

Campbelltown Liverpool District Pistol Club Inc.
25m Single Action/Black Powder Cartridge
Overview

This match redresses the lack of a “single action/western” event in the PA jurisdiction. It falls logically between PA Black Powder Matches (percussion pistols) and the ISSF Centrefire Match. The spirit of the match is early single action revolver shooting, which began in the black powder era (1870-1900) and overlapped into the early smokeless era (1900-1920).

The highest category of the match is “Frontier,” shot with centrefire cartridges of pre-1894 design, loaded with black powder and fired in single action mode, using original revolvers or modern copies of pre-1900 designs.

Any other combination of revolver and cartridge is accepted as “Open” category. For example, a shooter who owns a modern revolver, with adjustable sights, may shoot within the “Open” category, provided that black powder cartridges are loaded.

Smokeless powder is not allowable, because it belongs to the transition period from the late 1890s, and by 1907 had displaced black powder for most competitive shooters. It overcame the need for cleaning during the match, although the early primers were corrosive, necessitating same-day cleaning.

The intent of the match is to acquaint centrefire shooters with the skills needed to shoot successfully the black powder cartridge, drawing upon the knowledge held by black powder shooters. In addition, the match provides the allowable base for black powder cartridges up to .45 calibre, separate from the ISSF Centrefire match where the calibre is limited to .38.

The match qualifies under Section 70 of the NSW Firearms Regulations as a “specialised shooting competition” for “single action shooting,” allowing a category H (sport/target shooting) licence holder to apply for a Commissioners Permit for a pistol larger than .38 inch but not greater than .45 inch. This is required for calibres such as 45 Colt and 44-40 Winchester.

This match can be shot without a large calibre Commissioners Permit using the normal category H licence. Effective black powder loads are possible using 32 H&R Magnum, 38 Special or 357 Magnum cartridges, and the “Frontier” category can be shot using 32-20 Winchester or 38 Long Colt cartridges. Pistol dimensions are limited only by NSW Firearms Act, Section 4C, minimum barrel length 100 mm and NSW Firearms Regulations, Section 120, maximum overall length of pistol 65 cm.

In summary, this match promotes a wide range of “Western” target shooting, starting from an occasional shoot with a modern revolver and commercial black powder “Western” cartridges, and progressing to the expert level with the casting and lubrication of soft lead projectiles, the variety of smoke and flash using different loads and grades of black powder, and the mastery of the limitations imposed by black powder shooting.

H. Peters,
BPC Match Convenor
April 2017