

9. Everyone has a degree of movement, so the trick is to slowly increase the trigger pressure until the shot breaks, while trying to maintain a reasonable sight picture
10. Now repeat 7, 8 and 9, but this time loading a round into the chamber.
11. The participant can now fire a number of shots but must remain under the control of the instructor.
12. Remember that the Instructor cannot under any circumstances leave the participant alone, whilst in control of the pistol or ammunition.
13. When the participant has shown that he can control the recoil and always has the pistol pointing down range, in the direction of the targets, the instructor may let him load up to 5 shots in the magazine or revolver cylinder.

WHEN THE PISTOLS HAVE BEEN CLEARED FOR REMOVAL FROM THE FIRING LINE, TAKE THE GUNCASE TO THE PISTOL, NOT THE PISTOL TO THE GUNCASE.

The NSWAPA would like to acknowledge the significant input in this document from Les Spurrier.

If you do not fully understand something ask the instructor for further explanation



NSWAPA P650 Safe Handling Course

(for Un-licenced persons wishing to try Pistol Shooting)

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This course has been approved by the NSW Police Force, Firearms Registry

The NSWAPA has compiled this handbook to cover the specific requirements of Pistols. Unlike rifles and shotguns, the Pistol because of its size, is easily pointed in the wrong direction.

Extreme care should be taken, so that the Pistol, points down range (at the targets) at all times, and does not point at someone inadvertently, while being handled, loaded, unloaded or fired.

The unlicensed person undertaking this P650 safe handling course, is allowed to participate in pistol shooting for 1 calendar month from the date on the form, unless he joins a pistol club and applies to firearms registry for his Provisional Pistol Licence.

The major point on pistol safety is that at no time should a pistol be pointed at any part of anyone's body, including the person holding the pistol. At all times the pistol must be treated as loaded until proved clear. When handed a Pistol by someone you should immediately check to see that it is unloaded.

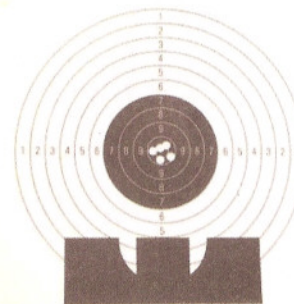
When handling a pistol in the training Room, the instructor will show how to prove the gun is empty, and will demonstrate how the various types of pistols that you may be using, are proved to be empty. He will then ask each of the participants to demonstrate they have understood the procedures. The Instructor will then demonstrate the safe condition of various types of pistols that the shooter is likely to use. This safe condition is how the pistol must be left until the order to LOAD has been given by a Range Officer or the instructor if there are no other shooters on the line.

The Instructor will demonstrate how to open the breech of various types of pistols the shooter is likely to use and if necessary how and where to insert an object to keep it open

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between the thumb and base of the index finger. The bottom 3 fingers apply the major holding strength, across the front of the grip. The pistol should be gripped firmly enough so that slipping or shifting of the grip will not occur during firing, however a grip that is too firm, will induce tremor of the hand.

4. The feet should be placed shoulder width apart, and weight distributed evenly.
5. Once you are ready to fire a shot, raise the arm slowly
6. The arm holding the pistol, when pointing at the target, should be as straight as possible and pushing forward into the pistol to control the recoil. A bent elbow could result in inconsistent shots and uncontrolled recoil.
7. At this point, we will do what is called a Dry Fire. This means firing the pistol without a cartridge in the chamber. In order to try shooting you need to be able to align the front sight with the back sight, so that the front sight is centred in the rear sight, and the top of the front sight is level with the top of the back sight. You then need to position this sight picture under the black aiming mark on the target.



8. Only when the pistol is pointed at the target, put your finger carefully on the trigger, and with the sights still aligned, slowly squeeze the trigger, so that the trigger moves directly back until it releases. Keep looking at the sight picture while you are squeezing the trigger, so that you see what happens to the sights at the point of trigger release.

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GOLDEN RULES OF PISTOL SAFETY

NEVER TOUCH A PISTOL WHILE ANYONE IS FORWARD OF THE FIRING LINE.

NEVER LOAD A PISTOL UNTIL YOU ARE GIVEN THE COMMAND, LOAD

WHEN THE RANGE OFFICER OR INSTRUCTOR CALLS STOP, (OR CEASE FIRE) YOU MUST STOP SHOOTING IMMEDIATELY, TAKE YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER AND REST THE BUTT ON THE BENCH, WHILST MAINTAINING A GOOD GRIP ON THE PISTOL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SAFE HANDLING COURSE, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY A LOADED PISTOL BE PLACED ON THE BENCH.

