

The aims of the Black Powder Initiative are to promote and exploit black powder shooting whilst maintaining the traditions associated with this historical means of shooting. In this sense the Initiative organises and conducts worldwide traditional shooting events on the basis of the following regulations at regional, national and international levels. (SPI=SchwarzpulverInitiative =: BlackPowderInitiative (BPI))

BPI - Competition Regulations

(Status: 01.August 2011)



Legal Notice:

The content and classification of these regulations as well as the processes outlined herein are part of the intellectual property of the Black Powder Initiative. Organising and conducting competitions, championships or other shooting events based on these regulations are permitted for clubs and/or associations belonging to the Black Powder Initiative. Alternatively, non-members need prior written approval from the Black Powder Initiative or have a written agreement with the Initiative to conduct such events. The rights for conducting competitions at regional, national and international levels are specifically reserved for the Initiative itself unless delegated to a third party.

Safety concerns us all !!!

Ignoring the safety rules and codes puts human lives at risk! . Therefore any offenders - without regard to person or function - should be consequently reprimanded (disqualification) by the match Director(s). This is the joint responsibility of local match director(s) and range officer(s) charged with overseeing the shooters and is a binding part of these regulations.

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Any contestant taking part in a Black Powder Initiative (SPI) sponsored competition run directly by the SPI or an authorised third party acknowledges and conducts himself in accordance with these regulations also including the safety rules and codes without exception. The complete responsibility for adherence to these safety rules within these regulations is at all times and places the sole responsibility of the contestant. Each contestant acknowledges with his entry that he has familiarised himself with the pertinent laws and regulations and that he will - during all SPI sponsored events - conduct himself in a manner in full accordance with these laws and regulations. Since future changes to the laws could possibly affect the SPI Regulations it is further the contestants responsibility to acquaint himself with the actual version of the SPI Regulations via the internet. Regarding the laws relating to guns, explosives and insurance it is always the latest version of the SPI Regulations that is available on the internet which is in force. This pamphlet only reflects the state of the regulations as of February 2010 and may well be overhauled after a very short period of time due to relevant law changes. The actual SPI Regulations version is always available from the SPI homepage as a download. Contestants shooting at SPI sponsored events do so entirely at their own risk.

A remaining risk relating to injury and damage is always with black powder shooting – even when the safety rules are strictly adhered to. Persons not willing to accept this own risk are not permitted to take part in an sponsored SPI trainings, competitions or championships. Non-compliance with safety rules and other applicable laws and regulations will lead to an immediate disqualification from that event.

Under certain extreme circumstances this can also lead to being expelled from the SPI. The final decision rests with the SPI Director and will be made after carefully considering all aspects of that particular case. The decision will be made in written and is final with no options for a review. A person causing damage or personal injury to himself or others through negligence or grave carelessness will be held personally responsible for any indemnity within the realms of relevant laws and jurisdiction.

The rules on safety within this document are applicable to all types of shooting events and classes outlined in this pamphlet. The rules should be fully applied unless other commands or orders have been issued by an authoritative person for a particular event.

General Description of SPI Shooting Events:

Number of Shots: 13 (thirteen) shots fired at one target with the 10 (ten) best shots to count for the score.

Preparation Time: None (Fouling shots or snapping of primers are only permitted during the match shooting time).

Contest Time: 40 (forty) Minutes

Distances: Pistol/Revolver: short: 25 m far: 50 m, Rifle: short: 50 m, far: 100 m and many other distances (see on Code-List)

Art of Shooting:

Pistol/Revolver (10 m (only I.1), 25 m, 50m): freehand and standing. (both single and double - hand holds are allowed)

Rifle (50 m): freehand and standing, Weapon held with both hands but without slings!

Rifle (100 m): freehand either standing or prone. Weapon held with both hands and slings allowed.

Rifle (>100 m): Any preferred art. Weapon held with both hands and slings allowed.

Sitting/Standing: Weapon can be supported with the aid of one legged shooting stick.

Prone: Back of the hand supports are allowed. The weapons, wrists and forearm should not touch any such support.

Clay Targets: In the moment the shot is fired the shaft of the gun should be in contact with the shoulder area.

Trigger Pull: Free – the trigger has to be safe in the sense that it does not self - actuate.

