

Proposed CMP Pistol Program Changes



These draft proposals are open for comments through 7 July 2014. Please send all comments to CMP Competitions at competitions@thecmp.org.

INTRODUCTION. The CMP Pistol Program promotes and governs U. S. bulls-eye target pistol shooting with “service pistols.” The program includes the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badges, National Trophy Pistol Matches, Pistol EIC Matches, the Pistol Small Arms Firing School and CMP Games Pistol Matches. This program is revered for its time-honored traditions and it enjoys the esteem of countless pistol shooters. Nevertheless, two critical concerns have caused the CMP to consider changes in this program. First, overall program participation has declined over a period of many years. Second, many shooters and match sponsors are calling for changes to increase participation and offer more competition opportunities. In response to these concerns, the CMP Rules Committee convened a “blue ribbon” panel of pistol experts to evaluate the CMP Pistol Program and recommend possible changes. The CMP Pistol Program Review Panel includes Rules Committee members plus 15 pistol experts who represent all aspects of competitive pistol shooting. The panel includes experienced competitors, match officials and advanced pistol armorers; panel members have earned 12 Distinguished Badges. This report summarizes panel recommendations.

CMP PISTOL PROGRAM HISTORY AND MISSION.

The CMP Pistol Program traces its origins to the awarding of the first Distinguished Badges for pistol in 1903 and the first National Trophy Pistol Matches in 1904. The original purpose of the program was to promote marksmanship practice with service pistols. The current Pistol National Match Course was standardized in the 1920s. Pistols used in these matches have included Colt and Smith & Wesson revolvers and the M1911 and the M9 semi-automatic pistols. The first modifications of as-issued service pistol designs were authorized in 1924; a long list of “legal modifications” used on today’s service pistols followed. In 110 years of history, hundreds of thousands of pistol shooters have competed in EIC and National Trophy Matches and have worked to “go Distinguished.” 4,600 military and civilian shooters have achieved that high distinction. When Congress and the U. S. President privatized the “Civilian Marksmanship Program” in 1996, it transferred this historic program to the new CMP and confirmed the CMP’s statutory responsibility to “*promote practice and safety in the use of firearms*” and to “*conduct competitions in the use of firearms.*” The CMP recognizes that this responsibility includes both rifles and pistols and is committed to supporting and growing the CMP Pistol Program.





PROGRAM CONCERNS AND SHOOTER COMMENTS. The current EIC pistol program is generally limited to highly specialized, expensive pistols that can most effectively be used in a maximum of four matches a year. These limitations have contributed to a decline in participation and difficulty in attracting new shooters. Participation in the President's Pistol Match, for example, has gone down 29% in the last 20 years. Participation by women and juniors has not reached the levels now seen in service rifle shooting. In response to these concerns, many shooters and match officials recommend expanding the choice of pistols that can be used and also increasing the competition opportunities available for this type of shooting. As part of the CMP Pistol Review, comments were requested from shooters (***CMP Shooters' News***, Mar14). Many excellent comments were received. A majority of those comments supported opening up CMP service pistol rules to allow a bigger variety of service-type pistols. These comments also offered some excellent ideas that are now included in the Review Panel's proposals. Those proposals are summarized below under "**PROPOSED CHANGES.**"

PRECISION PISTOL SHOOTING. The unique appeal of the Pistol EIC program is its **emphasis on precision pistol marksmanship with service-type pistols.** Traditional EIC and National Trophy pistol events emphasize the skills of **classical one-handed pistol shooting.** It recognizes that this type of marksmanship is difficult and especially challenging. The Panel agreed that the **traditional Pistol National Match Course is still the best test of classical pistol marksmanship and should remain unchanged.** Since the original program purposes focused first on fostering precision, one-handed pistol marksmanship and secondarily on using military-type pistols, the Panel agreed that it is possible to remain true to these original purposes while allowing the use of a broader range of pistols that still trace their lineage back to military pistols.

