



# INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING SPORT FEDERATION

## INTERNATIONALER SCHIESS-SPORTVERBAND e.V.

## FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE TIR SPORTIF

## FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE TIRO DEPORTIVO

ISSF, Bavariaring 21, D-80336 München, Germany

To all members of the  
ISSF Executive Committee,  
ISSF Administrative Council,  
ISSF Committees!  
To all Presidents of  
ISSF Member Federations!  
To the shooting industry!

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Munich, 11/21/2012 /DF

Dear Friends,  
Dear Mr. President,

The ISSF's efforts to draft, review and approve the 2013 edition of the *ISSF Rules and Regulations* are now complete. After more than two years of work by ISSF bodies, the ISSF Administrative Council unanimously approved the final drafts of the new rules on 13 November 2012. A copy of the official 2013 Rules is attached. A copy of the new rules will also be posted on the ISSF website this week so that all interested persons can download their own copies.

The new rules feature many important changes designed to strengthen Shooting's standing as an Olympic sport, keep competitions fair and equal, increase Shooting's appeal to youth and make it more spectator and media friendly. Major changes include new Finals for all Olympic events, small increases in difficulty in Skeet and Double Trap, the separation of sighting and match firing in 10m and 50m rifle and pistol events, a new position order for 3-position rifle events and a provisional test of decimal scoring for 10m Air Rifle and 50m Prone Rifle events.

**The Whole ISSF Family Participated.** The ISSF tried to involve the entire ISSF family in developing the 2013 ISSF Rules. ISSF Section Committees not only made initial proposals, but they were given multiple opportunities to review rules drafts. The Athletes and Coaches Committees not only contributed ideas, but were involved in evaluating the rules. Elite athletes and national coaches were especially active in developing the new Finals Rules. In some cases, difficult compromises had to be worked out to meet the diverse aims of these vital ISSF constituent groups.

After the Administrative Council approved most of the 2013 Rules in April 2012, a detailed summary of changes was sent to all National Federations and Shooting industry members. The summary was also posted on the ISSF website for public access. This resulted in many comments and questions that were helpful in clarifying the rules. The ISSF is especially pleased that so many National Federations, industry members, athletes, coaches and even shooting fans were able to participate in making the 2013 ISSF Rules and help make the new rules stronger and more effective.

**New Finals.** The new rules contain new Finals formats for all Olympic events where all finalists start from zero. All Finals feature eliminations and end with duels between the two best athletes to decide the gold and silver medals. It is especially important that everyone in the ISSF family understands why the new Finals are so critical to the Shooting's future as an Olympic sport. Today's Olympic sports must not only provide great competitions, but they must also engage a worldwide public by attracting spectators and fans.

To do this, Olympic sports are adopting event formats where scores or results in each round of competition determine the athletes or teams that advance to the next round, but where results are not carried forward. The Rapid Fire Pistol Final the ISSF adopted in 2010 pioneered this change for Shooting, but now all Shooting Finals will start from zero. The new Shooting Finals also seek to add new elements of drama by eliminating the lowest ranking finalists at different stages of the Finals. Ending every Final with a gold medal match between the two best finalists will now place the decisive moment of every Final in sharpest focus. The Final for 3-position rifle events is now a 3-position Final, not a one-position Final. New skill elements like reverse doubles on stations 3 and 5 in Skeet and making rapid position changes in 3-position rifle Finals will add interest. Both 25m Pistol Finals use hit-miss scoring to encourage more spontaneous spectator reactions.

Detailed rules for all new Finals are included in the 2013 Rules. These new Finals will be used in all 2013 ISSF Championships.

**Some Detailed Changes in Rifle Equipment Rules.** The 2013 Rules include many small changes regarding rifle clothing and equipment. Some have criticized these changes as frivolous and unnecessary, but these critics do not understand why these changes are so important to Shooting's status as an Olympic sport. The ISSF objective in adopting these changes is two-fold: 1) to limit the use of performance-enhancing clothing and equipment while maximizing the tests of skill, training and performance in rifle events, and 2) to keep competition conditions as equal as possible for all rifle shooters.

