use of binoculars or spotting scopes is encouraged.

Playing Rules

1. Rifle Standing Position

- a. **Equipment:** Sights will be open or aperture. Optic, projecting, or telescopic sights are prohibited. Red Dot sights will be allowed as they do not project or magnify and do not give an advantage to the shooter. Corrective lenses may not be attached to the air gun. Slings may not be used. Equipment must comply with NRA rules and NMSO rules.
- b. **Position:** The shooter shall stand free with both feet on the ground or on a thin mat without any other support. The rifle shall be held only with the hands, the shoulder, the cheek, and part of the chest next to the shoulder. The upper left arm and elbow may be supported on the chest or on hip. (Left-handed shooters reverse these descriptions.) No portion of the shooter's body may rest upon or touch the ground in advance of the firing line.
- c. **Targets:** Targets will be the Orion scoring system, rifle targets and are provided. One (1) shot per bullseye with unlimited sighters.

2. Rifle Supported Position:

- a. The course may be fired using artificial support (rest).

All rules under Rifle Standing shall apply with the following changes:

- b. The rest is for the purpose of providing the shooter with additional support and is not intended to provide enhanced accuracy by controlling the aiming of the rifle. The rest shall allow free recoil of the rifle and may not clamp or otherwise grip the rifle nor may it be attached to the rifle in any way. The rest may not contact the sides of the stock or barrel. If a rest is used, maximum rest dimensions are to be 4 inches wide and 7 inches long.
- c. The rest may contact the rifle at only one point, usually the fore end of the stock forward of the trigger guard. The butt of the stock must rest against the shooter's shoulder and may not contact the rest or the table.
- d. The shooter may rest his/her elbows, forearms, wrists, hands and chest on the table or rest and may be seated for shooting. (Note: The butt of the rifle cannot be on the forearm or hand if it is rested on the table. You may hold the butt of the rifle in the shoulder, and the wrist cannot be on the table.) Rest for the rifle must sit directly on the table with no object between.
- e. **Targets:** Targets will be the Orion scoring system, rifle targets 0045 and are provided. One (1) shot per bullseye with unlimited sighters.

Air Gun Rules (cont.)

3. Pistol Standing Position:

- a. **Equipment:** Sights will be open. Aperture, optic, projecting, or telescopic sights are prohibited. Red Dot sights will be allowed as they do not project or magnify and do not give an advantage to the shooter. Corrective lenses may not be attached to the pistol. No protective covering on front or rear open sights is permitted. Equipment must comply with NRA rules and NMSO rules.
- b. **Position:** The pistol may be held with one (1) or two (2) hands. The shooter's second hand shall conform to the same rules as the shooting hand; specifically, it may contact the pistol only at the grip or trigger guard. No other means may be used to support the pistol. All portions of the shooter's clothing, body and gun must be clear of artificial support. No portion of the shooter's body may rest upon or touch the ground in advance of the firing line.
- c. **Target:** Targets will be the Orion scoring system targets and are provided. Five (5) shots per bullseye with unlimited sighters.

4. Pistol Supported Position:

- a. The course may be fired using artificial support (rest).

All rules under Pistol Standing shall apply with the following changes:

- b. The rest is for the purpose of providing the shooter with additional support and is not intended to provide enhanced accuracy by controlling the aiming of the pistol. The rest shall allow free recoil of the pistol and may not clamp or otherwise grip the pistol, nor may it be attached to the pistol in any way. The rest may not contact the sides of the grip. If a rest is used, maximum rest dimensions are to be 4 inches wide and 7 inches long.
- c. The rest may contact the pistol at only one point, the base of the grip. The shooter may not rest the barrel or fore end of the pistol on the rest or any other support.
- d. The shooter may rest his/her elbows, forearms, wrists, and hands on the table or rest and may be seated for shooting. Rest for the pistol must sit directly on the table with no object between.
- e. **Target:** Targets will be the Orion scoring system targets and are provided. Five (5) shots per bullseye with unlimited sighters.