PROPOSED CHANGES. Based on recommendations from shooters, match officials and the Pistol Program Review Panel, the CMP is considering a series of changes in its pistol program. **These changes are designed to:**

- 1) **Preserve and promote the traditions and integrity of the Distinguished Badge program;**
- 2) **Provide more opportunities for more pistol shooters to participate in pistol EIC matches and**
- 3) **Promote increased participation in pistol EIC matches by attracting more shooters, more women and more juniors.**

Program changes now under consideration by the CMP are:

1. **Service Pistol Definition.** To increase opportunities for more shooters to participate in EIC pistol matches, the "service pistol" definition will be modified so that a broader group of service-type pistols is permitted. Under the



proposed rules, a list of approved pistols will be published in the **CMP Competition Rules for Service Pistols and Service Rifles**. It is not expected that expanding the service pistol definition will result in an equipment race. The consensus of Review Panel members was that service pistols already being used are as accurate as any military-type pistols available. These changes will simply allow more shooters with more different types of pistols to compete with pistols they already own or could more readily be acquired. To be listed, service pistols must:

- a. Be U. S service pistols or pistols derived from service pistol designs.
 - b. Have a minimum trigger weight of 4.0 pounds. Revolvers must have a minimum trigger weight of 2.5 lbs. in single action.
 - c. Have a maximum barrel length of 5.5 inches for semi-automatic pistols or 6.0 inches for revolvers and have a minimum barrel length of 4.0 inches.
 - d. Have metallic sights (adjustable sights are permitted, optical sights are not permitted).
 - e. May not have a compensator or similar recoil reduction device.
 - f. Have standard, asymmetrical grips (no thumb rest, palm swell or finger grooves).
 - g. Pistols may be match conditioned provided there are no external modifications that are not specifically approved in the rules (i.e. adjustable sights, stippled grip or frame, combat-style hammers and grip safeties on M1911s, etc.)
 - h. Chamber dimensions for approved pistols are 9x19 mm minimum through .45 ACP maximum; pistols may only be chambered for the cartridges specifically approved for that model pistol (see chart below).
2. **CMP Service Pistols**. Pistols used in CMP sanctioned matches must be evaluated for compliance with the standards identified in #1 above and be included in an official list of permitted pistols. A mechanism for quickly evaluating other pistols for compliance would also be established. The proposed preliminary list of CMP Service Pistols includes the following pistols:

CMP Service Pistols		Chambering
M1911 service pistol and M1911-type pistols (subject to limitation in #1 above)		.45ACP
M9 service pistol		9mm
ARMALITE	AR-24	9mm
	M92, M98 Series (including 98F, 98FS, 98FS Brigadier, 98 Deluxe, 98 Stock)	9mm
BERETTA	M96	9mm/40S&W



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	PX4 Storm (Full Size)	9mm/40S&W/ .45ACP
	PX4 Storm (Special Duty	.45ACP
BROWNING	BDA	9mm/40S&W
	BDM	9mm
	PRO40	40S&W
	PRO9	9mm
CZ	CZ 75 Series, CZ 85 Series	9mm
	CZ 97 B and D	45ACP
COLT	Diamondback, Python, Trooper	38 Special
	Python, Trooper	357 Magnum
FN	FNX-9, FNS-9, FNS-9 Longslide	9mm
	FNX-40, FNS-40	40S&W
	FNX-45, FNX-45 Tactical	45ACP
	FNS-40, FNS-40 Longslide	40S&W
GLOCK	M19, M17, M34	9mm
	M22, M23, M35	40S&W
	M21, M41	45ACP
	M20	10mm
	G31, M32, M33	357SIG
	G37, G38	45 G.A.P.
H&K	P30L	9mm/40S&W
	HK45, HK45 Tactical, HK45 Compact Tactical	45ACP
	USP, USP Tactical	9mm/40S&W/ 45ACP
RUGER	P85, P89, KP89, SR9	9mm
	P90, KP90, P345, KP345, SR45	45ACP
	P91, KP91, SR40	40S&W
	Speed Six Revolver, Security Six revolver, GP100	38 Special/357 Magnum
	Redhawk	357 Magnum /44 Magnum
SIG	P210, P210 Legend, P210 Legend Target	9mm
	P220, P220 Match, P220 Super Match	45ACP
	P226	9mm/357SIG/ 40S&W
	M&P, M39, M59, M439, M459, M539, M559, M639, M659, M5903, M5904, M 5905, M5906, M5924, M5926, M5943, Sigma, M909,	9mm