These changes were made because the ISSF feels recent trends in the development of Rifle clothing, equipment and accessories are in danger of going too far in providing performance-enhancing capabilities. In an Olympic sport, the use of performance-enhancing equipment cannot be unrestricted because Olympic sports events must primarily decide which athletes trained and performed the best, not which athletes had the best equipment. The 2013 ISSF Rules place reasonable limits on how far the development of performance-enhancing rifle equipment can go.

When the ISSF adopted strict, no tolerance rifle clothing testing for stiffness and thickness in 2010 to keep clothing capabilities relatively equal for all athletes, athletes applauded this change because strict controls equalized competition conditions for them. The 2013 changes in rifle clothing and equipment rules are there to keep competition conditions equal. The ISSF calls on all members of the Shooting family to understand how important it is to the future of our sport to keep conditions equal for all athletes and to ensure that athletes' high scores are not unreasonably aided by performance-enhancing equipment.

**Decimal Scoring for 10m Air Rifle and 50m Prone Rifle.** With so many highly skilled athletes competing in these events today, it has become even more important to have qualification competitions that truly advance the best athletes to the Finals. Many ISSF officials, athletes and coaches recognize that in the air rifle and 50m prone events where there are so many high scores, luck is too big a factor in determining who goes to the Finals. In these events, there can be as many as 15 or 20 shooters who are within one point of making or not making the Final. That one point is frequently a matter of one shot that scores a 10.0 or a 9.9; the difference between making or not making a Final can be less than one-fourth of a millimeter on that one shot. Decimal scoring virtually eliminates the decisive role that one close shot can play in deciding finalists and provides a far more accurate way to decide the best shooters in the qualification.

The ISSF plans to use decimal scoring in the 10m Air Rifle Men, 10m Air Rifle Women and 50m Prone Rifle Men events in the 2013 World Cups. This will be evaluated at the end of the 2013 Championship season and decisions will then be made on whether to use decimal scoring for those events on a permanent basis or to use decimal scoring for all 10m and 50m elimination and qualification competitions. Decimal scoring requires either electronic scoring targets or electronic scoring for paper targets. National federations or shooting clubs are not required to use decimal scoring, but many that have electronic scoring available will find that it adds fairness and interest to these events.

**Shotgun Rule Changes.** Both Skeet and Double Trap qualification rounds have changes designed to add additional difficulty to these events that now have so many high scores. The target throwing distance in Skeet is increased from 66m +/- 1m to 68m +/- 1m. In addition, the firing order is changed so that the two station 4 doubles will be fired after station 7 and just before station 8. This means that the most difficult targets must be shot near the end of a round of Skeet instead of in the middle. Double Trap qualification is changed from three series of 50 targets (25 pair) or three series of 40 targets for women to five series of 30 targets (15 pair) for men and four series of 30 targets for women. What makes Double Trap more difficult is that random schemes will now be used to determine the target combinations that are thrown (scheme A, B or C).

**Separate Sighting and Match Firing Periods.** The new rules require sighting shots to be fired in a 15-minute “Preparation and Sighting Period” before competition or match firing starts. Sighting shots are part of the pre-competition warm-up process in Shooting. In other sports, all athletes complete their warm-ups before competition starts, but until now in Shooting, there were some shooters still warming up while others were firing match shots. This new change will eliminate confusion for spectators and align Shooting a little more closely with other sports by ensuring that all warm-ups are completed before the competition starts. In addition to this change, the position order in 50m 3-position rifle is changed from prone-standing-kneeling to kneeling-prone-standing to bring the qualification order in line with the order that will be followed in 3-position rifle Finals.

The ISSF recognizes that changes, especially the changes in Finals, will present special challenges to athletes and coaches. However, the ISSF must also emphasize that the mandate to change and move forward is a reality all Olympic sports must accept. Our Shooting Sport is committed to being at the forefront of the Olympic movement and positive change is a primary means of doing that. The ISSF is confident that the overwhelming majority of Shooting athletes, coaches, national federations and industry will work hard to prepare for the changes in the 2013 Rules. These are indeed rules that were carefully and cooperatively designed to strengthen Shooting’s standing as an Olympic sport, keep competitions fair and equal, increase Shooting’s appeal to youth and make it more spectator and media friendly.



Olegario Vázquez Raña  
ISSF President



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