

What the referees are looking for:

1. An accidental discharge before the command to load has been given or after the firing line has been made safe. Applicable rules: 10.1.1, 10.1.2, 10.1.3, 10.1.4

This is the most serious of rules violations that could result in injury or death. A violation of this rule will result in being disqualified from the National Matches.

2. A firearm with the slide closed, magazine inserted, or cylinder closed.
Applicable rules: 10.1.1., 10.1.3

3. Failure to use an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI)
Applicable rules: 3.21, 10.7

The purpose of these commands is to insure firearms, and thus all competitors and others are safe. A violation of these commands, particularly in the case of a firearms being loaded (round in chamber, magazine or cylinder) is a serious violation, and could result in actions from loss of points, up to and including disqualification.

4. Competitors are reminded about Section # 3 Equipment and Ammunition.

Safety functions on all firearms must function, and the trigger weight, when measured by official NRA weights, must meet poundage.

1. If found during random pre-fire firearms checks, competitors will be given opportunity to correct the problem, and allowed to fire, as long as this can be accomplished without delaying the matches, and other competitors. The ability to re-squad a competitor will be based upon available relays and firing positions.
 2. If found after conclusion of firing, any scores fired with the firearm will be disqualified and recorded as a zero.
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5. The referees are charged with enforcing all the rules in order to insure all competitors are provided with the same level of rules enforcement. The above violations are not all inclusive. All sections of the current NRA Pistol Rule Book are subject to enforcement. Competitors should familiarize themselves with all the rules governing the competition in which they are firing, including those identified in the Match Program, and the Match Directors Bulletins.

Other items for competitors to be aware of include:

1. Artificial support such as leaning on the bench, or hooking the foot for support
2. Firing fewer rounds, or more rounds than called for
3. Touching a malfunctioning firearm prior to claiming an alibi for re-fire.

These violations will cause a competitor to lose points that will impact match score.

6. Challenging targets.

If a competitor feels that his or her target has not been scored correctly, he or she can ask for a plug, and if necessary pay a nominal fee to have the scoring referee evaluate and score the target. If this is done, be aware of the following:

1. The entire target is subject to rescoring.
2. The decision of the scoring referee is final and cannot be further debated.
3. Shooters and scores should refrain from being in or around the scoring referee in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety.
4. Targets sent for challenge are retained by the scoring referee and are not returned to the shooter, scorer, or range personnel.

Referees are available on each range to answer questions or to request clarifications, and help provide understanding of the rules. Because not all circumstances are the same, please do not ask the referees to make decisions, or provide comment on “what if” situations, or to offer opinions on a situation in which they were not involved, and know all the facts about.