Targets: Standard 10-ring accuracy targets, whereby the distances between each of the scoring rings are equal. At distances of 25, 50 and 100m Distance between rings equals 2.5 cm. The black section diameter equals 20 cm. Events I.2, I.2v, I.2e, II.3, II.3v, VII.4 qualify for standard musket target. Standard clay targets for these shooting events.

Calibre: Up to maximum of 0.8" (.80 Cal) for all events except model cannons max. 35 mm.

Scoring: Best ten shot count for the score. The centre point of the bullet hole must be at least on the line to count for the higher score.

In the event of a tied result: result decided by adding the three non-scoring shots to official result. If a tied score still remains the winner is the one who has the highest number of shots in each scoring ring in descending order. If these are the same for each thirteen fired shots, then the winner is the one with a scoring shot nearest to the centre in cm. If distances are equal then the equal rank will be awarded to all involved in the tied result. Clay shooting to be decided by a "shoot-off".

Clothing: All Civilian and Traditional clothing are allowed .Exception: Restricted classification in rifle events

Classification: Unlimited class: For every person male or female any age!

Ladies class: Only for female contestants

Gents class: Only for Male contestants.

Senior class: Only for persons over 60 years old or with a physical handicap of over 70%. Art of shooting as preferred

Newbie class: Only applicable to residents in Countries an Explosive Permit is necessary and do posses such an Explosives Permit (e.G. § 27 Explosives Law)in Germany) but are allowed by the law of the country in accordance with their age to shoot weapons on authorised ranges or for those contestants using approved black powder pellets or wads.

This classification is not open to Flintlock or Matchlock events.

This classification is open to cartridge events if the contestant is over 18 years old.

Limited Class: restricted to wearers of modern shooting clothing and only applicable to rifle events.

Optical sights: telescopic sights are only allowed in approved events.

Sights: No limitations, All adjustable and diopter sights are allowed. In clay events standard front sight or sighting aid allowed.

Team Results: Between 3 and 5 contestants qualify for a team result. The three best individual scores combined give the team result. The team with highest team score is the winner.

Weapons: An Original is an original un-modified black powder weapon. A replica a recently made reproduction of an antique original weapon. A conversion revolver was an original percussion revolver with a replacement cylinder and/or frame modifications to allow the shooting of metal cartridge ammunition. Conversion Kits are equally allowed as well as a true conversion revolver.

Black powder cartridge shotguns with matchlock or percussion ignition with one or two smooth-bored barrels with a minimum length of 60 cm. Maximum calibre to be within the range regulations.

Jury: A Jury of 3 experienced shooters can be installed to examine with and decide on any protests regarding scoring results.

Kind/Art of Ignition and Type of Weapon :

I.

Matchlock Ignition:

WKO 10010-10615

- I.1 Matchlock Barrel (Tannenberg Büchse und Danzig Büchse)
- I.1 Matchlock pistol. 1.2v = without sights 1.2e = electrical ignition
- I.2 Matchlock rifle 1.3v = without sights 1.3e = electrical ignition

II.

Spark Ignition:

WKO 20010-24145

- II.1 Wheelock Pistol smooth bore
- II.1v Wheelock Pistol smooth bore without sights
- II.2 Wheelock Pistol rifled bore
- II.2v Wheelock Pistol rifled bore without sights
- II.3 Wheelock Rifle smooth bore
- II.3v Wheelock Rifle smooth bore without sights
- II.4 Wheelock Rifle rifled bore
- II.4v Wheelock Rifle rifled bore without sights
- II.5 Flintlock Pistol smooth bore
- II.5v Flintlock Pistol smooth bore without sights
- II.6 Flintlock Pistol rifled bore
- II.6v Flintlock Pistol rifled bore without sights
- II.7 Flintlock Rifle smooth bore
- II.7v Flintlock Rifle smooth bore without sights
- II.8 Flintlock Rifle rifled bore
- II.8v Flintlock Rifle rifled bore without sights
- II.9 Flintlock Rifle multiple shot
- II.10 Flintlock Revolver smooth bore
- II.10v Flintlock Revolver smooth bore without sights
- II.11 Flintlock Revolver rifled bore
- II.11v Flintlock Revolver rifled bore without sights

III.

