



**U.S.  
FORCES**



**General  
Sport Shooting  
Rules**

**For sport shooters of the U.S. Forces  
and other authorized shooters within the Area of  
Responsibility of the Hunting,  
Fishing and Sport Shooting Clubs  
(former Rod & Gun Clubs)  
within the Federal Republic of Germany**

## A General Rules

Each shooter shall be subject to the regulations of this sport shooting handbook.

### A1 Applicability

This handbook is based on the provisions of the German Weapons Law (*Waffengesetz*) of 11 October 2002, which has been in effect since 1 April 2003, as well as the pertinent Ordinance which was adopted on 11 July 2003 and entered into force on 1 December 2003. The 2011 version of this handbook includes changes within German Weapons Law that entered into force in Germany during 2008 and 2009. All regulations in this handbook, in particular the shooting training are subject to the statutory provisions and limitations of the German Weapons Law as amended.

Persons who do not fulfill the requirements of §5 of the Weapons Law (reliability) or §6 of the Weapons Law (*WaffG*) (personal fitness), cannot become members of the club. Members who do not fulfill or no longer fulfill the requirements of the above stated sections shall be excluded from club membership. Persons whose perception is impeded by alcohol, drugs or narcotics shall be excluded from shooting.

The general rules serve as a basis for all competition classes. If for certain parts of a competition class other rules are determined those will be applicable instead of the general rules.

Shooting training which is not permissible pursuant to §15a(1), paragraph 6 of the *WaffG* in connection with section 7 of the Weapons Law Ordinance (*AWaffV*) shall not be performed. Accordingly, the practice drills in this Sport Shooting Handbook specifically do not contain any elements of shooting from a defense position. In particular there will be

- No shooting from behind a cover
- No getting over obstacles after the first shot was fired
- No shots fired when an individual is visibly running
- No cross-draw of more than one weapon
- No shots without exact aiming at the target, except for skeet.
- No quick reaction to moving targets popping up suddenly and surprisingly, with the exception of skeet and running targets.
- No target practice where the shooter does not know the procedure in advance due to no prior determination of rules.

All sport shooting weapons must be in accordance with the statutory provisions. The use of weapons which are excluded from use for sport shooting pursuant to §6 of the General Ordinance on the Weapons Law (*Allgemeine Waffengesetz-Verordnung – AWaffV*) is prohibited. The minimum barrel length for short weapons is 3” (7.62 cm).

### **Number of Weapons**

Proof of need must be provided for each weapon to be acquired. In cases of determined need, a maximum of 4 hand guns and up to 3 semi-automatic long guns may be purchased. An exception will only be granted in specifically justified cases.

### **Special Rules Due to Location:**

Each garrison and/or base that hosts recreational sport shooting on military or recreational ranges will publish standard operating procedures for recreational sport shooting and ensure that all range officials have read, understand, and comply with all standard procedures and responsibilities.

If, due to existing range conditions, rules must be changed in certain areas (e.g. target distances, aiming positions and others), the changed conditions must be stated in the event announcement. Only such competitions authorized within the scope of the permission to operate a shooting range pursuant to section 27 of the German Weapons Law may be held.

### **Acceptance of Rules**

By participating in competitive events, the shooter accepts the sport shooting and competition rules.

### **Rules Interpretation**

In cases where an unequivocal interpretation of sport shooting rules is not possible, they will always be interpreted in the spirit of good sportsmanship, which demands that all participants be treated equally, and in case of doubt the interpretation will always be in favor of the shooter. The final determination will be made by the range officer.

### **Rules Familiarity**

Every shooter is obliged to be familiar with these sport shooting rules and the rules of the competition.

## **Safety Provisions**

Every shooter is obliged to be familiar with the safety provisions and the basic rules for handling weapons and ammunition and to strictly adhere to them.

### **A2 Range Etiquette and Safety**

#### **Range Etiquette**

The safety of participants, range personnel, and audience constantly demands concentrated attention in handling weapons and caution when transporting them on the range. Self-discipline is an absolute necessity for all. Wherever necessary self-discipline is not apparent, range personnel is required to take action in order to demand discipline and participants are obligated to support such requirement.