IF THE RANGE OFFICER OR INSTRUCTOR CALLS UNLOAD, FOLLOWING THE CALL STOP, (OR CEASE FIRE), YOU SHOULD REMOVE ANY CARTRIDGES FROM THE PISTOL, THEN PLACE THE UNLOADED PISTOL ON THE BENCH IN A SAFE CONDITION, (THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DEMONSTRATED TO YOU). DO NOT TOUCH THE PISTOL AGAIN, UNTIL THE ORDER TO DO SO, HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE RANGE OFFICER, OR INSTRUCTOR.

WHILE ANYONE IS FORWARD OF THE FIRING LINE DO NOT ENTER THE FIRING BAY OR TOUCH THE PISTOL.

The Basics of Pistol Shooting

When you are about to shoot you need to be sure that you follow a sequence of important events.

1. You are wearing your eye protection.
2. You are wearing your hearing protection.
3. The pistol is placed into the shooting hand so that the top of the grip and the rear sights are placed into the V formed

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Ammunition

There are various types of pistols, including air pistols, .22 single shot, .22 semi automatic pistols, .22 revolvers, centrefire semi automatic pistols, centrefire revolvers, centrefire single shot pistols, Black powder revolvers and Black powder single shot pistols.

The .22 calibre pistols use a .22 long rifle rimfire cartridge. The rimfire cartridge, as its name implies, is detonated by the firing pin crushing the rim against the breech face, setting off the priming compound which ignites the gunpowder in the cartridge case.

Centrefire Cartridges have a metal primer which is mounted in the centre of the base of the case.

When the firing pin strikes the primer, it crushes the priming compound against a built in anvil and the resulting explosion ignites the gunpowder.

Black Powder pistols in the simplest form are loaded on the firing line by pouring a measured amount of Black Powder into the chamber or down the barrel, seating a lead projectile onto the powder, and then putting a percussion cap onto a nipple. Revolvers require that each chamber be sealed with a high temperature grease to prevent "Flash Over". The most popular types are fired by a percussion cap, but there are other types such as flint lock pistols, being used for some matches.

A single shot pistol, is as it implies, made to accept one shot at a time.

A revolver normally has a cylinder that rotates each time the pistol is cocked. The common revolver has a cylinder that will accept 6 cartridges but there are some that accept a little as 5 and others that will accept 7 or more. All International Shooting Sport Federation matches (ISSF), including those shot during the Olympics, only use 5 cartridges at a time. Some matches such as IPSC, Service Pistol, Action Pistol (International 1920 Match) do use 6 cartridges at a time.

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Self-loading Semi Automatic pistols have magazines that can hold from 5 to 10 cartridges but again for the ISSF matches and for these safety courses we will never load more than 5 rounds at a time.

Some Revolvers are double action (when the trigger is pulled, the hammer is cocked, the cylinder revolves, and hammer is released) and some are single action (the cylinder revolves by cocking the hammer and the hammer is then released by squeezing the trigger).

The Instructor will demonstrate the way in which a revolver should be cocked with the free hand so that the hand holding the pistol can retain control of where the pistol is being pointed.

Eye protection must be worn by all people on the firing line.

Hearing protection must be worn by all people on a live (Cartridge type) Range. Air pistols do not make sufficient noise to injure ones hearing, but many competitors wear ear muffs to stop the sounds of other shooters disturbing them whilst they are about to fire a shot.

It is important that suitable clothing be worn by everyone on the firing line. High necked shirts or blouses will prevent hot ejected cases from getting inside clothing, and causing burns, and the danger of someone with a loaded pistol in their hand trying to remove a hot shell. Enclosed footwear overcomes the problem of hot shells getting between the toes and causing problems.

How to Hold a Pistol

Some people who wish to try shooting may be interested in the ISSF Matches, Service Pistol, IPSC or, Metallic Silhouette. Some of the disciplines will have a very different style. ISSF is free standing, with the pistols held and fired with the one hand.

Service Pistol and IPSC type disciplines use both hands for most of the match and Metallic Silhouette has its own requirements for the standing and freestyle positions.

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It is important to understand that the P650 form does not entitle a participant to use a holster, or to draw a loaded pistol from a holster.

For anyone to use a holster, they must have an "H" class licence and a Pistol Australia Holster Accreditation Card.

Unused ammunition must be returned to the Instructor. It is unlawful for a person using a P650 form to try pistol shooting, to take live ammunition from the range.

Safe Direction

The pistol should not be raised or pointed higher than the lowest part of any overhead structure or over the top of the back stop. An accidental shot fired into the structure could ricochet in any direction.

If you hold a loaded pistol so that it is pointed below (approximately) 30 degrees, any accidental shot may scatter hot lead in any direction (if you are fortunate enough, for the shot to miss your foot).



During loading and firing, the barrel should never be more than 10-15 degrees to either side of the "straight ahead". The Rapid Fire Match requires that the pistol be swung through less than 8 degrees through targets 1 to 5.

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