Percussion Ignition:

WKO 30000-32715

- III.0 Percussion Pistol smooth bore
- III.1 Percussion Pistol conventional
- III.2 Percussion Pistol under hammer
- III.2i Percussion Pistol In-liner
- III.3 Percussion Revolver closed frame
- III.4 Percussion Revolver open top frame
- III.5 Percussion Rifle originally designed for civil use
- III.6 Percussion Rifle originally designed for military use
- III.7 Percussion Rifle under hammer
- III.8 Percussion breech loader Rifle
- III.8z Percussion breech loader Rifle with optical sights
- III.9 Percussion breech loader Rifle in-liner
- III.9z Percussion breech loader rifle with optical sights in-liner
- III.10 Percussion breech loader multiple shot
- III.10z Percussion breech loader multiple shot with optical sights

IV.

Black Powder Cartridge:

WKO 40010-41015

- IV.1 Revolver
- IV.2 Pin-fire-Revolver
- IV.3 Conversion closed frame
- IV.4 Conversion open top frame
- IV.10 Single shot rifle
- IV.11 lever action rifle
- IV.12 Pin-fire-Rifle
- IV.10z with optical sights
- IV.11z with optical sights
- IV.13 Gatling-Gun

V.

Needle (Dreyse) Guns:

WKO 50010-50215

- V.1 Needle pistol
- V.2 Needle rifle

VI.	<u>Clays:</u>	(Regulation Attachment VI)
VII.	<u>Model-Canons</u>	(Regulation Attachment VII.)
VIII.	<u>Hunting:</u>	(Regulation Attachment VIII)
IX.	<u>Benchrest-Shooting</u>	(Regulation Attachment IX)
X.	<u>Trapper-Action-Shooting</u>	(Regulation Attachment X)
XI.	<u>Falling Plates</u>	(Regulation Attachment XI)
XII.	<u>Action- and Fun Events</u>	(Regulation Attachment XII)
XIII.	<u>Additional Precision Events</u>	(Regulation Attachment XIII)
XIV.	<u>Model Rocket</u>	(Regulation Attachment XIX)
XV.	<u>Golden Cut</u>	(Regulation Attachment XV)
XVI.	<u>Blow-Tubes</u>	(Regulation Attachment XVI)
XVII.	<u>Crossbow & Pistol Crossbow</u>	(Regulation Attachment XVII)
XVIII.	<u>Bow & Arrow</u>	(Regulation Attachment XVIII)
XIX.	<u>Böllern</u>	(Regulation Attachment XIX)
XX.	<u>Salut</u>	(Regulation Attachment XX)

Distances of the Rifle Events:

In order to differentiate between rifle events conducted at various distances the following suffixes have been created:

Example "IV.10w2" means single shot rifle at 200 m.

Following distances by SPI sponsored shoots can be shoot a separate events:

Distances in Meter:

w=50, w1=100, w2=200, w3=300, w4=400, w5=500, w6=600, w7=700, w8=800, w9=900, w10=1.000 Meter

Distances in Yards:

y1=100, y2=200, y3=300, y4=400, y5=500, y6=600, y7=700, y8=800, y9=900, y10=1.000, y12=1.200, y15=1.500 yards

Miscellaneous:

Only SPI members who up to date their annual membership fees are eligible as entrants for SPI sponsored matches unless match is declared an "open" match like the **SPI-remote-Championship** is such an "open" match. i.e. for non-members also. Entrants age should be considered when accepting entrants e.g. In Germany persons over 16 years are eligible to shoot calibre .22" and shotguns. and persons over 18 years qualify for all calibres.

Proof of membership can be achieved by showing the SPI Membership Card. In the case that the card is not at hand the person's name and membership number corresponds to the name and allocated number on the official members list. If this is not the case then this person cannot be accepted as a contestant.

Non-members have the possibility to apply for immediate membership by filling out the necessary membership forms locally and paying the annual membership fee and the enrolment fee in cash before being accepted as a contestant.

If taking part at competitions in Germany: Only those persons in possession of a current Explosives Permit in accordance with § 27 SprengG are allowed to handle loose black powder.

An exception can be made when a person has express permission from the authorities to handle loose black powder on an officially approved shooting range. (As an example - in respect of § 1 Paragraph 4 of 1. Sprengstoff-Verord. - this is the case when the contestant belongs to an approved shooting association in his home country and can provide a written invitation to that particular shooting event).