Ranges may only be entered by participating shooters and responsible range personnel. The area behind the shooter (usually marked by a dividing band) may be entered by the range officer and range supervisor only.

Participants and range personnel standing directly behind the shooters should confine their conversation/remarks to competition-related subjects.

Individuals who disturb shooting operations or have an impact on the safety may be told to leave the range.

Individuals who disturb the shooting competition through loud conversation or inappropriate behavior may be removed from the range.

#### **Safety Provisions**

The official provisions must be observed. In addition, safety rules tailored to the conditions of the individual range must be observed. The range supervisor is responsible for compliance with the safety rules. While retaining overall responsibility, the range supervisor may delegate specific responsibilities for certain fields to other capable and qualified individuals.

Within the confines of the range, it is forbidden to practice sighting procedures, other than in the dry-run portion of the designated pistol handling area for dynamic shooting.

At the individual shooting positions, aiming exercises may be conducted with permission of range personnel.

On the individual range only one aiming position may be assumed for shooting

While loading and unloading, the barrels of the weapons must be held in the general direction of the targets. Hand guns are to be held with the extended shooting arm toward the target, so that the barrel points approximately one meter in front of the shooter toward the ground.

Other than the weapons which are participating, no other weapon on the range may be loaded.

In case of any interruptions, the shooter will unload their weapon.

A loaded weapon will not be laid down. Unloaded weapons may be laid down only, when, in case of revolvers the cylinder is swung out, in case of pistols the chamber is cleared and the magazine is removed, and in case of long weapons the chamber is cleared and the magazine removed. Exceptions from these rules are determined by range officers (e.g. for carrying holsters).

Any/all malfunctions shall be cleared with the weapon pointed toward the bullet catch.

Dropping of a loaded or unloaded weapon will result in immediate disqualification from the competition.

The shooter may leave their position only when they are absolutely certain that their weapon is cleared, the chamber is open, the safety is on (to the extent this is technically possible), and the range officer has verified that the weapon is safe.

To prevent hearing loss, the shooters shall wear ear protection on all ranges. Use of eye protection with side cover suitable for sport shooting is mandatory for all shooting events and shooting training. Range supervisors shall deny shooting to shooters not wearing eye protection.

Persons who are under age may enter the range only when accompanied by a parent or by a person with written authorization.

Shooters under age, whose parents are members of the Rod & Gun Club and/or Hunting, Fishing, & Sport Shooting Club or members of the US Forces, may participate in shooting competitions under the following conditions:

Per §27(3)1, Juveniles who are up to 18 years old may shoot with weapons that are up to a caliber of 5.6mm (22 rifle) if the ammo does not produce a force of more than 200 joules at the muzzle or with single shot firing of 12GA or smaller. These juveniles up to 18 years old must be supervised by the person in charge of their upbringing and custody has given written consent or is present during the shooting.

Children who are between 12 and 14 years old may only shoot with air-pressure or CO<sub>2</sub> weapons. The above rules for juveniles shall apply accordingly.

Highly experienced range supervisors who have already worked with juveniles shall be chosen for the training of children and juveniles. If the range supervisor lacks qualification in working with juveniles an expert in this field shall be consulted.

Written consent from the legal guardian must be present before the start of shooting.

Shooters under age may not participate in regular competitions.

The shooters acquire the required technical knowledge pursuant to §§ 4 (1) sentence 1 (numbers 3 and 7) of the German Weapons Law (*WaffG*) in accordance with §§ 1 – 3 of the German Weapons Law administrative by-laws (*AWaffV*) through training courses at the garrison or base hunting, fishing, and sport shooting program or Rod & Gun Club. Training shall be conducted by qualified supervisory personnel. In addition, shooters must educate themselves in the area of legal requirements, safe handling of weapons, internal & external ballistics, sport shooting regulations and, above all, safety rules. Respective written material is available at the clubs and at garrison or base Outdoor Recreation centers. After appropriate preparation, the shooter can take the technical knowledge test pursuant to §7, *WaffG* in connection with §2, *AWaffV* at the designated testing center within each IMCOM Europe Garrison and USAFE Air Base within Germany.