SMITH & WESSON	M910, M915, M3904, M3906	
	M&P, M410, M411, Sigma, M4003, M4004, M4043, M4044, M 4046	40 S&W
	M&P, Sigma, M745, M645, M4506, M4586, M4526, M4566, M4576	45ACP
	M1006, M1026, M1046, M1066, M1076, M1086	10mm
	K, L and N frame revolver	38 Special/ 44 Magnum
	N frame revolver	45 Colt
SPRINGFIELD	XD, XD(M), XD(M) Comp	9mm/40S&W/ 45ACP
TAURUS	PT-92, PT-99, P-24/7, PT-809, PT-911	9MM
	PT-100, PT-101, P-24/7, PT-840	40S&W
	P-24/7, PT-845	45ACP
	PT-38S	38 Super
	PT-400	400 Cor-Bon
	65, 66, 80, 83, 86 669 revolvers	38 Special
	65, 66, 669 revolvers	357 Magnum
	44, 431, 441 revolvers	44 Special
	455 revolver	45ACP
	415 revolver	41 Magnum
WALTHER	PPQ, P99, PPX	9mm/40S&W

Note: This list is subject to further evaluation and correction. It should nevertheless provide an accurate picture of the pistols that would be permitted if the proposed rules are adopted.

3. **Ammunition.** To make it possible for more pistols to attain sufficient accuracy to be competitive in EIC and National Trophy Matches, the pistol ammunition rule would be changed from the present requirement that only 115-125 grain bullets in 9mm ammunition and 230-grain bullets in .45 cal. ammunition may be used to a proposed rule that would allow “any safe ammunition.” Shooters would be free to select bullets and bullet weights that produce the best accuracy in their pistols.

Note: Allowing more flexibility in choosing bullet weights is intended to make it possible for more pistols on the approved list to achieve sufficient accuracy to be competitive with current match grade service pistols.

4. **New Distinguished Badge for .22 cal. Rimfire Pistols.** A new, separate Distinguished Rimfire Pistol Badge is proposed for presentation to shooters who earn 30 or more EIC points in a new series of **.22 cal. Rimfire Pistol EIC Matches**. It is envisioned that these Rimfire EIC Matches should be fired in



conjunction with Service Pistol EIC Matches. This new program will be open to all shooters, adult and junior, including holders of the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge. Its primary purpose would be to promote increased participation in traditional pistol marksmanship with readily available and relatively low cost .22 cal. pistols. This is not intended to be an alternate way to earn the Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge, but rather an opportunity to earn a new and separate Distinguished Rimfire Pistol Badge. In addition to offering new competition opportunities, this new badge program is intended to attract more women and juniors to precision pistol shooting. Features of this new program include:

- a. Rule 7.2.1, Standard Smallbore Pistol, as published in the current **Competition Rules for CMP Games Matches** will govern pistols that may be used. This rule includes any .22 cal. pistol with standard or orthopedic grips, adjustable non-optical sights and a 2-lb. trigger pull.
- b. The National Match course of fire will be used, except that all competitors will be required to start timed and rapid-fire series with a low gun (45-degree ready position). They may not raise the pistol to the target until targets start to turn. This requirement to start timed and rapid-fire series from a low-gun ready position would add a new dynamic element of skill to this event. The low-gun start position is recommended because of this added skill test and because this will allow juniors to compete in a course of fire that is similar to the international courses many juniors presently shoot that require low-gun ready positions for rapid-fire series.
- c. Match sponsors will be encouraged to offer separate service pistol EIC matches and smallbore EIC matches as part of the same EIC competition. Being able to shoot two EIC matches (2 x 30 shots) in one competition will increase the opportunities offered by the EIC program.

Note: The standard ready position is with the arm and pistol down at a 45-degree angle. Many U. S. pistol range benches, however, are high enough to make a 45-degree ready position impossible. Shooters on these ranges would be required to start timed and rapid-fire series with the pistol lowered so that it does not rest on the bench.

