



PISTOL NEWS



Welcome to the 2020 Shooting Season

The SAPF EXCO would like to wish all our Clubs, Provinces and Members a more active, more enjoyable and more successful year ahead.

The biggest challenge we face is the on-going and rising cost of shooting competitively – it is a fact of life in South Africa that access to good ammunition and good reloading supplies, especially powder, is a major challenge to our sport, so we need to consider all the options and alternatives that are reasonable going into 2020.

The SAPF ECO remains committed to delivering Provincial and National championships that will be exciting and rewarding to all who participate – we do therefore ask that we have an on-going commitment to participation during 2020, especially at postal level if you cannot afford to travel to the various provincial matches where you could prove your competency in your chosen events on a shoulder to shoulder basis.

This first Newsletter of 2020 should serve to remind all our clubs and provincial bodies that we need to grow our membership at every opportunity – this is a grass-roots issue that must be dealt with at club level. It's every member's responsibility to tell a good story about pistol shooting and to promote our sport at every possible opportunity, e.g. get articles and photos published in local newspapers.



NEW ISSF Events in 2020

As the VP for ISSF Affairs, Shaun deems it necessary to communicate with other ISSF pistol shooting organisations in overseas countries, and he is constantly on the lookout for new ways in which to make pistol shooting more exciting, more interesting and more challenging each year.

As you are all aware, he announced the Air Pistol Challenge event in 2019 and he encouraged the clubs to get their members involved.

The SAPF has recognised that several clubs were happy to try it out, and those that did found the outdoor air pistol format interesting and quite pleasantly challenging.

Southern Gauteng have decided to formally include this event in their 2020 Provincial Championships programme, and the EXCO applaud this decision wholeheartedly.

Air pistol shooting remains by far the most inexpensive form of precision pistol shooting available to our members, and the SAPF really wants to encourage all the clubs and provinces to make air pistol shooting a greater part of their League and club activities in 2020 please.

In some of the Air Pistol Challenge trials that were carried out by some of the clubs during 2019, it became clear that shooting another 60-shot air pistol match was a bit too time-consuming, using up more than 90 minutes to complete.

So for 2020, the SAPF have agreed with SG management to adjust the course of fire to just 40 scoring shots, in the following format:

1. 30 shots at 25M distance, i.e. 10 sighters and 20 scoring shots in 30 minutes;
2. 15 shots at 15M in 15 minutes; and
3. 15 shots at 10M in 15 minutes.

At the 15M and 10M distances, each shooter will fire 5 sighters and 10 scoring shots, for an overall total score out of 400 points, (40 shots.)

We ask all clubs to please introduce this new event in this new format as soon as possible in 2020 in order to get our ranges full of air pistol shooters as often as possible; *Remember, this event is shot outdoors!*

Another New International ISSF event in 2020

As a direct result of Shaun's international Coaching involvement, he has identified some new ISSF events that are specifically aimed at the older members of the SAPF; these new events that have attracted over 3,000 shooters in Europe and the UK in the past two years alone.

The new events, called *Supported Pistol Shooting events*, allow older competitors to use a physical static support platform when shooting the 10M air pistol and the 25M .22-cal events.

The rationale behind these new events is the fact that worldwide, aside from the official Olympic competitors, who number less than 2,000 shooters worldwide these days, there is an increasingly growing population of aging ISSF pistol shooters, who, realistically, are not top-end competitive any longer, but still love their pistol shooting sport.





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The ISSF organisation in Germany was the first country to recognise the need for Assisted Support for this older groups of ISSF pistol and rifle shooters, who still enjoy being active, but are not really as competitive against their much younger competitors, who are capable of much higher scores because of their age and youth advantages.

This brought the *Supported Pistol events* for all pistol and rifle shooters over the age of 55 into being, and a formal set of rules were developed and have now been published by the ISSF.

The Supported Pistol Events allow all shooters in the Over 55 age group to compete fairly against other shooters of their own age in a separate category, whilst still allowing those shooters that choose to also shoot in the traditional Pistol events to do so as well.

In essence, the *Supported Pistol Events* create a new class or category within the various existing ISSF pistol events, so it does not change the running of any League or Championships, but it has had the result of increasing the number of competitors who can now shoot the traditional air pistol and .22-cal 25M events, as well as the *Supported Pistol Events* when they choose to do so.

Understanding the Supported Pistol Events

Please consult the photographs provided below, but in essence the shooter is allowed to use a Rounded Support on which they can rest the base of the pistol whilst aiming at the target.

The Support on which the pistol grip is rested consists of a (maximum) 50mm Round tube, either PVC, Wood or Aluminium, that must have a smooth surface without any shapes or indents allowed.

As stated, the base of the pistol grip is then rested on the round tube support, but the grip may not have any shape or indents either, i.e. the normal pistol grip rules and regulations apply.

It is suggested that clubs build a few sample tripod rests that have the tube platform added and offer these to the over 55 age group to shoot and test for themselves.

Shaun intends inviting some UK and German clubs to shoot an Air Pistol postal match in this specific category during 2020 as a starting point, and in time broaden this to include other 25M events, and maybe even the 50M and 50 Yard events.

Provided below are some Photos that show some Supported Event competitors using the Supported Rests, as well as some photos of some rests that Shaun has already built for Alberton Shooting Club's use.

Clubs are encouraged to contact Shaun directly to find out how the *Static Support Rest* can be easily assembled from components readily available from most hardware stores.

Remember:

If Clubs or Provinces have any questions, queries or input for the SAPF, please direct this to the SAPF offices for the EXCO's attention.



Supported Pistol Shooting:
Shooters 55 to 65 shoot Standing, and Over 65's may Sit or Stand.