### **A3 Competitions**

There is no general division into competition categories.

## **Types of Competition**

There are friendship competitions and championships.

Friendship competitions will be held internally or with “friendly” clubs or associations at a national or international level without requiring public announcement.

State or Federal championships are competitions to determine the champions within the U.S. Forces for the current sporting year.

The sporting year is the calendar year.

There will be individual scoring as well as team scoring.

Open championships are competitions in which every member and non-member may participate. Non-members must accept, in writing, all rules of this sport shooting handbook, provide proof of liability insurance, and demonstrating the required technical knowledge when handling weapons and ammunition. Open championships must be publicly announced.

Championships of a given event will normally be held all on the same date and at the same place.

Every shooter may participate only once per event in a championship shoot.

Championships will be held in the order Club, State, and German National. Permission to participate in the German National Championship will, in case of high participation interest, be determined by comparing each shooter’s score at the State Championship with an established cut-off minimum score.

The U.S Forces are not obliged to hold championships in all in all events.

Scheduling of the competitions is within the responsibility of the organizer.

A Club, State, or German National Championship shoot can only be conducted under the condition that at least three shooters participate in a given event.

Shooting prior to an actual event may only be done by personnel conducting the event; shooting later is not permitted by either participants or personnel.

Entry forms will be provided by the organizers and must be used by all participants.

For possible inquiries, a telephone contact number should be available and announced.

The entry fee will be submitted with the entry form. Failure to pay the entry fee will result in denial of registration.

The cut-off time and date for entries specified in the announcement shall be strictly adhered to.

Changes in registrations will only be permitted if the schedule allows for it.

### **Weapons Check**

In cases where there may be a question as to the classification of a weapon, the reliability of weapon components, accessories, etc., the organizer of the competition will be requested to make a prior determination.

Every participant in a competitive shoot is responsible to see that their weapon and every piece of their gear and accessories is presented at the weapons check for official examination and acceptance. Every shooter has the right to have their weapon and gear examined by the organizer. If the acceptance of a weapon depends on the date it was put in service, the shooter may be required to provide proof.

After the weapon has been approved for competition, it may be re-examined at any time during competition and up to fifteen minutes after the end of the competition.

### **Starting Time**

The shooter is obliged to appear on time at their assigned place of competition. Time lost due to tardy appearance will be deducted from shooting time, assuming that it is even possible to commence shooting. It must be ensured that other competing shooters are not disturbed by this. The decision as to whether the tardy shooter may commence shooting will be made by the range officer. A tardy shooter is not entitled to a later starting time. The entry fee is forfeited.

The shooter is obliged to assume their position no later than five minutes before the beginning of the competition in order to make their final preparations, provided the announced procedures do not specify other requirements.



No special requests with reference to starting times may be honored.

Starting times requested by shooters from other communities should be considered because of longer distances traveled to the shoot.

The starting times established by the organizer are binding; however, the shooter should, by timely appearance, help ensure flexible use of range facilities.

### **Shooting Time**

Time allotted for shooting will be specified by individual event rules.

The targets should be in place five minutes before shooting commences, so that the shooter can practice their aiming position.

### **Time Interruptions**

If a shooter, through no fault of their own, is required to interrupt their shooting for more than three minutes, they may request time compensation.

### **Turning In Target for Scoring**

The shooter is responsible to ensure that their target is turned in after shooting for scoring.

Practice targets do not need to be turned in for scoring.

### **Scoring of Targets**

Protests may only be made against incorrect scoring, errors in addition, or incorrect entry on the results board.

The result entered in the score card must be initialed by the scorer.

If a shot touches the next higher ring (tangentially) on the target, that ring is to be counted.

If, in case of revolving targets, a shot hits the target while it is revolving, the shot will be scored as "no hit" if the oblong hole is

1.5 times longer than the caliber diameter.