5. **EIC Match Minimum Scores.** To ensure that all competitors who earn EIC points fire competitive scores that truly rank among the top Non-Distinguished shooters, a minimum cut score of 250 x 300 will be applied to all Service Pistol EIC Matches. It is proposed that in order to receive EIC points in any competition, the score must be 250 or higher. This cut score will be based on an evaluation of recent National Trophy Pistol Matches results.

Note: The cut-off for pistol EIC credit points in the 2013 National Trophy Individual Match was 255-5X. The 250 cut score is, of course, subject to



further discussion. If the cut-score requirement is adopted, it is expected that a cut-score for rifle EIC matches would also be adopted.

6. **Maximum Number of EIC Matches Per Year.** To increase the opportunities shooters have to participate in the EIC program, the maximum number of permitted EIC matches will be increased from one National Trophy Individual Match plus three EIC Matches per year to one NTI Match plus five EIC Matches. The application of a minimum EIC credit point score will ensure that no substandard EIC credit points are awarded as a result of shooters having additional EIC match opportunities.
7. **EIC Pistol Match Promotion.** The CMP recognizes that growth in pistol shooting and EIC participation can only occur if the general awareness of this program and its unique opportunities is increased. The Pistol Review Panel recommends that the CMP initiate a comprehensive promotional effort to encourage more pistol shooters to learn pistol target shooting skills and participate in EIC and National Trophy Matches.
8. **More Local EIC Matches.** Achieving pistol participation growth depends in part upon getting more shooting clubs to sponsor additional EIC pistol matches so that more shooters will have more opportunities to shoot these matches. The CMP will initiate special promotional efforts to encourage clubs to sponsor these matches.
9. **CMP Achievement Awards.** The highly successful CMP Achievement Award program will be expanded to include the awarding of CMP Achievement medals and pins at Pistol EIC Matches. Achievement medals or pins would be awarded in lieu of the medals that now go only to the first three place overall finishers. This program now provides medals with neck ribbons or award pins to approximately the top 40% of competitors in designated CMP competitions. New CMP achievement medals and pins would be created for awarding at National Trophy and EIC pistol matches regardless of Distinguished/Non-Distinguished status.
10. **Changes in CMP Games Pistol Program.** The CMP Games Program currently includes at least three pistol events that may be impacted by these proposals if they are approved. The M9 Service Pistol Special EIC Match would be retained because it is part of the Pistol SAFS. The Standard Smallbore Pistol Match would be merged into the new Smallbore Pistol EIC Matches. Consideration is being given to changing the As-Issued M1911 Pistol Match to a competition open to as-issued military pistols dating from 1953 and earlier. The Military and Police Service Pistol Match will probably be retained as is.



11. **CMP Pistol Clinics.** The CMP offers a rifle clinic instructional program to CMP-affiliated clubs for their use in training new shooters. Except for the annual Pistol Small Arms Firing School, the CMP has no instruction program for training new pistol shooters. The Review Panel recommends that the CMP develop a pistol clinic club instructor training program similar to the CMP Rifle Clinic Master Instructor Program that trains club instructors how to organize and teach rifle clinics and matches. This recommendation will be presented to the CMP Programs Committee.

12. **The Way Forward.** The next steps to be taken in this review process are:
 - a. **Comment Period.** This summary of the **Proposed CMP Pistol Program Changes** will be announced in the CMP online newsletter, **Shooters' News**. Anyone with comments, questions or recommendations concerning these proposals is invited to submit their comments to CMP Competitions at competitions@thecmp.org. The deadline for comments is 7 July 2014.
 - b. **CMP Pistol Review Panel Meeting.** The Panel will meet again in July, most likely during the National Matches, to evaluate comments received and make final recommendations for changes to the CMP Rules Committee.
 - c. **CMP Rules Committee.** The Rules Committee will meet in September to make final decisions regarding actual rule changes.
 - d. **2015 CMP Competition Rules.** Any changes that are approved by the Rules Committee will be incorporated into the **2015 CMP Competition Rules for Service Rifles and Pistols**, to be effective on 1 January 2015.