If registered weapons are to be used in the events the contestant should be in possession of the necessary documents. A valid Explosives Permit (in accordance § 27) must be shown at the registration. The contestant is solely and wholly responsible that all the guns even including the salute guns bear a valid proof marks from a recognised and approved Proof House (Very important for guns from foreign countries).

In true sponsored competitions events the use of loose black powder is not allowed in the Junior Class due to time and mental pressure constraints. Unlike training or learning events, where a person is allowed to use loose black powder under the strict supervision of person(s) in possession of a valid Explosives Permit (§ 27)§ 22 (1) SprengG cannot be applied to competitions, championships, hence all contestant not possessing a valid Explosives Permit automatically start in the Junior Class.

It is the duty and responsibility of every person to periodically check the latest safety rules and other relevant legislation including the latest version of SPI Competition Regulations.

No sponsored SPI events can be started if there are any doubts regarding location and shooting range with respect to insurance and indemnity issues. This responsibility lies with the match director and the organizer of that particular event. the organizer is the person whose has been authorized by the SPI to arrange such an event or who has personally requested the SPI to sanction such an event based on the SPI Regulations.

Physically handicapped people who cannot stand freely can be assisted by a person possessing of a valid Explosives Permit. Assistance is limited to loading the weapon only assuming that indemnity insurance issues have been cleared and the match director has given his approval. The use of wheelchairs are allowed. Any decisions regarding other means of assistance to overcome the handicap will be decided by the match director.

Bandaging or the taping of wrists or other body joints in any form is forbidden. Gloves are allowed so long that they do not actively support the wrist and that the trigger finger is completely free.

With the exception of the Percussion events (III) within the Junior Class and handicapped persons, **the weapons are only to be loaded by the shooters themselves.** If black powder pellets or wads are being used for Percussion events in the Junior Class, then the shooter has to load the weapon by himself. The weapon loading can only start after the competition start signal/command has been given.

Target observation by the shooter himself is allowed. Shooter can use scopes or binoculars for this purpose.

Set-triggers are permitted on guns and may be used.

The term **"Fouling shot" or "Oil-shot"** is understood to mean the firing of a loaded weapon into the **Bullet Trap** or in **Clay** events a defined **Clearing point**, in order to clear any oil residues from the ignition channel and or barrel(s).

After ending the competition any shooter with more than thirteen (13) shots on his target will be penalized by discounting the highest shots over the maximum of 13 permitted. Has a shooters cross-fired to another target then these shots will be scored as a "miss".

In all other questionable or borderline shots on the target will be assessed and judged by the Match Director. The Match Director's decision is final and binding for all contestants in that particular match. The Match Director's decision for that particular case should be made in such a way that other shooters in other events at that particular location shoot under the same basic constellation (everybody has the same and equal chance!)

A Match Director decision should not jeopardize the safety on the shooting range at any time.

Only those types of weapons may be loaded and fired on a particular range which meet the constraints laid out for weapons in the official range approval. Whilst taking into account all other relevant legislation and restrictions from the authorities.

The shooter is wholly and solely responsible that his gun(s) at are the time before entering and after leaving the shooting-stand are completely unloaded. The organiser has to ensure an experienced person is in charge of overseeing the shooters during the match especially all loading and de-loading (firing) activities. If deemed necessary this person can call for a "Cease-Fire" and call for an ending of that particular match.

In the case that an impending threat from storm or lightning on open shooting ranges (i.e. not covered) then all shooting should be stopped immediately. In the case of an official bad weather warning then a shoot/match should not even begin.

Competition procedures and controls:

1. Weapon control

Weapons can only be used when they bear an official valid proof mark in those cases where demand by the legislation. The weapons have to be fully functional. Weapons with defects or no longer fully functioning are not allowed. If necessary the range officer is permitted to check the functioning. Weapons with set-triggers that can only be cocked after setting the trigger are forbidden. The set-trigger can only be set after the weapon has been fully cocked.

The range officer is empowered to check and control at any time on a random basis the propellant being used - applies also to cartridge ammunition. If in doubt the range officer can request that a shooter freely donate a cartridge for the purpose of examination by some other competent person.

2. General Rules of Conduct

Wearing protective glasses over both eyes with the necessary side protectors is mandatory. Shoes with metal studs are absolutely forbidden. Ear protectors for everybody including any spectators on the shooting stand is mandatory also during the preparation time.