If hits are immediately counted at the bench (i.e., the used target is left in place and is taped over for the next entrant), the shooter must immediately lodge any complaints against the scoring. Any protests concerning scoring after the target is taped over or the shooter has left the bench will not be considered.

## **A4 Conducting the Shoot**

Operating personnel

Range operating personnel consists of:

- Supervisory personnel
- Registration personnel
- Weapons and equipment personnel
- Range personnel
- Target scorers

The organizer must ensure that sufficient operating personnel are in place.

If sufficient operating personnel are not available for all tasks, the organizer may ask participating shooters to perform necessary operational duties.

### **Supervisor**

The range supervisor of the shoot is responsible for the safe conduct and sporting nature of the shoot.

### **Registration**

Registration personnel will issue the shooter a score card for each event in which he participates. The card shall be given to the range officer before the event starts.

### **Weapon and Equipment Check**

Before the competition starts, each weapon should be examined by the equipment and weapons checkers to ensure that it complies with the sport shooting rules.

## **Range Officer**

The range officer is responsible for permanent supervision of the shooting and they need to make sure in particular that the individuals present at the shooting range do not cause avoidable hazards by their conduct. They shall further make sure that only those weapons are used which are authorized on the range, that children under 18 years of age do not shoot and/or juveniles only shoot with weapons that are authorized by German Weapons Law, and in compliance with official US Forces terms and conditions.

The range supervisor is authorized to prohibit shooting or deny access to the range if this is necessary to prevent risks.

Participants in an event shall comply with the range officer's instructions immediately.

Furthermore, the range officer shall ensure a smooth sequence of events (supervision, starting commands, scoring on the range and other things) on the range assigned to them.

## **Target Scoring**

In evaluating the targets, the target numbers shall be compared with the score cards. The notes of the range supervisor and/or the range officer shall be taken into consideration and, if warranted, deductions made from final scores. Scorers shall also be responsible for ranking the final results of participating shooters, updating the listing as required, and to post a table of results at a prominent location for all participants to see.

## **Protests**

Cases where violations of competition rules occur must be reported to the organizer immediately.

Immediately after irregularities have been observed, protests must be submitted to the organizer in writing, by calling witnesses and depositing a fee of 10 Euros.

Protests against the competition results must be lodged within 30 minutes after publication of the results.

Subsequent protests made after the 30-minute protest window following a competition

will not be considered.

The range supervisor will make all final determinations concerning protests.

### **Cross Shooting**

If a competing shooter shoots at the wrong target, they shall inform the range supervisor or range officer immediately. A shot at the wrong target shall be scored as a “no hit.”

If a shooter discovers a shot on their target which they are sure is not their own, they must report it at once to the range supervisor or range officer. If it cannot be determined with absolute certainty which shots were made by the neighboring shooter, the worst shots on the target will be annulled.

### **Incorrect Number of Shots**

If it is determined that a shooter has fired more rounds at their target than they are authorized, the corresponding number of best shots on their target will be scored as “no hits”. If a shooter fires too few shots at a target, each missing shot will be scored as a “no hit”.

### **Ranking in Case of Equal Scores**

In case of equal scores, ranking of shooters will be determined by the following:

- a) the higher number of 10s
- b) the higher number of full (better) 10s

If there is still an equal score, the smaller deviation from the center of the target to the farthest shot shall determine the better result.

### **Variations**

If, for certain events, different scoring rules apply, these will be defined in the rules for the event.

## **Disciplinary Rules**

In case of violation of sport shooting rules or failure to follow the instructions of the range officer (orders “clear your weapon”, “put down your weapon” and others), the offending participant will receive disciplinary penalties.

Reduction of scores or disqualification may be imposed by the organizer or range supervisor only.

### **Warning**

Minor infractions of safety regulations will be responded to with an official warning. In case of a clear rules violation (e.g. weapon, clothing, position) during the practice period, the shooter will first be warned, so that they have the opportunity to correct their mistake.

### **Disqualification**

After being warned twice, the participant will be disqualified.

Carrying a loaded weapon or a weapon whose condition cannot be immediately recognized will be punished by immediate disqualification.

Dropping a weapon when shooting will result in immediate disqualification.

In case of other violations (e.g. improper handling of a weapon on the range, brandishing a weapon or the like) immediate disqualification shall be imposed in order to protect the other participants.

In the event of disqualification, the entrance fee is forfeited.

### **Weapon Defects and Weapon Malfunctions**

If a shooter can prove that their weapon is defective, they will be allowed to repair the problem and resume shooting at a later time determined by the range supervisor, if the range capacity allows for that.

Their remaining shooting must be finished within the time allotted for the event, but a minimum of thirty seconds per shot shall be granted (not applicable to rapid-fire events).

If a weapon failure occurs during a rapid-fire event, the time lost is deducted from the shooter's total time.

### **Ammunition Failure**

In the event of a misfire (dud), the shooter is allowed to cock and fire again or load a new round, but only within the limitations of the shooting time.

The shooter is not entitled to repeat the series. This applies to all events.

### **Shots Before the Fire Command**

If a shot is fired before the command to commence firing, the shot will be scored as a "no hit."

The shooter shall have no claim to a replacement shot.

### **Shots After the Cease Fire Command**

If a shot is fired after the cease fire command, the best shots on the offending shooter's target will be scored as a "no hit" even if the shot did not hit the target.

## **A5 Organization of the Shoot**

### **Administration**

Competitions may be conducted by all garrison and base hunting, fishing, and sport shooting programs and/or Rod and Gun Clubs.

### **Length of Competition**

Every shoot should be completed on one day.

Events or competitions with heavy participation or a comprehensive program may be held on several days. This should be made clear in the announcements.

## **Eligibility to Participate**

Every shooter is eligible to compete (friendship shoots and open championships).

Only shooters who have paid the entrance fee within the registration time may participate.

For local, state and Federal championships, only members of the U.S. Forces are allowed.

## **Limits on Participation, Minimum Limit**

Participation limitations may be enforced if the physical capacity of a range so dictates, or in order to ensure a certain level of performance.

## **Announcements**

Every competition must be announced.

Unless stated otherwise in the announcement, the standard wording of the sport shooting rules shall apply for the event.

A collective announcement including several competitions is permissible.

## **Preparation**

The announcement should be mailed at least 4 weeks in advance of the event by the club announcing the event.

## **Contents of the Announcement**

An announcement should include the following information:

- Name and mailing address of the announcing agency
- Addressee of the announcement in case of a limited number of participants
- Name of the competition, time and place
- Description of event(s)
- Deadline for acceptance of registrations
- The cost of registration
- Description of prizes

- Intended limitations on the number of participants, if it is foreseen that limitations are necessary.
- Possible deviations from general rules (e.g., different shooting distance)
- Reservation and modification clause
- Exact location with driving directions

### **Confirmation of Registration**

After the registration deadline, the number of registered shooters and the starting time shall be confirmed. Shooters not accepted due to participation limitations should be notified accordingly.

### **Participation and Results List**

A list of participants and their results shall be publicly displayed. After the shoot is finished, the final results of all participants shall be posted noting the protest time limitation.

## **B Technical Rules**

### **B1 Applicability**

The technical rules apply to all events, unless specified otherwise in the event description.

### **B2 Firing Signals**

-On Benches

The shooters are prepared with weapons ready to shoot and aimed (ready to aim). The range officer checks shooting readiness with the question, "Are the shooters ready?" If there is no response, the following commands are given: "Start firing" and "Cease firing."

Instead of these verbal commands, acoustic signals may be used.



## - For Revolving Targets

The shooters are prepared with weapons ready to shoot and aimed (or ready to aim). The range officer checks shooting readiness with the question, "Are the shooters ready?" If there is no response, the revolving targets are spun away for seven to ten seconds. Shooting time commences when the targets start spinning again. Shooting time ends when the target begins spinning away.

### **B3 Intervals**

At intervals between the individual target revolutions, the starting position should be resumed.

### **B4 Targets**

#### Target Distance

The target distance is measured from the rear edge of the distance line to the front edge of the target.

Maximum allowable tolerances +/- at:

25 meters +/-20 cm

50 meters +/-50 cm

100 meters +/- 100 cm

300 meters +/-100 cm

### **B5 Ammunition**

Legal provisions shall be complied with. In particular in case of loaded or reloaded ammunition the maximum permissible gas pressure shall be complied with.

Only the use of ammunition specified in the special rules is permitted.

The individual rounds must be sufficiently powerful to ensure that the automatic feature of self-loading weapons is functional.

## **B6 Loading Aids**

If not prohibited by special rules, the use of loading aids (clips or frames, extra magazines, speed loaders, etc.) is permitted.

## **B7 Sun and Rain Protection**

A sun and/or rain umbrella is permitted, if not restricted by special rules. Neighboring shooters may not be obstructed by the use of such an umbrella.

## **B8 Clothing**

Soldiers on active duty may shoot wearing uniform. For all other shooters wearing of uniforms (also battle dress) or uniform parts is prohibited.

## **B9 Technical Definitions**

### **Trigger Pull Force**

Trigger pull force is the energy required by the shooter at the trigger parallel to the barrel in order to cause the weapon to fire. The trigger pull force has the required value if the test weight does not cause the cocked weapon to release with the barrel held in a vertical position.

### **Trigger Stop**

A trigger stop is a stationary or variable piece which causes the trigger to stop without going completely to the rear of the trigger guard after the shot has been released. Swing-out trigger stops are permitted. In events in which trigger stops are not allowed, a weapon may only be used with the trigger stop swung out.

### **Temporarily Mounted Parts**

Temporarily mounted parts (e.g. tape) which have the same function as a trigger stop, are considered equal to a trigger stop.

### **Combat Grips**

Combat grips are defined as grip pieces with finger indentations; a thumb rest is not permitted.

## **Sporting Grip Pieces**

Sporting grip pieces are orthopedic grips with thumb and/or palm rests.

### **B10 Competition and Practice Targets**

For official competitions, only the targets specified for the individual events may be used.

The competition targets shall be numbered or marked with the name of the shooter.

The target material must be of a consistency which will ensure that the bullet impact does not create a hole larger than the actual caliber, so that accurate scoring is possible.

Practice targets must be clearly identified or marked in a color code.

Targets depicting or symbolizing human beings are prohibited.

Due to the high number of hunting license owners in the association and hunting license candidates, shooting training for hunting purposes is also offered. Such training is strictly for shooting for hunting purposes.

## **Targets for U.S. Forces Competitions**

### **Target No. 1: UIT-100 Meters Target**

Ring width of the inner 10 = 25 mm

Ring width of the 10 = 50 mm

Width of the rings 1 – 9 = 25 mm

Diameter of the center = 200 mm (rings 7 – 10)

### **Target No. 2: Target No. 1 reduced by 50% Target No. 3: Special Print 5 x Air**

#### **Pistol Target**

Ring width of the inner 10 = 5.0 mm

Ring width of the 10 = 11.5 mm

Width of the rings 1 – 9 = 8.0 mm

Diameter of the center = 59.5 mm (rings 7 – 10)

### **Target No. 4: Target No. 3 reduced by 50%**

### **Target No. 5: BDMP 1500 Target Target**

### **No. 6\*: DJV – Game Target Buck**

### **Target No. 7\*: DJV – Game Target Two-Year Boar Standing**

### **Target No. 8\*: DJV – Game Target Fox**

### **Target No. 9\*: DJV – Game Target Chamois**

### **Target No. 10\*: DJV – Game Target Two-Year Running Boar (50 m and 60 m variant)**

### **Target No. 11: DJV – Handgun Target**

### **Target No. 12: BDMP PP1 Target**

### **Target No. 13: BDMP Sport Rifle Target**

**Target No. 14 Silhouettes (folding targets (max. 200 x 100 mm))**

\* This training is only for shooting for hunting purposes.

**In addition:**

**For special shooting events hinged targets may be used upon coordination with the association. However, only on the ranges where their use is authorized.**

**Hinged Targets: Metal and plastic, minimum distance 7 m**

**Breakable Targets: Skeet, air balloons**